

Pilsen Philharmonic



The Pilsen Philharmonic, a renowned musical ensemble with more than a century of tradition, is one of the most sought-after orchestras not only in the Czech Republic, but also abroad. It regularly performs in prestigious European concert halls, such as the Gasteig in Munich, Liederhalle in Stuttgart, Alte Oper in Frankfurt, Brucknerhaus in Linz, Mercedes-Benz Arena in Berlin, Kulturpalast in Dresden, Konzerthaus and Stadthalle in Vienna, Tonhalle in Zurich or Rudolfinum and O2 Arena in Prague.

The fact that **the Pilsen Philharmonic became the resident orchestra of the Engadin Festival in St. Moritz, Switzerland**, can be considered an extraordinary success. However, the Philharmonic has also been invited to perform at other important festivals. These include the Richard Strauss Tage in Garmisch-

Partenkirchen, Brandenburger Festspiele, Weilburger Schlosskonzerte and Elbenwald Festival in Cottbus, Brandenburg. Among the local festivals, the Prague Spring Festival or Dvořák Prague can be mentioned.

The Pilsen Philharmonic has also recorded a number of representative compact discs. Both the complete Rhapsodies of Antonín Dvořák (conductor Tomáš Brauner) and the **complete work for violoncello and orchestra by Bohuslav Martinů** (violoncello Petr Nouzovský & conductor Tomáš Brauner), which **won the 2017 Classic Prague Awards in the Recording of the Year category**, have attracted great critical acclaim.

New releases in recent years include albums released by the German ARS Produktion agency: a disc with works by

Ermann Wolf-Ferrari (violinist Alban Beikircher & conductor Chuhei Iwasaki) nominated for the prestigious German Opus Klassik award and a recording of **Japanese-Czech Inspiration with works by Akira Ifukube and Leoš Janáček**, which has received significant acclaim from renowned critics in Europe and Japan. This CD was also nominated for the above-mentioned Opus Klassik award. At the end of 2024, **another exceptional recording – Richard Strauss's symphonic poem A Hero's Life** (conducted by Rémy Ballot) – **will be released on the renowned Austrian Gramola label.**

A number of world-renowned instrumentalists has performed with the Pilsen Philharmonic: pianists Ivan Moravec, Ivan Klánský, Lilya Zilberstein, Jeremy Menuhin and Igor Ardašev, violinists David Oistrach and his student Václav Hudeček, violoncellists Mstislav Rostropovič, Gautier Capuçon and Daniel Müller-Schott, and harpist Xavier de

Maistre. **The Pilsen Philharmonic has also accompanied world-famous opera stars**, such as Montserrat Caballé, Ramon Vargas or Thomas Oliemans. In the past season **the orchestra played concerts in Vienna and Zurich with the popular tenor Andrea Bocelli.** The historical gallery of conductors who have led the orchestra includes the legendary Václav Talich, Martin Turnovský, Libor Pešek and Jiří Bělohlávek. **Since the 2021/2022 season the Japanese Chuhei Iwasaki has been the orchestra's chief conductor. Jan Schultsz has been the principal guest conductor since the 2023/2024 season.**

The Pilsen Philharmonic also participated significantly in the realization of the project **Pilsen - European Capital of Culture 2015**, and for years has been the organiser of the international interdisciplinary festival Smetana Days and the chamber music series Circle of Music Friends.



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