



## Southwest German Philharmonic

The Southwest German Philharmonic Orchestra of Constance was founded in 1932. The orchestra is one of Southwest Germany's most important cultural institutions, contributing substantially to the cultural profile of the City of Constance, and additionally acting as a vital force in the musical life of Switzerland. The orchestra consists of 60 permanent members and reaches out to an audience of approximately 80.000 in over 100 concerts annually. Chief conductor of the Southwest German Philharmonic is the Finish conductor Ari Rasilainen.

Most importantly, the orchestra offers a broad variety of concerts in Constance, and performs its own concert series at other locations around Lake Constance as well. For over 30 years the Southwest German Philharmonic has been playing subscription concerts at Tonhalle Zurich and - since its opening in 2000 - at the world-famous KKL concert hall in Lucerne too. Every year the orchestra travels to Milan's historical »Sala Verdi« for several concerts, appears regularly in the international Festival of Lake Constance and has an excellent reputation for its performances in other European Festivals.

Recent highlights of the orchestra's touring schedule were concerts in the Athens Festival, Toledo Festival, the Carinthian Summer (Austria), several performances in the famous Philharmonic hall in Berlin and trips to China in 2007 and to Japan in June 2010.

An altogether positive resonance in the media underscores the orchestra's enormous talent and enthusiastic professionalism and is also a response to the list of famous soloists who appear with the orchestra. In the last years these included star singers like Anna Netrebko, Montserrat Caballé, Lucia Aliberti, Plácido Domingo, Rolando Villazón, as well as virtuoso instrumentalists such as Gidon, Kremer, Mischa Maisky, Tabea Zimmermann, Isabelle van Keulen, Sabine Meyer, Rudolf Buchbinder, Boris Pergamenschikow, Christian Tetzlaff, Heinrich Schiff, Bruno Leonardo Gelber, Lars Vogt, Christian Lindberg, Vadim Repin and Julian Rachlin.

Besides the artistic quality of their performances the members of the Southwest German Philharmonic feel especially committed to their audiences. The orchestra's multifaceted program is divided accordingly into separate series for specific target groups: The Philharmonic Concerts consisting of major concert literature, from baroque to modern, featuring internationally established soloists and guest conductors, make up the core of the orchestra's work. The educational program »eduART« offers variously structured programs, designed for specific age groups, to attract primarily younger listeners. The orchestral programs are supplemented by numerous chamber music concert featuring ensembles from the orchestra.

In addition to their own extensive programming the Southwest German Philharmonic is also a proven and flexible partner for the choirs and concert associations located in the greater Constance area. The Southwest German Philharmonic is run by the City of Constance and receives substantial support from the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg as well as it enjoys other public support and private giving.