

## RUNDFUNK-SINFONIEORCHESTER BERLIN

Since Marek Janowski's era as Artistic Director and Principle Conductor began in 2002, the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin has succeeded in consolidating its position not only as one of the top orchestras in Berlin, but also among the vanguard of German radio orchestras. This is reflected both in the exceptionally high public esteem of the orchestra's live concert performances, and by its impressive series of recording awards in recent years.

As Germany's oldest radio-owned symphony orchestra, the history of the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin reaches back to the first hour of German radio in October 1923. Principal conductors such as Sergiu Celibidache, Eugen Jochum, Hermann Abendroth, Rolf Kleinert, Heinz Rögner and Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos have formed an ensemble that has experienced the turbulence of Germany's history in the 20th Century like no other German orchestra. The finest composers of the 20th Century have stepped up to the podium of this orchestra or performed their own works as soloists with the RSB, among them Paul Hindemith, Sergei Prokofiev, Richard Strauss, Arnold Schönberg, Igor Stravinsky and Alexander Zemlinsky; in more recent years they have been joined by Krzysztof Penderecki, Peter Maxwell Davies, Peter Ruzicka and Heinz Holliger.

The level of performance attained under Marek Janowski makes the RSB attractive for important conductors of the day. Conducting personalities the likes of Dmitri Kitajenko, Gerd Albrecht or Jirí Belohlavék have no doubt as to what draws them back to the podium of this orchestra in Berlin. The orchestra regularly extends invitations to younger conductors, offering them the opportunity to take to the podium of a renowned orchestra in the German capital for the first time. Among them have been Andris Nelsons, Kristjan Järvi, Marc Albrecht and Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

In addition to its numerous public concerts in Berlin and abroad, the RSB is also available for studio recordings for radio and CD in collaboration with Deutschlandradio. Many of the RSB's recordings have been distinguished with prestigious awards, among them the 2006 recording of Paul Hindemith's last opera *The Long Christmas Dinner* and the same composer's opera *The Harmony of the World* (conducted by Marek Janowski). Both volumes of Alfred Schnittke's Film Music, were awarded the Quarterly Critics Choice award of the Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik, followed in 2007 by a recording of works of Karl Amadeus Hartmann conducted by Marek Janowski. The orchestra won Echo Klassik awards in 2007 for Ernst Krenek's opera *Sardakai*, for the world premiere recording of Hans Werner Henze's "Aristaeus", and in 2010, for the recording of Henze's Sinfonia N. 9.

The RSB has been a member of the Rundfunk-Orchester und -Chöre GmbH Berlin (roc berlin) since 1994. Supported by Deutschlandradio (40%), the Federal Republic of Germany (35%), the State of Berlin (20%) and the Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (5%), the roc berlin unites four great radio ensembles under its umbrella.

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