

From Bach to Hollywood

It was a sensation when in February of 1993 the Nuremberg Symphony won a Grammy Award for their recording of the main title music for the TV series “Beauty and the Beast”. In those days, the Nuremberg Symphony’s name was prevalent throughout the international media, featured in magazines and news broadcasts worldwide. Not known to the general public was the then 40-year-old “Hollywood Connection”, as the orchestra recorded the film scores for “Quo Vadis” and “Ben Hur” in the early 50’s.

Founded shortly after the end of WW II, the Nuremberg Symphony today is primarily the concert orchestra of the Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg. Per season the orchestra performs some 100 concerts, with a clear focus on the classical and romantic repertoire, bringing the joy of classical music to over 180,000 listeners.

With its two esteemed and varied subscription series at the Meistersingerhalle, featuring world class artists such as Cecilia Bartoli, José Carreras, Philippe Entremont and Mischa Maisky, the Nuremberg Symphony offers a vast variety of classical music. The popular Serenade Court concerts take place during the summer season (June – August), and the stunning Classic Open Air in Nuremberg’s city park has become the biggest open air concert of its kind in Europe, attracting some 60,000 enthusiastic visitors every year.

In addition, the orchestra plays an active role in Nuremberg’s social life by educating children, the audience of the future, in classical music. The Nuremberg Symphony has also developed a smooth performance partnership with oratorio choirs, acts as festival orchestra at the Heidenheim Opera Festival and frequently records for the Bavarian radio broadcasting system and numerous CD labels.

Since September 2009 the young English conductor Alexander Shelley is Chief Conductor. Born in London, Shelley is considered a rising star in the international conducting circuit and was described in the English press as “the most exciting and gifted young conductor of his generation”. Also in Nuremberg he is celebrated by both the media and the audience. Though his international engagements are continuously increasing he extended his contract ahead of time until summer 2017.

Besides its regular performances in the centres of European musical culture – Prague, Milan and the Musikverein in Vienna – the Nuremberg Symphony is intensifying its international touring with appearances in countries further afield. In the autumn of 2009 the orchestra returned from the first visit to Japan, where they played concerts in seven cities, all of which were enthusiastically received.

For their audiences worldwide the Nuremberg Symphony continues to stand for quality and stylistic flexibility, from Bach to Hollywood.