

Acknowledged as “the finest chamber orchestra in the world” (BBC 2 Television), the Chamber Orchestra of Europe was founded in 1981 by a group of young musicians graduating from the European Union Youth Orchestra. It was their ambition to continue working together at the highest possible professional level, and of that original group, thirteen remain in the current core membership of around sixty. The members of the COE, selected by the Orchestra itself, pursue parallel careers as international soloists, Leaders and Principals of nationally-based orchestras, as members of eminent chamber groups, and as tutors and professors of music. It is their wealth of cultural backgrounds and shared love of music-making which remain at the heart of their inspired performances.

The COE performs in some of the most prominent cultural venues in Europe including the Philharmonie de Paris, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Cologne Philharmonie, the Philharmonie Luxembourg, the Baden-Baden Festspielhaus and the Alte Oper in Frankfurt. Together with other major European concert halls, these venues provide a regular touring base for the Orchestra. The COE has a close association with the Lucerne Festival and with many of the world’s most prestigious musical events, such as the BBC Proms in London, the Edinburgh International Festival and the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York.

Over the years, the COE developed especially close relationships with the late Claudio Abbado and Nikolaus Harnoncourt. Now, it is fortunate to be working very closely with Bernard Haitink, Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Sir András Schiff, who are all Honorary Members. The Orchestra also performs with many of the world’s most renowned soloists and conductors including, this season, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Lisa Batiashvili, Veronika Eberle, Bernard Haitink, Heinz Holliger, Alina Ibragimova, Leonidas Kavakos, Sir Antonio Pappano, Miklós Perényi, David Robertson, Sir András Schiff, Yuja Wang and Tabea Zimmermann.

In just over thirty-five years, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe has recorded over 250 works with all the major recording companies. It has won numerous international prizes for its recordings including three Gramophone Record of the Year awards - for Rossini’s opera *Viaggio à Reims*, Schubert’s symphonies conducted by Claudio Abbado, and Beethoven’s symphonies conducted by Nikolaus Harnoncourt. The Orchestra has also won two Grammys and the MIDEM “Classical Download” Award.



The COE was the first Orchestra to create its own label, “COE Records”, in association with Sanctuary Records, a division of Universal Music. Recent CDs released by the Orchestra include a series of Mozart’s late operas, all recorded for Deutsche Grammophon at the Baden-Baden Festspielhaus with Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Rolando Villazon and all-star casts. The operas released so far are *Così fan tutte* in 2013, *Entführung aus dem Serail* in July 2015 and *Le Nozze di Figaro* in 2016 (both were nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording). In June 2017, Deutsche Grammophon released all of the Mendelssohn symphonies, recorded at the Paris Philharmonie with Yannick Nézet-Séguin in February 2016. In January 2018, Deutsche Grammophon releases “Visions of Prokofiev”, featuring the COE, Lisa Batiashvili and Yannick Nézet-Séguin in Prokofiev’s Violin Concertos Nos. 1 and 2. Future planned releases include Mozart’s *La Clemenza di Tito*, recorded in July 2017 for Deutsche Grammophon at the Baden-Baden Festspielhaus with Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Joyce DiDonato, Tara Erraught, Regula Mühlemann, Adam Plachetka, Marina Rebeka and Rolando Villazon. In recent years, the COE has also released a number of concert DVDs and all of the COE’s recordings can be purchased on Amazon or downloaded from iTunes and Spotify.

To enable young people and new audiences to experience at first hand high quality live orchestral and chamber music, the COE has an active education and outreach programme designed for school, conservatoire and concert hall. The COE Academy was created in 2009 and each year awards full scholarships to exceptionally talented postgraduate students and young professionals to study with the COE’s principal players when the Orchestra is ‘on tour’. The wind players of the COE Academy are supported by the Rupert Hughes Will Trust.

The COE receives invaluable financial support from a number of Friends including particularly The Gatsby Charitable Foundation, without which it could not survive. The Leader Chair is supported by Dasha Shenkman. The Principal Cello Chair is supported by an anonymous donor. The Principal Bass Chair is supported by Sir Siegmund Warburg’s Voluntary Settlement. The Principal Oboe Chair and the Principal Flute Chair are supported by the Rupert Hughes Will Trust in memory of the late Rupert Hughes. The Principal Bassoon Chair is supported by The 35th Anniversary Friends. The Principal Trumpet Chair is supported by The Underwood Trust. The Principal Timpani Chair is supported by The American Friends.