

Biography Mahler Chamber Orchestra, English, 349 words

The **Mahler Chamber Orchestra (MCO)**, founded in 1997, has established a distinct sound and independent artistic identity. The Orchestra's philosophy, inspired by founding mentor Claudio Abbado, emphasises the power of listening and communication both structurally and musically; they call it *The Sound of Listening*. It allows the Orchestra, its musicians and managing office, to operate as a democratic collective. Engaging with *Artistic Partners*, including Mitsuko Uchida, Yuja Wang, Pekka Kuusisto, *Conductor Laureate* Daniel Harding, *Artistic Advisor* Daniele Gatti, and *Artistic Partner for Immersive Experiences* Henrik Oppermann/Schallgeber; the MCO undertakes multiyear projects that explore diverse artistic themes.

With musicians representing 27 nationalities, residing in different parts of the world, the MCO reaches live audiences across 40 countries on five continents. The Orchestra maintains residencies at renowned venues including Carnegie Hall, Southbank Centre, Lucerne Festival, Mozartwoche Salzburg, and Festival de Saint-Denis. They are frequent guests at Philharmonie Berlin, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Musikverein Vienna, and Beethovenfest Bonn, and regularly tour Iberian and Asian regions. Their worldwide presence enables them to authentically engage with a global audience, fostering connections that resonate across borders and cultures.

In the realm of *Outreach and Education*, the MCO conducts three flagship projects. The *MCO Academy* allows orchestra members to share their expertise with the next generation of musicians in collaboration with Orchesterzentrum NRW and undertake residencies at Konzerthaus Dortmund, Kölner Philharmonie and the Philharmonie Essen. *Feel the Music* introduces music to deaf and hard-of-hearing children, encouraging a multi-sensory experience. And *Welcome Home: a concert about finding the place where you belong*, in which school groups are invited on a multicultural journey, fostering introspection and contemplation on the theme of "Belonging". These endeavours highlight the MCO's commitment to enriching lives through music and promoting inclusivity.

In collaboration with *Artistic Partner for Immersive Experiences* Henrik Oppermann/Schallgeber, the MCO explores new digital technologies in and beyond the concert hall. Their virtual reality series immerses listeners deeper into performances and brings them closer to the music.

Through its vibrant performances, global reach, educational initiatives, and distinct entrepreneurship, the Mahler Chamber Orchestra continues to make a profound impact on the world of classical music.

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