

The Pilsen Philharmonic Orchestra, formerly Pilsen Radio Orchestra, is an ensemble with a strong tradition and reputation. It belongs among orchestras requested on stages in the Czech Republic and also in concert halls abroad, such as Gasteig in Munich, the Liederhalle in Stuttgart, the Alte Oper in Frankfurt, the Brucknerhaus in Linz, the Mercedes-Benz Arena in Berlin, the Kulturpalast in Dresden, the Konzerthaus and Stadthalle in Vienna, the Tonhalle in Zürich or Rudolfinum and O2 Arena in Prague.

The Orchestra realizes many tours: it regularly performs on prestigious stages in Europe, Japan and the USA, and participates in important festivals (Engadin Festival in Switzerland, Weilburger Schlosskonzerte, Elbenwald Festival in Germany); it succeeded at the Dvořák Prague International Music Festival with own programme *Dvořák Traveller* in September 2022.

The Pilsen Philharmonic's discography includes many representative discs. The set of the Rhapsodies by Antonín Dvořák or the complete works for violoncello and orchestra by Bohuslav Martinů (Petr Nouzovský & Tomáš Brauner), which won the Classic Prague Awards 2017, has aroused great interest. The German agency Ars Produktion released the Orchestra's latest discs: the CD presenting Karolína Janů and the CD featuring the compositions by Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari (Alban Beikircher & Chuhei Iwasaki), which was nominated for the prestigious award Opus Klassik (2022). The newest CD with the title *Japan-Czech Inspiration* featuring the compositions by Akira Ifukube and Leoš Janáček has received positive reactions from the renowned critics in Europe and Japan as well.

In the past concert seasons, many renowned instrumentalists and singers performed with the Pilsen Philharmonic, among others Xavier de Maistre, Sergei Nakariakov, Lilya Zilberstein, Tai Murray, Pascal Rogé, Juliane Banse, Thomas Oliemans, Julian Pflugmann, Jeremy Menuhin, Igor Ardachev, Ivan Zenaty or Michaela Fukačová. Ramón Vargas, Montserrat Caballé and a number of outstanding conductors, for example sir Charles Mackerras, Václav Talich or Jiří Bělohlávek, belonged to the important guests of the Orchestra in the past.

The Pilsen Philharmonic participated significantly in the realization of the project Pilsen – European Capital of Culture in 2015, it has been the organizer of the international interdisciplinary Smetana Days festival and of the chamber series Circle of Music Friends for many years, its project Chance for Young Musicians targets young talented artists, the Phil Harmonic Children's Club has been prepared for the youngest audience.

Since the season 2021/2022, Chuhei Iwasaki has been the Chief Conductor of the Orchestra.