

# Pilsen Philharmonic Orchestra

## Artistic Profile



The Pilsen Philharmonic, a renowned musical ensemble with a tradition spanning more than a century, ranks among the most sought-after orchestras not only in the Czech Republic but also abroad. It regularly performs in prestigious European concert halls, such as the Gasteig in Munich, the Liederhalle in Stuttgart, the Alte Oper in Frankfurt am Main, the Brucknerhaus in Linz, the Mercedes-Benz Arena in Berlin, the Kulturpalast in Dresden, the Konzerthaus and Stadthalle in Vienna, the Tonhalle in Zurich, and the Rudolfinum and O2 Arena in Prague.

The fact that the Pilsen Philharmonic has become the resident orchestra of the Engadin Festival in St. Moritz, Switzerland, is an extraordinary achievement. However, the Philharmonic also receives invitations to perform at other major festivals. These include the Richard Strauss Tage in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, the Brandenburger

Festspiele, the Weilburger Schlosskonzerte, and the Elbenwald Festival in Cottbus, Brandenburg. Among domestic events, the Prague Spring and Dvořák's Prague can be mentioned. In September 2025, the Pilsen Philharmonic represented the Czech Republic at the EXPO world's fair in Osaka, Japan.

The Philharmonic Orchestra has also released several prestigious CDs. Both the complete set of Antonín Dvořák's Rhapsodies (conductor Tomáš Brauner) and the complete works for cello and orchestra by Bohuslav Martinů (cello Petr Nouzovský; conductor Tomáš Brauner) received great critical acclaim; the latter won the Classic Prague Awards 2017 in the Recording of the Year category.

Recent releases include albums issued by the German agency ARS Produktion: a disc featuring works by Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari (violin Alban

Beikircher; conductor Chuhei Iwasaki) nominated for the prestigious German Opus Klassik Award, and a recording of Japan-Czech Inspiration with the work by Akira Ifukube and Leoš Janáček (conducted by Chuhei Iwasaki), which received exceptional acclaim from renowned critics in both Europe and Japan. This CD was also nominated for the aforementioned Opus Klassik Award. In 2024, the renowned Austrian music label Gramola released another exceptional CD: a recording of Richard Strauss's symphonic poem A Hero's Life (conductor Rémy Ballot). Berlin Classics released the latest CD featuring works by Sergei Prokofiev (cello Michał Balas; conductor Chuhei Iwasaki), continuing the orchestra's long-standing and successful discography.

Several world-renowned instrumentalists have also performed with the Pilsen Philharmonic: pianists Ivan Moravec, Ivan Klánský, Lilya Zilberstein, Jeremy Menuhin, and Igor Ardashev; violinists David Oistrakh and his student Václav Hudeček;

cellists Mstislav Rostropovich, Gautier Capuçon, and Daniel Müller-Schott; and harpist Xavier de Maistre.

The Pilsen Philharmonic has also accompanied world-renowned opera stars such as Montserrat Caballé, Ramón Vargas, Thomas Oliemans, Marina Viotti, and Andrea Bocelli. The historic gallery of conductors who have led the orchestra includes the legendary Václav Talich, Martin Turnovský, Libor Pešek, and Jiří Bělohlávek. Since the 2021/2022 season, the orchestra's chief conductor has been Chuhei Iwasaki, a native of Japan. Jan Schultsz has held the position of principal guest conductor since the 2023/2024 season.

The Pilsen Philharmonic also played a significant role in the realization of the Pilsen – European Capital of Culture 2015 project. For many years, it has organized the international interdisciplinary festival Smetana Days and the chamber music series Circle of Music Friends.



Abonentní řada klasická: Diamant  
Subscription Series Classical: Diamond



Abonentní řada klasická: Platina  
Subscription Series Classical: Platinum



Abonentní řada multižánrová: Crossover  
Subscription Series: Crossover



Chránová koncertní řada  
Church-Synagogue Concert Series



Kruh přátel hudby  
Circle of Music Friends



Abonentní řada dětská: Duha  
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Dětský klub Filharmoniček  
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