

Vienna Classical Players

Founded by Martin Kerschbaum in 2003, the Vienna Classical Players orchestra brings together musicians who generally also play in other renowned Viennese orchestras. While the Classical music of Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven is the backbone of their repertoire, the different formations of the Vienna Classical Players are also at home in a wide range of other eras, from Baroque to Romantic works to contemporary compositions.

Thanks to the unusually high commitment of its musicians, who play with joy and enthusiasm rather than simply performing a duty, the orchestra featured at the Athens Festival in Greece and at the Ivo Pogorelich Festival in Germany. The Mozart Year 2006 marked the orchestra's debut in Japan and the performance of several programs in Europe. Numerous international events abroad from 2007 to 2010 took the Vienna Classical Players to San Marino, Malta, Italy, Turkey, Aix-les-Bains (France) and to Pécs in Hungary, the European Capital of Culture in 2010.

In addition to its international performances, the orchestra plays several concerts in Austria every year. After their first performances within the chamber music cycle of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra at the Vienna Musikverein in 2003, the Vienna Classical Players appeared at numerous musical events around Austria: the Wörthersee Festival in Klagenfurt (Carinthia), the Haydnfestspiele in Eisenstadt (Burgenland), the Weinklang Festival Raiding (Burgenland), the Landecker Musikwochen (Tyrol) and at Burg Perchtoldsdorf (Lower Austria). Numerous concerts, such as the concert performance of Mozart's opera *Bastien und Bastienne* (2005), have repeatedly taken the group back to the Vienna Konzerthaus.

Several recordings bear witness to the versatility and broad repertoire of the Vienna Classical Players. In 2006, Orfeo International released two CDs with Mozart violin concertos featuring Vienna Philharmonic leader Rainer Honeck as the soloist. In the same year, the recording of Karl Komzák's *Badner Mad'In* waltz with the Vienna Classical Players on a CD of rarities from the Strauß era (Reutterer Music label) was voted one of the world top 40 Classical music interpretations on Nokia's music platform. Nearly every year since 2007, the Vienna Classical Players have featured on a double CD recording in the "precious music" series produced in cooperation with the Oesterreichische Nationalbank. This series allows the central bank to showcase outstanding Austrian musicians it supports by lending them instruments from its collection of valuable old string instruments.

The orchestra's focus in 2012 was on Baroque music, with performances at the Vienna Musikverein and in the Vienna surroundings. The Vienna Classical Players have scheduled concert tours in France as well as another tour of Japan in 2013.