

Kyiv Symphony Orchestra's Bio

Kyiv Symphony Orchestra is a 40-year Ukrainian state orchestra that is currently undergoing a revolutionary renewal. A rare fusion of Ukrainian sensual musicality and Western analytical attitude to the text was born from the union of the orchestra with the Italian conductor Luigi Gaggero. Unusual for Kyivan orchestras the invitation of a foreigner to the position of Chief Conductor arose from the musicians' ambitious desire to create interpretations that are at the same time fresh, historically aware and touching. Each orchestra's concert is built as an exciting journey through works of different eras and styles, connected by threads of mutual themes and influences. Its international repertoire stretches from the music of the 16th century to the youngest generation of today's composers.

The orchestra devotes special attention to the preservation and promotion of Ukrainian musical treasures. Therefore, with the highest responsibility and a great honor to represent its country during Russian's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra went on tour "Voice of Ukraine". Performing Ukrainian music at the greatest European concert halls including Elbphilharmonie, Berlin Philharmonic, Gewandhaus in Leipzig the orchestra shown wonderful evidence that Ukraine has never stayed away from the main European cultural processes and its heritage organically fits into the diverse map of a large European family.

The Kyiv Symphony Orchestra performs at the most important national holidays. In particular, in June 2021 in the square in front of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (Ukrainian Parliament) the orchestra played a concert dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Constitution of Ukraine. In August 2021, at the country's largest venue, the Olympic Stadium, the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra performed a program dedicated to the 30th anniversary of restored Ukrainian Independence.

The orchestra is constantly expanding its stylistic and genre frameworks, performing not only chamber and symphony concerts, but also operas. For instance, at the initiative of the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra in September 2021, for the first time in the history of Independent Ukraine, citizens heard a musical drama by Richard Wagner "Tristan and Isolde" on the stage of the National Opera of Ukraine. With the same work, the orchestra debuted at the German festival Musikfestspiele Königswinkel 2021 with an international star cast under the direction of Lothar Zagrozek. Also, the orchestra premiered the opera "Night" by the middle-aged Ukrainian composer Maksym Kolomiets, making its video version public.

One of the most important areas the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra's activities cover is a wide variety of educational programs. In particular, the orchestra's creative team launched the Kyiv Zoomphony project, in which musicians and the orchestra's members talk with colleagues from well-known foreign concert halls and opera houses (Vienna State Opera, Concertgebouw, Washington National Opera, etc.), promoting symphonic art. Another part of the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra's work is projects for children's and youth, including interactive events, open dress rehearsals, symphony shows with sand animation. Also, the orchestra's team engages students to join the ensemble, hence Kyiv Symphony Orchestra is known as an "young" orchestra.

All these components allow the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra to be well-known Ukrainian orchestra in Europe, and one of the most famous and interesting cultural players in Ukraine.