**Prague Philharmonia**

In 1994 the world-renowned conductor **Jiří Bělohlávek**, together with a group of talented young musicians, founded the **Prague Chamber Philharmona**. The ensemble’s considerable successes abroad and its rapidly expanding repertoire led the ensemble to change its name first to **PKF – Prague Philharmonia** and then, from the 2024/2025 season onwards, the **Prague Philharmonia**. Over the course of its 30-year existence the orchestra has earned recognition throughout the music world globally. It is widely praised and respected not only for its distinctive sound but also for its wide-ranging repertoire, which, although with the music of **Haydn**, **Mozart** and **Beethoven** at its core, also covers **Dvořák and** **Smetana** and their Czech successors, as well as French and German works ranging from **Schumann**, **Brahms** and **Ravel** to the contemporary, with 20th- and 21st-century music being an integral part of its programming. Despite its evolution in forces – these days somewhere between chamber orchestra and small symphony orchestra – the Prague Philharmonia has retained its chamber-like manner of playing and working, its passionate dedication and its much admired attention to detail.

Since its founding, the orchestra has been directed by a number of distinguished chief conductors, each of whom has contributed to refining and shaping the orchestra’s distinctive sound. Following **Jiří Bělohlávek**, the role of chief was assumed first by **Kaspar Zehnder** in 2005, and then by **Jakub Hrůša** in 2008. Since the beginning of the 2015/2016 season the orchestra has been working under the guidance of Frenchman **Emmanuel Villaume**.

Throughout its existence the Prague Philharmonia has collaborated with internationally acclaimed artists such as **Julian Rachlin**, **Martha Argerich**, **Yefim Bronfman**, **András Schiff**, **Gil Shaham**, **Isabelle Faust**, **Emmanuel Pahud**, **Luciano Pavarotti**, **Diana Damrau**, **Anna Netrebko**, **Plácido Domingo**, **Gautier Capuçon**, **Maxim Vengerov**, **Mischa Maisky**, **Juan Diego Flórez**, **Jonas Kaufmann** and many others. The orchestra is regularly invited to major international music festivals – having appearaéd e.g. at the **BBC Proms**, the **Dresdner Musikfestspiele**, **MITO Settembre Musica**, the **Prague Spring international festival**, and the **Festspiel Baden-Baden** – and performs in such leading concert halls as the **Berliner Philharmonie**, the **Elbphilharmonie Hamburg**, the **Gasteig Munich**, **Tokyo‘s Suntory Hall**, the **Royal Opera House Muscat** in Oman, and the **Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre** in Kuwait.

The Prague Philharmonia’s discography includes more than 90 CDs released on prestigious international and domestic labels, including **Deutsche Grammophon**, **Warner Classics**, **Sony Classical**, **Decca**, **EMI**, **Harmonia Mundi** and **Supraphon**. The orchestra has received numerous accolades for its recordings, such as the **RAC Canada Gold Disc (2000)**, the **Harmonie Award (2001)** and the **Diapason d’Or (2007)**. In 2016 it was nominated for an **International Opera Award** for the album Héroïque with **Bryan Hymel**, and in the following year for an **International Classical Music Award (ICMA)** for Bohemian Rhapsody with **Gábor Boldoczki**. The ensemble's profile recording Ravel – Debussy – Bizet (Warner Classics) received high praise from the London Sunday Times and Gramophone magazine, and was listed among the **Top 10 Recordings of the Week** by **BBC Music Magazine**. A 2019 album with acclaimed tenor **Benjamin Bernheim**, released by Deutsche Grammophon, won an **Opus Klassik Award** and garnered other major international accolades including a **Diapason d’Or** and the **Choc de Classica**. In 2023 the orchestra recorded a highly successful album with tenor **Jonathan Tetelman** for Deutsche Grammophon, as well as a CD of wind concerti by **Krzysztof Penderecki** with flautist **Stathis Karapanos** for Warner Classics.

In very recent years the orchestra has toured **Japan**, **Germany**, **Italy**, **Turkey**, **France** and **Taiwan** and has performed at the **Musikverein in Vienna**. In the 2025/2026 season the ensemble appears in **Spain**, **Germany**, **Italy** and **Switzerland** and embarks on tours to the **USA**, **Japan** and **Thailand**.

<https://www.prgphil.cz/>