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## DRESDEN PHILHARMONIC

With its approximately 80 concerts in Dresden, the Dresden Philharmonic is the busiest symphonic orchestra in Dresden and essentially characterizes the cultural life of the city. The orchestra plays in the festival hall of the Dresden Kulturpalast am Altmarkt- right in the heart of the city. The concerts of the orchestra have emerged as an attraction for thousands of Dresdeners and for visitors to Dresden, 'the metropolis on the Elbe', often called 'Florence on the Elbe.' The Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra is sought after on concert stages worldwide and their tours have occurred throughout Europe, China, Japan, Israel, South America and the USA.

The Dresden Philharmonic traces its formation back to the formal opening of the first concert hall in Dresden on November 29, 1870. This marked a social change in the city from concerts for the aristocracy to the concerts for the general public. From 1885, the then, "Gewerbehausorchester" gave full seasons of symphonic concerts in Dresden, which earned them the title, "Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra" in 1915.

Historically the great composers such as Johannes Brahms, Piotr Tchaikovsky, Antonin Dvorak and Richard Strauss, have conducted and often premiered their works with the orchestra. Previous Music Directors have included Paul van Kempen, Carl Schricht, Heinz Bongartz, Kurt Masur, Guenther Herbig, Joerg-Peter Weigle and Michael Plasson, nearly all of whom have recorded with the orchestra.

From the beginning of the 2003 season until September 2004 Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos was First Guest Conductor and at the beginning of the 2004/05 season he was appointed Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra. Kurt Masur is the Dresden Philharmonic's Laureate Conductor.

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