

The Chamber Orchestra of Europe (COE) was founded in 1981 by a group of young musicians who became acquainted as part of the European Community Youth Orchestra (now EUYO). There are now about 60 members of the COE, who pursue parallel careers as principals or section leaders of nationally-based orchestras, as eminent chamber musicians, and as tutors of music.

From the start, the COE's identity was shaped by its partnerships with leading conductors and soloists. It was Claudio Abbado above all who served as an important mentor in the early years. He led the COE in staged works such as Rossini's *Il viaggio a Reims* and *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *Don Giovanni* and conducted numerous concerts featuring works by Schubert and Brahms in particular. Nikolaus Harnoncourt also had a major influence on the development of the COE through his performances and recordings of all of the Beethoven symphonies, as well as through opera productions at the Salzburg, Vienna, and Styriarte festivals.

Currently the Orchestra works closely with Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Sir Antonio Pappano, Sir Simon Rattle, Sir András Schiff and Robin Ticciati who are Honorary Members (following in the footsteps of the late Bernard Haitink and Nikolaus Harnoncourt).

The COE has strong links with many of the major festivals and concert halls in Europe. The Chamber Orchestra of Europe has been "Residenzorchester Schloss Esterházy" in Eisenstadt since 2022. In partnership with the Kronberg Academy, the COE also became the first-ever Orchestra-in-residence at the Casals Forum in Kronberg in 2022.

With more than 250 works in its discography, the COE's CDs have won numerous international prizes, including two Grammys and three Gramophone Record of the Year Awards. Our most recent releases include the recording of the Clara Wieck-Schumann and Robert Schumann's Piano Concertos with Beatrice Rana and Yannick Nézet-Séguin in February 2023, to international acclaim. In July 2024, Deutsche Grammophon released the CD of our Brahms Symphonies, recorded in 2022 and 2023 at the Baden-Baden Festspielhaus with Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

In 2009, the COE Academy was created in order to give a select group of exceptional students the chance to study with the principal players of COE and, importantly, to give the students the opportunity to travel "on tour" with the orchestra.

The COE is a private orchestra which receives invaluable financial support from particularly the Gatsby Charitable Foundation and a further number of Friends including Dasha Shenkman, Sir Siegmund Warburg's Voluntary Settlement, the Rupert Hughes Will Trust, the Underwood Trust, the 35th Anniversary Friends and American Friends.