



## **BALTHASAR NEUMANN ORCHESTRA**

A deep passion for music, outstanding artistic quality, and an irrepressible joy in playing. These are just three of the countless qualities that distinguish the Balthasar Neumann Orchestra, founded by Thomas Hengelbrock in 1995. As one of the world's leading original instrument orchestras, it continually opens new perspectives, convinces with energetic interpretations and thinks beyond pigeonholes and boundaries. The European artists' collective brings together the best musicians in their field to make music together in a radical way. They want to understand works holistically, consider them in their historical and socio-cultural context and perform them as authentically as possible. Several ECHO-Klassik prizes as well as a Gramophone Award testify to the international recognition the orchestra has received since its founding.

In addition to performing under the direction of Thomas Hengelbrock, often together with the Balthasar Neumann Choir, the Balthasar Neumann Orchestra works with guest conductors such as Teodor Currentzis, Pablo Heras-Casado and Antonello Manacorda. Opera productions and concerts have taken the musicians to Baden-Baden, Paris, Aix-en-Provence and Madrid, to the concert halls in Dortmund and Vienna, the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona and to important international festivals. The Balthasar Neumann Orchestra has made a name for itself especially with historically informed performances of works including Gluck's "Orfeo ed Euridice," Haydn's "Creation" and the original version of Mascagni's "Cavalleria rusticana," which was heard for the first time at the Autumn Festival in Baden-Baden in 2022. Contemporary compositions and interdisciplinary projects are also part of the orchestra's extensive repertoire.

The Balthasar Neumann Orchestra is not only renowned for its concert performances but also for its commitment to music education. Through various academy programs, Thomas Hengelbrock and the orchestra's musicians share their passion for and knowledge of music with the next generation. In addition, special concerts and workshops are regularly held in schools and social institutions.

At the beginning of 2025, the orchestra launched Balthasar NOVA, a new EU-funded programme for 25 young musicians from 20 European countries. This program offers a holistic and innovative approach to musician training. As the first long-term orchestra academy for historical instruments, NOVA combines performance in diverse ensemble formats with practical experience in orchestral playing. The program emphasizes artistic excellence, fair working conditions, and preparation for a freelance career.

By nurturing a new generation of highly skilled, socially conscious musicians, NOVA contributes to the sustainability of the music sector and promotes European values of cultural exchange, unity, and peace.