

ORCHESTRE NATIONAL AVIGNON-PROVENCE'S BIOGRAPHY

Originally founded at the end of the 18th Century, the Orchestre National Avignon Provence is one of those orchestras which, for many years, has been involved in the structuring of music in France and in performing public service missions. On the strength of its two hundred years existence, it has become the unmissable cultural showpiece of the City of Avignon, the Communauté d'Agglomération du Grand Avignon, the Département de Vaucluse and the Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. Like all the other permanent orchestras in France, the Orchestre National Avignon Provence initially had a single supervision (the city of Avignon).

In 1982, it became a regional orchestra, governed under association status, it now fulfils a triple mission :

- In the pits at the Opéra d'Avignon, it takes part in all the operatic seasons at the Opéra du Grand Avignon.
- In Avignon and throughout the Région SUD Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, it performs a full programme of concerts intended for the broadest possible audiences, and particularly aimed at the younger generations.
- Additionally, the establishment in 2009 of the New Audiences department now enables over 25,000 young people, between nursery school and university ages, to attend the orchestra's concerts.

In each of these three missions, it covers the entire spectrum of orchestral music, ranging from the baroque period right through to contemporary compositions, such as those by Pascal Dusapin, Marcel Landowski, György Ligeti, Toru Takemitsu and Éric Tanguy. Thanks to its successive musical directors, the Orchestre National Avignon Provence provides a depth of musical intelligence and rare flexibility in its approach to works, irrespective of their period or style.

During the 2010-2011 season, it toured South Korea for the Daejeon International Orchestra Festival. In February and March 2013 it travelled to India for a tour organised by the French Institute and the French Embassy in India in the context of the Year of France in India. With support from the French State (through the Ministry of Culture and Communication), the Provence-Alpes-Côtes d'Azur regional council, the Conseil Général de Vaucluse, the Communauté d'Agglomération du Grand Avignon and the City of Avignon, the Orchestre National Avignon Provence is proud to be part of a regional territory whose cultural heritage and musical legacy, both past and present, are among the richest in Europe.

Under the impulse of Philippe Grison, its Managing Director, and Debora Waldman, its Musical Director, the Orchestre National Avignon Provence now spreads its influence over its region, throughout France and internationally.