

ORCHESTRE DE CHAMBRE DE LAUSANNE

Renaud Capuçon, Artistic Director

Founded in 1942 by Victor Desarzens, the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne (OCL) is today one of the most sought-after chamber orchestras in Europe. After six years under the artistic direction of the American conductor Joshua Weilerstein, the OCL is now led by the renowned French violinist Renaud Capuçon. The orchestra of around 40 musicians has a vast repertoire, from the earliest baroque to contemporary premieres.

The OCL very quickly became a presence in the most prestigious festivals and concert halls. It has participated in the Festival of Aix en Provence since the second festival, has been a regular guest at the Enescu Festival in Bucharest, and has been invited by the Rostropovich Festival in Moscow. Its tours in Germany and the USA have met with tremendous success, as have its concerts at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, at the BBC Proms in London, the Konzerthaus in Vienna or the Berlin Philharmonie.

All through its history, the OCL has performed with top level soloists such as Clara Haskil, Alfred Cortot, Walter Gieseking, Edwin Fischer, Murray Perahia, Radu Lupu, Marta Argerich, Nikolai Lugansky, Daniel Barenboim, Arthur Grumiaux, Frank Peter Zimmermann, Paul Tortelier, Truls Mørk, Jean-Pierre Rampal or Emmanuel Pahud. The OCL has also been able to attract the most interesting conductors of their times, such as Paul Hindemith, Günter Wand, Christoph Eschenbach, Ton Koopman, Jeffrey Tate, Bertrand de Billy, Simone Young or Daniel Harding.

L'OCL has a significant discography: from the complete operas of Haydn in the 1970s and 80s under Antal Dorati to the concertos of Beethoven and Mozart with Christian Zacharias, not to mention recordings dedicated to Schoenberg and Webern (with Heinz Holliger) and to Spohr and Weber (with Paul Meyer). The OCL has recorded two albums with Joshua Weilerstein. The first, dedicated to the works of Igor Stravinsky, appeared in 2016. The second, which came out at the beginning of 2021, features two of Dimitri Shostakovich's chamber symphonies. The first album under the direction of Renaud Capuçon of works by the Estonian composer Arvo Pärt, was released in September 2021 by Warner Classics.

The quality of the OCL is of course connected to prestigious guest soloists and conductors, but it is above all due to an identity forged through the years by a small number of artistic directors. The founder Victor Desarzens (1942-1973) was followed by Armin Jordan (1973—1985), then Lawrence Foster (1985-1990), Jesús López Cobos (1990-2000) and Christian Zacharias (2000-2013). From 2015 to 2020, Joshua Weilerstein continued the work of his predecessors while at the same time positioning the OCL for the 21st century with bold programming and imaginative use of new media. In autumn 2021, Renaud Capuçon became the orchestra's artistic director. The tremendous musical experience of the renowned French violinist and conductor, as well as his dynamism and his artistic profile promise a new and exciting chapter for the OCL.