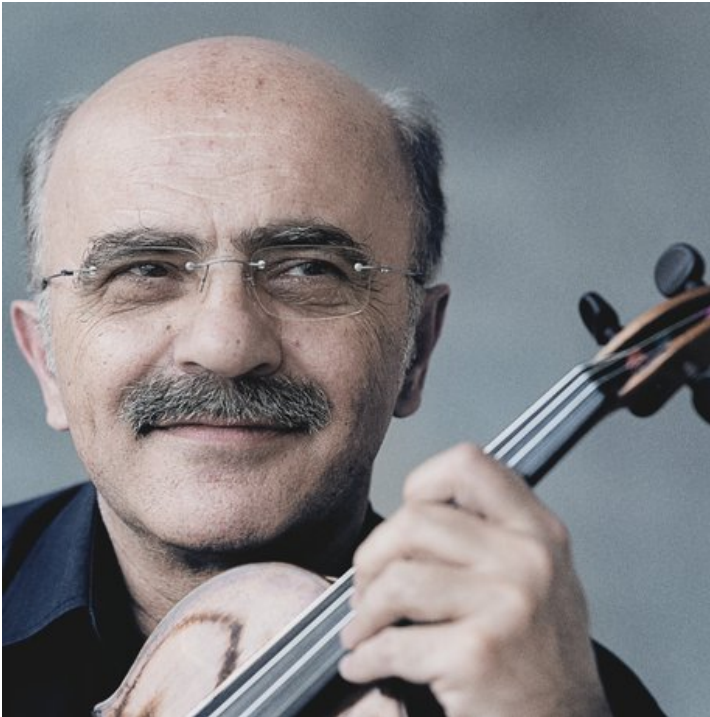


THE ORCHESTRA



Born in Craiova, Romania
Member since 1984-09-01

Ensembles:

Athenäum-Quartet
Berlin Philharmonic Violins

Awards:

Prize-winner at several international competitions

Laurentius Dinca

Laurentius Dinca received his first training at the music academy in Bucharest, following which a grant enabled him to travel to West Germany and study at the Musikhochschule of Lübeck. From 1980 Dinca was Konzertmeister in the hr-Radioorchester before joining the first violins of the Berliner Philharmoniker in 1984. Among the chamber-music ensembles to which Dinca belongs are the Athenaeum Quartet, the Philharmonic Virtuosi and the Berlin Philharmonic Violins.

THE ORCHESTRA



Born in München
Member since 1983-09-01

Ensembles:

Athenäum-Quartet
Berlin Philharmonic Violins

Stephan Schulze

Stephan Schulze began playing the violin at the age of six. He studied first from 1975-79 with Otto Büchner at the Munich Musikhochschule, then with Thomas Brandis at Berlin's Hochschule der Künste. In 1981 he took up his first orchestral position, as first violin in the Hamburg Radio (NDR) Symphony Orchestra. As a committed chamber player, Stephan Schulze is a member of such varied ensembles as the Athenaeum Quartet, the Philharmonic Virtuosi and the Philharmonic Violins.

THE ORCHESTRA



Born in Cracow
Member since 2009-12-01

Ignacy Miecznikowski

Ignacy Miecznikowski studied violin with Peter Csaba and viola at the Lyon Conservatoire. There in 1998 he was accepted into the soloists class of Tasso Adamopoulos and two years later earned his solo diploma. He began accumulating orchestral experience from 1996 in various French ensembles.

In 1998 he became principal viola of the Orchestre de l'Opéra National of Lyon, holding the position until he moved to the Berliner Philharmoniker.

THE ORCHESTRA



Born in Düsseldorf
Member since 1989-04-01

Ensembles:

Athenäum-Quartet
The 12 Cellists of the Berlin Philharmonic
Philharmonic Octet Berlin
Brahms Ensemble Berlin

Awards:

Winner of several prizes at national and international competitions

Christoph Igelbrink

»Anyone aspiring to a career as an orchestral musician quite naturally wants to play in the best – I think that's what has happened to me here. Routine is the enemy of music making. In order to avoid it, every musician needs to pursue his profession with seriousness, exactness and emotion, but also with commitment and love for the music. To interpret the great works of the leading composers, whether in the chamber-music or orchestral literature, to get closer to the essential core of a piece of music while also allowing a large audience to share in the experience – this for me is a constantly fulfilling source of artistic satisfaction.«

Christoph Igelbrink was already playing the piano at the age of three and began learning the cello when he was eleven in order to fill out a family string quartet. Inspired by rapid successes in the »Jugend musiziert« competitions, by the fun he had playing in diverse youth orchestras and from reading biographies of great cellists, he soon realized he wanted to become a professional cellist. At 16 he entered Düsseldorf's Robert Schumann Hochschule as a pupil of Wolfgang Mehlhorn, later studying at the Hamburg Musikhochschule and attending master classes with Antonio Janigro and Paul Tortelier. After completing his studies he was engaged in 1986 by the Hamburg Philharmonic (Philharmonische Staatsorchester).

Since 1989 he has been a member of not only the Berliner Philharmoniker but the »12 Cellists« as well, and he also plays in the Athenaeum Quartet, the Philharmonic Piano Trio of Berlin and the Philharmonic Octet. His free time is devoted to his wife and three daughters, to the house and garden, and cycling. A tense football match can often distract him from such domestic hobbies as reading or playing the piano.

THE ORCHESTRA



Born in Bielsko-Biała (Poland)
Member since 2011-08-31

Awards:

Special prize in the Third International Johann-Matthias-Sperger-Competition for Double Bass

Stanisław Pajak

"I'll never forget my first concert with the Berliner Philharmoniker as an Academy scholar! We played Gustav Mahler's Second Symphony. I already had goose-pimples in the first rehearsal. The sounds from every side went right through my body. Playing with such excellent musicians gave me great energy and satisfaction. We double-bass players have an important function in the orchestra. We're its foundation. The double bass usually sets the musical atmosphere - happy, mysteriously sad or tragic. The outstanding tonal quality of the philharmonic basses, combined with perfect musicianship, is this section's trademark."

As a child, Stanisław Pajak learned to play the violin. Later, on account of the growing lad's strong physical constitution, his teacher recommended the switch to a larger instrument. At first, he considered the trombone, but when Stanisław Pajak observed a double bassist practising, the decision was clear. He was instantly captivated by the dark, powerful tone of the double bass. From 2002 to 2004 he studied the instrument with Bonawentura Nancka at the Rostock Musikhochschule. In 2005 he became a pupil of Esko Laine at Berlin's Hochschule für Musik "Hanns Eisler", where in 2009 he completed his training with a concert exam.

Stanisław Pajak was a scholarship student of the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra and the Oscar and Vera Ritter Foundation as well as a scholar of Berlin's Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester and the Berliner Philharmoniker. He played with the Dresdner Philharmonie as well as assistant principal bass with the Bamberger Symphoniker before taking up his position with the Berliner Philharmoniker. Apart from daily practising, his favourite pastimes include fishing, especially for carp. He and his wife are also passionate moviegoers and walkers.