

The Philharmonic Orchestra South Westfalia (that is The Philharmonie Sü dwestfalen) has had the title Landesorchester Nordrhein-Westfalen since 1992. In 2007 the orchestra celebrated its 50th anniversary.

With its headquarters in Hilchenbach in the district Siegen-Wittgenstein the Philharmonic Orchestra South Westfalia performs its programme in the whole area of South Westfalia. Moreover the orchestra regularly gives guest performances in the Federal Republic of Germany, also in the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland as well as Italy. Only a short time ago the orchestra went on tour to France as well as to China (inter alia Peking and Shanghai) on new year 2007. In 2010 the Philharmonic Orchestra South Westfalia performed in Rome (at the Festival dell'Arte e Musica sacra).

The Phiharmonic Orchestra South Westfalia plays the „usual“ classical and romantic repertoire but in recent years it has also drawn the attention to an open-minded programme. Modern works are played as well as baroque music, which has recently been 'rediscovered'. In spring 2007 two works commissioned by Iris ter Schiphorst and Gerhard Sta□bler were played for the first time.

Traditionally the orchestra accompanies numerous choirs not only from the region, it has also proved its competence by giving guest performances in the great music theatres of Northrhine-Westfalia (Dü sseldorf, Essen and Cologne) and in concerts with singers like Caballé, Domingo and Alberti.

The Philharmonic Orchestra South Westfalia supports young conductors by regularly working together with the conductors' forum of the Deutsche Musikrat (project "Masters of Tomorrow") as well as together with colleges of music.

In recent years the range of own productions has been enlarged by a lot of new concert qualities, for example by the series "Young Classics". „Classical music without tails“ has hit with the public, concerts with film music and the proms-concerts have become very popular.

The series „Teddy bear concerts“ has been started for children going to nursery schools.

In special concerts the musicians of the orchestra present themselves playing chamber music in smaller casts as well as together with the Siegener Museum For Contemporary Arts.

In May and June 2006 the Philharmonic Orchestra South Westfalia organized the WDR – Music Festival together with the district Siegen-Wittgenstein

Along with regular recordings and programmes for radio stations the orchestra played at the Advent concert for the leader of Northrhine-Westfalia in the Soester Wiesenkirche (a famous church in Soest, Northrhine- Westfalia) in 2006, in the course of which the orchestra could be seen live for the first time on the third programme of the WDR – TV station.

Halfway through August 2007 the Philharmonic Orchestra South Westfalia played their first concert with Bobby McFerrin at the Menuhin Festival in Gstaad, Switzerland.

The successor to Georg Fritsch is the British man Russell N. Harris, who has been the chief conductor of the Philharmonic Orchestra South Westfalia from 2003 to 2011. Since Summer 2011 the canadian conductor Charles Olivieri-Munroe is the new chief conductor of the Philharmonie Südwestfalen.