



# SINFONIETTA PASSAU



The symphony orchestra [Sinfonietta Passau](#) was founded in 2023 and can already look back on five extremely successful concert series. Its musical and artistic director is Eleni Papakyriakou.

Sinfonietta Passau bridges shortcomings in the repertoire of great symphonic music, presenting demanding and rarely performed works as well as world premieres. Contemporary composers and young soloists are promoted.

Through guest performances as well as participation in national and international festivals, Sinfonietta Passau is constantly expanding its concert activities.



*Sinfonietta Passau is a tremendous achievement by a single artistic personality, a giant leap forward for the region's cultural scene and a clear statement by an exciting young conductor to the classical music world.*

*Raimund Meisenberger, Passauer Neue Presse, April 2023*



*A magnificent evening: standing ovations for Sinfonietta Passau with Bruckner's 7th Symphony. The orchestra is highly motivated, the strings deliver precise transitions and delicate pianissimo passages. Thanks also to the superb wind section, the music unfolds powerfully and movingly in the sacred acoustics.*

*Carola Baumann-Moritz, Passauer Neue Presse, April 2024*

*Great musical sensitivity – the conductor succeeds in making the layers of sound in this monumental work [Bruckner's 7th Symphony] audible in subtle nuances. The musicians follow her meticulously. Papakyriakou's energetic style, coupled with precision and temperament, is just the right dose to hold the large orchestra together.*

*Dr. Edith Rabenstein, Rabenstein Kulturblog, April 2024*

*The orchestra not only delivers an exceptionally alert and present sound, but also knows precisely in every phrase what musical statement the conductor wants to hear. The cellos flow, the violins sculpt a yearning, the woodwinds accelerate imperceptibly, the string tutti introduces that unbridled touch of madness, the brass lays down merciless blows, and the cellos and double basses capture everything in a small, mystical wave.*

*Raimund Meisenberger, Passauer Neue Presse, December 2024*

*Sinfonietta Passau produced a sound that, despite its well-rehearsed precision, sounded free and invigorating. And this natural music-making characterised the evening to the complete satisfaction of the audience.*

*Kristian Kuhnle, Straubinger Tagblatt, May 2025*

*The interaction with the orchestra is brilliant. This exemplifies Papakyriakou's keen sense of detail, which results in a wonderfully balanced and rounded orchestral sound.*

*Philipp Heidepeter, Passauer Neue Presse, May 2025*



## Eleni Papakyriakou

Eleni Papakyriakou comes from Thessaloniki, Greece. She completed her studies in orchestra conducting at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna in 2015.

As founder and principal conductor of Sinfonietta Passau, Eleni Papakyriakou established her own symphony orchestra, which can already look back on five extremely successful concert series. She was awarded the “SYLFF Leadership Initiatives Award“ by the Tokyo Foundation in 2024.

After successful guest conducting engagements at the „Louis Spohr“ Music Academy in Kassel, Eleni Papakyriakou was appointed director of the academy orchestra in 2025. She was also engaged as a lecturer for instrumental ensemble conducting. She is the music and artistic director of the Passau University Orchestra and worked for seven years at the Landestheater Niederbayern, where she conducted performances.

Her participation in the international competition „La Maestra Paris“ led to a concert with the Orchestre Padeloup at the Philharmonie de Paris in 2021. She has also collaborated as a guest conductor with the Thessaloniki State Symphony Orchestra and the Vienna Academic Orchestra Association.

[www.elenipapakyriakou.com](http://www.elenipapakyriakou.com)





**Sinfonietta Passau** consists mainly of young professional musicians from the wider region and selected advanced music students from institutions including the Bruckner University of Music in Linz, the University of Music and Performing Arts in Munich and the Mozarteum University in Salzburg – a balanced mix that promises quality, passion, vitality and youthful energy.

## Principals



### Concert master Margarita Nastouli

Margarita Nastouli already has extensive experience as a concertmaster, including the Regensburg Theatre, the Ulm State Theatre, the Plauen-Zwickau Theatre, the Cottbus Theatre and the Capella Aquileia. She was a member of the Athens State Symphony Orchestra and the European Union Youth Orchestra.



### Principal Viola Martin Babica

Born in Passau, Martin Babica is solo violist with the Kammerphilharmonie dacapo, Camerata Munich, taschenphilharmonie Munich, Nymphenburg String Soloists, Munich Symphony and Orquesta Filarmónica de Gran Canaria, among others.



### Principal Cello Manfred Pferinger

Manfred Pferinger has performed as a cellist at the Kassel State Theatre, the Münster Symphony, the Norddeutsche Philharmonie Herford, the Oldenburg State Orchestra, the Bielefeld Philharmonic Orchestra, the Osnabrück Symphony Orchestra and the Philharmonic Orchestra Hagen, among others.

# COMPOSERS

The Sinfonietta Passau presents world premieres and first performances by contemporary composers.

At the inaugural concerts in 2023, the „3 Abendländer“ by composer Cornelius Hirsch were premiered. In April 2024, the German premiere of the award-winning work „Tree of Life“ by Passau composer Philipp Ortmeier took place. The work „The Importance of Time“ by Swedish composer Hanna Blomberg (German premiere) was presented in May 2025. In 2026, we will collaborate again with Philipp Ortmeier and premiere his Symphony No. 1 „Nostalgia“.



**Hanna Blomberg**  
Helsingborg Symphony  
Orchestra, Musica Vitae,  
Ensemble Mare Balticum,  
Monbijou Quartet



**Philipp Ortmeier**  
1st Prize Competition  
„Orient/Occident“ 2023  
V. Mangold Music Prize  
2026, Universal Edition,  
Schott, Cäcilien-Verband



**Cornelius Hirsch**  
Bavarian State Prize for  
Composition



In addition to collaborating with renowned soloists, Sinfonietta Passau is also a springboard for young talents. The internationally acclaimed flutists Stathis Karapanos and Philippe Bernold were guests at the inaugural concerts. Mezzo-soprano Sarah Romberger performed songs by Gustav Mahler in April 2024. In November 2024 and May 2025, two young soloists from Passau gave impressive performances: saxophonist Jakob Matuschek and cellist Lida Limmer. In December 2025 and January 2026, the outstanding pianist Fil Liotis, Passau soprano Theresa Krügl and our concertmaster Margarita Nastouli gave brilliant performances. In spring 2026, we look forward to welcoming Passau cellist Gregor Babica.



**Stathis Karapanos**  
Flutist  
Conservatoire de Paris,  
Leonard Bernstein  
Award 2020



**Philippe Bernold**  
Flutist  
Professor at  
Conservatory  
National de Paris



**Sarah Romberger**  
Mezzo-soprano  
Cologne Philharmonic,  
Heidelberg Spring  
Festival, Elbphilharmonie

## SOLOISTS



**Jakob Matuschek**  
Saxophonist  
Leopold Mozart Centre  
University of Augsburg



**Lida Limmer**  
Cellist  
University of Music Linz  
and Graz, Camerata  
Salzburg



**Fil Liotis**  
Pianist  
Detmold University of  
Music, Albéniz Medal,  
ECHO Klassik Award



**Theresa Krügl**  
Soprano  
Univ. of Music and  
Performing Arts Vienna,  
Schönbrunn Palace  
Theatre



**Gregor Babica**  
Cellist  
Mannes College of Music  
NYC, Nymphenburg  
String Soloists

# CONCERTS

Concert series „Zeitspiele“ in Passau, Hauzenberg and Straubing,  
April / May 2026:

O. Respighi: Antiche Danze ed Arie, Suite No. 3

P. I. Tchaikovsky: Rococo-Variations - Soloist: Gregor Babica

Philipp Ortmeier: Symphony No. 1 „Nostalgia“ (World Premiere)

New Year's Concert in Vilshofen, January 2026:

Works of W.A. Mozart, J. Strauß II, C. Saint-Saens, F. Lehár, G. Bizet,  
C. Gounod, J. Offenbach, G. F. Händel

Soloists: Theresa Krügl, Margarita Nastouli

Martin Bender: Hymn to Vilshofen (World Premiere)



Charity Concert in Passau, December 2025:

Benjamin Britten: „A Simple Symphony“

W.A. Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 23 KV 488 - Soloist: Fil Liotis

L. v. Beethoven: Symphony No. 8

Concert „Summer Night Tunes“ at Loxone Campus, Austria, July 2025:

W.A. Mozart: Divertimento KV 136

A. Vivaldi: „Spring“ und „Summer“ from the 4 Seasons

W.A. Mozart: Eine kleine Nachtmusik KV 525

A. Dvořák: String Quintet No. 2 op. 77, I. Allegro con fuoco - Più mosso

J. Brahms: Liebeslieder-Walzer (Selection)



### Concert series „Horizons“ in Passau, Straubing and Landshut, May 2025:

Hanna Blomberg: „The Importance of Time“ (German Premiere)  
C. Saint-Saens: Cello Concerto No. 2 op. 119 – Soloist: Lida Limmer  
J. Sibelius: Symphony No. 3

### Winter Concerts in Passau and Neuburg am Inn, November / December 2024:

Nikos Skalkottas: 5 Greek Dances for String Orchestra  
A. Glasunow: Saxophon Concerto op. 109 – Soloist: Jakob Matuschek  
L. v. Beethoven: Symphony No. 3 „Eroica“

### Concert series „Tree of Life - Bruckner200“ in Passau and Deggendorf, April 2024:

Philipp Ortmeier: „Tree of Life“ (German Premiere)  
G. Mahler: Orchestral songs from „Des Knaben Wunderhorn“  
Soloist: Sarah Romberger  
A. Bruckner: Symphony No. 7

### Founding Concerts in Passau, March / April 2023:

Cornelius Hirsch: 3 „Abendländler“ (World Premiere)  
C. Nielsen: Flute Concerto - Soloists: Stathis Karapanos, Philippe Bernold  
A. Bruckner: Symphony No. 4 „Romantic“





## Contact:

Sinfonietta Passau e.V.  
Roßtränke 13, 94032 Passau  
sinfonietta.passau@gmail.com  
www.sinfonietta-passau.com

Sinfonietta Passau  
Website



Sinfonietta Passau  
Imagefilm



Concert videos  
YouTube channel



© 2026 Sinfonietta Passau e.V.

Photos: Stelzer Photographie, Constanze Wolf, George Arutinov Photography,  
Nicolas Kusser, Pauline Hanfgarn, Thomas Loschy, Robert Zaigler

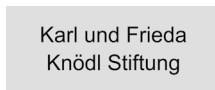
Thank you for your support!



BEZIRK  
NIEDERBAYERN  
Kulturstiftung



Stiftung der Passauer Neuen Presse



Stiftung  
Europäisches Haus  
Konzerthaus Passau



Deutsche Stiftung  
für Engagement  
und Ehrenamt



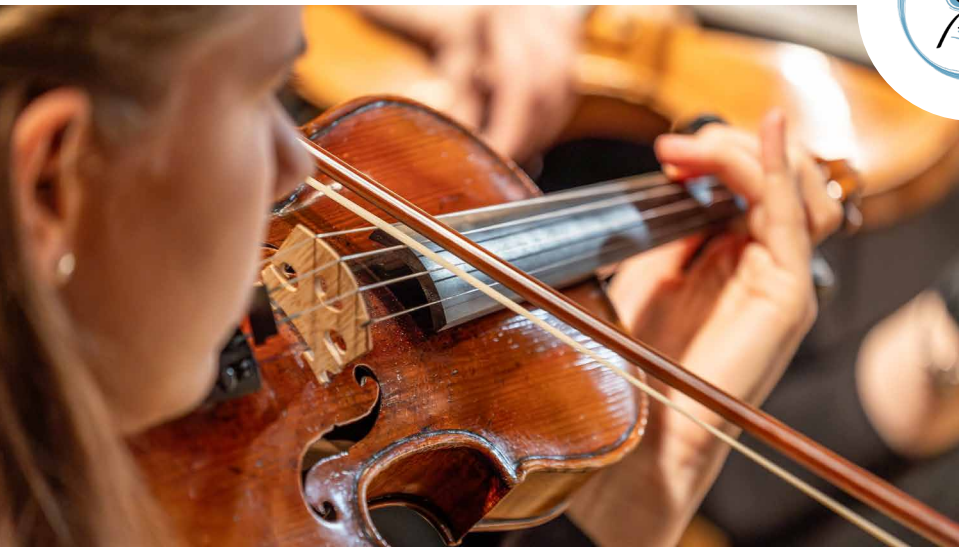
Hans-Georg Härter

Christa Bülow  
Stiftung



HOTEL  
WILDER MANN





SINFONIETTA  
PASSAU

[www.sinfonietta-passau.com](http://www.sinfonietta-passau.com)

