



BIOGRAPHY OF ORCHESTRE NATIONAL DE CANNES

Updated October 2025

FULL VERSION

For 50 years, the Orchestre national de Cannes has pursued a bold policy in support of the musical heritage of the past, present, and future.

Combining excellence with accessibility, prestige with inventiveness, tradition with modernity, the Orchestra constantly seeks to reach all audiences through its creativity and the diversity of its repertoire. Based in the world capital of cinema, it naturally places music for image at the heart of its development.

Composed of 37 permanent musicians and under the musical direction of Benjamin Levy since 2016, the Orchestre national de Cannes was awarded the label “national en région” in 2022. In October 2025, it appointed Korean-American conductor Holly Hyun Choe as music director starting from the 2026/2027 season for an initial four-season term.

Each season, it welcomes over 35,000 spectators, ranging in age from 6 months to 99 years. Giving nearly a hundred concerts a year—from Cannes to villages in the hinterland—it shines throughout the entire Southern region and beyond, with invitations to perform on major stages across France.

In tune with the expectations of a diverse audience, the Orchestra constantly reimagines the format of its concerts, offering accessible and inclusive programs such as one-hour educational concerts, *Baby Concerts*, after-work music concerts, and augmented concerts. It also develops arts education and outreach initiatives for schoolchildren, as well as for remote or underserved audiences.

Deeply committed to younger generations, the Orchestra supports the talents of tomorrow through its Academy and partnerships with higher music education institutions (IESM, CNSMDP, CNSMDL, etc.). Each year, it contributes to the training of around one hundred students in the music field.

Dedicated to modern and contemporary repertoire, the Orchestre national de Cannes premieres new works every season. As such, it is a member of the *Consortium créatif*, a unique alliance of five French orchestras promoting the music of today.

Thanks to the support of the City of Cannes, the Ministry of Culture, the Alpes-Maritimes Department, the SUD Region, the Donors program *Andantino*, and the *Friends of the Orchestra* association, the Orchestra brings symphonic music to life for the widest possible audience. It champions a vast repertoire ranging from the 17th century to the present day, alongside internationally renowned conductors and soloists, as well as the new generation of musicians it aims to introduce to the public.

Through its engagement with its city and region, and its presence across France and on the radio, the Orchestre national de Cannes stands as a major cultural player in the landscape of Cannes and its wider territory.

Site internet : <https://www.orchestre-cannes.com/>

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