

Ambassade Orchestra Vienna

an ensemble of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra

Development

„I am really surprised how this project developed“, says Michael Buchmann, a member of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, in an interview. *“We just wanted to found a small, courageous, and unconventional orchestra and suddenly we were on tour in Dubai with one of the most famous tenors in the world, José Carreras”.*

The story of the “Young Wilds of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra” (authored by Josef Rietveld, Kurier, Newspaper) started during the Johann Strauss Anniversary year of 1999.

Michael Buchmann and Alexander Kaspar, manager of the ensemble, had the idea to emphasize the entertaining element of classical music in an informal, but highly professional style.

“... and because of that we founded the Ambassade Orchestra Vienna, recorded a CD- Leichtes Blut – and after a couple of concerts in Austria, we went on tour to South America.”

What awaited the Ambassade Orchestra Vienna there was indescribable.



Ambassade Orchestra Vienna

Conditions comparable to the Rolling Stones & an Airplane Crash

Up to 12,000 people attended each concert; the audience cheered wildly, and for hours the orchestra had to write autographs and even items the musicians threw away, got retrieved by fans as souvenirs. In South America, the orchestra experienced conditions similar to the celebrity status of the Rolling Stones. Because of the huge interest from the people of Uruguay in the orchestra, television stations and newspapers reported daily on the artists' private life and recorded the enormous enthusiasm of the audience during the 24 open air concerts. Also, the ORF (the largest Austrian television station) accompanied the orchestra through Uruguay. The repertoire stretched from Mozart and Brahms to the Strauß family. But the highlights of the program were always the tango “La Cumparsita” and the self-composed piece “Uruguay”.

There was a special newspaper headline due to a domestic flight. A couple of minutes after the musicians left the airplane at the Salto/Uruguay Airport the plane exploded and was completely destroyed. Soon wild speculations were made as to the reason of the explosion and for the following concerts the orchestra was escorted by the police.

The 9th Symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven



Vienna Musikverein, December 23rd 2004, Beethoven Anniversary Choir, Ambassade Orchestra Vienna

Challenging pieces like the 9th Symphony of Beethoven and Verdis Requiem bring the Ambassade Orchestra Vienna again in November and December 2005 to the Vienna Musikverein.

L.v. Beethoven

José

With José Carreras in Dubai

Dubai is known as a superlative city. Because of this, it is not surprising that a huge open air stage would be built up in “Nad Al Sheba”, the biggest horse and camel racetrack of the world, and the Ambassade Orchestra Vienna would be flown in to support one of the most famous tenors in the world, José Carreras.



The work with José Carreras was incredible. It was not necessary to have any special affects, actors, or additions to his performance. His charisma alone, perfectly complimented by the Ambassade Orchestra Vienna, was enough to overwhelm the audience.

Soundcheck: José Carreras, David Gimenez, Ambassade Orchestra Vienna

The result were many concerts in the United Arab Emirates and especially the CD-production “Mediterranean Passion / José Carreras and Ambassade Orchestra Vienna” that will be released in autumn 2008.

Charlie Chaplin in the Vienna Konzerthaus

With an extraordinary movie evening, the Ambassade Orchestra Vienna had an additional highlight to add to their repertoire. In March 2003, the orchestra played live with conductor Helmut Imig the movie soundtrack of “The Kid” and “The Idle Class” which was written by Chaplin.

“I tried to compose elegant and romantic music to give my comedies contradictory and emotional touches,” said Chaplin, for whom soundtracks were more than just background music.

“Because of the loose and exact intonations of the perfectly arranged orchestra, this movie evening became an elated and moving nostalgic event. Two masterpieces of the silent films were performed and it was honoured by lots of strong applause.” (Critic, Thomas Fanta, Wiener Zeitung, Newspaper).

The audience was enthusiastic and all performances were sold out.

Superman

The Superman-Suite in Monte Carlo

Not only Formula 1 car engines were roaring in Monte Carlo.

At the Red Bull Driver's Party on Saturday night before the Grand Prix in Monaco, the Ambassade Orchestra Vienna with their conductor Christian Kolonovits performed for celebrities such as Kevin Spacey, George Lukas, Formula 1 pilot David Coulthard and Torro Rosso owner Gerhard Berger.

Befitting the presentation of the new Superman movie, the Superman-Suite sounded all over the harbour of Monte Carlo.

Perhaps that "gave Wings" to the Red Bull pilot, since the next day David Coulthard made the first podium place for the Red Bull Racing Team.



Monte Carlo, 27. April 2006, Christian Kolonovits, Ambassade Orchestra Vienna

formula 1

At Work for a Good Cause

The musicians of the Ambassade Orchestra are always at work for a good cause. This started on September 28, 1999, with a charity concert for "Care Austria" in the Vienna Art History Museum.

Together with the funk band, "Hot Pants Road Club", the charity CD "Live for the Moment" was recorded and performed at the opening of the "Live Ball '02" in front of 1.000's of fans at the Vienna Rathausplatz. A double concert with our colleagues of the Corso Wien ensemble was lots of fun and performed for the foundation "Save St. Stephan's Cathedral".

In December 2003, an auction of paintings for the Make a Wish Foundation was musically supported by the Ambassade Orchestra Vienna.

More charity concerts followed, for example, the Waris Dirie Foundation, Flora (Viennese Women Against Breast Cancer), victims of the Tsunami ...

...thank

The first Golden CD for the Ambassade Orchestra Vienna

Following the sold out concert at Vienna's Musikverein on April, 24th 2006, Christian Kolonovits the producer of the CD "**Ambros sings Moser**", presents the golden CD to the representatives of the orchestra, Peter Steinhardt, Michael Buchmann and Alexander Kaspar, the producer of the new DVD Rudi Dolezal and the "godfather of Austropop" Wolfgang Ambros.

The idea originated from the trumpet player of the Ambassade Orchestra Vienna Peter Steinhardt, who is, as he says, the biggest Hans Moser fan worldwide. "Instead of going to school, I preferred spending my mornings with a bunch of older ladies

at the Bellaria cinema watching those old movies."

"Two worlds collided and created a third, and look, that was good, very good indeed!" [Hannes Höttl]



Ch. Kolonovits, R. Dolezal, M. Buchmann, W. Ambros, P. Steinhardt, A. Kaspar



"I was captivated. A fabulous Ambassade Orchestra Vienna, led by its conductor Christian Kolonovits accompanied Wolfgang Ambros, and was swinging, elegant and sensitive. Wolfgang Ambros is an obliging and great interpreter, as well or maybe especially for the traditional Viennese songs." [Herbert Zotti, Wr. Volksliedwerk]

Meanwhile many concerts took place, the CD "Ambros singt Moser" reached platinum status and "Ambros singt Moser die 2te" reached gold. For weeks the live DVD "Ambros singt Moser" was on top of the austrian DVD charts.

And the successful cooperation between the Ambassade Orchestra Vienna, Wolfgang Ambros and Christian Kolonovits continues. Hits like "Schifoan" and "Da Hofa" will be arranged for symphonic orchestra.

Japan-

Japan-Tour

Besides the sold out concerts in Tokyo and Kyoto the Ambassade Orchestra Vienna had the exceptional honor to perform at Kamigamo-Jinja shrine. To enter this shrine in shoes was until now only allowed to the emperor and to the musicians of the Ambassade Orchestra.

Concert master of this tour was Mag. Anton Sorokow, first concert master of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra.

He is 1st price winner of the Beethoven audition in the Czech Republic in 1994, 1st price winner of the Stephanie-Hohl-Audition Vienna and of the Romano-Romanini-Audition in Brescia, only

to name a few. Anton Sorokow plays on a Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù "Ex Sorokin" violin, from the year 1731 with an insurance value of €4 Mio.



Mag. Anton Sorokow (right) with the Ambassade Orchestra Vienna at

Japanese Rock music

One of the highlights of 2007 was definitely the six days trip to Tokyo and Yokohama. Two sold out concerts in front of 5000 people each were live recorded. The rock band Quruli, consisting of seven musicians was supported by the Ambassade Orchestra Vienna. The recordings were done in cooperation with the company SCI. Quruli is since more than ten years one of the most successful Japanese Rock formations and a DVD and CD of these unforgettable performances will be released in 2008.

Rockmus

Quruli, Ambassade Orchestra Vienna, at Pacifico



Peter and the wolf

One of the big concerns of the Ambassade Orchestra Vienna is to bring classical music closer to the youth. Out of that the Ambassade Orchestra Vienna is producing a CD collection for children.



Willi Weitzel

The first CD with Sergei Prokofiev's Peter and the wolf will be released in fall 2009. As a narrator the Ambassade Orchestra could emphasize Willi Weitzel. The talk master of the German kids show "Willi Wills Wissen" was honored as well with the Bavarian Television Award. Additionally the CD will have a Making-Of-DVD just in the style of "Willi Wills Wissen".

Following Peter and the wolf new CDs with "Animals Carnival", Johann Strauß for kids and Wilhelm Busch's "Max and Moritz" with a newly composed soundtrack will be released yearly.

Sarah Brightman

Another highlight of the Ambassade Orchestra Vienna was the cooperation with Sarah Brightman. In January 2008 the DVD "Sarah Brightman – Symphony" with the director Hannes Rossacher was produced at Saint Stephan's Cathedral, Vienna. Sarah Brightman is known for her musical variety, her biggest hit "Time To Say Goodbye" together with Andrea Bocelli was on top of all European charts and made it in the Guinness Book of Records as the most sold hit single in Germany.



Cooperation

with José Carreras, Christian Kolonovits, Otto Brusatti, Aleksey Igudesman, Richard Hyung-Ki Joo, Wiener Sängerknaben, Tina Gorina, David Gimenez, DJ Tiesto, Waris Dirie, Sascha Goetzel, Alfons Haider, Uwe Kröger, Roberto Saccá, Alexandra Reinprecht, Erdal Erzincan, Christian Schulz, Alexander Lutz, Tayler Dane, Hot Pants Road Club, Herwig Pecoraro, Corso Wien, Renate Holm, Heinz Zednig, Paul Potassy, Martina Dorak, Marcela Cerno, Heinz Holecek, Gigga, Wolfgang Ambros, Eva Lind and many more

Concert tours

to New York, Chicago, Tokio, Dubai, Montevideo, Berlin, Frankfurt, Tripolis ...

Press releases

VILSHOFENER ANZEIGER, January 2004

...full of breathtaking polkas and emotional waltzes.
Stormy, but not rushed, just perfectly played...

BAD KISSINGEN, June 2004

...have developed a sophisticated and highly entertaining program
that they performed with lots of spirit.

BURGENLAND MITTE, January 2003

A musical titbit of the highest level

SCHÄRDING, January 2003

An orchestrated firework!

TIROLER TAGESZEITUNG, January 2003

Upshot: a concert with lots of musicality, passion and dedication

KRONE, November 2002

Conditions comparable to the Rolling Stones

DER NEUE MERKER, June 2002

...the wonderful Ambassade Orchestra...

BREGENZER FESTSPIELZEITUNG, June 2000

The Ambassade Orchestra played Strauß at the sold out music pavilion.
...the ensemble of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra sparkled...