

The Georgian Chamber Orchestra Ingolstadt has a German-wide unique profile: As former Exile Orchestra it preserves until this day its East European character and, at the same time, is a firmly rooted sounding body in Ingolstadt receiving credit way beyond the region. Since its migration to Germany in 1990, the Georgian Chamber Orchestra has been based in Ingolstadt and, with the support of the city of Ingolstadt, the AUDI AG, as well as the Sparkasse Ingolstadt, has become part and parcel of the regional and more than regional cultural life. With its series of concerts in the region, international guest performances and the many children and youth projects the GKO Ingolstadt consistently shows a high number of subscribers and has achieved an excellent reputation.

In 1964, the ensemble was founded in Tbilisi / Georgia as Georgian State Chamber Orchestra and it celebrated its 50-year existence in 2014. After the orchestra had been based in the Georgian capital Tbilisi for the first 26 years it moved to Ingolstadt where it has now found its second home for more than 30 years. The years in Ingolstadt are also marked by an artistic continuity in which the GKO Ingolstadt was able to maintain its East European character. Almost only musicians from Georgia and Eastern Europe are still playing in the Ingolstadt ensemble.

Ariel Zuckermann has been the artistic director of the GKO Ingolstadt since 2021. He is already a familiar face to the music lovers of the city as he had already been in charge of the GKO between 2006 and 2011. Ariel Zuckermann succeeds the extremely successful years between 2015 until 2020 under the chief conductor Ruben Gazarian from Armenia. Many known conductor personalities have significantly shaped the orchestra. The long-time director and violinist Liana Issakadze helped the GKO to international fame between 1981 and 1999. Important accents were also set by Markus Poschner who was in charge of the ensemble from 2000 until 2006 and who, amongst other things, introduced the subscription concerts which are popular to this day.

In the long history of the GKO Ingolstadt, many outstanding international art figures have shared the stage with the orchestra: David Oistrach, Barbara Hendricks, Svjatoslav Richter or Daniil Shafran performed with the ensemble, just as in the more recent past, Heinrich Schiff, Tabea Zimmermann, Juan Diego Florez, Gidon Kremer, Edita Gruberova, Giora Feidman, Elisso Virsaladze, Lynn Harrell, Rudolf Buchbinder, Christian Zacharias, Lisa Batiashvili, Natalia Gutman, Diana Damrau, Gilles Apap, Maxim Vengerov and Khatia Buniatishvili, Julian Rachlin and Daniel Müller-Schott.

The Georgian Chamber Orchestra Ingolstadt considers itself an ensemble which not only feels itself responsible for a wide repertoire but, as a cultural ambassador of the city of Ingolstadt, also one that develops activities outside the subscription series. The orchestra also regularly performs about ninety concerts per year at music festivals, such as the Kreuth International Music Festival, the Oettinger Residence Concerts or the Festive Summer in the Wies, as well as at concerts abroad, including Spain, France, Georgia, Austria and Switzerland. At the Summer Concerts, a series of events of the AUDI AG, the ensemble has been a well-established part for years.

The Ensemble has been sponsored by the Free State of Bavaria as a non-governmental cultural orchestra since 2010.