

Phion, Orchestra of Gelderland & Overijssel

The aim of Phion, the Dutch philharmonic orchestra of the provinces of Gelderland and Overijssel, is to be of significance to as many people as possible through the performance of live symphonic music. Under its chief conductor Otto Tausk, the orchestra brings a wide range of musical programmes to its audiences, aspiring to be both innovative and surprising. The orchestra enters into collaborations with other parties both within and outside its own discipline, which allows it to tell the story of classical music in many different ways. This may be through large symphonic work of the very best quality, surprising new classical formats or pioneering crossovers.

By not only working with cultural partners but also providing coaching to the amateur sector, accompanying the Nederlandse Reisopera and various choirs, and working on music education and talent development, Phion plays an active role in society in Gelderland, Overijssel and far beyond. As such, it is proud to be a part of the cultural network of these two Dutch provinces.

Phion, Orchestra of Gelderland & Overijssel, is the product of a merger in 2019 between The Arnhem Philharmonic Orchestra and the Netherlands Symphony Orchestra. The Arnhem Philharmonic Orchestra has roots dating back to 1889. Over recent decades, the orchestra was led by chief conductors Roberto Benzi, Lawrence Renes, Martin Sieghart and Antonello Manacorda. Under conductors including Martin Sieghart and Antonello Manacorda, it recorded several CDs with works by Mahler, Schubert and Brahms, among other composers.

The Netherlands Symphony Orchestra's history goes back to 1933. In the 1990s, while under the baton of chief conductor Jaap van Zweden, the orchestra underwent significant development. Van Zweden's successor, Jan Willem de Vriend, was at the orchestra's helm for 10 years, during which time its CD recordings included all of Beethoven's and Mendelssohn's symphonies. Ed Spanjaard led the orchestra until it merged with The Arnhem Philharmonic Orchestra.

With effect from the 2020-2021 season, the new organisation's name is Phion, Orchestra of Gelderland & Overijssel, with Otto Tausk as Chief Conductor. Otto Tausk is also Music Director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and Artistic Advisor to the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra School of Music.