



Founded in 2010 by four former students of Christian Lampert's horn class at the Stuttgart University of Music and Performing Arts, the horn quartet **german hornsound** has succeeded in establishing an international reputation through its distinctive artistic profile. With innovative concert formats and creative programming, the ensemble has made its debut in recent years at nearly all major German-speaking music festivals.

The quartet's repertoire spans all eras of music history and includes both original works and arrangements. What sets german hornsound apart, however, is its commitment to developing original projects.

Their first CD production, *Siegfried und Violetta* (2013)—a three-act opera fragment with music by Giuseppe Verdi and Richard Wagner, created in collaboration with South Tyrolean writer Herbert Rosendorfer (†2012) and Berlin dramaturge Karl Dietrich Gräwe (†2019) for four horns and narrator—paved the way for their concert career. With *Pictures* (2015), inspired by Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, they made their debut at the Elbphilharmonie in 2019.

A longstanding collaboration also connects german hornsound with the vocal ensemble amarcord. Following their joint production *Wald.Horn.Lied* (2016), they appeared at major festivals and embarked on a Christmas tour (2019).

Their quartet program *#hornlikes* (2018) involves the audience directly in shaping the concert, offering yet another innovative concert format.

With their latest program, *Primetime in der Wolfsschlucht*, built around Weber's *Freischütz*, german hornsound takes the audience on a humorous journey into the past, presented as a three-part evening broadcast. Also in 2022, their production *Heimat* with world-renowned tenor Daniel Behle was released, receiving wide international acclaim and considerable media attention.

As soloists, the quartet regularly performs with prestigious orchestras on major international stages. Among others, they have presented Schumann's famous *Konzertstück* with the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, and the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, under the direction of Michael Sanderling, Jonathan Nott, and Paavo Järvi. Contemporary music is also close to the ensemble's heart: after commissioning a work from Trygve Madsen (2013), they were able to engage the Estonian composer Erkki-Sven Tüür to write a new piece for four horns and orchestra. This work was premiered in May and September 2022 with the Bochum Symphony Orchestra and the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra and has also been performed with the Konzerthausorchester Berlin and the Hong Kong Philharmonic.

All four horn players hold positions in professional orchestras: the Bamberg Symphony, the Hanover State Opera, the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, and the Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra.

Alongside their concert activities, the four musicians place strong emphasis on supporting the next generation. In addition to several education projects at institutions such as the Philharmonie Luxembourg and the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, they have launched the **GHS Academy**, offering courses and workshops aimed at school pupils, *Jugend musiziert* ensembles, students, professionals, and dedicated amateur horn players. They also run their own sheet music edition at **koebel.de**, where much of their concert repertoire is published. Over the past three years, they have released the first five volumes of their new collection *the books*—beautiful, accessible horn quartets for all horn players, suitable for a wide range of occasions. Since 2022, the ensemble has been releasing both physical and digital recordings under its own label, **GHS records**.

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Christoph Eß
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