



The JugendZupfOrchester Northrhine Westfalia, Germany (JZO NRW)
Director: Dr. Christian de Witt

- *the young top orchestra for plucked music* -
(promoted by the president of the state of Northrhine Westfalia)

- 50 young prize winners of national and international music competitions play music in an extraordinary body of sound
- innovative concert program that combines music of different eras and stylistics with new forms of presentation emphasizing New Music
- international awards: 2006 1st prize of the competitions „Prague Strings“ and 1st prize on the third competition for plucked orchestra in Germany
- concert tours all over the world, e.g. Japan, Russia, Scotland, Spain, Czech Republic, Poland
- performances in reknown venues and festivals like Rimskij-Korsakow Conservatory St. Petersburg, Gnnessin-Music Academy Moscow (Russia), WDR Funkhaus Cologne, Konzerthaus Bamberg, Philharmonie of the city of Essen (Germany), Takamatsu Concert Hall (Japan), Baltic Philharmonie Gdansk (Poland)
- recordings for broadcast and television stations, e.g. for WDR, Russian TV, Japanese TV, Czech TV, Scottish TV
- public promotion by the president of the state of Northrhine Westfalia, 2008-2011 special promotion by „Netzwerk Neue Musik“ (Network New Music), within the framework of this the orchestra annual performs 2 new concert programs presenting „cross over“ and „minimal music“; 2008 and 2009 the JZO NRW works e.g. with the famous drummer Martell Beigang from Cologne who participated in more than 40 studio productions of famous pop musicians
- numerous CD productions, e.g. 2003 „Live in Japan“ and 2005 „Back from Russia“

The JZO NRW is based in the biggest state of Germany, Northrhine-Westfalia.

They are Germany's premier mandolin and guitar orchestra and feature gifted young musicians aged between 15 and 27 years old, many of whom are prize winners at the "Jugend musiziert", Germany's major youth music competition.

At the moment, 14 members of the orchestra are first prize winners of the national finals, moreover there are students from the master classes of the music academies of Cologne, Wuppertal, Detmold and Frankfurt/Main and even prize winners of international competitions.

They meet several weeks a year and are instructed by a professional team of tutors (Silke Lisko, Annika Lückebergfeld, Valerij Kisseljov , Rupert Gehrman).

The JZO NRW was founded in 1977 and is supported by the Ministry of Culture, the German Music Council and the German Mandolin and Guitar Association.

The orchestra is conducted by Dr. Christian de Witt who is head of the famous Folkwang Music School and professor at the Folkwang College. Manager of the JZO NRW is Silke Lisko.

The orchestra has been invited to many national and international festivals, such as "Dundee Guitar Festival 2000" (Scotland), "eurofestival zupfmusik 2002" (Germany), "Philharmonia Gdansk" (2002 Poland), "International Mandolin Festival Takamatsu" (2003 Japan), »International Conservatoire Week 2006 « Rimschij-Korsakow Conservatory St. Petersburg, Gnessin-Music Academy Moscow, etc.

In 2006, the JZO NRW has won two prestigious competitions with the best results of all categories: "Prague Strings" (CZ) and the "Wettbewerb für deutsche Auswahlorchester" in Trossingen (D).

Their concert programs include music in Baroque, Romantic, Latin and Contemporary style by composers like J.S. Bach, Yasuo Kuwahara, Steve Reich, Eduardo Angulo, Raffaele Calace, Klaus Wüsthoff, Christopher Grafschmidt, Uwe Künstler and John McGann.

In addition, various soloists contribute to a rich and eclectic mix of instrumental sounds. The latest CD productions are "Live in Japan" and "Back from Russia".

Dr. Christian de Witt (b.1951) started his career in 1979 as director of the Music School in Melle near Osnabrück. In this capacity he discovered new possibilities for his work in Lippstadt in 1981 and at the Folkwang Music School in Essen where he is presently the director.

Presently he directs the "Collegium musicum Essen" and various choirs.

Since 1995 he has been conducting the JZO NRW. He is in charge as the head of the state commission "Jugend musiziert" in NRW.

Christian de Witt performs as a pianist in chamber music recitals all over Europe.

For further information please visit www.jugendzupforchester.de

