



Press release, 25 February 2026

From Berlin to the world: Classical concerts by Berlin's ROC ensembles are international export hits on the radio

With 290 live concerts, the top ensembles of Rundfunk Orchester und Chöre gGmbH Berlin (ROC) were a fixture of Berlin and international music life last year. The Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, the Rundfunkchor Berlin and the RIAS Kammerchor Berlin reached a total of 370,000 visitors on site, the highest figure since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. A large proportion of the concerts were broadcast by Deutschlandradio or Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (RBB).

International audience of millions on air

For the first time, Germany's largest ensemble association, in cooperation with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), has been able to determine the impressive global reach of the ROC ensembles, which reached an audience of millions far beyond Berlin. In 2025, music recordings by the ensembles were featured in over 300 radio programmes in the DACH region alone, reaching over 17 million listeners in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.¹

Radio stations from over 40 countries ordered concert recordings of the ROC ensembles via the Euroradio Music Exchange platform, resulting in around 390 concert broadcasts worldwide. Each concert recording from the past year thus brought an average potential radio reach of 1.5 million listeners per concert in addition to the audience in the hall. In purely mathematical terms, not a single day of the year passed without a concert featuring ROC ensembles being broadcast on the radio. In addition to Europe's public broadcasters, associated members of the EBU in Japan, Hong Kong and Australia also enabled particularly high reach.²

The RIAS Kammerchor Berlin became a real export hit: the concert recording of Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols' from Berlin's St Hedwig's Cathedral by

Deutschlandfunk Kultur was accessed by 29 EBU stations and broadcast on Euroradio Christmas Day. This meant that last year the concert not only ranked second in the EBU's list of most requested concert recordings, behind the Vienna New Year's Concert and ahead of the BBC Proms. With a potential reach of 11 million people, it is one of the radio concerts with the widest reach worldwide in 2025.

Media ensembles of the 21st century

The ROC ensembles also continued to perform well in 2025 in terms of audio streaming and social media: almost 14 million listeners from all over the world streamed recordings of the ensembles over 23 million times on Spotify alone. In addition, there were around 7,500 hours on YouTube. With around 5.6 million impressions, the two choirs and the two orchestras were present on Facebook and Instagram, where they generated almost 100,000 interactions with classical music enthusiasts.

ROC Managing Director Anselm Rose: "These figures impressively demonstrate the status of the Berlin radio ensembles as media ensembles of the 21st century. With their artistic excellence and international appeal, they reach far beyond the borders of Germany's classical music capital and become ambassadors for Berlin around the world. The fantastic international reach is due in particular to the close partnership with Deutschlandfunk Kultur. It reinforces the focus of our work in 2026 on the further development of the ROC's digital offering."

¹⁾Data sources for reach in the DACH region:

Press programme service of media-press-tv AG, MA 2025 audio II and equivalents from Austria and Switzerland

²⁾Data source for international reach potential:

EBU Media Intelligence Service. The data on the reach potential of stations that have ordered and broadcast one or more concerts featuring a ROC ensemble is collected by the EBU through annual surveys of radio stations. External data is also included in the survey. The average potential reach of the concert recordings mentioned above is calculated from the sum of the reach of the broadcasting radio stations per concert recording.

About the ROC:

Rundfunk Orchester und Chöre gGmbH Berlin (ROC) is Germany's largest and most diverse provider of concert and music education formats. What began as an association of radio ensembles in reunified Berlin has grown into a permanent cultural entity. Its four leading ensembles, the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Rundfunkchor Berlin and RIAS Kammerchor Berlin, reach more than 300,000 visitors with up to 300 live concerts per year (2025: 370,000) and an international audience of millions via radio (2025: around 390 concert broadcasts in over 40 countries, 17 million listeners in the DACH region alone) and numerous users of streaming platforms. Since its foundation in 1994, ROC has seen itself as a service provider that creates the structural and financial conditions for the artistic success of the ensembles. Numerous international awards testify to their high musical and programmatic quality. ROC's shareholders are Deutschlandradio

(40%), the Federal Republic of Germany (35%), the State of Berlin (20%) and Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (5%).

Further information: www.roc-berlin.de

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