

## THE DRESDNER SINFONIKER

1996. The first European symphony orchestra dedicated entirely to contemporary music is born. Originally, the two founders - Markus Rindt and Sven Helbig - had only wanted to start up a band. However, their search for interesting and new forms of expression resulted in a multicoloured mixture of jazz, today's orchestral music, exotic music from around the world, hip-hop, percussion music, and moreover in having to ask the question just which 'band' could encompass all these areas of music. Over the following months this vision became a reality, with an integral part to play in the German orchestral scene. Here is a group of players from diverse musical backgrounds with the capacity to form differently sized ensembles, where no boundaries exist and nothing contemporary is excluded. Several times a year, outstanding musicians - many of them members of renowned European orchestras such as the Tonhalle Orchestra Zürich, the Berlin Philharmonic, the Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden and the Dresden Philharmonic - meet to rehearse their concert programmes.

The Dresdner Sinfoniker has consistently been met with enthusiasm whether performing unusual symphonic works, the music of other cultures or numerous cross-over projects. Many works by young composers have had their world premières as well as others being performed in Europe or Germany for the first time. As a result some composers have gone on to be included in the repertoire of other European orchestras. Even concerts with daring programmes - such as giving three world premières of works by unknown composers - have been unusually well attended and most were a sell-out. The audience trusts the name 'Dresdner Sinfoniker' just as it would a familiar author, a director, or come to mention it, a favourite band. Thus the members of the orchestra have remained loyal to the idea of their founders - they are members of one big 'band'. They are loyal to the philosophy that underlies the creation of the orchestra and joins in a common bond the musicians, management and audience. You cannot talk about just another orchestra. Here is an orchestra with a distinct and unique profile.