

Walter Hilgers, born 1959 in Stolberg / Rhineland, received his instrumental education in Tuba, Double Bass and Piano at University of Music Aachen. He was engaged in 1978 by the Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra as their tuba player and started teaching at the Robert Schumann University of Music, Düsseldorf. One year later he was invited to play with the Bayreuth Festival Orchestra, to which he belonged for the following twelve years. Further engagements led him to the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra, to the NDR Symphony Orchestra in Hamburg and to the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. Within 30 years of orchestral activity he played under the baton of conductors such as Herbert von Karajan, Lorin Maazel, Claudio Abbado, Daniel Barenboim, Zubin Mehta, Andre Previn, Pierre Boulez, Georg Solti, James Levine, Seiji Ozawa, Riccardo Muti, Bernhard Haitink and Günter Wand. As a founding member he belonged more than 25 years to the German Brass ensemble. As well as this, Walter Hilgers imparts his knowledge and his experience to young, talented musicians with great enthusiasm. He is renowned as a prominent pedagogue. From 1978 he taught at the music university Düsseldorf, Aachen and Lubeck, and from 1989 until 1995 as a professor for tuba and chamber music at the University of Fine Arts in Hamburg. Since 1995 he is professor for chamber music at the University of Music Franz Liszt Weimar. In recent years his international teaching and concert activities as soloist, chamber musician and conductor have led him to most European countries as well as U.S.A., Latin America and Asia. At the beginning of the season 2007/08 Walter Hilgers has become the Principal Guest Conductor of the State Philharmonic Orchestra Timisoara / Romania.