

The Ulster Orchestra's history in brief

- 1966 Ulster Orchestra founded 28 September, with 37 players. Conductor: Maurice Miles. Funded and administered by Arts Council of Northern Ireland.
- 1967 Following Maurice Miles's departure, no Principal Conductor this season.
- 1968 Sergiu Commissiona appointed as Conductor. Stays for one season.
Janos Fürst appointed Assistant Conductor.
- 1969 Edgar Cosma appointed as Conductor.
- 1974 Alun Francis appointed Resident Conductor
- 1977 Bryden Thomson appointed Principal Conductor. Particular focus on British music; established a niche for the Orchestra, which began to build an excellent reputation for its performances of Bax, Harty, Elgar and Vaughan Williams.
- 1979 Began CD recording. Now has a catalogue of over 70 highly-acclaimed recordings.
- 1980 Independent company, Ulster Orchestra Society Limited, set up to run the affairs of the Orchestra.
- 1981 BBC cutbacks dismantled BBC Northern Ireland Orchestra. BBC Radio 3 and BBC NI became core funders of the enlarged Ulster Orchestra, which expanded its strength to 55 players (including former BBC players), increasing repertoire and public appeal. Along with ACNI funding, additional core funding injected by Belfast City Council and Gallaher Limited. Excellent funding partnership: ACNI, BCC, BBC & Gallaher
- 1983 Tour of major venues in England and Wales
- 1984 *Gramophone* Engineering Award for Chandos recording of Bax Symphony No 4.
- 1985 First BBC Henry Wood Promenade concert
Vernon Handley appointed Principal Conductor. He continued the Orchestra's close association with British music.
- 1986 First international tour, to Holland, Germany and Austria, with Vernon Handley.
- 1988 Second BBC Henry Wood Promenade concert.
- 1989 Yan Pascal Tortelier appointed Principal Conductor. French repertoire fully explored.
Barbican appearance and short English/Scottish tour
- 1990 Third BBC Henry Wood Promenade concert
- 1991 Korean Tour
- 1992 American Tour
- 1993 Short English Tour
En Shao appointed Principal Conductor
First resident Music Week in Enniskillen
Concerts in Dublin and at the opening of the new Limerick Concert Hall

- 1994 Tour to England and Scotland
Resident Music Week in Cookstown
- 1995 Fourth BBC Henry Wood Promenade concert
Resident Music Week in Derry
63 full-time players, 38 Belfast concerts, 17 concerts outside Belfast, extensive schools' programme reaching over 5,000 schoolchildren, 12 weeks' BBC studio work, 12 free BBC Invitation Concerts, 2 concerts for Belfast Festival at Queen's, two periods with Opera Northern Ireland in Cork, Waterford, Limerick and Galway. Over 1,000 Belfast subscribers; average attendances up to 85% at Ulster Hall concerts and Box Office receipts up more than 7%.
- 1996 Dmitry Sitkovetsky appointed Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor
Two-week tour to Germany
- 1997 Waterfront Hall opens in Belfast
Takuo Yuasa appointed as Principal Guest Conductor
- 1998 Tour to Spain
Fifth BBC Henry Wood Promenade concert
- 1999 Short tour to Germany/Netherlands
Residency in Hong Kong
- 2000 Takuo Yuasa's appointment extended for a further three years
Concert in Utrecht
- 2001 Thierry Fischer appointed Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor
Dmitry Sitkovetsky appointed Conductor Laureate
Sixth BBC Henry Wood Promenade concert
Opening concert of *UKwithNY* Festival
Eastern European tour (Czech Republic, Poland and Bratislava)
Gallaher sponsorship ends March 2001 due to new Govt. regulations
- 2002 David Byers appointed Chief Executive (end of June 2002)
Mendelssohn Symphony cycle
- 2003 Takuo Yuasa's appointment extended for a further two years
Vernon Handley appointed Conductor Laureate
Schubert Symphony cycle
St Patrick's Day concert in Dublin's National Concert Hall
Seventh BBC Henry Wood Promenade concert
Summer concerts at Farmleigh House & National Concert Hall, Dublin
- 2004 Thierry Fischer's appointment extended for a further two years
Gulliver major education project
Beethoven Symphony cycle
- 2005 World Harp Congress concert in Dublin
Weekend residency in Cork for European Capital of Culture 2005
Eighth BBC Henry Wood Promenade concert
Brahms Symphony cycle
Launch of new *Popular Classics* series

Kenneth Montgomery appointed as Principal Guest Conductor
 José Cura concert in Killarney
 2006 Brian Irvine appointed as Associate Composer
 Three own-promoted concerts in NCH, Dublin
 Concert for Wexford opera Festival
 Mozart 250th birthday special weekend
 Schumann Symphony cycle
 2007 Kenneth Montgomery appointed as Principal Conductor
A Marvellous Medicine major education project
 Concert for Chinese New Year
 Concerts with Katherine Jenkins and with Andreas Scholl
 Four own-promoted concerts in Dublin
 Tour of border areas financed by Arts Council of Ireland
 Concert for Kilkenny Festival
 Ulster Hall closed for 18 months
 2008 Bryn Terfel concerts in Belfast and Dublin
 Ninth BBC Henry Wood Promenade Concert
 Four own-promoted concerts in Dublin
 Concert for Kilkenny Festival
 2009 Reopening of the Ulster Hall
 UO administrative offices and box office move from the Elmwood Hall to the Ulster Hall
 Paul Watkins appointed Principal Guest Conductor
 Christopher Bell appointed Associate Conductor
The Pied Piper (music by Brian Irvine) major education project awarded *Inspire* mark of the
 2012 Cultural Olympiad
 Sir James Galway appointed Artist Laureate
 2010 Chopin Festival with Nikolai Demidenko
 Bryn Terfel concert
 Launch of hugely successful monthly Lunchtime Concerts
 Ian Wilson appointed as Associate Composer
 Tenth BBC Henry Wood Promenade Concert
 Rachmaninov Concerto cycle
 David Byers retires as Chief Executive (end of September 2010)