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STRASBOURG, CITY OF CULTURE

Strasbourg has a world-class cultural scene when it comes to music, theatre, art or literature, with renowned cultural institutions and a wide, abundant variety of festivals.

Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra (OPS)

Founded in 1855, Strasbourg's Philharmonic Orchestra is **one of the oldest symphonic orchestras in Europe**, and the oldest in France. It owes its reputation to the famous conductors who have played here. Composed of **100 musicians**, the OPS is internationally renowned thanks to their many international tours as well as their recordings and television broadcasts. It offers **30 concerts** a year in Strasbourg alone.

① philharmonique.strasbourg.eu

The Opéra National du Rhin

Created from a merger between the opera houses of Strasbourg, Colmar and Mulhouse in 1972, the ONR has a choir of **44 singers** and a ballet company of **33 dancers**. It also has a branch devoted to young singers, called the Opéra Studio, as well as its own scenery and costume workshops. A major institution on the French and international opera scenes, it became a **"National Opera"** in 1997 and was named the **"Opera House of the Year"** for 2019 by the Opernwelt magazine. Every season, the ONR

presents **200 performances**, including operas, ballets, recitals and youth shows, attracting more than 100,000 spectators.

① www.operanationaldurhin.eu/en

Les Percussions de Strasbourg

This is the **oldest professional music ensemble in France**, with a unique format, boasting an exceptionally rich repertoire. Les Percussions de Strasbourg are world-renowned ambassadors, respected for the quality of their performances and their creativity and innovation.

They've given more than 1,700 concerts in 70 countries, created 350 works, built up a **collection of instruments like no other in the world**, released about thirty albums and received multiple awards.

① www.percussionsdestrasbourg.com/en

A sophisticated, diverse musical offering

Strasbourg hosts **more than 9,000 cultural events** a year, including multiple festivals on a wide variety of themes. Some of the more iconic ones include **Musica** (contemporary music), **Jazzdor** (contemporary jazz), Les Nuits Électroniques de l'**Ososphère** (electronic music and the visual arts), the **Printemps des Bretelles** (international accordion festival), Les **Sacrées Journées** (sacred music), **Contre-temps** (electro-groove) and **Stras'Orgues** (Strasbourg organ festival).

The National Theatre of Strasbourg

Theatre is vibrant in Strasbourg, as the city boasts some great stages. These include the National Theatre of Strasbourg, the **only national theatre in France outside of Paris**. Its permanent troupe of actors, trained at an academy of dramatic arts, performs in two theatres, with scenery and costumes made in-house. About **fifteen shows** are presented every season at 170 performances.

① www.tns.fr

The Maillon

The Maillon, Theatre of Strasbourg, a European stage, explores **the most contemporary forms of live performance**. It has an excellent reputation, thanks to its **European focus** and highly diverse programming.

① www.maillon.eu

The TJP – National Centre for Dramatic Arts of Strasbourg

The TJP targets an audience of children, teens and adults. It is a place of creation devoted to **puppetry**, and it has set itself the task of encouraging new playwriting and inventing **a whole multitude of theatrical forms**.

① www.tjp-strasbourg.com

Strasbourg, city of art

Over **25 art galleries**, over **60 contemporary works** on public display and numerous bodies responsible for contemporary art illustrate the richness and diversity of artistic culture in Strasbourg.

The public space in Strasbourg really is a sort of **open-air art gallery**, featuring several artworks by renowned contemporary artists. These artworks can be found along tram lines A and B and at Orangerie Park, the Jardin des Deux Rives and Pourtalès Park.

This vibrant art scene also includes **France's second-largest contemporary art fair, ST-ART**, which is held annually. This

show has become a key event for enthusiasts and collectors, attracting about one hundred French and international art galleries.

① www.st-art.com/en

Art can also be seen in the city through the open-air exhibition **L'Industrie Magnifique** ("The Magnificent Industry") on some of the most beautiful squares in Strasbourg, presenting monumental artworks created in partnership with some of the region's industrialists. The next exhibition will be held in 2024.

① industriemagnifique.com

The fact that Strasbourg has its own **High School of Applied Arts** just shows how dynamic the city is. This school, formed through a merger between the School of Decorative Arts of Strasbourg (founded in 1892) and the School of Art of Mulhouse, is one of the best art schools in France.

① www.hear.fr

A city of books

The city in which **Gutenberg** invented the printing press obviously cares a lot about books.

The Strasbourg metropolitan area boasts **33 libraries**, including numerous media libraries and even an art library. Strasbourg is also home to **France's second-largest library**: the National and University Library. In particular, this library houses **one of Europe's first Egyptology collections**.

Finally, book lovers will be delighted by the city's numerous independent bookstores, booksellers and book markets. Numerous literary events are held throughout the year in Strasbourg, such as the "**Bibliothèques Idéales**" (The Perfect Library).

① www.mediatheques.strasbourg.eu

① www.bnu.fr

① bibliotheques-ideales.strasbourg.eu