

**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. One year later he was invited to play with the Bayreuth Festival Orchestra, to which he belonged for the following twelve years. At the Age of 20 he won the audition for the tuba position at the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.

Engagements as a tuba player led him to the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra, to the NDR Symphony Orchestra in Hamburg, the Bayreuth Festival Orchestra 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 and his performances, CD and DVD recordings with one of the leading brass ensembles worldwide are legendary. 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 Liszt University of Music 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, Australia and Asia.

Guest conducting engagements have taken him to venues such as the Munich Radio Orchestra, the Romanian Radio National Orchestra and the Radio Chamber Orchestra Bucharest, the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra, the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra, the Montevideo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Argentine National Symphony Orchestra of Buenos Aires, the Frankfurt Brandenburg State Orchestra, the Leipzig Symphony Orchestra and the Nice Philharmonic Orchestra.

From 2007 until 2014 Walter Hilgers was the Principal Guest Conductor of the State Philharmonic Orchestra Banatul/Timisoara. In the upcoming Season 2016/17 Walter Hilgers becomes Honorary Artistic Director and Permanent Invited Conductor of the "PAUL CONSTANTINESCU" Philharmonic Orchestra Ploiești.