

Opus 3 Artists Presents

# VIENNA BOYS CHOIR

*Wiener Sängerknaben*

Christmas in Vienna

*Jimmy Chiang, conductor*

**Salve Regina** (Hail, Holy Queen)

2'

Henri Dumont (1610-1684)

Words: Hermann of Reichenau (1013-1954)

**Hail, Holy Queen**

From the 1992 movie „Sister Act“

3'

Marc Shaiman (b. 1959)

Arr. Roger Emerson (b. 1948)

**Fac ut ardeat cor meum** (Ignite my heart with love)

**Quando corpus morietur** (When the body will die)

From: Stabat mater (1736)

7'

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1720-1736)

**Laudate Dominum** (Praise the Lord)

From: Vesperae solennes de confessore, K. 339 (1780)

4'

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Words: Psalm 117 (116)

**Cantate Domino** (Sing to the Lord)

2'

Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

Words: Psalm 96:01-03

**Virga Jesse floruit** (The rod of Jesse has flowered) WAB 52 (1885)

4'

Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

Arr. Jimmy Chiang

Words: Isaiah 11:1

**Schöne Nacht**

3'

Wilhelm Nagel (1871-1955)

Arr. Jimmy Chiang

Words: Carl Busse (1872-1918)

**The Prayer**

From the movie „Quest for Camelot“

4'

David Foster (b. 1949), Carole Bayer Sager (b. 1947),

Alberto Testa (1927-2009), and Tony Renis (b. 1938)

**Joyful, Joyful (Ode to Joy)**

From the movie „Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit“

4'

Ludwig Van Beethoven (1770-1827),

Mervyn Warren (\*1964)

Arr. Roger Emerson

— I N T E R M I S S I O N —

|                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Four Pieces from A Ceremony of Carols, op 28 (1949):<br><b>Wolcom, Yole</b>                                                                                                    | Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)<br>Words: Medieval                                                                                     |
| <b>Balulalow</b>                                                                                                                                                               | Words: James (1495-1553), John (c.1500-1556), and<br>Robert Wedderburn (1510-1557)                                                  |
| <b>As Dew in Aprille</b>                                                                                                                                                       | Words: 14th century                                                                                                                 |
| <b>This Little Babe</b><br>10'                                                                                                                                                 | Words: Robert Southwell (c.1561-1595)                                                                                               |
| <b>Solo to be announced from the stage</b>                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Barcarole – Belle nuit, o nuit d’amour</b> (Beautiful night, night of love)<br>From the opera “The Tales of Hoffmann” (1881)<br>Words: Jules Barbier (1825-1901)<br>4'      | Jacques Offenbach (1819-1880)                                                                                                       |
| <b>Wiegenlied</b> (Lullaby), opus 49/4<br>Words: First verse from the 1806/08 poetry anthology „Des<br>Knaben Wunderhorn“, further verses: Georg Scherer (1824-<br>1909)<br>2' | Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)                                                                                                         |
| <b>O Tannenbaum</b> (Oh Christmas Tree)<br>2'                                                                                                                                  | Melchior Frank (1580-1639)<br>Arr. Gerald Wirth<br>Words: Joachim August Zarnack (1777-1827), Ernst Anschutz<br>(1780-1861)         |
| <b>I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day</b><br>3'                                                                                                                                | Alma Deutscher (b. 2005)<br>Words: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)                                                           |
| <b>Shchedryk</b> (New Year’s Carol, 1916)<br>2'                                                                                                                                | Mykola Leontovich (1877-1921)                                                                                                       |
| <b>Es wird scho glei dumpa</b><br>Geitliches Wiegenlied aus Oberosterriech<br>3'                                                                                               | Anton Reidinger (1839-1912)<br>Arr. Gerald Wirth                                                                                    |
| <b>Carol of the Drum</b> (The Little Drummer Boy) 1941<br>3'                                                                                                                   | Katherine Kennicott Davis (1892-1980)<br>Arr. Uwe Theimer                                                                           |
| <b>Gesu Bambino</b> (1917)<br>3'                                                                                                                                               | Pietro Yon (1886-1943)                                                                                                              |
| <b>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</b><br>3'                                                                                                                                      | Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847)<br>Arr. Gerald Wirth<br>Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), George<br>Whitefield (1714-1770) |

## ENCORES (DO NOT PRINT)

|                                                    |                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Stille Nacht</b> (Silent Night), GWV 145 (1818) | Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863)<br>Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848) |
| <b>Feliz Navidad</b> (Merry Christmas) 1970        | Jose Feliciano (b. 1945)                                         |

## THE ARTISTS

### VIENNA BOYS CHOIR

The Vienna Boys Choir is one of the most famous choirs in the world, and one of its oldest, boys have been singing at Vienna's Imperial Chapel at least since 1296. Two hundred years later, on July 7, 1498, Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I. established a Court Chapel in Vienna. He gave specific instructions that there were to be boys among the singers, thus laying the foundation for the Vienna Boys Choir. Like their modern successors, the Early modern boys spent much time on the road, following their imperial employer to sing at the Holy Roman Empire's parliamentary meetings, imperial coronations, weddings, state processions, and feasts.

Over the centuries, the Viennese court attracted musical geniuses like Heinrich Isaac, Johann Joseph Fux, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Composers Joseph Haydn, Michael Haydn, and Franz Schubert sang as boys with the choir; Anton Bruckner gave them singing and piano lessons.

Today, the former imperial ensemble has grown into an entire campus; the modern Vienna Boys Choir is a private, non-profit organization which funds itself chiefly through income generated from concerts and touring, as well as donations and sponsorship deals. The Vienna Boys Choir maintains a primary school and a grammar school whose syllabuses focus on choral music and singing. 330 boys and girls between the ages of six and nineteen attend the schools on campus. All students have individual voice lessons, and all sing in one of the choirs. In addition to the four famous boys' choirs, there is a female counterpart—the Vienna Girls Choir (Wiener Chormädchen) for girls aged 10 to 14, as well as the Chorus Primus, a mixed children's chorus comprised of all boys and girls enrolled in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade of the choir's primary school, and the Chorus Juventus, the mixed youth choir of the Senior High School. The Vienna Boys Choir's education, listed by UNESCO as cultural heritage, is open to all, regardless of origin, gender, nationality, or religion.

There are currently 90 active boy choristers, divided into four boys' choirs, which all perform as "Vienna Boys Choir"; Brucknerchor (Choirmaster Manolo Cagnin), Haydnchor (Choirmaster Jimmy Chiang), Mozartchor (Choirmaster Manuel Huber), and Schubertchor (Choirmaster Oliver Stech). The four choirs share concerts, tours, sound recordings and filming equally. Between them, they perform almost 300 concerts per year, with almost half a million people attending. Since 1924, the choirs have completed more than 1000 tours in 100 different countries, clocking up a staggering 29,000 concerts.

On Sundays, the choirs take turns singing mass in Vienna's Imperial Chapel, joining forces with members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and the men's chorus of the Vienna State Opera. They frequently participate in large-scale symphonic concerts, performing under conductors like Joana Mallwitz, Zubin Mehta, Riccardo Muti, Christian Thielemann, Simone Young, Franz Welser-Möst. Other highlights in the choirs' calendars are appearances at the Salzburg Festival and at the New Year's Concert of the Vienna Philharmonic.

The Vienna Boys Choir cooperates with several other charities, such as UNICEF, "Licht ins Dunkel" (Light into Darkness, an Austrian charity), and die moewe Child protection agency. Together with Caritas and the Vienna Konzerthaus, the Choir founded "superar", an outreach program offering children access to free music education. In addition, the Vienna Boys Choir runs Chorus amabilis, a choir for adult singing enthusiasts, aimed particularly at pensioners.

In 2023, the Choir celebrated its 525<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To mark the occasion, Deutsche Grammophon released a live album of the anniversary concert in Vienna's Musikverein, Decca Classics released a box set of 21 CDs featuring the Choir's landmark recordings, and academic publishing house Böhlau released a book on the Choir's rich history. In 2024, the Vienna Boys Choir and the Vienna Girls Choir jointly received the European Culture Award.

Erasmus Baumgartner was appointed Artistic Director of the Vienna Boys Choir in the fall of 2023.

[www.viennaboyschoir.net](http://www.viennaboyschoir.net)

***Vienna Boys Choir Administration***

Erich Arthold, *President*

Erasmus Baumgartner, *Artistic Director*

Tina Breckwoldt, *Dramaturge*

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Opus 3 Artists

470 Park Avenue South, 9th Floor North

New York, NY 10016

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