

The Munich Bach Choir

The Munich Bach Choir, founded in 1954 by Karl Richter, soon gained an international reputation, particularly for performing the works of Johann Sebastian Bach; both live on stage during its grand international concert tours – be it in Paris, Moscow, Tokyo or New York – or as documented by numerous recordings.

After Richter's death in 1981 – Leonard Bernstein conducted the memorial concert in his honour – Hanns-Martin Schneidt took over the baton between 1984 and 2001. He began to shift the choir's repertoire, established new priorities and continued the by now traditional touring activities. The following years saw the choir collaborating with a series of renowned guest conductors, many among them Baroque specialists, like Peter Schreier, Bruno Weil and Ralf Otto.

A new era began when Hansjörg Albrecht became the ensemble's new Musical Director in 2005 – “a godsend for the Munich Bach Choir”, as *Süddeutsche Zeitung* phrased it. Under his leadership the choir developed a new artistic profile and gained a clear and transparent choral sound that many critics since have highlighted. Agile, animated performances of Bach's works, inspired by historically informed practices, remain a key focus of the choir's schedule. Extraordinary program concepts and an expanded repertoire have become additional trademarks in recent years, marked by collaborations with the ballet companies of John Neumeier or Marguerite Donlon and with acclaimed stars of the classical scene such as Marlis Petersen, Simone Kermes, Klaus Florian Vogt or Michael Volle.

The Munich Bach Orchestra continues working closely with its traditional artistic partners, the Munich Bach Choir and Bach Collegium München, but has also teamed up with other notable European orchestras. It performs at Munich's grand concert halls as well as at other important musical centers and international festivals. CD and DVD productions are documenting the long-standing fertile collaboration between Munich's major Bach ensembles – like the recent recording of Enjott Schneider's oratorio “Augustinus”, issued in 2015.

In March 2016 the Munich Bach Choir returned to Moscow after more than 35 years to sing Bach's St. Matthew Passion; a live recording of this performance was available on the website of the Moscow Philharmonic Society for more than six weeks. In September 2016 the ensemble debuted at Pisa Cathedral with Mendelssohn's “St. Paul”. During a widely noticed concert tour through the South of France the choir performed Handel's “Messiah” at eight major cathedrals in October 2016.

www.muenchener-bachchor.de

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