

About the Wiener Kammerchor

Chamber music, chamber musician, chamber choir... Chamber is a promising word when applied to music. Chamber music suggests art music performed in a small hall for a private audience in an intimate, perhaps even feudal, atmosphere: small but very nice.

How much of that applies to Vienna's chamber choir, the Wiener Kammerchor? Well, it is definitely small and very nice, an ensemble of excellent vocalists. The atmosphere is intimate, because interpersonal harmony is the basis of this kind of artistry. But feudal? Hardly. The choir's structure is clearly republican.

Cooperation is the order of the day in the Wiener Kammerchor. When passionately keen and highly discriminating singers get together to make music, the question of structures becomes secondary. Their common love forges a whole out of many parts, creating an ensemble with an unmistakable identity. For a time two conductors - two amiable colleagues - shared responsibility for the choir, but in March 2007 Michael Grohotolsky became the sole artistic director of the Wiener Kammerchor.

Vienna, the city of music, has played an important role in the choir's artistic development: the singers regularly perform at Vienna's Konzerthaus and Musikverein. Their competence in modern and contemporary music has made them a fixture of the city's musical life any time an ambitious concert requiring a choir is being planned, whether it's the Wien Modern festival or the Kontrapunkte cycle at the Musikverein. But in addition to new music, the Wiener Kammerchor is equally at home in a wide variety of other musical landscapes, singing almost anything worth singing: from a-cappella music across the centuries to oratorios. And even when instrumentalists join them on stage, the singers remain what they are: a chamber choir, small in size but great in musical terms.

The singers rarely close the doors of their musical chamber. The Wiener Kammerchor remains open to new challenges at its successful concerts throughout Austria and the world and in superb recordings for radio and CD. VolksLiedKunst was one such CD project, featuring "choral music from Alpine meadows to Schoenberg". It was followed in 2008 by the CD klangfarben ("Tonal Colours") - two albums that are in every respect the visiting card of the ensemble. Musical summits are nothing new to the choir and its selection for the finale of the EBU-competition in 2009 is a new height. The tonal colours of the Wiener Kammerchor remain a bright and shining feature in the spectrum of musical life in Vienna.

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