



BASEL'S BOYS' CHOIR SWITZERLAND

Formed in 1927, the Knabenkantorei, Basel's famous boys' choir, celebrated 75 years of singing history in 2002. The choir, formerly the choir of the Swiss Evangelical Reformed Church of Basel, has now no denominational ties, singing both without and with instrumental accompaniment (orchestra and solo instrument). Its repertoire of religious and secular music ranges from Renaissance to contemporary.

Recent years have seen performances of the following works: The Magnificat by C.Ph.E. Bach; St. Matthew's Passion and The Christmas Oratorio by J.S. Bach; The St. Nicolas Cantata by B. Britten; The Messiah by G.F. Handel; The Requiem and The Coronation Mass by W.A. Mozart, "Saint Mark's Passion" by C.Ph.E. Bach, Coronation Anthems by G.F. Händel and Chichester Psalms by Leonard Bernstein.

The Knabenkantorei organizes its own concert programmes, sings in concert with other choirs and accepts invitations for guest performances in and outside Switzerland; for instance Maastricht, The Netherlands, St. Petersburg, Russia, New York, Seton Hall, Philadelphia, U.S.A., Hungary, Germany, South Africa, Finland and Estonia, Czeck and Slovak Republics,

Brasil, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Bulgaria, Hungary and France.

It participates in international festivals, including "International Music Festival" in Lucerne, "Festival of European Music" in Berlin, "Festival de Nantes" in France, "International Festival of Boys' Choirs" in Poznan, Poland, "Festival International de Chant Choral" in Nancy, France, "Festivale internationale" in Venice, Italy.

Choristers from the Knabenkantorei are also given solo parts in city opera-houses in Basel, Berne and Freiburg, Germany, and in oratorios.

The choir sings regularly in religious services and at secular events. Recordings and radio and TV broadcasts in and outside Switzerland are also part and parcel of the choir's activities.

Emphasis is placed on a solid musical training of the choristers. Training starts with a preparatory course at the age of six years or a basic course at the age of eight years. Following a probationary period, the young singers become fully-fledged choir members at the age of 10 years. Ongoing musical training is in the hands of competent, experienced tutors.