

Windsbacher Knabenchor

## Sacred music at the highest level

The Windsbach Boys' Choir is one of the top boys' choirs today. Musically, the focus is on sacred music, with the repertoire ranging from the Renaissance to the modern era. In addition to a cappella works from all eras, it also includes the great oratorios by Bach, Handel, Mozart, Mendelssohn Bartholdy and Brahms.

Founded in 1946 by Hans Thamm, the choir was led to national and international recognition by his successor Karl-Friedrich Beringer over the course of three decades. Martin Lehmann took over the artistic direction of the ensemble in 2012. Renowned orchestras such as the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and the Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin (Akamus) enjoy working with the choir. Numerous CD productions as well as radio and television appearances have won over music critics and audiences alike.

Invitations to important festivals such as the Rheingau Music Festival and regular performances in German and European music centers underline the importance of the boys' choir in national and international musical life. Concert tours have taken the singers to other European countries as well as to Asia, North and South America, Israel, Australia and the Vatican.

In the fall of 2019, a tour abroad took the choir to the Midwest of the USA. The concert with Simone Rubino in Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie in February 2020 was one of the choir's last public appearances before the global coronavirus crisis. Due to the lockdown in Germany in mid-March, all other concerts in the 2019/20 season were canceled, including the performance of the St. Matthew Passion at the Alte Oper Frankfurt and the Ludwigskirche in Nuremberg.

From March 2020, the coronavirus pandemic had the country and its cultural scene firmly in its grip. The effects were also felt in Windsbach: the singers' boarding school had to close several times and choir rehearsals were only held online for a long time. Music was made again in Windsbach between the two lockdowns. In strict compliance with social distancing and hygiene rules. With smaller performances and three streamed concerts from St. Gumbertus in Ansbach, the young singers demonstrated their willingness to perform even under the most difficult conditions.

Ludwig Böhme was appointed Artistic Director of the Windsbach Boys' Choir in 2022. He is a multi-talented musician who leads the renowned Windsbach Boys' Choir: among other things, he was a co-founder and long-standing member of the Calmus Ensemble. He received his first musical training in the Thomanerchor in Leipzig.

Ludwig Böhme's first season with the Windsbach Boys' Choir took him and his singers to Spain. There, J.S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio was performed in Seville, Madrid and at the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona (video). In addition to many a cappella concerts, the St. John Passion was performed in spring and summer 2023 in Breslau and Nuremberg as well as at the Rheingau Music Festival and the Bachwoche Ansbach.