

# Concentus Vocalis

The Concentus Vocalis was founded in 1980 by the artistic director Herbert Böck as the 'Hollabrunn Chamber Choir'. Before two years were quite up, in 1982, the choir won the first prize at the 'Walther von der Vogelweide' International Choral Competition in Innsbruck where the chairman of the jury was Eric Ericson. They then went on, in 1987, to be the first Austrian choir to win in the chamber choir category of the choral competition 'Let the Peoples Sing' organised by the European radio companies in Helsinki. In recognition of their overall win over all the participants in this competition the choir was awarded the 'Silver Rose Bowl' by the BBC. In 1991 the ensemble received the 'Ferdinand Großmann Prize' for both extraordinary achievements in choral music and best choral performance of the year.

The artistic interests of the ensemble take them in two main complementary directions – a cappella compositions with all the demands this makes on interpretation and choral works set for chamber orchestra accompaniment. In this way, the repertoire ranges from the music of the Renaissance to first performances of contemporary composers and of works specially commissioned by the choir. They also give regular concerts in the Vienna Konzerthaus of oratorios and other sacred works for choir and orchestra under the direction of Herbert Böck. The membership of the Concentus Vocalis is drawn largely from students and finalists of the Vienna Music University.

Numerous CD recordings (Bruckner, Distler, Verdi, Kodaly, Mendelssohn, ...) and radio broadcasts complete the repertoire of the choir. Invitations to important festivals in the international arena have taken the choir to Spain, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Denmark, Israel and Switzerland.