

HAMBURGER KNABENCHOR ST. NIKOLAI

VITA HAMBURGER KNABENCHOR

For more than fifty years, boys have discovered their love of music at Hamburg's Boys Choir. They grow up and mature with masterworks from music history that are simply part of their everyday lives, and they take many unique experiences and skills into their adult lives.

Established in 1960 as the Boys Choir of Northern Germany Radio, currently about one hundred boys and young men aged from 5 to 25 sing in Hamburg's Boys Choir. At various choral levels, they are comprehensively prepared for the choir's demanding repertoire and active concert schedule.

The choir's repertoire comprises both an extensive range of *a capella* works as well as large oratorios. Bach's passions and *Christmas Oratorio* are performed annually. Other works of their core repertoire include Haydn's *Creation* (performed in 2019 in Tokyo), Mozart's *Mass in C-minor* and *Requiem*, Schubert's *Mass in E flat-major*, Mendelsohns' *Elias* and *Paulus*, Faure's *Requiem*, Britten's *War Requiem*, as well Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and *Mass*.

The choir can be regularly heard performing motets in the services of Hamburg's main protestant Church St. Nikolai, with which it is associated. These numerous performances ensure a regular fine-tuning of the choir, something that also characterizes boarding school choirs. The Hamburg Boys Choir is a regular guest of professional ensembles as well as concert halls and opera houses. Soloists from the choir have taken on the parts of the three boys in Mozart's *Magic Flute* at opera houses from Kiel and Lübeck to Lisbon. In October 2021, they sang Alban Berg's *Wozzeck* at Elbphilharmonie, conducted by Zubin Metha. The choir looks forward to further performances in 2022, for example with Kent Nagano and Thomas Hengelbrock.

Concert tours both in Germany and abroad are also part of the Hamburg Boys Choir's established traditions. The choir has toured in Asia several times, as well as in Argentina and several European countries. For 2022, trips to São Paulo and Vienna are planned.