

Concert | Classical | Live
Sunday, May 19, 2024 | 3:00 pm | Philharmonie Berlin

120th Anniversary of the Berliner Oratorien-Chor (1904-2024)

Ludwig van Beethoven: Missa solemnis
in historical performance practice with Concerto Brandenburg

In its anniversary year, the Berliner Oratorien-Chor will kick off the season on 19 May 2024 at 3 pm in the Berlin Philharmonie with Ludwig van Beethoven's *Missa solemnis* in historically informed performance practice. Performers include Concerto Brandenburg, the Konzertchor Schlachtensee and soloists Flurina Stucki (soprano), Rita Kapfhammer (alto), Ludwig Obst (tenor) and Haakon Schaub (bass). Thomas Hennig, musical director and composer of many years' standing, will be conducting. This concert is funded by the LOTTO Foundation Berlin. Tickets from 20 euros (students 10 euros) are already on sale.

Beethoven's *Missa solemnis* is a special work which - regardless of the liturgical occasion in church use - sees itself as a composition of the Enlightenment.

Its enormous musical and vocal challenges make the composition an extraordinary project even today. Beethoven's late *Missa* goes beyond all previously known boundaries, both in terms of musical content and structure: it not only breaks with the liturgical obligations of a composition originally committed to a church service, but also creates a musical language that is completely autonomous, interprets the text in a free-spirited manner or dispenses with any religious mediation.

Conceptually, the musical thematic pool of the *Missa solemnis* draws on the dialectical principle of the sonata form. Its development takes the form of a symphonic work. At the same time, it assures itself of the humanistic basic conception of that era by striving for artistic and musical understanding in all parts of the mass, almost without exception.

The *Missa solemnis* was performed by the Berliner Oratorien-Chor in 1963 on the occasion of its 60th birthday. After another 60 years, i.e. for the 120th anniversary, it seems appropriate to include Beethoven's late work on the program again as a "birthday present" as part of a long tradition.

At the concert, the performers strive for a historically informed performance practice; in the knowledge of the artistic means of its time of origin, they want to come as close as possible to the original sound of the *Missa solemnis*.

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The choir has invited an orchestra on 'classical' (old) instruments. The instruments of Concerto Brandenburg are played at a pitch of 435 (i.e. a quarter tone lower than usual).

The Berliner Oratorien-Chor - one of the oldest amateur choirs in the city

Founded in 1904 as the "Berliner Volks-Chor", the Berliner Oratorien-Chor has a firm place in the concert life of the capital. It has set itself the task of performing both popular and lesser-known works of choral symphonic music. Regular, self-organized performances take place in the Berlin Philharmonie and the Konzerthaus Berlin - in addition to numerous collaborations and guest appearances. Between 1958 and 2008, the choir established itself in Berlin's musical life under the direction of Gert Sell and was honored with the Zelter Plaque for the cultivation of choral music in 2004. Thomas Hennig took over as artistic director in 2008. With its innovative programs and high artistic standards, the choir remains a pioneering institution. The choir currently consists of over 80 active members from a wide range of backgrounds and generations.

Anniversary concert of the Berliner Oratorien-Chor at the Philharmonie Berlin

Ludwig van Beethoven: Missa solemnis in D major, op. 123 in historical performance practice

Performers: Berliner Oratorien-Chor, Konzertchor Schlachtensee, Concerto Brandenburg, conductor: Thomas Hennig. Soloists: Flurina Stucki (soprano), Rita Kapfhammer (alto), Ludwig Obst (tenor), Haakon Schaub (bass)

Date: Sunday, 19.05.2024, 3 pm Duration:

approx. 120 minutes, no break

Venue: Philharmonie Berlin, Herbert-von-Karajan-Str. 1, 10785 Berlin-Tiergarten

Public transport: RE3, RE4, RE5 as well as S1, S2, S25, S26 (Potsdamer Platz), U2 (Potsdamer Platz or Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Park), buses M48 and M85, 200, 300 as well as M29, M41

Admission price: €20-37 (plus additional costs if applicable), reduced tickets at €10 are available for schoolchildren, students and wheelchair users on presentation of proof in advance and at the box office.

Tickets: at [Ticketmaster](#), CTS [Eventim](#) and all advance booking offices served by CTS/TM or directly via www.berliner-oratorienchor.de

Ticket telephone: (030) 547 34 943 <https://berliner-oratorienchor.de/>

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