

Concert | Classical | Choral Symphony
Sunday, 30 March 2025 | 8:00 pm | Philharmonie Berlin

CHORAL FANTASY

Beethoven's "Choral Fantasy", Bizet's "Te Deum", Schumann's "Missa sacra"

For 120 years now, the Berlin Oratorio Choir (BOC) has stood for innovative programmes and high artistic standards. On Sunday, 30 March 2025 at 8 pm in the Philharmonie Berlin, it will once again provide its audience with a special, exhilarating sound experience with the "Choral Fantasy" by Ludwig van Beethoven, "Te Deum" by Georges Bizet and the "Missa sacra" by Robert Schumann. An evening of sacred works that are not really sacred works. Because in their works, the composers focus more on the musical content than on religion - each in their own unique way.

Intoxicating...

With the "Choral Fantasy", Beethoven combines a piano concerto with a choral cantata. It is considered a hymn to art and many see it as the precursor to the ninth symphony. No wonder: in the finale, Beethoven introduces the theme that he also uses as the basis for the "Ode to Joy".

...pompous...

The "Te Deum" is Bizet's only sacred choral work. Some people hear the style of pompous Italian church music in it, which is known for drawing on elements of operatic music.

... and rapturous

Schumann's "Missa sacra" is by its distance from church music, both musically and textually. Even contemporaries saw it less as a mass than as a romantic rapture with a peculiar blaze of colour that even violated liturgical conventions.

Performers are the soloists [Yvonne Elisabeth Frey](#) (soprano), [Minsub Hong](#) (tenor), [Markus Vollberg](#) (bass), [Wataru Hisasue](#) (piano), the New Prussian Philharmonic Orchestra, the Berlin Oratorio Choir, conducted by Thomas Hennig.

Tickets from 19 euros to 39 euros are available through [Ticketmaster](#), [eventim](#), the usual advance booking offices or via the BOC ticket telephone (030) 547 34 943, www.berliner-oratorienchor.de, or tickets@berliner-oratorienchor.de

The Berlin Oratorio Choir - one of the oldest amateur choirs in the city

Since its foundation in 1904, the Berliner Oratorien-Chor – then still known as the Berliner Volks-Chor – has made it its mission to perform both popular and lesser-known works of choral symphonic music in order to bring them to a wider audience. This type of repertoire is probably the most elaborate type of choral music, as it requires not only a large choir but also an orchestra, which in turn requires a sufficiently large stage and a correspondingly large number of seats for the paying audience.

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This involves a great deal of organisational and financial effort. Self-organised performances regularly 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 honoured with the Zelter Plaque for the cultivation of choral music in 2004. Thomas Hennig took over as artistic director in 2008. With its innovative programmes and high artistic standards, the choir remains a pioneering institution. The choir currently consists of around 80 active members from a wide range of backgrounds and generations.

CHORFANTASIE - Concert of the Berlin Oratorio Choir at the Philharmonie Berlin

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827): Fantasy for piano, choir and orchestra in C minor (1808), op. 80

Georges Bizet (1838-1875): Te Deum (1858)

Robert Schumann (1810-1856): Missa sacra (Mass in C minor), op. 147 (1852/53)

Performers: Yvonne Elisabeth Frey (aka Yvonne Friedli, soprano), Minsub Hong (tenor), Markus Vollberg (bass), Wataru Hisasue (piano), the New Prussian Philharmonic Orchestra, the Berlin Oratorio Choir, conductor: Thomas Hennig

Date: Sunday, 30.03.2025, 8 pm

Duration: approx. 100 minutes incl. 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 and M29, M41

Ticket prices: 39 €, 37 €, 34 €, 30 €, 25 €, 19€ (plus additional costs if applicable)

Tickets are available from [Ticketmaster](#), [eventim](#), the usual ticket agencies or via www.berliner-oratorienchor.de, tickets@berliner-oratorienchor.de. Discounted tickets at €10 are available for pupils, students and wheelchair spaces.

Ticket telephone: (030) 547 34 943

Later concert dates:

- 12 October 2025: "Mass in D major" by Antonín Dvořák and "Requiem" and other pieces, Philharmonie Berlin
- April 2026: "The Dream of Gerontius" by Edward Elgar at the Philharmonie Berlin

Dates and programmes are subject to change depending on the situation.

Contact for media enquiries:

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