

# Wartmann Artist Series presents



## Vienna Boys Choir

February 25, 2017

Edgerton Performing Arts Center

Funded in part by the William & Joyce Wartmann

Endowment for the Performing Arts &

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# Vienna Boys Choir

The Vienna Boys Choir, renowned as one of the finest vocal ensembles in the world for over 5 centuries, is a frequent visitor to North America, performing throughout the country in everything from houses of worship to great concert venues like New York's Carnegie Hall and Chicago's Symphony Hall. The enormously popular chorus is actually comprised of four separate ensembles of 23 - 26 boys each, totaling 100 choristers at the Vienna Boys Choir's school at any given time - all of them between the ages of 10 and 14. The four choirs are of equal standing, and the Vienna Boys Choir's tours, concerts in Vienna and audio and video recording projects are shared among them. Each choir has a choirmaster and two tutors who travel with the boys. The choir visiting New York this Fall, led by its conductor Jimmy Chiang, will present a program featuring music of Haydn, Mozart, Schubert and Britten, along with many beloved holiday favorites.

The Vienna Boys Choir can trace its history as far back as the 13th century but it was formally established at Vienna's Imperial Chapel in 1498 by Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I. The many incarnations of the group have been performing continuously ever since. The modern Vienna Boys Choir represents quite a departure from the composition of the original medieval choir of six boys. Today's Vienna Boys Choir is comprised of talented young singers from all over the world who are admitted by audition. Approximately eleven weeks of the school year are devoted to touring, and each choir member sings about 80 concerts a year. Many of the boys have siblings, fathers, uncles and even grandfathers who have also been members of the choir. The Choir's most recent recording is Merry Christmas from Vienna (DG).

Hotel Residenz Palais Coburg is the Vienna Boys Choir general sponsor.

[www.wsk.at](http://www.wsk.at) | [www.viennaboyschoir.net](http://www.viennaboyschoir.net)

Exclusive Tour Management: Opus 3 Artists | 470 Park Avenue South, 9th Floor North | New York, NY 10016 | [www.opus3artists.com](http://www.opus3artists.com)

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# VIENNA BOYS CHOIR

Wiener Sängerknaben  
Oliver Stech, Choirmaster

## Part 1

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Alleluja<br>3-part canon  | William Boyce (1710 – 1779)<br>Arr. Gerald Wirth  |
| Come Ye Sons of Art<br>Sound the Trumpet<br>See Nature, Rejoicing<br>from Ode for the birthday of Queen Mary II Z 323 (1694)          | Henry Purcell (1659 – 1695)   |
| Cantate Domino (Sing to the Lord)<br>Motet for four voices  | Hans Leo Hassler (1564 – 1612)  |
| Domine, fili unigenite<br>(Lord, only begotten son) from Gloria in D, RV 589  | Antonio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741)   |
| Sub tuum praesidium<br>(Under your protection) Offertory K. 198 (158b)<br>Der Gondelfahrer (The gondolier)<br>D. 809, opus 28 (1824)  | Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 - 1791)<br>Franz Schubert (1797 – 1828)<br>Text: Johann Baptist Mayrhofer (1787 - 1836) |
| Laudate, pueri, Dominum<br>(Praise, boys, the Lord) from Three motets, opus 47  | Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809 – 1847)   |
| Ubi caritas (Where there is love, 1999)   | Ola Gjeilo (*1978)  |
| India: Two bhajans<br>Sat-chit-ananda (Truth-existence – consciousness-knowledge - bliss)<br>Bolo bolo Shiva (Let us praise the Lord) | Arr. Gerald Wirth   |
| Hail, Holy Queen<br>from the movie Sister Act (1992)  | Marc Shaiman (*1959)<br>Arr. Roger Emerson  |

—INTERMISSION—

PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

## Part 2

- Bulgaria  
Kaval Sviri (A Kaval flute plays, 1979) Petar Liondev (\*1936)  
Text: Tanya Parvanova
- Bunte Schlangen, zweigezüngt! Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809 - 1847)  
(You spotted snakes, with double tongues) Text: August Wilhelm Schlegel  
(1767 – 1845) after William Shakespeare  
Elves' chorus from:  
Ein Sommernachtstraum (A Midsummer Night's Dream)  
opus 61/4 (1842)
- Seal lullaby (2004) Eric Whitacre (\*1970)  
Text: Rudyard Kipling (1865 – 1936)
- Venezuela / Cuba Atahualpa Yupanqui (1908 - 1992)  
Duerme negrito (Sleep, little black one) Arr. Emilio Solé
- Mexico Quirino Mendoza y Cortés (1859 – 1957)  
Cielito lindo (My sweet little one) Arr. Valentino Navarro y Cortés
- The Bare Necessities Terry Gilkyson (1916 - 1999)  
from the movie „The Jungle Book“ (1967) Arr. Greg Gilpin
- USA  
Singin' in the Rain Nacio Herb Brown (1896 – 1964)  
MGM motion picture Hollywood Revue Text: Arthur Freed (1894 – 1973)  
(1929) Arr. Anita Kerr (1930)
- South Africa  
Hlonolofatsa (Blessing) Transcription: Henri William Otsomotsi  
Sesotho song Arr. Oliver Stech
- Austria: two folk songs  
Singa is unsre Freud (Singing is our joy) Arr. Gerald Wirth  
Sung all over Austria
- Und wanns amal schen aper wird Arr. Gerald Wirth  
(And when it starts to thaw again)  
Alpine song with yodelling from the town of Eisenerz, Styria
- Vergnügungszug (Pleasure train) Johann Strauss II (1825 – 1899)  
Fast polka, opus 281 Text: Ewald Seifert; Arr. Helmuth Froschauer
- Kaiserwalzer (Emperor Waltz) Johann Strauss II (1825 – 1899)  
Opus 437 (1889) Arr. Gerald Wirth

## Oliver Stech, Choirmaster

Oliver Stech was appointed Kapellmeister (choirmaster) of the Vienna Boys Choir in January of 2011. He has since led his choir in numerous concerts, and on tours of Austria, Canada, China, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Italy, Japan, Slovakia, South America, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the United States.

Mr Stech is responsible for the concert and tour repertoire; he conducts choir and solo rehearsals and prepares the boys for the sung services at Vienna's Imperial Chapel. In addition, he trains the boys for productions at the Vienna State Opera and at the Vienna Volksoper, and for performances of large symphonic and choral works. He has worked with conductors such as Christian Aming, Vladimir Fedosejev, Mariss Jansons, Fabio Luisi, and Franz Welser-Möst. Appearances on radio and television, sound recordings, interviews, and film shoots are part of the choir's routine. Oliver conducted the choirboys on location in Italy and in an Austrian ice cave for Curt Faudon's Christmas film on the choir, "Songs for Mary", and on location in Jerusalem for the upcoming film "Good Shepherds".

Oliver Stech was born in Waidhofen/Ybbs in Lower Austria. He had piano and singing lessons as a child. He went on to study romance languages at the University of Vienna and voice and music education at the University of Music, focussing on choral and ensemble conducting. In addition to his studies with Alois Glassner and Johannes Hiemetsberger, he took courses in conducting with Robert Sund and Jing Ling Tam.

To Mr Stech, himself a singer, the voice is an important means of expression. Oliver Stech was a member of Chorus sine nomine, the World Youth Choir, and the supporting choirs of the Vienna State Opera and the Vienna Volksoper. He has sung at festivals such as Klangbogen Wien and the prestigious summer festival in Baden-Baden, Germany. As tenor soloist, Oliver performs lieder, masses, oratorios, operas, and operettas. As a choir member, Oliver has travelled to Belgium, Croatia, England, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Namibia, South Africa, and Spain.

## Oliver Stech, Choirmaster continued

As a choir member, Oliver has travelled to Belgium, Croatia, England, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Namibia, South Africa, and Spain. He has appeared under conductors like Bertrand de Billy, Placido Domingo, Alfred Eschwé, h.k. Gruber, Martin Haselböck, Kristian Järvi, Philippe Jordan, Fabio Luisi, and Georges Prêtre.

Oliver Stech began to conduct while still a student. In 2006, he co-founded the voice ensemble uni-sono, which went on to win international competitions. In 2008, he conducted Henry Purcell's Dido and Aeneas in two Lower Austrian castles. From 2009 to 2011, Oliver led Chorus Discantus, an Austrian women's chorus. In 2009, Oliver was appointed artistic director of the 'Jugendsingwoche', a choral festival in Lower Austria, and assistant to the artistic director of the Vienna Singakademie. For the last three years, he has been lecturing on and teaching voice at the University of Music in Vienna.

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**\*Please turn off cell phones and pagers. No food, gum or beverages in the theatre, and no unauthorized video or photography.**

**Thank You!**



The choir maintains its own schools. Almost 400 children and teenagers between the ages of 3 and 18 study and rehearse at Augartenpalais, a baroque palace and former imperial hunting lodge in Vienna. Beginning with kindergarten, run in cooperation with the city of Vienna, boys and girls are provided with an all-round education. At age ten, the most talented boys are selected to join the choir and enter the choir's grammar school. All boys are assigned to one of the touring choirs. Academic lessons are taught in small groups. The school offers extracurricular activities ranging from all kinds of sports to attending a wide range of concerts, operas, plays, musicals and movies. The choristers are also encouraged to create their own projects; some form their own bands, others create short skits or films. All choir boys live in the choir's well-appointed boarding school, with two to three boys sharing a room.

In 2010, the choir launched its new senior high school for boys and girls. The unique curriculum for years 8 to 12 was developed in conjunction with the Universities of Music in Vienna and in Salzburg; it is designed to help young singers find their voice and discover and develop their talents, and to prepare young singers for university and for a career in music. Most students retain a lifelong commitment to the Arts. Roughly a quarter of the school's alumni go on to become professional musicians, conductors, singers or instrumentalists.

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