



Lukas Beck

**UGA**  
**presents.**

24|25 SEASON

**VIENNA BOYS CHOIR**  
**MANOLO CAGNIN**, conductor  
*Christmas in Vienna*

WED, DEC 18, 7:30 pm  
Hodgson Concert Hall

Supported by  
**DAVID COKER AND SHARON PRICE**

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Please silence all mobile phones and electronic devices. Photography, video and audio recording, and texting are prohibited during the performance.



## PROGRAM

Henry Purcell (1659–1695)

### **Come, Ye Sons of Art**

Birthday Ode for Queen Mary II (1694) Z 323

Words ascribed to Nahum Tate (1652–1715)

Carl Orff (1895–1982)

### **O Fortuna Imperatrix mundi** (Fortune, Empress of the World)

from: Carmina burana (Songs from Benediktbeuern, 1936)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

### **Eine kleine Nachtmusik** (A little night music), K. 525

Arr. Gerald Wirth

Franz Schubert (1797–1828)

### **Der 23. Psalm** (The 23rd Psalm), D. 706

Words: Biblical; German translation by Moses Mendelssohn (1729–1786)

Heinz Kratochwil (1933–1995)

### **Jubilate Deo** (Rejoice in God)

Motet, opus 157a (1976)

Oscar Peterson (1925–2007)

### **Hymn to Freedom** (1962)

Words: Oscar Peterson, Harriette Hamilton; Arr. Gerald Wirth

Bruno Coulais (\*1954)

### **Vois sur ton chemin** (Look on your path)

From the movie “Les choristes”

Words: Christophe Barratier (\*1963)

ABBA

Benny Anderson (\*1946) | Björn Ulvaeus (\*1945)

### **Thank You for the Music** (1977)

Arr. Kirby Shaw

ABBA

Benny Anderson (\*1946) | Björn Ulvaeus (\*1945)

### **Mamma mia**

Ástor Piazzolla (1921–1992)

### **Libertango** (1974)

Arr. Oscar Escalada

Domenico Modugno (1928–1994)

### **Volare: Nel blu dipinto di blu**

Words: Franco Migliacci (1930–2023)

## INTERMISSION

### **Gaudete** (Rejoice!)

from the Piaie cantiones (Pious songs, Finland 1582)

Arr. Gerald Wirth

Karl Neuner (1778–1830)

### **Fröhliche Weihnacht überall** (Merry Christmas All Around)

Words: Christian Friedrich Daniel Schubart (1739–1791)

Arr. Gerald Wirth

Lowell Mason (1792–1872) | George Frederick Handel (1685–1756)

### **Joy to the World**

Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

Arr. Gerald Wirth

Joseph von Eybler (1765–1846)

### **Omnes de Saba venient** (They will all come from Saba)

Gradual for Epiphany

Words: Biblical; Isaiah 60:6 and Matthew 2:2

### **Maria durch ein' Dornwald ging** (Mary walked through a thorn bush)

Sacred carol from Thuringia, Germany; Arr. Uwe Theimer

Max Reger (1873–1916)

### **Mariä Wiegenlied**, from: Schlichte Weisen (Simple tunes), opus 76/52

Words: Martin Boelitz (1874–1918)

attributed to Heinrich Reimann (1850–1906)

### **Shepherd Song** (Sleep well, you child from heaven)

after a Silesian tune

Words: Christian Friedrich Daniel Schubart (1739–1791)

Arr. Gerald Wirth

Old French Carol

### **A Maiden Most Gentle**

Words and Arr. Andrew Carter

Traditional English carol  
**God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen**  
Arr. Gerald Wirth

Adolphe Adam (1803–1856)  
**O Holy Night** (Cantique de Noël), 1847  
English Text: John Sullivan Dwight (1812–1893)  
Arr. Gerald Wirth

Jay Livingston (1915–2001)  
**Silver Bells**, from the movie “The Lemon Drop Kid” (1951)  
Words: Ray Evans (1915–2007)

Howard Blake (\*1938)  
**Walking in the Air**  
from the animated film “The Snowman” (1982)  
Arr. Gwyn Arch

Mykola Leontovich (1877–1921)  
**Shchedryk** (New Year’s Carol, 1916)

Eduard Ebel (1839–1905)  
**Leise rieselt der Schnee** (Softly falls the snow)  
Arr. Gerald Wirth

Holiday Medley  
**O Tannenbaum – Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas – Jingle Bells**

**O Tannenbaum**  
Melody: Melchior Frank (1580–1639)  
Words: Joachim August Zarnack (1777–1827),  
Ernst Anschütz (1780–1861)

Hugh Martin (1914–2011) and Ralph Blane (1914–1995)  
**Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas** (1944)

James Lord Pierpont (1822–1893)  
**Jingle Bells** (1857)

Program is subject to change.



## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### VIENNA BOYS CHOIR

The Vienna Boys Choir is one of the most famous choirs in the world, and one of its oldest, boys have been singing at Vienna's Imperial Chapel at least since 1296. Two hundred years later, on July 7, 1498, Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I established a Court Chapel in Vienna. He gave specific instructions that there were to be boys among the singers, thus laying the foundation for the Vienna Boys Choir. Like their modern successors, the early boys spent much time on the road, following their imperial employer to sing at the Holy Roman Empire's parliamentary meetings, imperial coronations, weddings, state processions, and feasts.

Over the centuries, the Viennese court attracted musical geniuses like Heinrich Isaac, Johann Joseph Fux, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Composers Joseph Haydn, Michael Haydn, and Franz Schubert sang as boys with the choir; Anton Bruckner gave them singing and piano lessons.

Today, the former imperial ensemble has grown into an entire campus; the modern Vienna Boys Choir is a private, non-profit organization which funds itself chiefly through income generated from concerts and touring, as well as donations and sponsorship deals. The Vienna Boys Choir maintains a primary school and a grammar school whose syllabuses focus on choral music and singing. Three hundred and thirty boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 19 attend the schools on campus. All students have individual voice lessons, and all sing in one of the choirs. In addition to the four famous boys' choirs, there is a female counterpart—the Vienna Girls Choir (*Wiener Chormädchen*) for girls aged 10 to 14, as well as the Chorus Primus, a mixed children's chorus comprised of all boys and girls enrolled in the 4th grade of the choir's primary school, and the Chorus Juventus, the mixed youth choir of the Senior High School. The Vienna Boys Choir's education, listed by UNESCO as cultural heritage, is open to all, regardless of origin, gender, nationality, or religion.

There are currently 90 active boy choristers, divided into four boys' choirs, which all perform as "Vienna Boys Choir;" *Brucknerchor* (Choirmaster Manolo Cagnin), *Haydnchor* (Choirmaster Jimmy Chiang), *Mozartchor* (Choirmaster Manuel Huber), and *Schubertchor* (Choirmaster Oliver Stech). The four choirs share concerts, tours, sound recordings and filming equally. Between them, they perform almost 300 concerts per year, with almost half a million people attending. Since 1924, the choirs have completed more than 1000 tours in 100 different countries, clocking up a staggering 29,000 concerts.

On Sundays, the choirs take turns singing Mass in Vienna's Imperial Chapel, joining forces with members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and the men's chorus of the Vienna State Opera. They frequently participate in large-scale symphonic concerts, performing under conductors like Joana Mallwitz, Zubin Mehta, Riccardo Muti, Christian Thielemann, Simone Young, and Franz Welser-Möst. Other highlights in the choirs' calendars are appearances at the Salzburg Festival and at the New Year's Concert of the Vienna Philharmonic.

The Vienna Boys Choir cooperates with several other charities, such as UNICEF, "*Licht ins Dunkel*" (Light into Darkness, an Austrian charity), and *die moewe* Child protection agency. Together with Caritas and the Vienna Konzerthaus, the Choir founded "superar", an outreach program offering children access to free music education. In addition, the Vienna Boys Choir runs *Chorus amabilis*, a choir for adult singing enthusiasts, aimed particularly at pensioners.

In 2023, the Choir celebrated its 525th anniversary. To mark the occasion, Deutsche Grammophon released a live album of the anniversary concert in Vienna's Musikverein, Decca Classics released a box set of 21 CDs featuring the Choir's landmark recordings, and academic publishing house Böhlau released a book on the Choir's rich history. In 2024, the Vienna Boys Choir and the Vienna Girls Choir jointly received the European Culture Award.

Erasmus Baumgartner has been serving as Artistic Director of the Vienna Boys Choir and the entire Campus Augarten since the fall of 2023. The Choir's President is Erich Arthold.



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### **MANOLO CAGNIN, conductor**

Born and raised in Treviso, Italy, Manolo Cagnin developed an interest in music early in life. As a child, he learned to play the violin and viola at the Conservatory of Venice, then later went on to study choral music, conducting and composition in Venice and Milan. He completed his studies in Leipzig under Kurt Masur and Fabio Luisi.

In Leipzig, Mr. Cagnin served as assistant to the Thomanerchor's artistic director, Georg Christoph Biller. He was music director of the Gewandhaus Orchestra's 2007 production of *La Tragédie de Carmen*.

In 2008, Mr. Cagnin was named conductor of one of the Vienna Boys Choir's four touring choirs. He has since led the choir on numerous tours, taking him several times around the world. In Vienna, Mr. Cagnin conducts the VBC's choral concerts, as well as the opera productions in the choir's own concert hall, MuTh. In addition, he prepares the boys for the sung services with the Vienna Chapel Imperial and for appearances with the Vienna State Opera and Volksoper, as well as for sound and video recordings. He regularly coaches the boys for performances with major orchestras, such as the Vienna Philharmonic and the Vienna Symphony, the Staatskapelle Dresden, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, under the baton of conductors such as Mariss Jansons, Zubin Mehta, Riccardo Muti, and Michael Tilson Thomas.

Mr. Cagnin finds working with the boys particularly rewarding, "They possess character and spirit. This is reflected in the way they make music. The children learn from me, and I learn from them." Manolo Cagnin takes great care to match his choir's repertoire to the boys' personalities and voices.

A spirited and charismatic conductor, Mr. Cagnin feels it is vital to communicate with the audience, "Music is a gift. As musicians, we have the obligation to share it. When you listen to us, we want to put a smile on your face."