



Saturday, November 26, 2022, 2pm
Zellerbach Hall

Vienna Boys Choir

Oliver Stech, *conductor*

Christmas in Vienna

Confirma hoc Deus (Confirm this, oh God) Jacobus Gallus (c. 1550–1591)
Offertory for four voices a cappella Words: Psalm 68(67):29

De torrente in via bibet
(He shall drink from the stream by the way)
from *Dixit Dominus*, HWV 232 George Frideric Handel (1685–1756)
Words: Psalm 110:8
Arr. Oliver Stech

Macht hoch die Tür
(The mighty gates of earth unbar) Johann Anastasius Freylinghausen (1670–1739)
Text: Georg Weissel (1590–1635)
Arr. Gerald Wirth

Et exsultavit spiritus meus (And my spirit rejoiceth) Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
from *Magnificat*, BWV 243

Abendlied zu Gott (Evening song for God),
Hob. XXVc: 9 (1796) Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)
Words: Christian Fürchtegott Gellert
(1715–1769)

Mariä Wiegenlied (Mary's lullaby)
from *Schlichte Weisen (Simple melodies)*,
Op. 76/52 Max Reger (1873–1916)
Words: Martin Boelitz (1874–1918)

There Is No Rose of Such Vertue
This Little Babe, So Few Days Old
from *A Ceremony of Carols*, Op. 28 Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)
Words: Robert Southwell (c. 1561–1595)

Schlaf, Jesulein zart (Sleep, gentle Jesus) Peter von Brachel Hymnal, Cologne, 1623
Arr. Micha Sengschmid

O salutaris hostia (O saving sacrifice) Ēriks Ešenvalds (b. 1977)
Words: Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225–1274)

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day 16th-century carol
Arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

INTERMISSION

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen	Old English carol Arr. Gerald Wirth
La virgen lava pañales (The virgin washes the swaddling clothes)	Traditional villancico from Spain Arr. Robert DeCormier
El burrito de Belén (The little donkey from Bethlehem) Villancico from Venezuela	Hugo Blanco (1940–2015)
Ein Kind geboren gar wunderschön (A beautiful child is born)	Sacred lullaby from Lower Austria Arr. Gerald Wirth
Still, still, still (Softly, softly, softly)	Sacred lullaby from Salzburg Arr. Gerald Wirth
Am Weihnachtsbaum die Lichter brennen (The candles are alight on the Christmas tree)	Folk song from Saxony and Thuringia, Germany Words: Gustav Hermann Kletke (1813–1886), 1841 Arr. Gerald Wirth
Leise rieselt der Schnee (Softly falls the snow)	Eduard Ebel (1839–1905) Arr. Gerald Wirth
Mister Santa Arr. Ed Lojeski	Pat Ballard (1899–1960)
“Who Would Imagine a King,” from the 1996 film <i>The Preacher’s Wife</i>	Meryvn Warren (b. 1964) and Hallerin Hilton Hill (b. 1964) Arr. Keith Christopher
See, amid the Winter’s Snow	Sir John Goss (1800–1880) Text: Edward Caswall (1814–1878) Arr. Dan Forrest
Go, Tell It on the Mountain	Traditional Spiritual Arr. Michael Engelhardt

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

For program notes and texts/translations, please see the program insert distributed at the concert.

COVID-19: Masking is required inside the auditorium, and is strongly recommended, though not required, for indoor lobby/waiting areas as well as outdoor spaces. Up-to-date vaccination is strongly recommended, though not required for entry. The latest information on Cal Performances' COVID-19 safety policies is available at calperformances.org/safety.
Photographing and/or recording this performance is strictly prohibited.



Lukas Beck

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. In 1498, Emperor Maximilian I moved his court to Vienna, where he established the Chapel Imperial and the Vienna Boys Choir. Over the centuries, the court attracted musicians like Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Anton Bruckner; Joseph Haydn, Michael Haydn, and Franz Schubert were themselves choir-boys. Until 1918, the boys sang exclusively for the court.

In 1924, the choir was reestablished as a private, nonprofit organization.

Today, the Vienna Boys Choir maintains its own campus, with a primary school, a middle school, and a senior high school program. The middle school is attended by 100 boy choristers between the ages of nine and 14. The boys are divided into four choirs. Each group spends 10 weeks of the school year on tour. Between them, the choirs give around 300 concerts each year, attended by almost half a million spectators

around the world. Since 1924, 2,750 choristers have taken part in over 1,000 tours in 100 different countries.

On Sundays, one of the choirs performs with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and the State Opera Chorus in Vienna's Imperial Chapel, as it has done for the past 524 years.

The choir performs with major orchestras, conducted by the likes of Joana Mallwitz, Zubin Mehta, Riccardo Muti, Christian Thielemann, and Simone Young. Highlights include appearances at the Vienna Philharmonic's New Year's Concert and at the Salzburg Festival.

Since their first recording in 1907, the boys have recorded 377 albums, LPs, and CDs. Numerous films and documentaries attest to the choir's international appeal. In 2004, the Vienna Girls Choir was founded to give girls the same musical education and the same musical experiences. Thirty girls are enrolled in this program today.

In 2009, the choir teamed up with the Vienna Konzerthaus and Caritas Vienna to

found Superar to provide children in and around the city with access to music; since then, the choir regularly joins Superar in concerts.

Three hundred boys and girls attend the choir's schools. A third of the students go on to become music professionals.

The Vienna Boys Choir is a registered charity; its singing tradition is listed by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage in Austria. Professor Gerald Wirth, himself a former choirboy, is the organization's President and Artistic Director.

Oliver Stech became Choirmaster of the Vienna Boys Choir in 2011. He has led the choir in numerous concerts, and on tours of Europe, Asia, South America, and the US.

Stech is responsible for the boys' repertoire; he conducts choir and solo rehearsals and prepares the boys for the sung services in Vienna's Imperial Chapel. In addition, he trains the boys for productions at Vienna's two opera houses, and for performances with conductors including Zubin Mehta, Riccardo Muti, Franz Welser-Möst, and Simone Young. Appearances on radio and television, sound recordings, and film shoots are also part of the choir's routine. Stech conducted the boys on the set of Curt

Faudon's films *Songs for Mary* (2013) and *Good Shepherds* (2017), in Palestine, Italy, and Austria.

Oliver Stech was born in Waidhofen/Ybbs, Lower Austria. As a child, he received piano and singing lessons. Stech went on to study romance languages at the University of Vienna and piano, voice, conducting, and music paedagogy at the University of Music, focussing on choral and ensemble conducting. He has founded and led a number of choirs, and has himself appeared publicly, both as a tenor soloist and as a choir member. In 2009, Stech was appointed assistant to Heinz Ferlesch, the artistic director of the Vienna Singakademie—the resident choir of Vienna's Konzerthaus. In 2010, Stech became a lecturer at the University of Music in Vienna. As of 2019, he has also been working with Chorus Juventus, the youth chorus of the Vienna Boys Choir.

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