Sunday, November 16, 2025, 3pm Zellerbach Hall

Vienna Boys Choir Strauss Forever

Jimmy Chiang, conducto and piano

PROGRAM

Johann STRAUSS II (1825–1899) arr. Uwe Theimer	Tausend und eine Nacht (Thousand and One Nights), Op. 346 (1871)
Joseph HAYDN (1732–1809)	Insanae et vanae curae (Vain and useless worries), Hob. XXI:1, 13c (c. 1775–1784)
Giovanni Battista PERGOLESI (1710–1736)	Fac ut ardeat cor meum (Ignite my heart with love) Quando corpus morietur (When the body will die) —from Stabat mater (1736)
Anton BRUCKNER (1824-1896) arr. Jimmy Chiang	Virga Jesse floruit (The rod of Jesse has flowered), WAB 52 (1885)
Johann STRAUSS II and Josef STRAUSS (1827–1870) arr. Alan Mossesset, Avi Esposito	Pizzicato Polka (1869)
Wolfgang Amadeus MOZART (1756-1791	"Laudate Dominum" ("Praise the Lord"), from <i>Vesperae solennes de confessore</i> , KV 339 (1780)
David FOSTER (b. 1949), Carole BAYER SAGER (b. 1947), Alberto TESTA (1927–2009), Tony RENIS (b. 1938)	"The Prayer," from <i>Quest for Camelot</i> (1998)
Ludwig van BEETHOVEN (1770–1827), Mervyn WARREN (b. 1964) arr. Roger Emerson	"Joyful, Joyful" ("Ode to Joy"), from <i>Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit</i> (1993)

INTERMISSION



Vienna Boys Choir. Photos by Lukas Beck.



Irving BERLIN (1888–1989)	"There's No Business Like Show Business,"
	from Annie Get Your Gun (1946)

Solo to be announced from the stage

Jacques OFFENBACH (1819–1880) Barcarole – "Belle nuit, o nuit d'amour"

("Beautiful night, night of love"), from *The Tales of Hoffmann* (1880)

Johannes BRAHMS (1833–1897) Wiegenlied (Lullaby), Op. 49, No. 4 (1868)

arr. Jimmy Chiang Erzherzog Johann Jodler (Archduke Johann's Yodel)

Zoltán KODÁLY (1882–1967) Turot eszig a cigany

(Chewing cheese curds) (1925)

Petar LIONDEV (1936–2018) Kaval Sviri (A kaval flute plays) (1979)

Mykola LEONTOVICH (1877–1921) Shchedryk (New Year's Carol) (1916)

Johann STRAUSS II Tritsch Tratsch (Chitchat), Op. 214 (1858)

arr. Gerald Wirth

Rolf Lovland (b. 1955) You Raise Me Up (2001)

Traditional Spiritual Joshua arr. Rollo Dilworth

Johann Strauss II An der shonen blauen Donau arr. Gerald Wirth (Blue Danube Waltz), Op. 314 (1867)

This performance is made possible in part by Beth DeAtley.

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Vienna Boys Choir. Photos by Lukas Beck.



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 choristers 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, nonprofit organization that funds itself chiefly through income generated from concerts and touring, as well as donations and sponsorships. The Vienna Boys Choir maintains a primary school and a grammar school whose syllabuses focus on choral music and singing. 330 boys and girls between the ages of six 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; 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 the Vienna Boys Choir: the Brucknerchor (Choirmaster Manolo Cagnin), the Haydnchor (Choirmaster Jimmy Chiang), the Mozartchor (Choirmaster Manuel Huber), and the Schubertchor (Choirmaster Oliver Stech). The four groups 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 singers have completed more than 1,000 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. The singers frequently participate in large-scale symphonic concerts, performing under conductors including Joana Mallwitz, Zubin Mehta, Riccardo Muti, Christian Thielemann, Simone Young, and Franz Welser-Möst. Other highlights in the calendar include 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 Möwe, a child protection agency. Together with Caritas and the Vienna Konzerthaus, the choirs created 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 the 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 was appointed Artistic Director of the Vienna Boys Choir in the fall of 2023.

Hong Kong-born conductor Jimmy Chiang began his musical career at age 13 with his first public appearance as a concert pianist. Raised in a musical family, he studied piano, cello, conducting, and composition from an early age. Chiang went on to earn the Fellows Diploma from Trinity College of Music in London, a bachelor degree in music from Baylor University, and the Magister Artium at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna.

Chiang's international profile was established in 2007 when he won the Lovro von Matacic International Competition for Young Conductors in Zagreb. Equally at home in the orchestra pit or on the concert stage, he is admired for his versatility across opera, symphonic, choral, chamber, and solo piano repertoire.

Chiang has held positions as Principal Conductor of the Hong Kong Pan Asia Symphony, Kapellmeister at Theater Freiburg, and Assistant Music Director for Wagner's *Ring* cycle at Theater Lübeck. Guest conducting appearances include the Komische Oper Berlin, Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León, the Zagreb Philhar-

monic, and the Hong Kong Philharmonic, as well as festivals in Germany, Spain, Macau, and Japan, where he worked with Seiji Ozawa.

Since 2013, Chiang has served as Choirmaster of the Vienna Boys Choir, leading tours across Europe, Asia, and the Americas. He has conducted in major venues including Carnegie Hall, Tokyo's Suntory Hall, the Seoul Arts Center, and the Vienna Musikverein. Chiang's collaborations include work with the Vienna Philharmonic, Vienna Symphony, and renowned conductors such as Mariss Jansons, Riccardo Muti, and Franz Welser-Möst.

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