



Celebrity Series of Boston

Engaging • Entertaining • Enriching

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For Immediate Release

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High-resolution photos:

http://www.celebrityseries.org/Photo_Galleries/1009-ViennaBoysChoir_Gallery.htm

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Presents

The Vienna Boys Choir

**on Saturday, December 12 at 2 pm
at NEC's Jordan Hall**

(Boston) Celebrity Series of Boston will present the **Vienna Boys Choir** on Saturday, December 12 at 2 pm at NEC's Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston. Manolo Cagnin will conduct the choir. The program will feature liturgical and popular holiday music. This performance is sponsored by Tufts Health Plan.

The **Celebrity Series of Boston** first presented the Vienna Boys Choir in 1948. This will be their 38th performance with Celebrity Series.

The **Vienna Boys Choir** were officially founded in 1498 as part of Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I's instructions for the formation of the Vienna Hofmusikkapelle. The choir sang exclusively for the court, at Mass, at private concerts and functions and on state occasions until the breakdown of the Austrian Hapsburg Empire in 1918. At this time, the government took over the court opera (i.e. the opera, its orchestra and the adult singers), but not the choir boys. The Choir owes its survival to the initiative of Josef Schnitt, who became Dean of the Imperial Chapel in 1921. Schnitt established the boys' choir as a private institution: the former court choir boys became the Wiener Sangerknaben, and the imperial uniform was replaced by the sailor suit, then the height of boys' fashion. Funding was not enough to pay for the boys' upkeep, and in 1926 the choir started to give concerts outside of the chapel, performing motets, secular works, and - at the boys' request - children's operas, which remain an important part of their repertoire. Within a year, the Wiener Sangerknaben were performing in Berlin (where Erich Kleiber conducted them), Prague and Zurich. Athens and Riga (1928) followed, then Spain, France, Denmark, Norway and Sweden (1929), the United States (1932), Australia (1934) and South America (1936).

The choir is proud of its alumni, many of whom go on to become professional musicians, conductors, singers or instrumentalists, in Vienna and throughout the world. Over its long history, the Vienna Boys Choir has been instrumental in the careers of many renowned musicians, including composers Jacobus Gallus, Franz Schubert, and conductors Hans Richter, Felix Mottl and Clemens Krauss, who were all choristers in their childhood.

Today some 100 choristers between the ages of ten and fourteen are divided into four touring choirs. The four choirs give around 300 concerts and performances each year before almost half a million people. Each group spends nine to eleven weeks of the school year on tour. They visit virtually all European countries, and they are frequent guests in Asia, Australia and the Americas. In recent years, they have performed with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, the

(more)

Oslo Philharmonic and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Guest conductors include Pierre Boulez, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Mariss Jansons, Zubin Mehta, Riccardo Muti (honorary member of the Hofmusikkapelle), Kent Nagano, Seiji Ozawa and Franz Welser-Möst. Together with members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and the Vienna State Opera Chorus, the Wiener Sängerknaben also maintain the tradition of the imperial musicians: as Hofmusikkapelle they provide the music for the Sunday Mass in Vienna's Imperial Chapel, as they have done since 1498.

Italian-born conductor **Manolo Cagnin** began his music studies learning violin and viola in Venice. He went on to study choir music, conducting, and composition in Venice and Milan and supplemented his studies in Leipzig under Kurt Masur and Fabio Luisi. Cagnin worked as assistant conductor at Thomaskirche in Leipzig, and directed a production of Carmen with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra before becoming one of the Vienna Boys Choir conductors in 2008.

The program for the Vienna Boys Choir performance on December 12 is as follows:

Arr. Gerald Wirth	“Guadete” from <i>Piae Cantiones</i>
Carl Orff	“O Fortuna” (“Fortuna Imperatrix Mundi”) from <i>Carmina Burana</i>
John V. Mochnick	Ave Maria
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	“Laudate Dominum” from <i>Vesperae solennes de confessore</i> , K. 339
Giuseppe Verdi	“Laudi alla vergine” from <i>Quattro pezzi sacri</i>
Gabriel Fauré	Cantique de Jean Racine
Heinz Kratochwil	Jubilate Deo, Opus 157a
Ascribed to Teodoro	Santa Lucia
Arr. Martin Schebesta	Kalinka
Jerry Bock & Sheldon Hamick	“If I Were a Rich Man” from <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i>
Joseph Lanner; Arr. G. Wirth	Die Schönbrunner, Opus 200
Johann Strauss, Jr. Arr. Uwe Theimer	Tritsch Tratsch, Opus 214
Carl Neuner; Arr. G. Wirth	Fröhliche Weihnacht überall
Arr. G. Wirth	Maria durch ein’ Dornwald ging
Arr. Anton Neyder	Engel auf den Feldern singen
Arr. Hermann Furthmoser	Still, still, still
Eduard Ebel; Arr. G. Wirth	Leise rieselt der Schnee
Arr. Michael Prätorius	Es ist ein Ros’ entsprungen
Arr. G. Wirth	Il est né le divin enfant
Arr. G. Wirth	Dormi, dormi bel Bambin
Solo TBA	
Arr. Andrew Carter	A maiden most gentle
Jay Livingston; Arr. Martin Schebesta	Silver Bells
Walter Kent; Arr. Mac Huff	I’ll be home for Christmas
Johann Ritter von Herbeck	Pueri concinite

TICKETING INFORMATION

The Vienna Boys Choir is SOLD OUT.

About Celebrity Series of Boston

The Celebrity Series of Boston is New England’s leading presenter of music, dance, and the performing arts from around the world. Now in its 71st season, the Celebrity Series brings performances by instrumental and vocal soloists, orchestras and chamber ensembles, dance companies, jazz, folk and ethnic artists and ensembles to Boston’s major concert halls, reaching an audience of some 100,000 each year. Through the Arts, Education and

Community Program the Celebrity Series reaches thousands of youngsters annually with opportunities to experience and participate in the performing arts through concerts, workshops and the award-winning AileyCamp Boston, an intensive six-week summer dance program for Boston middle school students. For more information on Celebrity Series of Boston, call (617) 482-2595 or visit us online at www.celebrityseries.org.

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