



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/1214-Vienna_Boys_Choir.htm
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Presents

Vienna Boys Choir

**on Sunday, December 4 at 3pm
at NEC's Jordan Hall**

(Boston) Celebrity Series of Boston will present the **Vienna Boys Choir** on Sunday, December 4, 2011, at 3pm at NEC's Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston. This performance is sponsored by The D.L. Saunders Companies and The Boston Park Plaza Hotel, LLC.

Tickets for Vienna Boys Choir are \$57, \$52 and \$47, and are available online at www.celebrityseries.org, by calling CelebrityCharge at (617) 482-6661 Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. or at the NEC's Jordan Hall Box Office, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston.

The **Celebrity Series of Boston** first presented the Vienna Boys Choir in 1948. This will be their 41st performance with Celebrity Series.

The **Vienna Boys Choir** was officially founded in 1498 as part of Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I's instructions for the formation of the Wiener 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 boys' choir. 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).

Many of the alumni 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 10 and 14 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 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-Most. Together with members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and the Vienna State Opera Chorus, the Wiener Sangerknaben

(more)

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.

The program for this performance is:

Heinrich Schütz	Jubilate Deo (Praise God), SWV. 276
Jacobus Gallus	Natus est nobis (For unto us is born)
Joseph Haydn/ Arr. Florian Schwarz	Mit Staunen sieht das Wunderwerk, <i>The Creation</i> Vollendet ist das große Werk, <i>The Creation</i>
Zoltán Kodály	Túrot eszig a cigány (The Gypsy chews curd)
Robert Schumann	Zigeunerleben (Gypsy life)
Daniel Alomía Robles/ Arr. Gerald Wirth	El cóndor pasa (The condor passes)
Text: John Newton	Amazing Grace, Early American spiritual
Arr. Raoul Gehringer	La cucaracha (The cockroach), Mexican corrido
Leslie Bricusse, Anthony Newley	A Wonderful Day from <i>The Roar of the Greasepaint</i>
Arr. Norman Leyden	- <i>The Smell of the Crowd</i>
Gordon Sumner	Shape of My Heart
Robert Ray/ Arr. Florian Schwarz	Credo, I believe in God from Gospel Mass
Arr. Gerald Wirth	Haq Ali (Ali the Righteous), Pakistani qawwali
Johann Strauss Jr./ Arr. Gerald Wirth	Tritsch tratsch (Chitchat), Op. 214
Antonio Vivaldi/ Arr. Florian Schwarz	Excerpts from Gloria in D Major, RV. 589 Gloria in excelsis Deo Laudamus te Domine Deus Quoniam tu solus sanctus
Anonymous/Arr. Gerald Wirth	Audite silete (Listen, be silent)
Gabriel Fauré/ Arr. Florian Schwarz	Cantique de Jean Racine, Op. 11
Ariel Ramirez	Two pieces from Navidad Nuestra (Our Noel) La anunciación (The annunciation): Chamamé Los reyes magos (The three Magi): Takirari
Arr. Gerald Wirth	Il est né le divin enfant (He is born, the divine child)
Friedrich von Spee	O Heiland, reiss die Himmel auf
Arr. Gerald Wirth	Es wird scho glei dumpa (It will be dark soon)
Cesar Bresgen/ Arr. Florian Schwarz	O du stille Zeit (Oh quiet time)
Karl Neuner/ Arr. Gerald Wirth	Fröhliche Weihnacht überall
Stephen Schwarz	Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord from <i>Godspell</i>
Jester Hairston	Mary's Boy Child
Mendelssohn/Arr. Gerald Wirth	Hark, the Herald Angels Sing
John Francis Wade/ Arr. Gerald Wirth	O Come All Ye Faithful (Adeste fideles)

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 73rd 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. 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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