

Rundfunkchor Berlin

BIOGRAPHY

Rundfunkchor Berlin

With about 60 concerts a year, CD recordings and international guest performances, Rundfunkchor Berlin is one of the world's outstanding choral ensembles. Three Grammy Awards alone are emblematic of the quality of their recordings. Its broad repertoire, a flexible, richly nuanced sound, flawless precision and thrilling interaction make the professional choir a partner for major orchestras and conductors, including Kirill Petrenko, Daniel Barenboim, Sir Simon Rattle and Yannick Nézet-Séguin. In Berlin, the choir closely collaborates with the Berliner Philharmoniker, the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester and Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin and their principal conductors.

The Rundfunkchor Berlin's interdisciplinary projects have also attracted international attention, breaking open the classical concert format and making choral music come alive in new ways. The staged production of Brahms's "Ein deutsches Requiem" as "human requiem" by Jochen Sandig and a team of Sasha Waltz & Guests became a milestone. Guest performances took place in New York, Hong Kong, Paris, Adelaide and Istanbul, and will take place in Elefsina, Greece in 2023. In its project "LUTHER dancing with the gods", the Choir reflected in the fall of 2017 on Luther's impact in and on the arts in a concert performance that exploded genres with Robert Wilson and music by Bach, Nystedt and Reich. For the transdisciplinary concert installation THE WORLD TO COME in the 2020-21 season, the Rundfunkchor Berlin created a Berlin festive mass based on Beethoven's "Missa solemnis". Based on a concept from and directed by Tilman Hecker, contemporary music trends entered into dialogue with Beethoven's masterpiece. The musical journey into the world of tomorrow brought together national and international artists, including Birke J. Bertelsmeier, Colin Self, Mohammad Reza Mortazavi, Moor Mother and Planningtonrock. In 2022, the Rundfunkchor Berlin continued its transdisciplinary projects with "Time Travellers" in the Schinkelhalle in Potsdam.

With its community projects for various target groups – the large-scale *Sing-along Concert* in the Berlin Philharmonie, the *Festival of Choral Cultures* for choirs from all over the world, and the *Liederbörse* for Berlin's schoolchildren – the Rundfunkchor Berlin would like to bring as many people to singing as possible. Its large-scale SING! education programme aims to sustainably link up various partners to support singing as a natural part of everyday life in Berlin's primary schools. With its *Academy* and *Schola* as well as the *Berlin International Master Class for Choral Conducting*, the ensemble is committed to supporting young professional singers and conductors.

Founded in 1925, the Rundfunkchor Berlin will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2025. The choir was shaped by conductors such as Helmut Koch, Dietrich Knothe, Robin Gritton and Simon Halsey. Since the 2015-16 season, Gijs Leenaars has headed up the ensemble as Principal Conductor and Artistic

Ein Ensemble der



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Director. Simon Halsey remains associated with the Choir as conductor laureate and guest conductor.

Rundfunkchor Berlin is an ensemble of Rundfunk Orchester und Chöre gGmbH Berlin, which is funded by Deutschlandradio, the Federal Republic of Germany, the State of Berlin and Radio Berlin-Brandenburg.

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