



PRESS RELEASE

The Berlin Girls Choir visits Cyprus

Concert tour from October 27th to November 6th, 2017

Berlin, 24.10.2017. – The concert choir of the Berlin Girls Choir is coming to Cyprus from October 27th to November 6th. It is its first journey to this Mediterranean island, and the Berlin Girls Choir is even the first girls choir from Germany, which undertakes a concert tour to Cyprus. The programme includes five choir concerts:

Sat	28.10.2017, 18:30 h	Dasaki Achnas, Community Hall
Sun	29.10.2017, 19:30 h	Agia Napa, Thalassa Museum
Tue	31.10.2017, 19:30 h	Larnaca, Municipal Theatre (with the choir and the orchestra of the Music school Larnaca)
Thu	02.11.2017, 19:00 h	Nicosia, Auditorium of the Pancyprian Gymnasium (with the school's choir)
Fri	04.11.2017, 19:00 h	Paphos, Auditorium of the Music school (with the school's choirs)

Free entrance to all concerts!

The stage programme comprises sacred and secular music from early to contemporary composers, inter alia: Jacobus Gallus, Robert Schumann, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and Gunther Martin Goettsche. Also German folk songs, typical Berlin songs and international, specially contemporary choir music will be heard, as well as two traditional Cypriot folk songs.

During its stay the Berlin Girls Choir also is going to sing in public grounds, as in Nicosia, Ledras Street, near by the Human Rights Monument, on Wednesday, November 1st, around 12:30 am.

The Berlin Girls Choir is much engaged in the intercultural understanding and peaceful cooperation between young people of different cultural backgrounds. Therefore some overnight stays in Cyprian host families are planned. Furthermore the 40 singers, aged between 12 and 20, are going to visit schools in Agia Napa for auditions. The encounter programme will be completed by musical workshops with pupils from high schools in Larnaca, Nicosia and Paphos, as well as a workshop with dancers from Dasaki Achnas, whereby the girls get to know traditional Cypriot dances.

The choir's journey to Cyprus is mostly sponsored by the Goethe-Institute/German Foreign Office and will be made on initiative and by invitation of the Cyprian German Teachers Association.



BERLIN GIRLS CHOIR

The Berlin Girls Choir was founded in 1986. This ensemble is the oldest, biggest and most successful choir school for girls in Berlin. Around 160 girls and young women, aged between 6 and 28, are singing in five groups. The girls in the concert choir (aged 13 to 20) as the school's target rehearse twice a week and also get voice training or singing lessons.

The choir's repertoire comprises polyphonic literature for equal voices from all eras. A special focus lays on premieres of contemporary compositions. The girls regularly take part in projects of well-known Berlin concert choirs, radio choirs and orchestras and already performed under Claudio Abbado, Ingo Metzmacher, Roger Norrington and Charles Dutoit. The Berlin Girls Choir performs in all famous concert halls of the German capital.

Moreover, the Berlin Girls Choir participates in international competitions and festivals where it gained several 1st and 2nd prizes.

The Berlin Girls Choir maintains partnerships with girls' choirs from Israel, Lithuania, Sweden, Denmark and Albania. In autumn 2012 the concert choir made a concert tour to Japan, in May 2016 it traveled to Israel. In June 2017 the Albanian Girls Choir from Tirana visited the Berlin Girls Choir.

SABINE WÜSTHOFF, Artistic Director and Chief Conductor

Sabine Wüsthoff has been in charge of the Berlin Girls Choir since 1998. Born in Berlin, she graduated studying music at the Hannover University of Music, Drama and Media which she finished with a state examination. She has been a freelance conductor, composer and music educator ever since. In workshops and master courses, she specialized as choir director and orchestra conductor. Besides the Berlin Girls Choir, Sabine Wüsthoff also conducts the Schöneberg chamber orchestra, as well as the vocal ensemble Canto Berlin. She regularly gives courses for choir directors and conductors with the focus on body action and creativity. In 2003, Sabine Wüsthoff obtained the conductors' prize of the International Johannes-Brahms-Competition Wernigerode, and in 2008, she won the first prize in a competition of composers of the RIAS Chamber Choir. In 2015, the Berlin Choir Association assigned the Mendelssohn-Medal to her for outstanding merits for choir music in Berlin..

ELENI IRAKLEOUS, Pianist/Accompanist

Eleni Irakleous was born in Larnaca, Cyprus, in 1989. Nine years old, she started having piano lessons. She participated in many competitions, e. g. the Steinway Pancyprrian competition for young pianists 2006 (2nd price) and the Panmusica International piano competition in Vienna 2007 (3rd price). From 2009 – 2014, she studied piano and music education at the University of Arts in Berlin. Her passion has been singing ever since and in 2010, she founded "Duo Aenaos" which combines different styles of interpretation of Greek music. In 2011, Eleni Irakleous was awarded best singer of the traditional Cypriote song and won the 2nd place with her composition. In 2013, she composed the music for the play "Migronauts" of Elena Socratous. She works as a freelance pianist, singer, songwriter and music educator. Since 2015 she has been conducting the basic choir (aged 6 to 8) and the junior choir (aged 8 to 10) of the Berlin Girls Choir.

Further information can be found under: www.berlinermaedchenchor.de

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