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## **ChorWerk Ruhr**

ChorWerk Ruhr, founded in 1999, is a professional and highly flexible vocal ensemble with a repertoire that stretches from early Western homophony and polyphony to the important oratorios and beyond. Award-winning conductor Florian Helgath has been artistic director of ChorWerk Ruhr since November 2011, following in the steps of his predecessors Frieder Bernius and Rupert Huber. His work spotlights new choral music in the context of traditional musical forms, thus allowing them to have an impact on the listener against the backdrop of a rich music history. Together with this first class ensemble of young and flexible voices, he is able to produce choral music of the highest quality.

ChorWerk Ruhr has become one of the top artistic trademarks of the Ruhr Region and one of North Rhine-Westphalia's top choruses. Since its founding, the ensemble has performed concerts, ranging from early music to new music and working with prominent conductors such as Sylvain Cambreling, Reinhard Goebel, Robin Gritton, Susanna Mällki, Peter Neumann, Peter Rundel, Bruno Weil, and Hans Zender.

In Concerts with prominent orchestras like Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Concerto Köln, Ensemble Resonanz, musikFabrik NRW, Amsterdam's Schönberg Ensemble, Cappella Coloniensis, Ensemble Modern, Junge Deutsche Philharmonie, Sinfonieorchester Baden-Baden und Freiburg and Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks. ChorWerk Ruhr has thrilled audiences again and again and has been enthusiastically received by the critics. Frequent collaborations with WDR and DLF and participation in music festivals in Germany and abroad reflect the popularity of the excellent ensemble. Each year, ChorWerk Ruhr cooperates with Ruhrtriennale in a special way, this year with two productions: Louis Andriessens opera *De Materie* and the concert *Figure humaine* held at the Salzlager of UNESCO Welterbe Zollverein in Essen.

## **Florian Helgath, artistic director**

Florian Helgath achieved international success as a finalist and prizewinner in competitions such as the Eric Ericson Award in 2006 in Sweden and at the Competition for Young Choral Conductors in Budapest in 2007. Since November 2011 the director of the Danish Radio Chorus and Via Nova Chor, Munich, with which he has performed numerous world premiers and has been awarded national and international prizes, has also served as artistic director of ChorWerk Ruhr. Nikolaus Brass, Adriana Hölszky, Thomas Larcher, and Charlotte Seither are among the composers whose work he has premiered. A regular guest with Bayerischer Rundfunk, SWR Vokalensemble, and RIAS Kammerchor, he has worked with conductors such as Herbert Blomstedt, Kent Nagano, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, and Christian Thielemann. The orchestras he has worked with include Münchener Rundfunkorchester, Danish Chamber Orchestra, Münchner Symphoniker, Concerto Köln, Berlin's Akademie für Alte Musik, and Hamburg's Ensemble Resonanz.

His initial musical experience was in his hometown as a member of the boy's choir Regensburger Domspatzen. At Munich's Hochschule für Musik und Theater, he studied choral conducting with Michael Gläser. His musical training was completed with international master classes with prominent conductors such as Stefan Parkman, Stephen Cleobury, Dan-Olof Stenlund, Simon Halsey, and Jos van Veldhoven. In 2007, he was an active participant at Bayerischer Rundfunk's second Chordirigierforum, Bayerischer Rundfunk and a master class with Eric Ericson held in Haarlem, Netherlands.