Die Singphoniker (Vocal Ensemble) – ENGLISH

**Biography (long version, scroll down for short version)**

Die Singphoniker belong to the select circle of distinctive, internationally active vocal ensembles – a position they have been holding for more than 40 years. In an astonishingly manner their voices, each with its own individual artistic qualities, join to form a unique ensemble.

Die Singphoniker command an enormous repertoire: With Gregorian chants they impressively convey the mystery and spirituality of a medieval monastery. Madrigals of the Renaissance are transformed into living pictures of 16th century life. The profoundly emotional world of the Romantic era can be felt in the songs of Franz Schubert, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and Robert Schumann. The cheeky frivolity of the “Roaring Twenties” is palpable in the hits of the Comedian Harmonists. And the irresistible swing and groove of jazz and pop songs are brought to life just by their voices, without any microphones. Their interpretation of contemporary vocal music fascinates by a uniquely natural sound. In their concerts the Singphoniker combine varying styles to create an excitingly new sense of harmony. Their presentations are marked by stylistic certainty and considered programming. The addition of the piano – in all styles and with music from all eras – additionally sharpens the artistic profile and highlights the uniqueness of the Singphoniker.

Numerous awards and prizes as well as partnerships with renowned artists such as Ute Lemper and Angelika Kirchschlager demonstrate their international standing. They frequently work with international orchestras (e. g. the Orquesta Nacional de España, the Munich Radio Orchestra, the NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover, the Gulbenkian Orchestra Lisbon, the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, and the Orchestre national Montpellier Languedoc-Roussillon) and conductors (i. a. Sir Lawrence Foster, Paul Daniel, Ulf Schirmer, Howard Griffiths). Over the past years, the Singphoniker have regularly appeared in concert series and at major music festivals in Germany, Europe, Asia and America. Nearly 40 award winning CD recordings document the artistic quality and flexibility of the ensemble. Many contemporary composers have contributed works to the repertoire of the Singphoniker. Enjott Schneider’s cycles of songs, most recently “Chatroom” with texts from the worldwide web, as well as the world premiere of Wilfried Hiller’s church opera “Augustinus” in 2005 have brought great success to the group.

Die Singphoniker successfully grant lighter works a shade of gravity and heavier works a touch of delicacy. Their unique sound is described as warm, finely balanced and powerful. From the darkest depths to the brightest heights, the many facets of the male voice are woven into a homogenous whole. Their passion for music making is transmitted directly to the audience, it sets up an irresistible musical current.

**Johannes Euler (countertenor)**

His phenomenal voice blossoms at the top, where other voices wither away.

**Daniel Schreiber (tenor)**

Whether lyrical or dramatic, comical or jazzy, Schubert or Singphonic, this tenor can do it all.

**Henning Jensen (tenor)**

Thinks of himself as a baritone, but this italianate tenor is equally brilliant as an alto.

**Marlo Honselmann (bass-baritone)**

A bass-baritone with a golden sound, astounding breath control and flexibility.

**Florian Drexel (bass)**

His multifaceted bass timbre gives the Singphonic sound its foundation.

**Berno Scharpf (piano, baritone, voice percussion)**

His sensitive touch on the piano gives Schubert a magical sound; as a vocal percussionist he is indispensable.

**Biography (short version)**

Die Singphoniker belong to the select circle of distinctive, internationally active vocal ensembles – a position they have been holding for more than 40 years. They command an enormous repertoire ranging from the Renaissance to the contemporary and covering both popular and art music, both secular and sacred works. Their concerts hence combine varying styles to create an excitingly new sense of harmony, making the Singphoniker a reference point for the German vocal scene.

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