

Collegium Vocale Gent

Collegium Vocale Gent was founded in 1970 on Philippe Herreweghe's initiative. The ensemble was one of the first to use new ideas about baroque performance practice in vocal music. Their authentic, text-oriented and rhetorical approach gave the ensemble the transparent sound with which it would acquire world fame and perform at the major concert venues and music festivals of Europe, the United States, Russia, South America, Japan, Hong Kong and Australia. Since 2017 the ensemble runs its own summer festival *Collegium Vocale Crete Senesi* in Tuscany, Italy.

In recent years, Collegium Vocale Gent has grown organically into an extremely flexible ensemble whose wide repertoire encompasses a range of different stylistic periods. Its greatest strength is its ability to assemble the ideal performing forces for any project. Music from the Renaissance, for example, is performed by a small group soloists. German Baroque music, particularly J.S. Bach's vocal works, has been a speciality of the group and is still the jewel in its crown. Collegium Vocale Gent is also specializing in the Romantic, modern and contemporary oratorio repertoires, performed with the symphonic choir up to 80 singers.

Besides performing with its own baroque orchestra, Collegium Vocale Gent works with several historically informed instrumental ensembles to perform these projects, including the Orchestre des Champs Elysées, Freiburger Barockorchester and Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin. It also works with prominent symphony orchestras such as the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Budapest Festival Orchestra, the Staatskapelle Dresden or the Chamber Orchestra of Europe. Next to Philippe Herreweghe the ensemble works together with numerous other leading conductors. In the upcoming seasons projects are scheduled with Benjamin Bayl, Francesco Corti, Pablo Heras-Cesado, Ivàn Fischer, Barbora Kabatková, Kaspars Putnins and James Wood among others.

Under Philippe Herreweghe's direction, Collegium Vocale Gent has built up an impressive discography with more than 100 recordings, most of them with the Harmonia Mundi France and Virgin Classics labels. In 2010, Philippe Herreweghe started his own label ϕ (phi) together with Outhere Music in order to give himself full artistic freedom to build up a rich and varied catalogue. Meanwhile, some twenty-five recordings are available featuring vocal works by Bach, Byrd, Beethoven, Brahms, Dvořák, Gesualdo, Haydn, and Victoria. Recent releases include *Anima dolorosa*; the Fourth Book of Madrigals by Claudio Monteverdi (LPH37); Beethoven's oratorio *Christus am Ölberge* (LPH039); *Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben*, cantatas by J.S. Bach (LPH041); as well as a recording of *Einstein on the Beach*, the iconic opera by Philip Glass, in collaboration with Ictus (VLEK42).

Collegium Vocale Gent enjoys the financial support of the Flemish Community, the city of Ghent and Belgium's National Lottery.

More info via: www.collegiumvocale.com & www.collegiumvocalecetesenesi.com

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Short version:

Collegium Vocale Gent, founded in 1970 by Philippe Herreweghe, played a pioneering role in a revolutionary approach to Baroque music, with a focus on authenticity and textual depth. Within just a few years, the ensemble gained worldwide fame, performing on the most prestigious stages and festivals across the globe, from Europe to the United States, from Russia to Japan. In 2017, the ensemble added a new chapter to its rich history with the launch of its own summer festival, Collegium Vocale Crete Senesi, in the enchanting region of Tuscany.

With unparalleled versatility and a broad repertoire spanning various musical periods, Collegium Vocale Gent has evolved into a leading ensemble on the international music scene. Whether presenting solo performances of Renaissance music, the vocal works of Bach, or large-scale symphonic renditions of classical, romantic, and contemporary oratorio repertoire, the ensemble always assembles the ideal formation for each project. Collaborations with prominent historically informed and symphonic ensembles, as well as with renowned conductors, further enrich the musical journey Collegium Vocale Gent offers its audiences.

Under the inspired leadership of Philippe Herreweghe, Collegium Vocale Gent has built an impressive discography, with over 100 recordings showcasing boundless artistic freedom. Its own label, ϕ (PHI), serves as a platform for innovative and profound interpretations of works by Bach, Beethoven, Gesualdo, Monteverdi, and many others. Thanks to the support of the Flemish Community, the city of Ghent, and the National Lottery, Collegium Vocale Gent continues to be a beacon of musical excellence and artistic innovation.