

Lachenmann Music

Barucco Vocal Ensemble & Orchestra

The Barucco Ensemble embodies a vibrant yet thoughtful approach to the music of past centuries. Founded by Heinz Ferlesch and Andreas Helm, it combines artistic passion with a deep interest in historical performance practice. At the intersection of scholarly curiosity and immediate expressiveness, the ensemble creates interpretations that combine both stylistic authenticity and emotional intensity.

With a repertoire ranging from the great masterpieces of the Baroque and Classical periods to rarely performed discoveries, Barucco opens up new perspectives on both familiar and unfamiliar musical worlds. In doing so, the ensemble sees itself not only as a guardian of musical traditions, but also as a creative catalyst that brings historical music to life in all its vitality and relevance.

For performances of major Baroque and Classical oratorios, Barucco collaborates with renowned Austrian choirs, including the Wiener Singakademie and Chor Ad Libitum. A particular focus lies on the oratorios of George Frideric Handel and Joseph Haydn, the masses and Requiem of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and the Ninth Symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven. The 'Sing on Stage' concert format, developed in collaboration with the Vienna Konzerthaus, offers the audience an innovative concert experience.

In 2023, the vocal ensemble Barucco Vokal was founded, bringing together outstanding soloists who combine vocal virtuosity with a deep understanding of historical performance practice. The ensemble interprets works with stylistic authenticity and emotional expressiveness. A distinctive feature of Barucco Vokal is the revival of the practice whereby both solo and choral passages are sung by members of the ensemble – a tradition that has largely been lost over the centuries due to the separation of choir and soloists.

As a chamber music consort, Barucco presents innovative programmes in various formations, such as for wind music. Further programmes are dedicated to Baroque music from Austria as well as works by lesser-known composers such as Johann Friedrich Fasch. Chamber music featuring vocal soloists or ensembles, such as cantatas by Johann Sebastian Bach, also forms part of the repertoire. Another focus of the consort lies in the exciting interplay between music and historical dance.

The ensemble has already released several highly acclaimed CD recordings, which have been enthusiastically received by both audiences and critics alike. Among the best-known releases are a live recording of Handel's "Judas Maccabaeus" with the Vienna Singakademie at the Vienna Konzerthaus, and a recording of "Alexander's Feast" in the ORF Edition Alte Musik. In 2014, a CD and DVD production of Henry Purcell's "King Arthur" in an arrangement by Helmut Jasbar was also released under the title "The King Arthur Seance – On Henry Purcell's Shoulders".

As an ensemble based in Lower Austria, Barucco has set itself the goal of enriching the regional cultural landscape whilst acting as an ambassador for Lower Austria's cultural heritage. Its varied programme is generously supported by public funding.

A visible sign of this commitment are the regular concerts held as part of the Haydn Region Lower Austria. In addition, Barucco has also been organising performances in the towns of Herzogenburg and Melk since 2020.