

## Collegium 1704 & Collegium Vocale 1704

The harpsichordist and conductor Václav Luks founded the two ensembles on the occasion of the project Bach — Prague — 2005. Since 2007, they have been making regular guest appearances at festivals all over Europe. In 2008, Music Bridge Prague — Dresden began, bringing together the two cities' wealth of cultural traditions. Their collaborations with such world-famous soloists as Magdalena Kožená, Vivica Genaux, and Bejun Mehta in 2012 led seamlessly to a second Collegium 1704 concert series at the Rudolfinum. Since autumn 2015, the two cycles have been merged into a single concert season that continues to take place in parallel in Prague and Dresden. In 2019 Collegium Vocale 1704 launched a series of chamber choir concerts in Prague.

In the field of opera, Collegium 1704 followed up on the international successes of its production of Handel's *Rinaldo* with performances of Josef Mysliveček's *L'olimpiade*, nominated for the 2014 International Opera Awards, and of Antonio Vivaldi's *Arsilda, regina di Ponto* in its modern-era world premiere. Collegium 1704 has received invitations recently from such prestigious presenters as the Salzburger Festspiele (2015, 2016, 2018, 2019), the Berliner Philharmonie, London's Wigmore Hall, Vienna's Theater an der Wien and Konzerthaus, the Lucerne Festival, BOZAR (Palais des Beaux-Arts) in Brussels, the Chopin Festival in Warsaw, Wratistavia Cantans, and the Elbphilharmonie, and it is an ensemble-in-residence at the prestigious festival Oude Muziek in Utrecht, at the Leipzig Bachfest and Château de Versailles. In 2014, under the baton of Václav Luks Collegium 1704 collaborated with Bejun Mehta on a DVD of Gluck's opera *Orfeo ed Euridice* with the stage director Ondřej Havelka and with Rolando Villazón on the making of the BBC 2 documentary *Mozart in Prague*. The ensemble took part in making the director Petr Václav's epic film *Il Boemo* about the life of Josef Mysliveček.

The recordings of Collegium 1704 are popular with listeners and music critics (they have repeatedly won the Diapason d'Or, CD of the Month & Editor's Choice, and nominations for CD of the Year Gramophone Magazine). Among their successful CD recordings have been the violin concertos of Josef Mysliveček, oboe concertos, cantatas, and the *B Minor Mass* by Johann Sebastian Bach, the world premiere of J. D. Zelenka's *Missa Divi Xaverii*, and sonatas by Zelenka (both Zelenka recordings were honoured with the prestigious Diapason d'Or). In 2019, Collegium 1704 issued the first complete Czech recording of Handel's *Messiah* and a collection titled *Il giardino dei sospiri* with selections from Baroque secular cantatas sung by Magdalena Kožená. The latest recordings are an imaginary mass by J. D. Zelenka, *Missa 1724*, and the opera *Les Boréades* by Jean-Philippe Rameau, which won the Trophées 2020 award for the best opera recording of the year.