

## Collegium 1704 & Collegium Vocale 1704

The **harpsichordist and conductor Václav Luks** founded the Prague baroque orchestra **Collegium 1704** and vocal ensemble **Collegium Vocale 1704** on the occasion of the project **Bach — Prague — 2005**. In 2008, **Music Bridge Prague — Dresden** began, bringing together the two cities' wealth of cultural traditions. Collaborations with such world-famous soloists as Magdalena Kožená and Vivica Genaux in 2012 led seamlessly to a **second Collegium 1704 concert series at the Rudolfinum in Prague**. 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 concerts**, continuing since 2021 at Vzlet, the Prague palace of culture.

In the field of opera, Collegium 1704 followed up on the international successes of its production of Handel's *Rinaldo* with performances of Mysliveček's *L'olimpiade*, nominated for the 2014 International Opera Awards, and of Vivaldi's *Arsilda* in modern-era world premiere. Recently, it has **received invitations** from such **prestigious presenters and concert halls** as Salzburger Festspiele, Berliner Philharmonie, London's Wigmore Hall, Theater an der Wien, Lucerne Festival, BOZAR in Brussels, Chopin Festival in Warsaw, Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, Zaryade in Moscow, and it is an ensemble-in-residence at the Opéra Royal in Versailles and at festivals Oude Muziek in Utrecht and the Leipzig Bachfest. In May 2021, Collegium 1704 **opened the international music festival Prague Spring** with a performance of Smetana's *My Country*.

In 2014, 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 takes part in making the director Petr Václav's **epic historical film *Il Boemo*** about the life of Josef Mysliveček.

Their **recordings** are popular with both listeners and music critics (Diapason d'Or, CD of the Month & Editor's Choice, and nominations for CD of the Year by *Gramophone*). Among their successful CD recordings have been Mysliveček's violin concertos, Bach's *B Minor Mass*, Zelenka's *Sonatas* and *Missa Divi Xaverii*. Their most important recent achievements include **the first complete Czech recording of Handel's *Messiah*** and a 3-CD with **Rameau's opera *Les Boréades***, which won the Trophées 2020 award for the **best opera release of the year**.

In 2021, the ensemble founded its own **online platform UNIVERSO 1704**, where it releases premieres of video-concerts that connect exceptional works in top-class interpretations with the genius loci of attractive places in the Czech Republic and Germany.