

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, which in 2012 led seamlessly to a **second Collegium 1704 concert series at the Rudolfinum in Prague**. In 2019 Collegium Vocale 1704 launched a **series of chamber concerts**, continuing since 2021 at Vzlet, the Prague palace of culture.

Recently, it has **received invitations** from such **prestigious presenters and concert halls** as Salzburger Festspiele, Berliner Philharmonie, Theater an der Wien, Wiener Konzerthaus, 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 Bachfest Leipzig. In May 2021, Collegium 1704 **opened the international music festival Prague Spring** with a performance of Smetana's *My Country*.

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. In February 2022 presented **Händel's opera Alcina** directed by J. Heřman in co-production with ND Brno, Opéra Royal de Versailles and Théâtre de Caen.

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 recorded music for the director Petr Václav's **upcoming feature film *Il Boemo*** about the life of Josef Mysliveček, to be released in July 2022.

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 and Edison Klassiek awards 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.