

# DRESDNER KREUZCHOR

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### VITA

The Dresden Kreuzchor (Choir of the Holy Cross) is one of the world's oldest and most famous boys' choirs. Its most important task nearly 800 years later is still the musical accompaniment of the vespers and other services at Dresden's Kreuzkirche. Not only on high church holidays but also throughout the whole church year, the Kreuzchor accompanies half of all liturgical services in the famous church at the old market square.

The impressive architecture of the Kreuzkirche is an added attraction for the 3,000 people who come to hear the choir concerts. As the city's oldest cultural institution, the Dresden Kreuzchor has marked Dresden's musical life in a very special way, ranking as it does among the ensembles of highest artistic renown of its kind. As one of its most prominent ambassadors, it spreads the city's excellent reputation as a cultural metropolis throughout the world.

Several times a year, the Dresden Kreuzchor goes on national and international concert tours, travelling beyond German and European borders to Israel, Canada, Japan, South America and the USA. Moreover, it performs at international music festivals as well as countless radio and television recordings. A very wide repertoire ranging from early Baroque to world premieres of contemporary music has enabled it to make more than 800 recordings in the last 80 years for prestigious record labels such as Deutsche Grammophon, Teldec, Capriccio and Berlin Classics. It cooperates continually with famous orchestras such as the Dresden Philharmonic and the Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden (Saxon Staatskapelle Dresden). Renowned opera houses regularly hire choir soloists for solo parts such as "The Three Boys" in the Magic Flute.

The Kreuzchor singers, known as "Kruzianer" (Crucians), still do the Abitur (university entrance qualification) exam at the Kreuzschule; about half of them live in the neighbouring boarding house called the "Alumnat". In addition to their normal classes, the approximately 130 singers aged nine to eighteen have weekly vocal and instrument music lessons. Their daily rehearsals and the specific choral sound form the basis of the Dresden Kreuzchor's success and fame.