

Biography | February 2024

Ton Koopman | Conductor

Ton Koopman founded the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra (ABO) in 1979 and the internationally renowned baroque specialists meet several times a year to develop new programmes. Every concert is a new experience for the musicians, and Koopman's boundless energy and endless enthusiasm ensure the high quality of each and every concert.

The Amsterdam Baroque Choir (ABC) was founded in 1992 and made its debut at the Holland Festival Oude Muziek in Utrecht with a contemporary premiere of the Requiem (for 15 voices) and Vespers (for 32 voices) by H.I.F. Biber. The recording of this concert was honoured with the Cannes Classical Award for the best performance of choral music from the 17th and 18th centuries. Thanks to its rare combination of textual clarity and interpretative flexibility, the Amsterdam Baroque Choir is considered one of the best choirs of our time.

In the years 1994-2004, Ton Koopman and the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra & Choir (ABO&C) realised their most ambitious recording project to date: the complete recordings of J.S. Bach's cantatas, for which they received the German Echo Klassik Record Award. This was followed in 2014 by another large-scale endeavor: a comprehensive recording of the complete works of Dieterich Buxtehude, collected in the Opera-Omnia edition and comprising all of Buxtehude's surviving chamber music, harpsichord, organ and vocal works.

The ABO&C has recorded all the major baroque and classical works for various record companies and has been honoured with numerous awards, including the Gramophone Award, Diapason d'Or, Prix Hector Berlioz, Edison Awards, BBC Award and Echo Klassik.

Ton Koopman and the ABO&C are regular guests in the major concert halls of Europe, the USA and Asia. Their schedule of the current season includes performances at the Bach Festival in Münster, the Prague Spring Festival and the Bach Festival in Leipzig.

Short version

Ton Koopman founded the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra in 1979, followed by the Amsterdam Baroque Choir in 1992. The orchestra consists of internationally recognised baroque specialists and the choir is regarded as one of the finest vocal ensembles of our time.

In two of their most ambitious projects, the complete recording of all cantatas by J.S. Bach was followed by the complete recording of Dieterich Buxtehude's works. The ABO&C has been honoured with numerous awards for its recordings, including the Gramophone Awards, the Echo Klassik and the Diapason d'Or.

Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra & Choir

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The renowned ensemble is a regular guest in the major concert halls of Europe, the USA and Asia. In 2024, the ensemble will perform at the Bach Festival in Münster, the Prague Spring Festival and the Bach Festival in Leipzig.