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At almost 81 years of age, this man is making his debut here

Ton Koopman conducts with such youthful energy that it is a joy to watch; his ensembles sound fresh. Musical sustainability at its finest. The transparent, agile sound of the Amsterdam Baroque Choir, comprising 20 singers, is simply marvellous.

Hamburger Abendblatt | Elbphilharmonie | Marcus Stähler | June 25th, 2025

Red ties and trumpets: Ton Koopman's ceremonial Bach at the Elbphilharmonie

The orchestral sound was crisp and transparent, opting for a lean, finely chiseled sonority that made contrapuntal detail sparkle. Strings were buoyant and clean, winds vivid but never brash, and the overall effect was one of sonic "high definition" – a tactile, granular sound that lent the music immediacy and brilliance. Throughout the evening, the well-blended ensemble sang with firm rhythm and lucid diction, giving radiant lift to the final choruses of each work. This performance marked Koopman's debut at the Elbphilharmonie and, fittingly, the final concert of this season's Das Alte Werk series. Under his direction, Bach's secular cantatas emerged as living works – exuberant, eloquent and still capable of lighting up a room nearly 300 years after their creation. It was a meaningful, celebratory midsummer evening to be remembered.

Bachtrack | Hamburg, Elbphilharmonie | Mengguang Huang | 24. Juni 2025