



GUMPOLDSKIRCHNER
SPATZEN

MEDIA INFO

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INFO

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1 THE GUMPOLDSKIRCHNER SPATZEN

History of the Choir

The internationally renowned children's choir ensemble was founded in 1949 by Prof. Josef Wolfgang Ziegler (1906–2000). His credo that all children could sing led many young talents to international fame. In 1969 his daughter, Prof. Elisabeth Ziegler, took over the leadership, always emphasizing professionalism and a deep love for music. The young artists performed regularly at the Vienna State Opera and other opera houses, earning them the nickname "Vienna Opera Children's Choir".

International performances included tours to Japan, China, the USA, Canada, and numerous European countries, as well as participation in choir competitions, where the choir was able to be successful consistently, often times winning first prizes.

Other key aspects of the choir's work included appearances on radio and television, as well as CD productions. The children's choir had the privilege of collaborating with renowned artists such as L. Bernstein, H. Stein, Sir G. Solti, C. Abbado, U. Schirmer, G. C. Menotti, and F. Zeffirelli. The Christmas show "Christmas in Vienna" became an annual highlight for the Gumpoldskirchner Spatzen. P. Domingo, J. Carreras, L. Pavarotti, D. Ross, C. Aznavour, M. Bolton, U. Jürgens, R. Fendrich, P. Kaas, and the Scorpions, to name just a few, praised the young singers for their quality, professionalism, and natural stage presence.

In 1994 the choir and its director were honored with the Ferdinand Grossmann Award, presented by P. Domingo, for their outstanding contributions to musical youth education.



A key mission remains preserving the children's spontaneity and joy in making music, even amidst intensive artistic work. The Spatzen's diverse repertoire includes not only classical choral literature but also folk songs, traditional Viennese songs, musicals, and contemporary popular music.

Since 2022 the Gumpoldskirchner Spatzen have been led by Katja Kalmar, who is committed to maintaining the choir's rich repertoire and traditions while expanding its artistic horizon through innovative projects.

Recent highlights include a production for the Vienna Festwochen, participation as the representative choir for Lower Austria in the ORF program „Österreich singt wieder“, which translates to „Austria sings again“ at the Mozarteum Salzburg, and a concert tour to Chicago for the Grant Park Music Festival 2024, where the choir took part in the performance of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 8.



Artistic Direction

Katja Kalmar Choral Director

Katja Kalmar was born in Vienna and studied vocal education with a focus on piano and solo singing at the Joseph Haydn Conservatory in Eisenstadt and the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna under MMMMag. Alexander Josef Mayr.

By participating in various masterclasses in singing, including those with KS Bernarda Fink, Claudia Visca, Walter Moore, Eduard Kutrowatz, and in choral conducting with Johannes Prinz, she was able to broaden her musical expertise.

On stage, Katja Kalmar has portrayed roles such as Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. She also has a keen interest in the early music, which she demonstrated in 2017 with her performance as Vespetta in G. Ph. Telemann's opera *Pimpinone*.

Choral work is another of her passions. In 2012 she founded the choir *d'accord wien*, which she has conducted ever since. Under her direction, the choir has performed successfully in numerous concerts, including Verdi's *Requiem* (2019) and Bach's *Mass in B minor* (2022) at the Vienna Konzerthaus. The choir has been consistently successful in choral competitions.

In 2022 Katja Kalmar and *d'accord wien* won the Chorforum Vienna's „Choral Project of the Year“ award with their program „*d'accord e(s)t la femme*,“ which focused exclusively on works by female composers. In 2023-2024 she successfully completed the *chor.leiten bravura* masterclass of the Lower Austrian Choral Association under Erwin Ortner.

In January 2022 she took over as the choral director of the Gumpoldskirchner Spatzen. Since then, she has led the choir to success, with performances at the Vienna Festival Weeks, *Bühne Baden*, ORF's *Austria Sings Again*, and the Grant Park Music Festival in Chicago.





Andelko Igrec **Assistant Choral Director**

Andelko Igrec studied composition, church music, and orchestral conducting at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (mdw). From 1999 to 2017 he was the Cathedral Organist and Cathedral Director in Varaždin.

As a conductor and composer he worked with numerous Croatian and international orchestras and served as the Music Director at the Bühne Baden. He also taught at the Institute for Church Music in Zagreb and at

Objective and Mission: The choir's values and goals and the educational and cultural significance

The children's choir „Gumpoldskirchner Spatzen” is dedicated to providing young singers with a solid musical education while supporting their personal and artistic development. Through a shared joy for music, they create a space where children and young people can unfold their voices, gain self-confidence, and experience teamwork.

The repertoire includes works from various eras and styles, with a special focus on the high quality of the performances.

the Organ Summer School in Šibenik for several years. He was the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Orchestra of the Music Friends of Baden for ten years and has been the Regens Chori of St. Stephan's Parish since 2017. The Varaždin Choir „Chorus angelicus” which he founded and led holds a very special place in his heart. He was able to transform the „Chorus angelicus” from a youth and cathedral choir into an ensemble that passionately performs even the most challenging works of classical music, from Monteverdi's Vespro della beata vergine, Bach's Mass in B minor, Mendelssohn's Elijah, Honegger's King David, to performances of contemporary works.

For his work as a composer and conductor he has received several awards. Recordings of his compositions and interpretations have been honored multiple times, including the Croatian Music Award „Porin”.



As cultural ambassadors of Austria the choir nurtures international friendships and contributes to connecting people worldwide through music with their performances.

Unique Qualities

The Gumpoldskirchner Spatzen are much more than just a choir – they offer a platform where individual talents are nurtured and personal development is supported. The manageable size of the choir ensures that each member can receive personalized attention.

The focus lies on the individual: The personal abilities, needs, and goals of each child and young person are specifically fostered, allowing them to grow both musically and personally. It is particularly noteworthy that the choir offers children and young people the opportunity to become part of a professional ensemble, not only in Gumpoldskirchen but also in surrounding areas. In an artistically demanding environment, they gain valuable stage experience through concerts and international performances.

In addition to musical training, the members also learn important values such as determination, reliability, commitment, and solidarity,

which accompany them not only on stage but throughout their entire lives. Many former Gumpoldskirchner Spatzen pursue a professional career in music after their time in the choir, turning singing or playing music into their profession.

This close connection between professional training, individual support, and the teaching of important life values has made the choir a significant part of the Austrian choral scene for over 75 years.



2 REPERTOIRE AND CONCERTS

Overview of the Repertoire

The Gumpoldskirchner Spatzen children's choir is distinguished by its **versatile repertoire**, which includes works from various musical eras and styles. The choir preserves the tradition of Austrian folk songs and Austrian musical heritage, but combines them with modern choral literature and international compositions.

In addition to smaller pieces with and without instrumental accompaniment, it also regularly focuses on large-scale works of classical music. Highlights of the performances of the Spatzen include Johann Sebastian Bach's **St. Matthew Passion**, Gustav Mahler's **8th Symphony**, and Leonard Bernstein's **Kaddish**.

Highlights

- **1950:** First performance in the ORF
- **1956 & 1957:** 1st & 2nd Germany Tour
- **1958:** Four Month US and Canada Tour
„Vienna on Parade“
- **1959:** „Song of Peace“ (S. Prokofiev), Vienna Musikverein und 3. Germany Tour
- **1960 & 1961:** 4th & 5th Germany Tour
- **1962:** „St. Matthew Passion“ (J. S. Bach), Vienna Musikverein
„Elias“ (F. Mendelssohn), Vienna Musikverein
6th Germany Tour
- **1963:** 7th Deutschlandtournee
- **1964:** Concert for the King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit of Thailand
8th Germany Tour
„Festival voor de Jeugd“, Neerpelt Belgien, 1st price
- **1971:** „Boris Godunow“ (M. Mussorgski), „Pique Dame“ (P. I. Tschaikowsky)
Vienna State Opera, Bolschojtheatre
Televisionproduction „Libussa“
- **1974:** „Festival voor de Jeugd“, Neerpelt Belgien, 1st price
12th Germany Tour



- **1975:**
13th Germany Tour
LP-Production „The Mastersingers of Nuremberg“ (R. Wagner),
Vienna Philharmonics, Staatsopernchor, cond.: Sir G. Solti
- **1976:**
Rerecording of „Boris Gudonow“ (M. Mussorgski), director.: O. Schenk
14th Germany Tour
„Passion of the 20th century - Maximilian Kolbe“ Vienna Musikverein
- **1977:**
LP Production „Mefistofele“ (A. Boito), Vienna Philharmonics, Staatsopernchor,
cond.: L. Bernstein
„Festival voor de Jeugd“, Neerpelt Belgien, 1st price
15th Germany Tour
LP Production „St. Gerolder Kinder-Jazzmesse“ (E. Kleinschuster)
- **1978 - 1984:**
16th - 21st Germany Tour
- **1985:**
Children`s choir festival in Nantes, Frankreich, 2nd price
- **1986:**
Opening of the Vienna Festwochen with Udo Jürgens
Bundesjugendsingen Innsbruck, Lower Austria
Representatives
- **1987:**
„Le Grand Macabre“ (G. Ligeti), Vienna Konzerthaus
1st Japan Tour
- **1988:**
„Jakob Lenz“ (W. Rihm), Vienna Konzerthaus
- **1989:**
2nd Japan Tour
40th Anniversaryconcert „Gumpoldskirchner Spatzen“
Casino Baden
- **1990:**
Festival „Wien Modern“, „Prozesse“ (E. Reedl),
Première
- **1991:**
„Christophorus“ (F. Schreker), Vienna Symphonics,
Vienna Konzerthaus
3rd Japan Tour
- **1992:**
„Marienlegenden“ (B. Martinú), Vienna Symphonics, Vienna Konzerthaus,
cond.: U. Schirmer
„Festival voor de Jeugd“, Neerpelt Belgien, 1st price
„Chichester Psalms“ (L. Bernstein), ORF production
„Christmas in Vienna“, P. Domingo, J. Carras, D. Ross, Vienna Symphonics
- **1994:**
4th Japan Tour
„Christmas in Vienna“, P. Domingo, Ch. Aznawour, S. Kyrkjebo, Museumsquartier
- **1995:**
„Carmina Burana“ (C. Orff), Danube Festival
„Christmas in Vienna“, P. Domingo, J. Carreras, N. Cole, Vienna Konzerthaus
- **1996:**
„Christmas in Vienna“, P. Domingo, M. Bolton, Y. Huang, Vienna Konzerthaus
- **1997:**
„8th Symphonie“ (G. Mahler), Festival Hall St. Pölten, ORF orchestra, cond.: F. Luisi
5th Japan Tour
„Christmas in Vienna“, P. Domingo, H. Lotti, R. Cocciant, S. Brightman,
Vienna City Hall



- **1998:**
 „Propheten“ (K. Weill), RSO Vienna, Vienna Konzerthaus
 „Te Deum“ (H. Berlioz), Vienna Musikverein
 „Christmas in Vienna“, P. Domingo, P. Kaas, A. Fernandez, Vienna Konzerthaus
- **1999:**
 50th Anniversary Concert „Gumpoldskirchner Spatzen“ Casino Baden
 „Christmas in Vienna“, P. Domingo, J. Carreras, L. Pavarotti, Vienna Konzerthaus
- **2000:**
 Oppening „Expo 2000 in Hannover“ with the Scorpions
 „Christmas in Vienna“, P. Domingo, T. Bennett, V. Williams, Ch. Church, Vienna Konzerthaus
- **2001:**
 „Epsteins Night“, Movie production with M. Adort, O. Tausig, B. Ganz, A. Giradot
- **2002:**
 „Festival voor de Jeugd“, Neerpelt Belgien, 1st price
- **2003:**
 Galaconcert „Künstler helfen Künstlern“, Theater an der Wien
- **2005:**
 Charity concert „Menschen für Menschen“ with K. H. Böhm
 Opening concert „Chorszene NÖ“, Festival Hall St. Pölten
- **2006:**
 „Brundibár“ (H. Krasas), Musicuniversity Vienna
- **2007:**
 Concert trip to Rome, X-Mas Concert with J. Carreras, Accademia di Santa Cecilia
- **2008:**
 Opening Concert „Musik-Festival-Grafenegg“,
 „La Damnation de Faust“ (H. Berlioz, NÖ Tonkünstler
 „St. Matthew Passion“ (J. S. Bach), Vienna Konzerthaus,
 Vienna Singakademie, Ensemble „Barucco“, cond.: H. Ferlesch
- **2011:**
 „9th Symphony“ (L. v. Beethoven), on the occasion of “20 Years of Europe”
 Dome of Mailand
- **2012:**
 „Requiem“ (M. Theodorakis), Vienna Singakademie, Vienna Kammerorchester,
 Vienna Konzerthaus, cond.: S. Vladar
 Concert trip Barcelona, Spain
- **2013:**
 „G. F. Händel - Children`s Choir Festival“, Halle a.d. Salle, Germany
- **2014:**
 1st Tour of China
 Opening Concert „G. F. Händel - Children`s Choir Festival“, Halle a.d. Salle,
 Germany
- **2016:**
 „Carmina Burana“ (C. Orff), Festival Hall St. Pölten, cond.: H. Ferlesch
 Finalist at „Die Große Chance der Chöre“, ORF-Competition
- **2017:**
 2nd China Tour
 „8th Symphony“ (G. Mahler), Vienna Singverein, Tonkünstlerorchester, Vienna
 Musikverein, cond.: A. Orozco-Estrada
 „Zauberhafte Weihnacht im Land der stillen Nacht“, ORF-Production with
 C. Wurst, R. Villazon, Z. Straub, DJ Ötzi, S. Rossi, U. Glas, D. Garrett, Voxclub and
 the Nockalm Quintett
 „Aladdin“ (R. Persché), Bühne Baden
- **2018:**
 Participation in the „World Choir Games“ in Tschwane, S-Africa, 1st & 2nd
 price



- **2019:**
„Aufhorchen“ – Concert Hall St. Pölten – Volkskultur Lower Austria
70th Anniversary Concert „Gumpoldskirchner Spatzen“ with all Partner
Choirs from Gumpoldskirchen
- **2021:**
„Kaddish“ (L. Bernstein, cond.: M. Alsop) in the Vienna Konzerthaus, RSO Vienna
- **May/2022:**
Festival „Voices of Spirit“ in Graz (with D. Ganahl)
- **March/2023:**
„St. Matthew Passion“ (J. S. Bach) with Chorszene Lower Austria
(H. Ferlesch) in Grafenegg
- **May/2023:**
Mother’s Day Concert Berndorf
- **June/2023:**
„Exodus“ Vienna Festwochen
- **October/2023:**
„Spatzen & Friends“ in the Congress Centre Baden with KS D. Fally
- **October/2023:**
Representation of Lower Austria at the ORF Production
„Österreich singt wieder“ in Salzburg
- **January - March/
2024:**
„The Bohème“ (G. Puccini), Bühne Baden
- **August/2024:**
„8th Symphony“ (G. Mahler) as part of the „Grant Park Musical Festival“
in Chicago, USA
- **September/2024:** 75th Anniversary Concert „Gumpoldskirchner Spatzen“
In Participation: Gumpoldskirchen Chamber Choir „Vox Humana“ and
Women’s Chamber Choir „Cantilena“
- **December/2024:** Family Opera „Der herzlose Riese“ (E. Kats-Chernin & S. F. Wolf),
Theater an der Wien
- **February -
March/2025:**
„Tosca“, (G. Puccini), Bühne Baden
- **April/2025:**
Opening concert Klassik.Klang Berndorf
- **May/2025:**
Charity concert Passionsspielhaus Kirchschlag



1971 - current: Stage Productions

Vienna State Opera:

- „Pique Dame“ (P. I. Tschaikowsky) (1971 & 1979)
- „The Young Lord“ (H. W. Henze) (1978)
- „Hilfe, Hilfe, die Globolinks kommen“ (G. C. Menotti) (1980)
- „Tannhäuser“ (R. Wagner) (1982)
- „The Nutcracker“ (P. I. Tschaikowsky) (1982)
- „Carmen“ (G. Bizet) (1984)
- „Bajazzo“ (R. Leoncavallo) (1985)
- „Werther“ (J. Massenet) (1986 & 1996)
- „Jakob Lenz“ (W. Rihm) (1988 & 1998)
- „Boris Gudunow“ (M. Mussorgski) (1988)
- „Wozzeck“ (A. Berg) (1991)
- „Turandot“ (G. Puccini) (1996)

Vienna Volksoper:

- „Das schlaue Füchslein“ (L. Janáček) (1992)

Vienna Kammeroper:

- „Turn of the Screw“ (B. Britten) (1995)
- „Der kleine Schornsteinfeger“ (B. Britten) (1998)

Theater an der Wien:

- „Street Scene“ (K. Weill) mit BBC Orchestra (2010)
- „Il Trittico - Suor Angelica“ (G. Puccini) (2012)
- „Attila“ (G. Verdi) (2013)
- „Der herzlose Riese“ (E. Kats-Chernin & S. F. Wolf) (2024)

City Theatre Baden:

- „Sound of Music“ (R. Rodgers) (1994)
- „The King and I“ (R. Rodgers) (1996)
- „Evita“ (A. Lloyd Webber) (2006)
- „The magic flute“ (W. A. Mozart) (2015/16)
- „Aladdin“ (R. Persché) (2017)
- „The Bohème“ (G. Puccini) (2024)
- „Tosca“ (G. Puccini) (2025)



Movie and TV

„Die Große Chance der Chöre“ (2016)

„Zauberhafte Weihnacht im Land der stillen Nacht“ (2017)

Representing Lower Austria in the ORF Production
„Österreich singt wieder“ in Salzburg (2023)

Recordings for multiple movie productions at the
Synchron Stage Vienna

3 PRESS REVIEWS

**Here you will find a folder with press reviews
for download:**

[Download of press reviews](#)

PHOTO MATERIAL 4

High quality images of the choir:
Group photos, concert images, pictures
during practice and of the conductors

[Download of photo material](#)

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Susanne Grunsky
Gumpoldskirchner Spatzen

5 AUDIO- AND VIDEOMATERIAL

Audio- and Videorecordings

[Download of audios and videos](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION 6

Organisation and Management:

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Website:

www.spatzen.at

Social Media:

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7 FURTHER INFORMATION

Overview of the Current Cooperation Partners:

**KULTUR
NIEDERÖSTERREICH** 



**Raiffeisen
Regionalbank Mödling**



Funding & Sponsoring Information:

ZVR number: 389938018

Chairman of the association

Jürgen Beilein

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Bank information of the „Verein der
Gumpoldskirchner Spatzen“

IBAN: AT50 3225 0000 0103 8355

Donation Info:

Donations to the „Verein der Gumpoldskirchner Spatzen“ can be deducted from taxes in Austria.

List of tax-exempt charities:

Information about the list of tax-exempt charities and associations can be found via www.spatzen.at

Press Accreditation:

Journalists and media representatives who wish to report on the Gumpoldskirchner Spatzen children's choir can apply for accreditation for our concerts and events. With press accreditation, you will gain access to designated press areas, photo opportunities, and interviews with the artistic directors and selected choir members in advance.

After successful accreditation, you will receive a confirmation as well as all the important information regarding your coverage.

For any inquiries, please feel free to contact us at **+43 660 6962652**.

To apply for **accreditation**, please send an **e-mail** with the following information to **office@gumpoldskirchnerspatzen.at**:

- **Name and media outlet**
- **Role** (Journalist, Photographer, etc.)
- **Contact information** (email, phone)
- **Planned media coverage** (Newspaper, Magazine, Online, TV, etc.)



DESIGN:

Sophie Fadinger
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