

# AMSTERDAM BAROQUE ORCHESTRA & CHOIR

Ton Koopman

## Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra & Choir

Ton Koopman founded the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra in 1979. The group consists of internationally renowned baroque specialists who meet up several times a year and work together to prepare and perform new exciting programmes. For the musicians each concert is a new experience and Koopman's boundless energy and enthusiasm are a sure guarantee of the highest quality of every single performance. The repertoire of the orchestra includes instrumental and vocal-instrumental works composed between 1600 and 1791. "I draw the line at Mozart's death" says Ton Koopman.

The Amsterdam Baroque Choir was founded in 1992 and it made its début during the Holland Festival of Early Music in Utrecht performing the world première of the Requiem (for 15 voices) and Vespers (for 32 voices) by H.I.F. Biber. The recording of both of these works won the *Cannes Classical Award* for the best performance of 17th/18th century choral music. For its rare combination of textural clarity and interpretative flexibility, the Amsterdam Baroque Choir is considered among today's most outstanding choirs.



In 1994 Ton Koopman and the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra & Choir embarked upon the most ambitious recording project of the last decades: the integral recording of Bach's secular and sacred cantatas, performed with the very latest musicological research. For this extraordinary project Ton Koopman and the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra & Choir received the *Deutsche Schallplattenpreis Echo Klassik*, an award for the excellent recording of the cantatas. Next to the CD recordings 3 books have been edited and published by Christoph Wolff and Ton Koopman and the Dutch

TV has broadcast a series of six documentaries.

The Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra has produced for various labels recordings of all major baroque and classical works. Among many others the orchestra has received the *Gramophone Award*, *Diapason d'Or*, *10-Repertoire*, *Stern des Monats-Fono Forum*, the *Prix Hector Berlioz* and two *Edison Awards*. In March 2003 Ton Koopman has founded "Antoine Marchand", a new sub-label of Challenge Classics, which has taken over the release of all his new recordings. "Antoine Marchand" has till now published 22 CD boxes of the Bach Cantatas, a new recording of the St. Matthew Passion (on CD and DVD), a spectacular video recording of the St. Markus Passion of J.S. Bach, live recorded in Milan in March 2000, and the first five volumes of the Buxtehude Opera-Omnia Edition.

Ton Koopman and the ABO & ABC are regular guests at the major concert halls of Europe, the USA and Japan. In the 2007/08 season they will be touring extensively in Europe with appearances among others in Amsterdam, Paris, London, Vienna, Rome, Warsaw, Budapest and Moscow.

Season 2007/08

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