

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.

The Amsterdam Baroque Choir was founded in 1992 and it made its debut 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. For this extraordinary project Koopman and his ensemble received the *Deutsche Schallplatten-Preis Echo Klassik*. Next to the CD recordings three books have been edited and published by Ton Koopman and the musicologist Christoph Wolff and a series of six documentaries was produced and broadcasted by various TV stations.

Alongside Bach's music the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra & Choir has recorded all major baroque and classical works. Major recognitions include the *Gramophone Award*, *Diapason d'Or*, *10-Repertoire*, *Stern des Monats-Fono Forum*, the *Prix Hector Berlioz* and two *Edison Awards*. In 2008 the ensemble and Ton Koopman have been honoured with the prestigious BBC Award, and in 2009, for the second time, with the 'Echo Klassik Award' for Vol. VII of Buxtehude Opera-Omnia.

All new CDs and DVDs of Ton Koopman and the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra & Choir are published by "Antoine Marchand", a sub-label of Challenge Classics. The latest releases include all 22 boxes of the Bach's Cantatas, Bach's St. Matthew and St. Markus Passion (on CD & DVD), the first sixteen volumes of the Buxtehude Opera-Omnia Edition and Bach's Musical Offering.

Ton Koopman and the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra & Choir are regular guests at the major concert halls of Europe, the USA and Asia.