



The Academic Male Choir at the University of Gothenburg (AK)

The choir was established in 1919. AK is now involved in a creative musical development due to our inspiring conductor. The choir has,

of course, many concert activities, including concert tours – the latest ones to France, Estonia and Norway.



Mathias Harms, conductor

Our much valued conductor also conducts Gothenburg's Academic Chamber Choir, as well as the Male Choir of Chalmers University of Technology.

Since 1998 Mathias is a tenor in the Swedish Chamber Choir, of which he is also deputy conductor.



Musica In Excelsis

Members of the brass quintet are from left: Roy Ljungqvist – *trumpet and flugel horn*, Barbro Forsgren – *French horn*, Lennart Larsson – *tuba and arranger*, Henrik Andersson – *trombone*, and Kurt Levinsson – *trumpet, cornet and flugel horn*.



Akademiska Kören

i Göteborg

Since 1919

The Academic Male Choir at the University of Gothenburg (AK)

Conductor: Mathias Harms

Brass Quintet Musica in Excelsis, Gothenburg, Sweden, and VOSK (Prague)

at Prague Conservatory, November 7th, 2015

PROGRAM

Dåne liksom åskan bröder (Roll Like Thunder, Brothers) / JH Stunz

Iltatunnelma (Evening Feeling) / T Kuula

Pizzicato Polka / J Strauss jr, brass

Hora Staccato / G Dinicu, brass. Solo: K Levinsson

Göteborg Masonic Songs No. 7 and 18 / G Günther, AK + brass

Ühte laulu tahaks laulda (The Only Song) / V Tormis

Leelo / M Saar

Kuu (The Moon) / T Vettik

Olav Tryggvason / F A Reissiger

Sorgmarsch (Funeral March) / J Czapek, brass

Slavonic Dance No. 4 / A Dvorak, brass

Let the People Praise Thee / A Tucapský, VOSK

And Beauty Came / A Tucapský, VOSK

Ej horeнка / J Vicar, VOSK

Andulko March / F Kmoch, brass + AK + VOSK

Nachtgesang im Walde / F Schubert, AK + brass

Stemning (Mood) / W Peterson-Berger

I bröllopsgården from Bondbröllop (Farmer's Wedding), movement 4 / A Söderman

Landkjending (Land in Sight) / E Grieg, AK + brass. Solo: J Hedelin



Comments on the repertoire

Dåne liksom åskan bröder, is the former students' anthem from a Swedish stage play from the mid 1850s. The original is German: *Auf Ihr Brüder lasst uns wallen*.

Illatunnelma, from 1916, was composed by the leading Finnish romantic composer Toivo Kuula, a most dramatic figure. It is a song of evening tranquility, a lullaby.

Pizzicato Polka is generally associated with string instruments and attributed to the brothers Johann and Josef Strauss in 1869. However, the score was written 30 years earlier by Johann Strauss alone, when he was a boy of only 11 years of age. And it was, actually, written for a quintet of brass instruments.

Hora Staccato is a folkloristic showpiece for the violin, written in 1906 by the Romanian violinist and composer Grigoras Dinicu. The brass quintet will play this virtuoso piece set for solo cornet played by Kurt Levinsson.

Göteborg Masonic Songs – the oldest known wind band music from Gothenburg – are a number of songs that were arranged for “Harmonie” and a three part male choir in 1823 by Georg Günther. He came from Germany to Gothenburg in 1815, and became the organist of the German Church. He also became known as one of the best organists in Sweden. His original arrangement was written for the band of the 2nd Artillery Regiment and for the Masonic Choir in Gothenburg.

The Estonian Bloc consists of *Ühte laulu* (The Only Song) by Veljo Tormis (1930–), *Leelo* by Mart Saar (1882–1963), and *Kuu* (The Moon) by Tuudur Vettik (1898–1982). They are all longtime classics for every Estonian, and nowadays also for Scandinavian male choirs of some standard. Whereas *Leelo* and *Ühte laulu* – in folkloristic and expressionistic moods respectively – embody the struggle for liberation and freedom, the romantic *Kuu* takes us to a warm, calm summer night at an Estonian lake shore. Silence. Only the beams of the silvery, the golden moon caress the glassy lake surface. Total stillness... At parties with Estonian male singers present, ladies late at night often approach and whisper the wish to hear – *Kuu*. You will understand why.

Olaf Tryggvason – a legendary Viking king of Norway (ca. 968 – 1000), and much celebrated in romantic Norwegian literature – made the first effective effort to Christianize Norway. The ballad by FA Reissiger, with text by Björnstjerne Björnson, is about the naval battle of Svolder where Olaf Tryggvason fell and his ship Ormen Lange was lost.

It is 100 years since Josef Czapek died. He was a central figure in the music life of Gothenburg in the 19th century! Czapek was born in 1825 in Prague, where he studied the violin and composition. He came to Gothenburg in 1847 as a violinist and young leader of the “Steyermarksche Gesellschaft”. He was offered the job of leading the band of the 2nd Ar-



tillery Regiment in Gothenburg. He accepted and led this band for 30 years. He also worked with his fellow countryman, the well-known pianist and composer Bedrich Smetana, who lived in Gothenburg 1856–1862. Together they introduced new music to the conservative local public. In addition, Czapek worked as a song teacher at several schools and as organist at the English Church for 43 years and at the Synagogue for 53 years! The brass quintet will play one of Czapek's earliest compositions for his military band: *The Funeral March of the 2nd Artillery Regiment* from the year 1848.

The former Director of the Prague Conservatory, Antonin Dvorak, needs no further presentation in this hall. His well-known *Slavonic dances* were written for piano, but have been transcribed for a great number of different ensembles. You will hear the beautiful *Slavonic Dance No. 4*, opus 46, set for brass quintet.

The brass quintet together with the Academic Choir and VOSK perform the Czech *Andulko Safarova* march composed by František Kmoch. In a Kmoch march, the middle section, generally known as the trio, was almost always underlaid with texts, to be sung by musicians, choirs, or the entire audience. These texts were an important expression in the development of Czech national consciousness.

Franz Schubert has composed numerous works for male voices. We perform *Nachtgesang im Walde*, composed in 1827. The text is by the Austrian poet and storyteller Johann Gabriel Seidl. The original is for male choir and four horns. Here it is arranged for slightly different brass instruments.

Also in the Nordic countries composers were very fond of nature and evening tranquility. One example is *Stemning*, composed by Wilhelm Peterson-Berger from Sweden, and with Danish text by Jens Peter Jacobsen.

August Söderman (1832–1876) was a prolific composer. The best-known of his male chorus pieces is *Ett bondbröllop / Farmer's Wedding* (1868). The song depicts a rural wedding ceremony. We will sing the last of the four movements, which has a fugued section with influences from Söderman's studies of counterpoint in Leipzig in the 1850s.

The last piece of the concert is another song about the popular Viking king Olaf Tryggvason. *Landkjending* was composed by Norway's most famous composer Edvard Grieg. The text is once again by Björnstjerne Björnson. The work is performed by AK with a baritone solo (Jakob Hedelin), and most often accompanied by a symphony orchestra or a piano. But here we have chosen our house band, the Brass Quintet Musica in Excelsis.