



*International
Presentations of
Music & Dance*

THE UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Vienna Choir Boys

GERALD WIRTH, *Conductor*

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 22, 1987, AT 4:00
HILL AUDITORIUM, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

P R O G R A M

- Zion Hort Die Wachter Singen DIETRICH BUXTEHUDE
(1637-1707)
- Exultate Justi LUDOVICO VIADANA
(1564-1645)
- Solo or Duet (to be announced)
- Laudi Alla Vergine Maria GIUSEPPE VERDI
(1813-1902)
- De Profundis GERALD WIRTH
(b. 1965)
- (*pause*)
- Comic opera, *Der Dorfbarbier* (Cure for Quacks) JOHANN SCHENK
(1753-1836)

I N T E R M I S S I O N

- Widerspruch FRANZ SCHUBERT
(1797-1828)
- Bergnacht } ZOLTÁN KODÁLY
Villo } (1882-1967)
- Solo or Duet (to be announced)
- Folksongs (to be announced)
- Polka and Waltz (to be announced) JOHANN STRAUSS
(1827-1870)

The University Musical Society acknowledges with thanks the generosity of Ford Motor Company Fund for underwriting the production and printing costs of this program.

Cameras and recording devices are not allowed in the auditorium.

Halls Cough Tablets, courtesy of Warner-Lambert Company, are available in the lobby.

Program Note

Johann Schenk (1753-1836) was a Viennese composer and teacher who numbered the young Beethoven among his pupils. Schenk composed several pieces of sacred music before he began writing light operas, some of which enjoyed great popularity. His most popular work was *Der Dorfbarbier* (Cure for Quacks), performed this afternoon by the Vienna Choir Boys.

The Story of *Der Dorfbarbier* — Comic Opera in One Act

Lux is a barber and surgeon held in high esteem by his clients, who believe that his fashionable HAM cure will relieve them of all their pains and ills. Lux is very much in love with his ward, Susan, and wants to marry her, but she is in love with Joseph.

The two young lovers seek help from Adam, Lux's old servant, and Rund, the schoolmaster. Together they work out a plan to make Lux agree to Susan's marriage to Joseph. First, Lux must be convinced that Susan loves him and not Joseph; then, Joseph pretends to be gravely ill and declares that he wants to leave his fortune to Susan, but to make the will valid they will have to marry. Convinced that Joseph might die at any moment, Lux agrees to the marriage.

After the wedding has taken place, Joseph takes a portion of the miraculous HAM and, after a short rest, is restored to perfect health. Lux is very disappointed, but Rund makes him admit that "Love cannot compare with Fame." Lux's cure has once again saved a man on the verge of death, and Lux is well on his way to becoming the most famous doctor of all time.

About the Artists

The Vienna Choir Boys are at once one of the world's oldest musical institutions and one of the youngest. Its youth is immediately evident — seen in the faces and heard in the voices of these boys aged 8 to 14. Its age is less apparent, yet no less impressive. In the year 1498, a group of eight boys was assembled as a singing group by an imperial decree of Emperor Maximilian I, fulfilling his wish to have choristers in the Imperial Chapel. In addition to the boys choir, the Emperor included a symphony orchestra, a lyric theater, and a teaching conservatory — a total musical organization that quickly became a center of Viennese cultural life.

From its inception, this organization has attracted the finest musicians in the Western world. Among those who worked at the Imperial Court and composed music for the choirboys were Christoph Willibald Gluck, Josef Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Franz Schubert, who was himself a member of the choir from 1808 to 1813. Anton Bruckner became organist of the Imperial Chapel in 1867, adding his influence to that of his illustrious predecessors.

In 1918, the collapse of the Hapsburg dynasty and the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire threatened to end the world-famous institution. As chaplain of the Imperial Chapel, Josef Schnitt revived the boys choir in 1924 and gave it its official name — the Vienna Choir Boys. Their first tour was to Switzerland in 1926, the beginning of an enormous worldwide success. Since their first visit to the United States in 1932, they have made more than 3,000 appearances in almost every country on six continents and before innumerable heads of state. In addition, they are known to millions through their film and television appearances and their recordings on the Philips label.

Boys who wish to be considered for choir membership attend a special preparatory school where they receive a thorough education. Candidates take their examinations at the age of nine, where musical ability plays the decisive role in selection. Once accepted, the boys live in a private boarding school — since 1948 the beautiful Augarten Palace in Vienna — where a staff of 30 fully qualified secondary school teachers provide an intensive program of study in classes that seldom exceed more than ten students. Today there are four Vienna Choir Boy units, two of which perform on tour while the other two remain at home — all of them rotating so that each choirboy spends part of the year traveling. Each tour lasts an average of three months.

The University Musical Society first presented the Vienna Choir Boys in 1933. This afternoon's concert marks their tenth Ann Arbor performance.

Plan your holiday calendar now . . .

Handel's "Messiah," Donald Bryant, *conductor* Fri.-Sun. Dec. 4-6
University Choral Union, Soloists, U-M orchestra members

The Swingle Singers, Holiday Program Thurs. Dec. 10
Pre-concert Presentation: Donald Bryant, "Humor in Music"
(Call 764-8489 for Pre-concert Presentation information.)

Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker," Pittsburgh Ballet Fri.-Sun. Dec. 11-13
Over 100 area children will take part in these concerts.

Gift Certificates Available for Holiday Giving