

Biography Camerata Bern

Founded in 1962, the CAMERATA BERN is a highly-acclaimed chamber orchestra uniting top level musicians inspired by the idea of performing within a flexible, self-conducted ensemble.



Its members are gifted soloists and chamber musicians. Under its artistic director, the violinist ANTJE WEITHAAS, as well as guest concertmasters Erich Höbarth, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Pekka Kuusisto, Amandine Beyer, Enrico Onofri and others, CAMERATA BERN performs a broad repertoire ranging from early Baroque to today's composers. The orchestra stands out for its subtle and perfectly homogeneous sound, its freshness and mastery of style. With charisma and spontaneity adding to its ability to thrill its public, CAMERATA BERN is now renowned as one of the prime ensembles among chamber orchestras in Europe.

The ensemble's outstanding qualities has led it to perform with such eminent artists as Heinz Holliger, Andrés Schiff, Vadim Repin, Alexander Lonquich, Jörg Widmann, Sabine Meyer, Tabea Zimmermann, Vessilina Kasarova, Bernd Glemser, Christian Gerhaher, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Maurice André, Bruno Canino, Radu Lupu, Peter Serkin, Gidon Kremer, Nathan Milstein, Boris Pergamenshikov, Narciso Yepes, Pepe Romero, Barbara Hendricks, Peter Schreier, Jan Vogler, Reinhold Friedrich, Leonidas Kavakos, Angelika Kirchschrager and others.

The ensemble has toured extensively in Europe, South- and North-America, as well as in South-East Asia, the Far East, Australia and Japan. Its recordings on Sony, Deutsche Grammophon/Archiv, Decca, Denon, ERATO, Berlin Classics, Novalis, ECM, Claves and Philips have won several international awards, such as the Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik, the Grand Prix International du Disque, the International Record Critics Award, the Record Academy Prize, and the Prize Echo Klassik '97 of the Deutsche Phono-Akademie. The latest CD-releases feature Antje Weithaas in a Beethoven programme (CAVI, September 2012). The next CD will be released in September 2015 with Antje Weithaas as soloist in Brahms' Violin Concerto.

Lately, CAMERATA BERN has performed at the Alte Oper in Frankfurt, Teatro Carlo Felice in Genova, Cervantino Festival in Guanajuato/Mexico, Morelia Festival in Mexico, Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, in the Sala Sao Paulo, at the Teatro Solis in Montevideo, at Geneva's Victoria Hall, at deSingel in Antwerp.

Within its large scale educational project for children since 2010, the CAMERATA BERN performs concerts in schools across the Canton of Bern. The project developed in the frame of the Education Department's "Education and culture" programme has reached over 10'000 children up to now, mainly in the canton's rural areas.

The CAMERATA BERN also focuses on historically informed performance and performs an early music concert series in Bern.

With the English choreographer Cathy Marston, CAMERATA BERN has coproduced two full-length choreographies featuring the Dance Company of Berne's Municipal Theatre. In each 10 performances, "Flight of gravity" (music by Martinu, Tartini, Silvestrow and Penderecki) in 2011, and "Hexenhatz" (Witch-hunt) (Italian baroque music on period instruments) in 2013 thrilled the

Berne audience. In March 2015, CAMERATA BERN has co-produced Monteverdi's "L'Orfeo" on period instruments with Berne's Municipal Opera.

CAMERATA BERN hosts its own subscription concerts cycles in Berne at the Paul Klee Centre, at the Konservatorium and at the Kultur-Casino. The CAMERATA BERN FOUNDATION is subsidized by the City, the Burgergemeinde and Canton of Berne and receives project-related funding from different foundations and sponsoring partners. One of its main partners is the Ursula Wirz Foundation.

May 2015