



# #SINGINGUNITES



## PRESS RELEASE: 'PEACEFUL CHOIR' DEBUT ALBUM FROM THE WORLD CHOIR FOR PEACE

On Friday September 4th, 2020 the double album 'Peaceful Choir' was released under the Sony Classical label. It consists of 19 exciting contemporary pieces, some specifically written for this recording, including 15 world-premieres by internationally renowned composers. The album was produced using the brand-new 360 Reality Audio Format from Sony. The World Choir For Peace and harpist Lavinia Meijer showcase the diverse colours and sounds of contemporary choral music, both in terms of composition and recording technology.

More than a dozen world-premiere recordings are among the 19 atmospheric and meditative soundscapes on the album, which are penned of composers from a wide variety of backgrounds. These include house-hold names such as Sir Karl Jenkins, John Rutter, Ola Gjeilo, Eric Whitacre, Hans Zimmer and Arvo Pärt, but also celebrated newcomers to choral music such as the Grammy-nominated composers Kim André Arnesen and Jake Runestand or the American composers Dan Forrest and Elaine Hagenberg. A new piece by the Grammy-nominated Düsseldorf composer and pianist Hauschka (Volker Bertelmann), the pioneer of the New York band San Fermin Ellis Ludwig-Leone, the Estonian pop violinist Maarja Nuut and the German soundtrack composer David Reichelt (Acht Tage) contributes to the albums' musical diversity.

'Peaceful Choir' was recorded at the famous Tessmar recording studio in Hanover by an international group of 24 professional singers and was completed under the direction of Nicol Matt in just ten days only hours before Germany came under lockdown in March. Given that there exists very limited choral music with only harp accompaniment, it was a special honour for the conductor, Nicol Matt and his singers to work with the phenomenal harpist Lavinia Meijer. "It was an outstanding experience for me to be able to work with Lavinia Meijer and Esther Abrami," explains Nicol Matt, who is internationally renowned for his involvement in over 100 CD choral productions. The album also features talented Sony Classical Artists: Maarja Nuut (violin), Gereon Theis (cello) as well as Tim Allhoff and Josefa Schmidt (piano). The Grammy award-winning sound engineer, Gregor Zielinsky was responsible for the musical production.

The Norwegian singer, Aleksandra Nygaard Djordjevic, describes her impressions of singing with the choir during the 10-day production in the Tessmar recording studio in Hanover: "It is really exciting when the composers of the contemporary works are present during the production and can share their thoughts on their pieces with us, it's an experience I'll never forget". Both Maarja Nuut (Estonia) and David Reichelt (Germany) travelled to Hanover to work with the World Choir for Peace.

The World Choir For Peace is one of the first choirs in the world to produce an album using the 360 Reality Audio format. Grammy award-winning sound engineer Gregor Zielinsky, who produced 'Peaceful Choir' describes this brand-new listening experience as follows: "you are immersed in the live concert atmosphere from the comfort of your own living room, as if you surrounded by a circle of singers". To achieve the expansive sound quality of the recording, the singers were positioned in a circle using individual microphones. This unique arrangement enables a 360 ° Reality Audio Mix of the album, which can be heard in special digital versions.

To finance the post-production, which is currently still running, the choir is launching a crowdfunding campaign on Startnext.de. "Singing is one of the oldest and most valuable cultural assets of mankind," says Nicol Matt. "It is what unites us - across generations, cultures and national borders. Music is and remains the universal language that touches everyone." The World Choir for Peace's debut album 'Peaceful Choir' promises you an extraordinary listening experience: the human voice heard in a brand-new 3D sound aesthetic.

The 3D album version is expected to be available exclusively to download from November 2020. The CD version in stereo sound quality is now available in stores.

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## **WORLD CHOIR FOR PEACE**

The World Choir for Peace was founded by conductor Nicol Matt under the patronage of the German UNESCO Commission in 2018. This marked the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War with their first concert in Berlin, with 2,000 singers from more than 30 countries. They came together to sing for peace, performing Karl Jenkins The Armed Man, conducted by the composer himself. This concert was televised in several European countries and performed together with the World Orchestra for Peace. Following the outstanding success of the event, the World Choir for Peace has become committed to being a musical ambassador for peace worldwide. The choir is to be established internationally, in cooperation with the city of Hanover, UNESCO, the UN and the Mayors for Peace organisation.

CD ‚PEACEFUL CHOIR‘ AVAILABLE FROM 04.09.2020

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:

[WWW.WORLDCHOIRFORPEACE.DE](http://WWW.WORLDCHOIRFORPEACE.DE)

CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN:

[WWW.STARTNEXT/WORLD-CHOIR-FOR-PEACE.DE](http://WWW.STARTNEXT/WORLD-CHOIR-FOR-PEACE.DE)