

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Vienna Boys Choir in Singapore for a week of song, learning and fun**

*Sing with the choir, conduct like a maestro and meet Singapore's own Vienna Boys*



Singapore, 28 November, 2017 – Singapore will play host to the Vienna Boys Choir in a week-long cultural exchange of song, learning and interaction, from 11 to 15 January 2018.

Named the Singapore Vienna Boys' Choir (SVBC) Week, the choir will '*See, Sing, Study and Socialise*' with Singaporeans who can enjoy hearing and singing with the boys, conduct like a maestro, spot musical talent in a child and enjoy friendship with Austria's youngest ambassadors.

"The SVBC Week breaks new ground as it will allow the boys to foster and develop a deeper friendship with Singapore, through shared experiences of singing and learning," said Ms Iris Koh, CEO of ChorusArt Pte Ltd, an edutainment company focused on concert promotions and music education training. ChorusArt is responsible for organising the Singapore tour and programme for the Vienna Boys Choir.

#### Singapore's Very Own Vienna Boys

Meet one of Singapore's very own Vienna Boys, Dennis Howe. Dennis and his twin brother Nigel (19 years) spent their younger years schooling and singing with the Vienna Boys Choir in Vienna. They are the first and, to date, only Singaporean members of the choir. Dennis has volunteered to artiste-manage the boys when they are in Singapore.

### Workshops with Local Choirs

*11th, 12th and 14th January, Arts House*

The Vienna Boys Choir will share its rich history of choral background with Singapore's young and vibrant choirs and musicians. In addition to thrilling audiences with their angelic voices, the over 500-year old choir will enliven the choral and music scene in Singapore with workshops and combined performances with some of Singapore's leading school and adult choirs. Some of the choirs which have signed up for the master



classes include: Fuchun Pri; Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Pri; Clementi Pri; Wesley Methodist Church; St Joseph Church Choir; Henry Park Pri; Qifa Primary; Methodist Girls' Sch (Sec).

Due to the popular demand of these workshops, the organisers have organised extra master classes on the 14th January and 10th January and there are very limited spots left. There are also choirs who will have the opportunity to sing with the Vienna Boys' Choir on 15th January, on their Coming together to Sing concert at the Esplanade Concert Hall: Anglo Chinese School (Independent), Catholic High Primary, CHIJ Katong (Pri), Commonwealth Secondary, Fuchun Primary, Raffles Girls' Primary School, St Andrews' Junior and VOCE Men's Choir. These choirs are led by prominent conductors like Darius Lim, Low Xu Hao, Benedict Goh, Lim Bee Na, Francis Liew, Lee Wanrong and Foong Hak Luen.

### Training Workshop for Conductors, Music Teachers

*11th January, 12th January - 10am to 6pm, Arts House*

A highlight of the Study with the Vienna Boys Choir segment will see Professor Wirth conduct the Vienna Boys Choir on stage at the Arts House before an audience of conductors / music teachers and choir leaders. He will demonstrate the rehearsal process of the Vienna Boys Choir, and how he brings out the best in the boys. I think this is a rare treat for conductors in Singapore because it is not often that conductors have an opportunity to discuss the finer points of conducting. There will also be opportunities for attendees to go on stage and conduct the Vienna Boys Choir and be coached by Professor Wirth.

The workshops and master classes have attracted 60 teachers from MOE, 30 other music teachers (from around Singapore) and conductors with the likes of conductor and music director Gevorg Sargsyan, who has been hailed as "one of the most inspiring artists of his generation".

### How to Identify Musical Talent in Children

*13th January, Saturday, from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm, Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel (Official Hotel for SVBC Week)*

Professor Wirth will also hold a workshop on how parents can identify develop and encourage musical talent in children. He believes that musical education is not just about passing exams.

“Musicianship and having a musical education is much more than that,” agrees Ms Iris Koh, “The love for music and the ability to have life-long skills and friends in music are all very important aspects of being a musician and having music in your children’s lives.”

#### Welcome by Austrian Ambassador to Singapore

The choir will be welcomed by the Austrian Ambassador to Singapore, Her Excellency Karin Fichtinger-Grohe on their arrival on 9 January 2018.

#### Volunteers are welcome

Besides their performances and workshops, the boys will have time to enjoy the sights of Singapore, including a day at Universal Studios and Resorts World Sentosa, Gardens by the Bay etc. There will be many opportunities for the public to get to know the choir, as invitations are open to volunteer as emcee, event crew and other exciting positions.

#### **Press Briefing**

*Date: 11 January, 2018, 945a.m - 12 p.m*

*Venue: Arts House, 1 Old Parliament Lane, Singapore 179429*

There will be a Press Briefing to launch the Singapore Vienna Boys Choir Week, with the Austrian Ambassador to Singapore as Guest of Honour. Highlights will include the following:

- Short performance by the choir;
- Meet the choir and conductor;
- Workshops by Prof Gerard Wirth - voice training, choral history, changing of voices, psychology, choral and health.
- Professor Gerard Wirth will be available for an interview on 10th January or during the week.

#### Ticket sales

Tickets to the choir’s two performances and workshops are available at SISTIC outlets. The public can use digital currencies to pay for performance and workshop tickets. They can use Bitcoin, Bitcoin Cash, Ethereum, Katalyst and Libera tokens to purchase the tickets at <http://www.svbc.sg/buy/svbc-ticket>  
**Tickets available at SISTIC and via digital currency (<http://www.svbc.sg/buy/svbc-ticket>)**

Conductors and Music Teachers Workshop	Can buy tickets online. Half-day, one-day and 4-day passes are available. Please go to <a href="http://www.svbc.sg">www.svbc.sg</a> for tickets and information.
Masterclass for choirs	email: <a href="mailto:ops@chorusart.co">ops@chorusart.co</a>
Parent-Child Workshop	<a href="http://bit.ly/svbc13jan">bit.ly/svbc13jan</a>
Concert tickets	<a href="http://bit.ly/sisticvbc">bit.ly/sisticvbc</a>

### About Vienna Boys Choir

The Vienna Boys Choir has been singing at Vienna's Imperial Chapel since 1296. In 1498, Maximilian I (HRR) moved his court to Vienna, lock, stock, and choir, thus founding the "Hofmusikkapelle" (Chapel Imperial), and the Vienna Boys Choir. Over the centuries, the Viennese Court attracted great musicians like Isaac, de Monte, Fux, Caldara, Gluck, Salieri, Mozart, and Bruckner; Joseph Haydn, Michael Haydn, and Franz Schubert were themselves choir boys. Until 1918, the boys sang exclusively for the court. Since 1926, 2482 Vienna Boys Choir has sung 1000 tours in 97 different countries. Professor Gerald Wirth is its Artistic Director and president.

Today, there are 100 choristers between the ages of nine and fourteen, divided into four touring choirs which give around 300 concerts each year. They regularly tour Europe, Asia and Australia, and the Americas. Audiences can expect to engage with the world famous choir in various activities in Singapore centered on these main themes: See, Sing, Study and Socialise with the Vienna Boys Choir. Maestro Luiz de Godoy is the choir's conductor. Godoy is the 2016 recipient of the Erwin Ortner Prize for Choral Music.

To find out more about SVBC week, please go to click [www.svbc.sg](http://www.svbc.sg). Hi-res images are available on request.

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### **Media RSVP (please put in the subject line: 'RSVP Media 11th January')**

<b>PRESS BRIEFING - Opening of SVBC Week</b>
<p>Date: 11 January, 2018          Time: 945a.m -12 p.m          Venue: Arts House, 1 Old Parliament Lane, Singapore 179429</p> <p>Welcome address by Austrian Ambassador Her Excellency Karin Fichtinger-Grohe from 10a.m-1030a.m, followed by other activities.</p>

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