

amarcord – Biography

Wolfram Lattke	tenor
Robert Pohlrs	tenor
Frank Ozimek	baritone
Daniel Knauft	bass
Holger Krause	bass

Founded in 1992 by erstwhile members of St Thomas's Boys Choir in Leipzig, amarcord has since become one of the world's leading vocal ensembles. Their hallmarks include a unique tone, breathtaking homogeneity, musical authenticity, and a good dose of charm and humour. amarcord perform a vast, highly diverse repertoire ranging from medieval plainsong, madrigals and Renaissance masses through compositions and cycles of works from the European Romantic period and the 20th century to arrangements of a cappella folksongs from all over the world, even taking in soul and jazz.

Always receptive to new musical currents, the singers attach great importance to new vocal music. Works dedicated to the ensemble have been written by the likes of Jörg Widmann, Bernd Franke, Steffen Schleiermacher, Ivan Moody, James MacMillan, Sidney M. Boquiren, Siegfried Thiele and Dimitri Terzakis. Even though amarcord's concert programmes focus on a cappella works, they also regularly perform in concert with ensembles and artists such as the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the lauten compagney BERLIN, the Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Daniel Hope, Nils Mönkemeyer, viola da gamba player Hille Perl, the Schumann-Quartett, german hornsound and the Ensemble Modern.

amarcord won prizes at many international competitions, such as Tolosa in Spain, Tampere in Finland and Pohlheim in Germany, as well as the 1st Choir Olympics in the Austrian city of Linz. In 2002, the ensemble won the German Music Competition, having joined the ranks of the BA KJK (the cream of young musicians singled out by the German Music Council for special support) two years beforehand. In 2004, amarcord became the first group of singers to be awarded the Ensemble Prize at Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Attending master classes with the King's Singers and the Hilliard Ensemble has given amarcord valuable stimulus over the years.

Alongside the Gewandhaus Orchestra and St Thomas Boys Choir, amarcord is now one of the leading representatives of Leipzig's music scene in Germany and abroad. amarcord regularly appears at important music festivals. Numerous concert tours have taken the singers to more than 50 countries and nearly every corner of the globe. In conjunction with the Goethe Institute, the ensemble has made guest appearances in Australia, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Russia and Central America.

Founded by amarcord in 1997 under the artistic direction of the group, the International Festival of Vocal Music "a cappella" (www.a-cappella-festival.de) has caught on as one of the foremost gatherings of its kind. Held in Leipzig every spring, it hosts outstanding vocal formations such as The Real Group, The King's Singers, Take 6, and the Hilliard Ensemble.

Numerous CDs have earned amarcord a string of awards and bear impressive testimony to their diverse repertoire. The latest release „Meisterklasse“ is devoted to Carl Reinecke – one of the most influential artists to hail from the musical city of Leipzig – and his students. In 2019, amarcord's first co-production with Calmus Ensemble was released. Entitled "Leipziger Disputation", it was crowned with an OPUS Klassik in the category Choral Recording of the Year. At the heart of the CD is the twelve-part mass "Et ecce terrae motus" by Antoine Brumel. In addition, a CD with works by Kurt Weill was released, which was recorded together with Ensemble Modern, directed by of HK Gruber. "Tenebrae", a CD of sacred medieval, renaissance and contemporary vocal music, includes a number of pieces composed especially for amarcord. In 2016 the singers released a Schubert album with pianist Eric Schneider and together with german hornsound the CD "Wald.Horn.Lied." The CD "ARMARIUM" is dedicated to the repertoire of the Thomanerchor from the Middle Ages to Heinrich Schütz. "Folks & Tales" earned amarcord their sixth Contemporary A Cappella Recording Award in 2014 – the "a cappella Oscar", which annually honours the best a cappella productions worldwide. The CD "Zu S Thomas" with two Gregorian masses from the *Thomasgraduale* of St Thomas in Leipzig was awarded the International Classical Music Award (ICMA), the most important prize of European record critics, in 2013. The recording of Johann Sebastian Bach's motets with Lautten Compagney was released on SONY/dhm in 2012. With the same orchestra the Vespers of 1610 by Claudio Monteverdi followed in 2014 on CARUS. On the DVD "The Book of Madrigals" by Accentus Music (co-production with ZDF and ARTE), the five singers perform compositions by the most important representatives of the Renaissance in front of the picturesque backdrop of the Villa Godi in Veneto.