In English

The VOCALENSEMBLE RASTATT and the period-instrument ensemble LES FAVORITES, led by conductor Holger Speck, rank among the world's finest. They are synonymous with excellence, vitality, and authenticity. Their reputation is built upon compelling, stylistically accurate, and historically informed interpretations, as well as a passionate and deeply emotional approach to music-making.

The exceptional quality of these ensembles is evidenced by, among other things, a Grammy nomination for their recording of Mozart's "Le nozze di Figaro," released by Deutsche Grammophon. Their CD, radio, and television productions (for labels and broadcasters such as Carus, SWR, Radio France, Deutschlandradio Kultur, and Deutschlandfunk) have garnered outstanding international acclaim:

"Its sound is like pure gold" (American Record Guide), "enchanting, stirring" (Rondo), "perfect singing" (FonoForum), "crystal-clear, subtle" (SR), and "a little miracle" (MDR).

It is no coincidence that the VOCALENSEMBLE RASTATT served as a cultural ambassador for the Federal Republic of Germany on the global political stage during the G20 summit at the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden.

LES FAVORITES serves as the instrumental partner to the VOCALENSEMBLE RASTATT. Performing on period instruments, the ensemble—comprising internationally renowned musicians—appears in various configurations, ranging from a continuo group to a full orchestra.

The ensemble takes its name from the Favorite pleasure palace—commissioned by Margravine Sibylla Augusta of Baden and noted for its delightful, sensuous architecture. It is one of the princely estates in the Baroque town of Rastatt, the Baden-Württemberg home of both ensembles. Each year, music lovers from across the country gather at the town's residential palace for the "Klingende Residenz" (Resounding Residence) summer concert series. VOCALENSEMBLE RASTATT & LES FAVORITES have made guest appearances at venues and festivals including the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, Musikfest Bremen, the Cologne Philharmonie, SWR's Festival RheinVokal, the Mozartfest Würzburg, the "Heidelberger Frühling" festival, the "European Church Music" festival in Schwäbisch Gmünd, the Handel Festival in Karlsruhe, the European Music Festival in Stuttgart, the Schwetzingen Festival, the

Wartburg Concerts (presented by Deutschlandradio Kultur), the Rheingau Music Festival, and the International Handel Festival in Halle, among others.

The versatile choir also ventures into the world of opera with great success: they performed alongside Edita Gruberová in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *Norma* (recorded for the Nightingale label), and with artists such as Rolando Villazón, Thomas Hampson, and Diana Damrau in Mozart's operas *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, *Don Giovanni*, *Così fan tutte*, and *Le nozze di Figaro* (recorded for Deutsche Grammophon). Together with Klaus Maria Brandauer and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, the ensemble performed Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Musikfest Bremen. At the same festival, they also performed Beethoven's Ninth Symphony alongside the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie under the direction of Paavo Järvi. The ensemble also enjoyed significant success with John Neumeier's ballet project *Dona nobis pacem*—set to Bach's Mass in B minor—in Hamburg. This production reached over 28,000 audience members; *Der Spiegel* described it as "world-class."

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