

KAMMEROPER
SCHLOSS RHEINSBERG



International festival of young opera singers
in Rheinsberg, Germany



Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg

International festival of young opera singers

»What is the special and unique about the festival? The successful union of nature, music and architecture with the charm of young voices at a historic place amidst an idyllic landscape.« (Prof. Siegfried Matthus, founder of the festival)



"Der Freischütz" (2018)

Short history

Since 1991, the Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg has delighted several thousand visitors every summer with its opera productions and numerous concerts in the ambience of Schloss Rheinsberg, located at Lake Grienerick. The founding of the »Kunst- und Kulturverein Rheinsberg« (art and culture association Rheinsberg) on 8 September 1990 marked the birth of the Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg.

Since 1991:

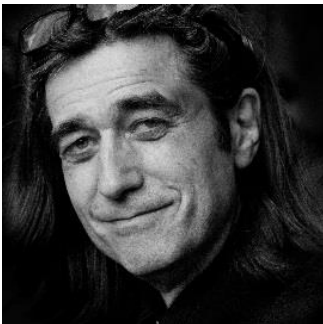
- 28 singing competitions with over 10.000 participants
- 900 prize winners
- 82 stagings
- 380.000 visitors experienced the prizewinners in Rheinsberg and at guest performances

Artistic Directorate



The composer Prof. Siegfried Matthus founded the international festival of young opera singers and continued it until 2014. Since then he has been an honorary member of the Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg.

Thus the Muses returned to the historic town of Rheinsberg, the former court of Friedrich II and his brother Prince Heinrich.



Since 2014 the artistic direction has been continued by his son, Frank Matthus, for four years. New formats were created, such as the tradition of an annual opera world premiere or »Jazz Fetz«, a concert format in which young singers can try their hand at jazz classics accompanied by a big band.

In the same year, the Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg and the Musikakademie Rheinsberg (one of 23 federal and state music academies in Germany) merged to form *Musikkultur Rheinsberg gGmbH*. Since then, the main shareholder has been the state of Brandenburg.



On 1 October 2018, Georg Quander, musicologist and former artistic director of the »Staatsoper Unter den Linden«, took over the post of artistic director of Musikkultur Rheinsberg gGmbH. He is responsible for the Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg as well as for the Musikakademie Rheinsberg and the Schlosstheater Rheinsberg - the castle theatre as an independent, year-round venue.

Promotion of young singers

The Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg is an artistic institution for the promotion of young opera singers at the highest professional level with nationwide and worldwide appeal and thus has the claim to be a springboard for young singers to begin their professional careers at renowned opera houses.

Qualitative assessment through singing competition

The basic idea is to combine an international singing competition for young opera singers with a festival. Every spring the Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg begins with an international singing competition with an average of 400 singers taking part in the preliminary round. Already the application for this preselection as well as the following casting are a challenge for the young singers. The audition takes place in Berlin at the University of the Arts and for some years regularly in Moscow. In 2016 it also took place at the Candian Opera in Toronto/Canada.

For the competition winners, the Chamber Opera awards the advertised roles in the Rheinsberg opera performances.

What we also offer

Educational support by professional guidance

- In principle, the Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg focuses on the professional development of opera vocal parts under the guidance of experienced directors, conductors, singing teachers and repetitors in a protected area - Rheinsberg - without the usual market pressure and in a reasonable time between 6-8 weeks.
- The major roles of the main productions are always doubled in order to avoid pressure and overexertion. However, this is also committed to the idea of giving as many young singers as possible a chance.
- Master classes as well as the preparation for the concert in the Mirror Hall of the castle in Rheinsberg are guided by »masters of their trade«. This close, professional coaching by trained singing teachers supports the singers in their vocal and personal development. In addition, the master class expands the singers' vita to include further important experiences to be presented in future applications.

Other services

Prize money

- Each singer receives a prize money of 1.400€ for his or her participation in the opera production.

Reimbursement of travel expenses

- Costs for arrival and departure will be refunded to the singers.

Free stay

- During the entire rehearsal and performance period of their production, they will also be provided with overnight accommodation and full board free of charge in the guest house of the music academy of Musikkultur Rheinsberg gGmbH.

The Singers

The participants of the singing competition come from all over the world.

Number of participants from 2017/ 2018:

2017 Participants: 350 from 42 countries | Prize winners: 40 from 18 countries

2018 Participants: 440 from 40 countries | Prize winners: 60 from 20 countries

Many of the singers now live and study in Germany and/or Europe.

At the MET in New York, at the Scala in Milan, in Covent Garden London, at the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires and of course at many opera houses in Germany, singers whose careers began in Rheinsberg are now engaged. The best known "Rheinsberg careers" include Nina Warren, Camilla Tilling, Annette Dasch, Olga Peretyatko, Annett Fritsch, Susanne Elmark, Nadine Weissmann, Aris Argiris, Marco Jentzsch, Friedemann Röhlig and Hector Sandoval.

Productions and Concerts

With four opera productions a year, a masterclass and numerous concerts, the Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg is one of the most prominent funding opportunities for young singers in Germany. The different venues with their own conditions as well as the different concert and performance formats give the singers the opportunity to present themselves to the public in different ways.

Performance formats and locations



An opera production takes place in the **Heckentheater** (hedgrow theatre). The natural open-air venue confronts the young actors with the often new challenges of singing with micro-ports and rehearsing under various weather conditions - from summer midday heat to evening cold.

The Heckentheater, which the art-loving Prince Heinrich had built in 1758 as a summer theatre in his castle park by Baron von Reisewitz, impresses with its artistically trimmed and staggered beech hedges, which frame the stage and audience area. Already in the Baroque and Rococo periods, the popular natural theatres were used to stage plays, operas and concerts.



In addition to the traditional opera gala evenings, the **Schlosshof** (inner courtyard of the castle) has been used since 2018 as a fully-fledged venue for the second staging of the opera summer and captivates both with its atmosphere and its acoustics.

The Schlosshof impresses with its orientation overlooking the proud colonnades on the lake and the obelisks towering on the opposite side. Watching breathtaking sunsets is not uncommon here. With room for up to 760 visitors (rows of chairs), the courtyard offers the ideal setting for opera evenings that will remain in your memory.



The opera world premiere format established by Frank Matthus will be realized in the **Schlosstheater** (castle theatre). Here the singers can experience the creation of an opera from the ground up and are faced with the challenge of rehearsing unknown roles that are not available on any recording. The technical possibilities offered by the Schlosstheater, newly opened in 2000 (including professional sound and lighting technology, movable stage elements, screen projections) are of great importance for these operas, which are often staged in a modern way.



The children's opera format, also performed in the Schlosstheater, celebrated its debut with the performance of "Der kleine Freischütz" in 2018 and will be on the programme again in 2019 with the performance of an adaptation of the opera "Martha" for children. With productions aimed specifically at children from the age of 5 and their families, the Kammeroper aims to inspire young audiences with singing and opera and already bind them to itself as a potential "audience of tomorrow". The content of the children's operas is based on the major productions in the Heckentheater.



With the introduction of the format "Der Singende See" (The Singing Lake), a tradition and well-functioning cooperation was created with the Rheinsberger shipping company Halbeck, which takes the public out on three **passenger ships** to Grienericksee, from where they can listen to the singing of different singing ensembles on the shore.



The **Spiegelsaal** (Hall of Mirrors) is an impressive testimony to the spatial and decorative art of the early Friderician rococo period. The magnificent, light-flooded hall covers the entire width of the grand piano and is decorated with lavishly gilded stucco decorations and an opulent ceiling painting by the Prussian court painter Antoine Pesne. The cheerful and playful charisma of the hall, which served as a concert hall for Crown Prince Frederick, gives a glimpse of the legendary rococo festival culture even today. Today, cultural events of all kinds take place here as they did then. The annual "Concerts in the Hall of Mirrors" of the Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg present the song repertoire accompanied by historical instruments such as fortepianos or tangent grand pianos.



The **Siegfried-Matthus-Arena** in the Hafendorf Rheinsberg is the ideal rain variant for the open air events of the Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg. Since its opening in 2007 it bears the name of the founder and former director, Siegfried Matthus. During the festival, the technical crew of the Kammeroper will set up this hall for the theatre. Today, the Arena belongs to the Maritim Hafenhotel Rheinsberg, which is a partner of the Kammeroper. A bus shuttle organized by the Kammeroper takes the spectators to the arena 2km from Rheinsberg.



Other formats

The **master class**, led by professional singing teachers, gives the young singers the chance to improve their vocal technique and to rehearse and expand their repertoire under professional guidance and targeted supervision. The small number of participants (max. 10 persons) leads to a close cooperation between "master and pupil". Some master class instructors such as Susanne Elmark (2017) or Friedemann Röhlig (2018) can look back on their own experience as former chamber opera prize winners, have since then made a considerable career and are now returning to their old place of work in this way.

The morning concerts – **Matinee** –, at 11 am, followed by brunch at the Seehotel Rheinsberg have been a crowd-puller for many years. Here the singers of the different productions introduce themselves with arias from their repertoire and ensemble performances.

Orchestras

For many years now, the Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg has had the most outstanding Brandenburg State Orchestras as permanent partners. The award-winning **Brandenburg State Orchestra Frankfurt** under the baton of David Marlow is one of the leading orchestras in Germany and its roots date back to 1842. Represented internationally, they not only play in the Berliner Philharmonie and the Berliner Konzerthaus, but have also travelled to Poland, Italy, Spain, Japan, Israel and Russia.

In addition, the **Kammerakademie Potsdam**, which has earned the title of "Orchestra of the Year 2015" in addition to its guest appearances at the Hamburg Elbphilharmonie and tours of Europe, Asia and South America, is also on display. The orchestra, which specialises in baroque music, will accompany the 18th century opera "Gli Orazi e i Curiazi" in the Schlosshof in 2019.

The **Junge Kammerphilharmonie Berlin**, which in 2018 provided musical accompaniment for the second time to an opera production by Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg, has also established itself as a profitable festival orchestra. In 2019 it will also be re-invited as the accompanying orchestra of the opera "Martha" in the Heckentheater. Another enrichment that the young orchestra brings to Rheinsberg is the fresh esprit that emerges between the musicians and singers of the same age - not only during rehearsals - and that can be clearly felt.

All orchestras are united by a passion for promoting the successful and talented generation of young musicians: The Kammerakademie Potsdam as the founder of Brandenburg's first orchestra academy, the Brandenburgisches Staatsorchester Frankfurt, which offers countless young artists a platform at the beginning of their career, the Junge Kammerphilharmonie Berlin as an orchestra of students and young professionals, and the Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg, which every year sets itself the goal of preparing young opera singers for their professional future.



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