

Leipzig, 06.06.2025

### **Vocal Brilliance Between Today and Tomorrow The "a cappella Showcase" presents young ensembles of the scene in excellent cross-section**

Conclusion of the International "a cappella" Competition Leipzig: a joint concert of all participants after "work is done"! Following the competition and a masterclass with a cappella professional Stephen Connolly on Friday morning, the six participating ensembles this year come together, freed from the competition situation and ideally creatively inspired, to present themselves once more in brief 10-minute segments to the audience (and remain in their memory). The "a cappella Showcase" has by now become a firmly established tradition and is enjoying growing popularity as an entertaining and memorable panorama of the a cappella music of "tomorrow." In detail, this is what it looks like in 2025 – the year of the 15th competition edition:

First to present is the **Ensemble SoaVI** from Leipzig, a mixed sextet that came together in the degree programs for Classical and Historical Singing at the local music conservatory. With their specialization in the range of sacred music, they also perform works by Poulenc and Monteverdi today, and manage to bring the Copper Hall to the most attentive listening with their dynamic phrasing. The London-based group **The Menagerie Club** is somewhat dogged by bad luck at this competition, as their seventh member couldn't even enter the country due to a visa problem, and another is also struggling with illness today. They therefore sing only two songs in their contribution – but these are enough for them to win the audience completely over to their side. Drawing from the experience of the "a cappella Masterclass" in the morning that they come across excellently without microphones, they decide to perform their heartfelt original composition "If You Can Dream" off-mic. With amplified sound, they then perform "Heaven Is A Place On Earth," and both times there is great cheering.

**Sonus Aeternus** from Dresden, offspring of the Dresden Kreuzchoir, begin their contribution with the sacred piece "The

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Lord Is My Shepherd." But it's the German-language and humorous pieces in their program – "Meine Deutschlehrerin" from the Wise Guys' repertoire and the fine original composition "El Torero" – with which they particularly score points with the audience. The women's quartet **Amita** from Lübeck and Leipzig takes all the time in the world for their gently dreamy "La vie en rose," just as in their competition contribution, but these are precisely the most precious moments. With the lively "Crabbuckit" and their rendition of the Kraja song "Jag såg dig," the four also convince with captivating femininity and find their fans today as well.

From Halle comes **Mehr als 4**, and their distinctive, extremely clean sound allows one to thoroughly enjoy the humorous "Der Käfer und die Blume" as well as the intense Romantic serenade "Warum bist du so ferne" by Adolf Eduard Marschner. Their barbershop arrangement of "Blue Skies" provides – literally – a powerfully intense conclusion to their contribution, which accordingly also ends in cheering. And finally, the audience experiences **The Bookmarks** from Georgia, the youngest participating group of the year (averaging just 15 years of age), yet the seven-member ensemble leaves amazed listeners in its wake today as well: The sustained "Journey" is a barrel full of magnificent jazz harmonies and solo parts, and the extremely multi-layered "Tales of War" with its lightning-fast rhythmic shifts and various stylistic and vocal approaches is a challenge for any experienced vocal ensemble; but the young Georgians perform these pieces with breathtaking confidence.

The great final applause of the concert section is then followed by the grand finale of the competition: the announcement of the winners and rankings in the presence of all the groups, the jury, and the "a cappella" fan community. The host singers from amarcord and Simon Carrington, the former King's Singer and now for the 10th time chairman of the "a cappella" competition jury, present all six prizes with good humor and warmth. Mehr als 4 (who also receive a special prize from the SommerMusikAkademie Hundisburg) are just as moved by their audience prize as the ensemble SoaVI is by their 2nd place and the special prize for the best unaccompanied piece. Amita take 3rd place, and when The Bookmarks are announced as the winners of this year's competition, the young artists are completely beside themselves. Much well-deserved applause

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follows, along with the lasting feeling that this competition aims to convey: that here one can learn from each other, reach out to one another (and sing together), and engage in mutual exchange. And even without that, the Showcase is an absolutely worthwhile experience – next opportunity in May 2026 at "a cappella"!

25th International Festival for Vocal Music **a cappella** Leipzig:  
May 30 – June 7, 2025

15th International **a cappella** Contest Leipzig:  
June 4 – 7, 2025

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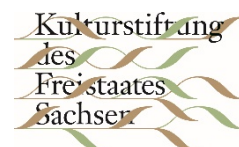
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