

Cantus Thuringia & Capella, established by Bernhard Klapprott and Christoph Dittmar in Weimar, performs in various vocal and instrumental ensemble combinations and specializes in the repertoire of the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries. Sacred vocal music forms a major focus in the ensemble's work. When it presents stage works, the ensemble regularly works with specialists in historical acting and gesturing toward the goal of presenting a uniform overall approach. It has also received international attention in this field with its productions of works such as Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (stage director: Nils Niemann), Telemann's *Pimpinone*, and Anna Amalia's *Erwin und Elmire* (stage director: Nils Niemann). Depending on the particular repertoire, the ensemble dimensions of Cantus Thuringia expand from the solo vocal consort to the chamber choir, while those of Capella Thuringia range from the chamber ensemble through the consort to the Baroque orchestra.

The ensemble concertizes at international festivals in various European countries, at the Leipzig Bach Festival, Handel International Festival in Göttingen, Herne Early Music Days, Heinrich Schütz Music Festival, Utrecht Early Music Festival, Bach Biennale Weimar, Halle Handel Festival, Thuringian Bach Weeks and realizes CD, radio, and television productions.

In accordance with its name, the ensemble has developed a special focus on Central German music. In 2008 it launched *MUSIKERBE THÜRINGEN – Klingende Residenzen, Städte und Dörfer zwischen Reformation und Aufklärung*, a project dedicated to the rediscovery and presentation of Thuringia's rich music culture in concerts, on CDs, and editions of music and funded by the Thuringian Ministry of Culture. Cantus Thuringia & Capella has presented first performances of numerous rediscovered works and released various world-premiere recordings on the *cpo* label. The list includes the *Christmas and New Year's Oratorio* by Georg Gebel the Younger (Rudolstadt, 1748), the *St. Matthew Passion* of Johann Christoph Rothe (Sondershausen, 1697), cantatas by George Frideric Handel and Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow (CD *Triumph, ihr Christen seid erfreut*), *Magnificent Festive Cantatas* by Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, *Sacred Cantatas* by Johann Peter Kellner, the passion oratorio *Der blutige und sterbende Jesus* by Reinhard Keiser and on the *dhm/sony* music label vocal music from Dowland to Purcell (CD *Time stands still*).