

Thomaskantor Gotthold Schwarz

Gotthold Schwarz is the 17th Thomaskantor after Johann Sebastian Bach. On 9 June 2016 he has been appointed as Thomaskantor and has been officially inaugurated on 20 August 2016.

Born in Zwickau as a son of a cantor he gained his musical education at the "Hochschule für Kirchenmusik Dresden" (University for Church Music Dresden) and also at the "Hochschule für Musik und Theater „Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy“ Leipzig" (University of Music and Theatre „Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy“ Leipzig) after having been a member of Thomanerchor Leipzig for a short time in his childhood.

He studied singing with Gerda Schriever, playing the organ with former St. Thomas Organist Hannes Kästner and Wolfgang Schetelich, as well as conducting with Max Pommer and Hans-Joachim Rotzsch. Furthermore he has worked with, amongst others, Hermann Christian Polster, Peter Schreier and Helmuth Rilling in masterclasses and academies.

Gotthold Schwarz, who began to work as vocal trainer for the Thomanerchor Leipzig in 1979, stood in for the Thomaskantor for several times since the 1990's. On this position he led the motets, performances of cantatas and oratorios with the Thomanerchor Leipzig; moreover he was entrusted with other duties as an interim officiating cantor.

Together with the world-famous boys' choir he has been on numerous tours in Germany, Europe and overseas (Japan, China, USA, Canada), several together with the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig. Furthermore Gotthold Schwarz is initiator and leader of "Concerto vocale", "Saxon Baroque Orchestra", "Leipziger Cantorey" and "Bach Consort Leipzig".

In recognition of his special merits the versatile singer and conductor was awarded with the Cross of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (1st class) on 4 October 2017. In the explanation was emphasized amongst others: "Gotthold Schwarz is one of the outstanding singers of Early Music in Germany. In 1990 he founded the "Leipziger Musikgesellschaft e. V." (Leipzig Music Society), which dedicates itself to works of Early Music history and whose artistic director he is." In March 2018 he also received the Georg-Philipp-Telemann-Prize of the City of Magdeburg.