

April 2018

Villingen, Germany

Enthusiastic audience of connection of world religions

German-Israeli co-production inspires the audience in the Franziskaner Konzerthaus.



The performance of the oratorio "Elias" in the Franciscan Concert Hall is a joint effort of many participants. In addition to many soloists act with the orchestra Camerata Academica Freiburg, the choirs Tivon Israel Chamber Choir, Misgav Hagalil Choir and Vocals - The Choir Ensemble Villingen. *Pictures: Sabine Naiemi | Picture: Sabine Naiemi*

At the performance of the oratorio "Elias" at the Franziskaner Konzerthaus last Sunday, the audience experienced many goose bumps moments. Unfortunately, many places were empty in the Franciscan. But the audience was so enthusiastic that it finally applauded for a few minutes standing with loud cheers. This interpretation of the setting of the life of the prophet Elijah is a joint German-Israeli project under the direction of the Israeli conductor Yael-Wagner-Avital, in which the vocal ensemble of the Protestant Villingen Kantorei is also involved.



Florian Veit of the orchestra Camerata Academica Freiburg plays the timpani, in the background the singers of the three choirs. | Picture: Sabine Naiemi

Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio is one of the most dramatic and musically varied choral works of all. All the more remarkable is what the amateur singers of the Villinger Ensemble have done in recent weeks. Recently the Passion Concert and now such a gigantic work of two and a half hours duration. There really is a lot of lifeblood of all singers in it. In addition to many soloists, two Israeli choirs - the Tivon Israel Chamber Choir and the Misgav Hagalil Choir - are participating in this joint German-Israeli project. Since the oratorio is a project of Yael Wagner-Avital, it was also her who stood on the conductor's rostrum. Their part, however, practiced the Villinger singer with district cantor Marius Mack. As soloists nationally and internationally known interpreters were on stage: Soprano Siri Karoline Thornhill, Britta Schwarz (alto), the tenor Philipp Nicklaus, baritone Johannes Hill and the boy Mark Grishin. Choral soloists included Orit Fontein, Joke Roded, Bilha Sinai-Tubin, Roly Wahnou and Moshe Senderowicz. The performance was sung entirely in German.



The audience in the Franciscan claps after the performance for several minutes enthusiastically standing. Around 400 visitors came to the concert on Sunday afternoon. | Picture: Sabine Naiemi

You do not have to say anything about the work itself, it does not have its reputation for nothing. Entirely fascinated, the audience listened, tense and highly concentrated, some listeners sang quiet passages in the density of the atmosphere. To escape the magic of the performance was impossible.

For the Villinger singers, this performance of the oratorio is not yet over. Some of them will travel to Israel during the Whitsun holidays. There they will participate in three concerts and, of course, to explore the foreign country.