

Moving experience By Mirko Rechnitzer Mon, 09 April 2018

Classical "Elias" -Oratorium in the Herz-Jesu-Kirche in Freiburg.

When the singers of the Israeli choirs Misgav Hagalil and Israel Chamber Choir Tivon as well as the Villingen Ensemble Vokale entered the choir of the Sacred Heart Church in Freiburg, the concentrated and devotional energy was already noticeable, which in the following hours was a moving spiritual experience Music certain.

Together with the Camerata Academica Freiburg, the choirs performed Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio "Elias" as part of a joint German-Israeli project in the name of reconciliation and understanding. The work focuses on the history of the biblical prophet, which is important to Jews and Christians, and is supplemented in the libretto only by a non-specific Christological messianic perspective. Under the direction of Israeli conductor Yael Wagner-Avital, the ensembles merged into a homogenous choral sound that effectively conveyed the impression of a people of God who participated in and reflected on the biblical narrative.

Johannes Hill (baritone), who had intervened for the diseased Florian Küppers, gave the prophet a full and powerful voice in the desert, and filled the figure with moods in different moods. The other roles were filled credibly by Siri Karoline Thornhill (soprano), Britta Schwarz (alto) and Philipp Nicklaus (tenor) with empathy and technical skill.

The performance of the quartet and double quartet movements by soloists from the choir together with the professional soloists offered a special charm. The orchestra, too, despite a sometimes disturbing overweight of the wind instruments convincingly integrated into the overall sound and helped to create a poignant atmosphere. The interaction of the performers also drew the audience into the spell of the biblical narrative. After the final hymn "Lord how glorious is your name" had died away, it erupted into lasting, standing ovations.