

FROM ROTTERDAM IN THE NETHERLANDS

De Coolsingers

MEN'S CHOIR

Baltimore Tour 2008

Free Concerts

TUESDAY, OCT 21

Enoch Pratt Central Library — 12:00-1:30pm
400 Cathedral Street, Downtown Baltimore

North Baltimore Mennonite Church — 8:30-10pm
Joint Performance with the Missing Chums
4615 Roland Avenue, Roland Park

WEDNESDAY, OCT 22

Baltimore City Hall — 12:30-1:30pm
100 North Holliday Street, Downtown Baltimore

THURSDAY, OCT 23

Amtrak's Pennsylvania Station — 8:00-9:00am
1500 N. Charles Street, Central Baltimore

Interview on WBJC 95.1 FM — 2:00-3:00pm

SATURDAY, OCT 25

Inner Harbor Amphitheater — 1:00-2:00pm

This 17-member choir performs vocal music spanning from the Middle Ages to contemporary works.

Additional Events

TUESDAY, OCT 21

Waxter Center for Senior Citizens
Concert

Lyric Opera House
Guided tour for choir members

WEDNESDAY, OCT 22

Baltimore School for the Arts
Workshop & performance

Senior Network
Concert

Peabody Institute
Guided tour for choir members

Children's Chorus of Maryland
Concert

THURSDAY, OCT 23

Hippodrome Theater
Guided tour for choir members

OrchKids Program
Workshop



BALTIMORE ↔ ROTTERDAM
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Tour organized by the Baltimore
Mayor's Office of International and Immigrant Affairs
www.baltimorecity.gov/government/intl/

De Coolsingers website: www.decoolsingers.nl

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www.baltimorerotterdam.org

ABOUT THE CHOIR

The Rotterdam Young Men's Choir De Coolsingers currently consists of 15 men aged 16 to 31 years old. The choir was founded in October 1999 and since that time Arie Hoek has been the conductor of the choir. In addition to driving musical ambitions, friendship and social cohesion play an important role within De Coolsingers. The name of the choir is derived from the main street in Rotterdam "De Coolsingel", with a pun on the English pronunciation of the name.

The repertory of De Coolsingers varies from Medieval to contemporary music. Classical and well-known pieces of music by for example Felix Mendelssohn and Edward Elgar are combined with contemporary music. Hayo Boerema, a promising, young Dutch composer, translated four poems by renowned Dutch poet Ida Gerhardt into music, especially for De Coolsingers. The past two years the choir has focused not only on its core business of singing a capella music, but also on larger-scale projects. For these projects, the group has worked together with professional musical ensembles, solo singers and female guest singers. In this way the choir can broaden and develop its repertory.

In December 2006, De Coolsingers performed "The Symphony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten. Earlier that year "Das Berliner Requiem" by Kurt Weill and the "Military Mass" by Bohuslav Martinu were performed. The mass was repeated in January 2007 in co-production with the Rotterdam College of Music, conducted by French based Dutch conductor Arie van Beek. At the end of June 2007 the choir sang the famous opera "Dido and Aeneas" by Henri Purcell.

De Coolsingers were also invited to participate in multiple musical and cultural events in Rotterdam. In 2008 the choir participated in local festivals. During the Rotterdam Opera Festival of 2007 and 2008 the choir sang in traveling opera performances. In the 2007 edition of the Rotterdam Opera Festival, the choir participated in a modern, contemporary opera "Sporloos" (Lost Without a Trace) by Dutch composer Peter Jan Wagemans and, in the 2008 edition, in the opening act of Monteverdi's "Orfeo" and the closing act of "Orfeo" by Offenbach.

In April and May 2007 De Coolsingers made concert tours to the city of Basel, Switzerland and the Dutch Islands of Terschelling and Vlieland. Before that, the choir visited the cities of Saint Petersburg, Russia, in 2002 and Dresden and Leipzig, Germany in 2004. In 2003 the choir was invited to participate in the International Choir Festival in Berlin, Germany.

In October 2008 the choir is making a concert tour to the U.S. visiting Baltimore, New York and Washington. The idea is to experience the cities, cultural exchange and to perform at different venues in Baltimore.

In 2009 De Coolsingers will celebrate their 10th anniversary. For this special and festive occasion, the choir is currently asking four renowned Dutch composers to compose some new pieces music. With this new music, De Coolsingers will continue their tradition of refreshing and renewing the repertory for young male voices.

CONDUCTOR

Arie Hoek

Arie Hoek's (1960) primary subjects at the Rotterdam College of Music were Organ, Harpsichord, Church Music and Choir Conducting, and he also studied Choir Conducting, second level, at the southern Dutch College of Choir Conducting.

In addition to conducting the Rotterdam Young Men's Choir De Coolsingers, he is also the conductor of the "Carmina Amantes" choir, boys' choir Rivierenland, and boys' choir Rijnmond. From 2001 to 2005 he was the conductor of the Dutch National Broadcasting Boys' Choir.

With these various boys' choirs, Arie Hoek participated in many productions by Philippe Herrweghe, Valerie Gergjiev, Laurens Renes, Edo de Waard, Jaap van Zweden, Jan Willem de Vriend, Arnold Ostman and many others.

He is also the cantor of the church of Saint Martin in Zaltbommel and musical leader of Saint Martin's Music Foundation. From 1994 he has been teaching Church Music for multiple voices, hymnology and church choirs at the Rotterdam College of Music.



De Coolsingers site:
www.decoolsingers.nl
(in Dutch language)