

# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **PHOENIX BOYS CHOIR CAPTURES 1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE AT SUMMA CUM LAUDE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL IN VIENNA *Tour Choir and Men's Choir Take 2<sup>nd</sup> in Mixed Choir Category***

VIENNA, Austria (July 12, 2007): The Phoenix Boys Choir Tour Choir capped off a 21-day concert tour of Europe by taking first prize at the Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival at the world-renowned Musikverein on July 10.

Competing against youth choirs from around the world in the Treble Choir category, and judged by an international panel of music professionals, the Tour Choir, under the baton of Artistic Director Georg Stangelberger, performed the compulsory *Keine Gerechtigkeit* by contemporary Austrian composer Herwig Reither and the "Laudi alla Vergine Maria" by Guiseppe Verde, receiving a resounding standing ovation from the audience of 2000 in the magnificent Magna Auditorium.

"The audience was completely silent during the boys' performance so they wouldn't miss a single note and kept intensely silent for several moments after the piece before breaking out in applause and shouts of "bravo," Stangelberger said. "The entire tour was exceptional and this moment of triumph was a particularly moving way to end the tour."

The Tour Choir and the Men's Choir, also under Stangelberger's direction, performed Mozart's *Ave Verum* to thunderous applause and a second place finish in the Mixed Choir category.

"The sound of boys and the men is truly award winning and the success at the Festival mirrored the success on the entire tour," Stangelberger said. "I will remember these performances as among the most outstanding we have given over the past eight years."

The first annual four-day Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival was presented by the Vienna International Association for Music and Culture Exchange.

The Phoenix Boys Choir will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary beginning in the fall of 2007 with events and concerts through 2008.

For more information, visit [www.boyschoir.org](http://www.boyschoir.org).