

THEATRE OF VOICES

Theatre of Voices was founded in London in 1990 by early music icon Paul Hillier and is counted among the world's finest vocal ensembles. The group's first concerts in Berlin and London featured new works by Arvo Pärt as well as by John Cage. After twelve flourishing years in USA performing right across North America and making various European tours, Hillier moved back to Europe in 2003 and the group has been based in Copenhagen. In 2010—the group's 20th anniversary year—Theatre of Voices received a Grammy Award for David Lang's *The Little Match Girl Passion*.

Its main focus nowadays is on new music, though very often interwoven with various kinds of early music, reflecting Hillier's lifelong devotion to these two ends of the musical spectrum. Paul Hillier and Theatre of Voices have enjoyed close collaborations with numerous composers: Arvo Pärt, Steve Reich, Terry Riley, John Cage, Ingram Marshall, John Adams, David Lang, Michael Gordon, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Heiner Goebbels, Kaija Saariaho, Pelle Gudmundsen-Holmgreen, Helena Tulve, Sunleif Rasmussen, Jóhann Jóhannsson and many more.

In 2025 Theatre of Voices premiered Julia Wolfe's *Italian Lesson* at Carnegie Hall New York.

An intense artistic partnership ties the group with Concerto Copenhagen, Kronos Quartett, Meta4 String Quartet, London Sinfonietta, Michala Petri, Fretwork, Phantasm, Peter Langars, Pablo Ortiz among others.

The ensemble performs at prominent international festivals and major venues such as Edinburgh, Berlin Musikfest, Potsdam, Schwäbisch Gmünd, RheinVokal, Schütz Musikfest Dresden, Prague Dvorak, Bergen, Nargen, Ravenna, Cremona, Fribourg and New Vision Festival Hong Kong as well as Carnegie Hall New York, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Barbican and King's Place London, Royal Opera Copenhagen, Flagey Brussels, Brucknerhaus Linz and Museo Reina Sofia Madrid.

The singers enjoy also special projects e.g. with art of installation. Theatre of Voices sung Saariaho's opera *Only the Sound Remains* in Paris, Madrid and New York. The ensemble were also soloists with the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Orquestra Sinfonica do Porto Casa da Música, BBC Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra and London Sinfonietta.

Their current project is a performance of W.A. Mozart's Requiem, featuring four singers and string quartet (Meta4), at venues including the Merano Festival, Monfalcone and Vicenza. Theatre of Voices will also be performing at the Prague Sound Festival and Eurolava in Oulu, Finland.

Since 2021 Theatre of Voices promotes its own festival of several days in Copenhagen and Holbaek, Denmark annually at the end of July:

The discography of Theatre of Voices includes numerous albums for harmonia mundi, including the highly praised recording *Creator Spiritus* with chamber music works by Arvo Pärt, *The Christmas Story* based on the traditional Christmas service *Nine Lessons and Carols*, Stockhausen's *Stimmung*, works by Luciano Berio and other contemporary composers (*Stories*) and *Cries of London* (English renaissance

music) and David Lang's *The Little Match Girl Passion*.

Dacapo Records has released Buxtehude's *Scandinavian Cantatas* as well as works by Pelle Gudmundsen-Holmgreen based on *Song* in Dowland's *Lacrimae*.

Deutsche Grammophon featured five albums with works by Oscar-nominated Icelandic composer Jóhann Jóhannsson, lately *Drone Mass* together with the ACME Ensemble.

Theatre of Voices has also moved into the film world. Tracks from more than thirty CD recordings are used on movie soundtracks such as *La Grande Bellezza* and *Arrival*, and the ensemble has worked on film projects with Danish documentarist Phie Amboe and Jóhann Jóhannsson.

Theatre of Voices is sponsored by the Danish Arts Foundation and Augustinus Foundation.

Season 2026/27