



## The Hugo-Distler-Choir in a nutshell

We continue to admit new singers – especially tenors – who want to contribute actively to our artistic work and the musical aims of the choir.

**Founded:** in 1953 by Klaus Fischer-Dieskau

**Size:** 40 singers  
(between chamber choir and classical oratorio choir)

**Program:** two to three concert programs per year,  
both a-cappella and choral-orchestral oratorios

**Voice training:** Julia Spencker, Thomas Kober

**Musical director:** Stefan Schuck

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## Introducing the Hugo-Distler-Choir

The Hugo Distler Choir looks back on a 50 year tradition in choral music in Berlin. It was founded in 1953 by Klaus Fischer-Dieskau. The Choir consists of about 40 singers. Its size places it between a chamber choir and classical oratorio choir. This enables us to offer in the course of a year both demanding a cappella literature from all musical periods and choral-orchestral oratorios.

At this time, we prepare two to three concert programs per year. In this, the Choir becomes a tightly knit community of people from different backgrounds and creeds. Whether old or young, man or woman, from Berlin, Hungary or Japan, whether postman, student or scientist – what binds all together is the joy of a common goal.

Each one of us prepares the pieces of music individually for the rehearsals; many also take private singing lessons. That's why we usually have to rehearse once a week only, which is easy to reconcile with our work or other activities.

In order to ensure a high performance standard, in March 2000 we have decided a policy of re-auditioning all our members every two years. Furthermore, in preparation for each concert, every choir member receives individual voice training from Elisabeth Esch and individual rehearsals from Stefan Schuck.

The association with the name of the Berlin composer Hugo Distler presents the Choir with a double mandate. First, it deals intensively with the sacred (primarily protestant) music of the baroque (such as Heinrich Schütz, Johann Herrmann Schein, Johann Sebastian Bach). This music was a rich source of inspiration for Hugo Distler. Second, the name imposes an obligation to perform contemporary and lesser known music. In this pursuit, the work of Hugo Distler takes a special place.



## Our Musical Director: Stefan Schuck

As musical director of the Hugo Distler Choir, Stefan Schuck concerns himself not only with the quality of the program and the interpretation of the music. He also involves himself in various ways in the complete choral experience, for example, with workshops on rhythm or sight-reading.

He studied choral and orchestral directing under, among others, Professor U. Gronostay and Professor J. Starek. He was Assistant Conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic Choir and is Assistant Professor at the Berlin University of Arts. He has directed the Hugo Distler Choir since 1992 and also has been the Professor of Choral and Orchestral Conducting at the Rottenburg-Stuttgart College of Church Music since 1998.

## Our Voice Teacher: Elisabeth Esch

Elisabeth Esch gives the singers the possibility to reach the highest limits of their capabilities. This takes place in individual and small group voice lessons. She also has enriched many of the Choir's concerts as a soprano soloist.

She studied Church Music in Düsseldorf, completing her voice study with Professor Ingeborg Reichelt and Professor Theo Lindenbaum. She supplemented her education with private voice study, acting lessons, and elocution classes.

In her own capacity as a voice teacher, she sensitively passes her acquired knowledge on to her students. She has also, with her lyrical soprano voice, performed in countless oratorio concerts in Germany and abroad.



## Our Projects

We usually have a focus on one big concert project at the time. In addition we perform in services of the parish "Am Hohenzollerndamm" several times a year, which enables us to rehearse in her rooms.

We also meet for workshops in training, e.g., sight-reading or theory of harmony and rhythm. Who wants more, can practise ensemble singing in groups of four to eight singers.

For more and current details, have a look at our rehearsing schedule (pdf-data file), which you can find on our website:

**[www.hugo-distler-chor-berlin.de](http://www.hugo-distler-chor-berlin.de)**

## Where we rehearse:

Kirche Am Hohenzollernplatz – Martin-Luther-Saal  
Nassauische Str. 66, 10707 Berlin  
Nahe U2 Hohenzollernplatz, U 9 Spichernstrasse oder Güntzelstrasse

The entrance to the parish hall is on the right side of the church entrance. You then go right, upstairs to the first floor, then right through the red fire protection door and straight into the Martin Luther hall.

## The Choir Society

Since 1974, the Hugo-Distler-Choir society (Hugo-Distler-Chor e.V.) supports the choir. Everyone, who likes our work can support us as a member or by making a donation.

Donations account:  
Account n°: 477077104  
Bank: Postbank Berlin  
Sort code: (Bankleitzahl) 100 100 10

**Further information: [hdcb Berlin@t-online.de](mailto:hdcb Berlin@t-online.de)**