

The logo for Calmus Ensemble Leipzig features the word "CALMUS" in a large, black, serif font. Below it, "ENSEMBLE LEIPZIG" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. A stylized, orange, swirling graphic element overlaps the letters of "CALMUS".

# CALMUS

ENSEMBLE LEIPZIG

It began with the place: Leipzig. The Saxon metropolis of music is not only home to the famous *Gewandhaus* but also a fertile cultural ground for other musical development. The long-distinguished *Thomasschule* with its graduates is a particularly abundant source of multifaceted vocal endeavors. One of the fruits of Leipzig's recent past, the Calmus Ensemble was formed in 1999.

Five former members of the St. Thomas Boys' Choir became a vocal quintet right after graduating. They soon had success performing concerts all over Germany. When they decided to become more flexible in their choice of repertoire, however, something was missing: the female touch in the upper register. So they searched and soon found Anja Lipfert. Since 2001 she has crowned the Ensemble's sound with her bright soprano voice, cultivated in her years in the *MDR Kinderchor* (Children's Choir of the Middle German State Radio Network) and which continues to be developed at the Leipzig Conservatory.

As they expanded the breadth of their range, the repertoire of the Calmus Ensemble was also expanded: its stylistic variety is almost unlimited. Whether it be music of the Gregorian period, of Machaut, Palestrina, Bach, Verdi or contemporary sacred music, or, the great variety of profane music extending from madrigals to folksongs or rock – these singers from Leipzig are at home in all styles but add their own personal touch as well. Not limiting themselves to traditional repertoire, they have a series of their own arrangements as well as commissioned works in their repertoire. Apart from *a cappella* music, they take active interest in breaking down barriers in the periods from the Baroque to experimental Jazz.

An active concert schedule has already led the Ensemble to all parts of Germany, as well as to Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria, Spain, Portugal and the United States. The Ensemble has also participated in renowned music festivals such as the Bach-Festival Leipzig, the International *a cappella* Week in Hannover and the Schleswig-Holstein-Music Festival, where they gave a final polishing to their sound in the Master Class of the King's Singers.

The astounding stylistic spectrum of the present Ensemble of five members, the flawless intonation, the vocal homogeneity, and last but not least the large palette of varied sonic colors, are documented in a series of CDs. The young singers have received many well-known awards. In 2002 the Calmus Ensemble was chosen to participate in the national »*Konzerte Junger Künstler*« (concerts of selected prize-winning young German musicians). At the »4<sup>th</sup> International Robert Schumann Choral Competition« they took the first place, just as they did in the finale of the national *a cappella* competition »*Jugend Kulturell*« (Cultural Youth), the »International Contest for Vocal Ensembles« in Tampere/Finland and the »37<sup>th</sup> Tolosa Choral Contest« in Tolosa/Spain.

## **Calmus Ensemble Leipzig**

Anja Lipfert, Soprano  
Sebastian Krause, Countertenor  
Tobias Pöche, Tenor  
Ludwig Böhme, Baritone  
Joe Roesler, Bass