

# Choral Conducting Masterclass with Florian Helgath and Zürcher Sing-Akademie

**1 - 4 Oktober 2026, Leipzig**

This chor.com-masterclass in choral conducting with Florian Helgath covers various aspects of working with choirs. The focus is on developing and refining conducting skills, gestures and rehearsal techniques using a variety of works from the Romantic to the Modern periods. Participants will have the opportunity to put what they have learned into practice with the *Zürcher Sing-Akademie*. A concert in Leipzig, conducted by the participants themselves, will conclude the masterclass on Sunday, 4 October 2026.

## **Master teacher:**

**Florian Helgath** has established himself internationally as one of the leading choral conductors. As Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of *Chorwerk Ruhr* and the *Zürcher Sing-Akademie*, he has shaped the ensembles into top international choirs of the highest calibre, both with a cappella music as well as in the field of choral symphonies.

Florian Helgath gained his first musical experience with *Regensburger Domspatzen* and at Hochschule für Musik und Theater Munich. Michael Gläser, Stefan Parkman and Dan Olof Stenlund were among his formative teachers who had a decisive influence on his development as a conductor.

His international success include winning prizes in competitions such as the Eric Ericson Award 2006, the Competition For Young Choral Conductors 2007 in Budapest and the Choral Conductors' Forum of Bavarian Radio 2007. In 2020, Florian Helgath was appointed Professor at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz in Cologne. Since 2024 he has been Professor of Choral Conducting at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Munich.

## **Choir:**

For the *Zürcher Sing-Akademie*, tonal excellence and musical expression are paramount. Since its founding in 2011, the ensemble has grown to become an established fixture in the professional choral world in Europe. Since the season 2017-18, Florian Helgath has been shaping the choir's profile as its artistic director.

Working with numerous top conductors has had a decisive influence on the quality and flexibility of the ensemble. The *Zürcher Sing-Akademie* performs symphonic repertoire in cooperation with various outstanding orchestras in Europe's major concert halls and, with its a cappella programmes, places a special focus on Swiss choral music. This diversity is documented in an exciting range of CD recordings.

## **Repertoire:**

- Johannes Brahms (1833 – 1897): Fünf Gesänge op 104
- Frank Martin (1890 – 1974): Messe für zwei vierstimmige Chöre a cappella
- Frank Martin: Songs of Ariel (aus: Shakespeares „The Tempest“)
- Heinz Holliger: Nr. 4 „mutter unser“ und Nr. 5 „intonation“ (aus: „Himmel Hölle“)



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### **Participants:**

This masterclass is aimed at choral conducting students and choir directors who wish to refine and develop their conducting, gestures and rehearsal didactics. The number of active participants is limited to six to eight people. Selected parts of the masterclass will also be open to passive participants (listeners). **The masterclass is held in German.**

### **Applications for active participation:**

To apply as an active participant in the masterclass, please fill out the relevant application form [www.chor.com/masterclasses](http://www.chor.com/masterclasses). Please include:

- a CV
- two short videos (max. 5 minutes) of a choir rehearsal or concert featuring works of different styles

Links to YouTube and other online platforms are welcomed. Alternatively, you may send a DVD via postal service to: Deutscher Chorverband e. V., chor.com/Masterclass Helgath, Karl-Marx-Str. 145, 12043 Berlin, Germany.

**The closing date for applications is 30 June 2026.** A selection of the participants will be made by mid- August 2026.

### **Prices:**

Participation in this masterclass is covered by price of the chor.com full-access ticket (Gesamtticket) €360 normal price, €180 reduced rate\*, as well as €200 / reduced rate €100\* for active participation. The full-access tickets are valid for all workshops and entitle the holder to purchase concert tickets at a price of €5 (subject to availability and prior booking). One-day tickets do not entitle the holder to active participation in masterclasses.

Board and lodgings are not included in the price of the ticket and must be organised independently. Full-access tickets are available at [www.chor.com](http://www.chor.com) or at the chor.com event itself.

### **Passive participation:**

Registered full-access participants of the chor.com can also passively participate in public sessions of the masterclasses without applying. For these time slots, a chor.com ticket (full-access ticket or day ticket) is a prerequisite as is the registration which is part of the workshop bookings.

### **Contact and enquiries:**

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\* for students, pupils, unemployed persons, trainees, participants in the German Federal Volunteer Service, persons doing military or civilian service, persons with disabilities with a degree of 50 or more, subject to valid ID



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