

Choral Conducting Masterclass with Yuval Weinberg and SWR Vokalensemble

1 - 4 October 2026, Leipzig

Under the direction of Yuval Weinberg, this four-day choral conducting masterclass as part of chor.com 2026 offers choir directors the opportunity to develop the conducting skills in all aspects, improve body language, solve rhythmical problems, create a tone controlled technique, show dynamical differences, pronunciation, intonation and interpretation. Furthermore, new and interesting repertoire will be introduced. The participants can test their learnings directly together with the *SWR Vokalensemble*. A concert in Leipzig, led by the participants themselves, will conclude the masterclass on Sunday, 04 October 2026.

Master teacher:

Yuval Weinberg has been at the helm of the *SWR Vokalensemble* as chief conductor since the start of the 2020/2021 season. He studied singing and conducting in Tel Aviv and continued his training with Jörg-Peter Weigle at the Hanns Eisler Academy of Music in Berlin and Grete Pedersen in Oslo.

Yuval Weinberg was awarded a scholarship of the Conductors' Forum of the German Music Council and has won numerous prizes at international competitions: the special jury prize at the competition for young choral conductors in St. Petersburg in 2013, first prize at the choral conducting competition in Wrocław in 2014, the Gary Bertini Young Conductors' Prize in 2015 and 2016 and first prize at the Marktoberdorf Chamber Choir Competition in 2017 – together with the *NOVA Chamber Choir*.

From 2015 to 2017, he was chief conductor of the *Oslo Chamber Choir NOVA* and the *National Youth Choir of Norway* and 2019-2023 Artistic Director of the *EuroChoir*. He has been Principal Guest Conductor of the *Norske Solistkor* since 2019 and is currently Chief conductor of *SWR Vokalensemble*.

Choir:

The *SWR Vokalensemble* is one of the international top ensembles in the professional choir scene. Ever since the ensemble was founded almost 75 years ago it has devoted its passion and extraordinary vocal competence to exemplary performances and the further development of vocal music. The instrumental tonal culture and the vocal and stylistic flexibility of the singers are unique and do not only fascinate the audiences in international concert halls, but also the composers. More than 250 works were written for the *SWR Vokalensemble* over the past decades and new ones are added every year. In addition to contemporary music the *SWR Vokalensemble* specifically focusses on the demanding choral works of the Romantic period and Classical Modernism.

From 2004 to 2020 Marcus Creed was the chief conductor of the *SWR Vokalensemble*. Under his direction the ensemble was awarded numerous prizes for its chamber music culture of interpretation

chor.com | 1 -4 October 2026 | Leipzig

Künstlerische Leitung: Stephan Doormann
Geschäftsführung: Veronika Petzold
Präsident: Christian Wulff



DEUTSCHER CHORVERBAND

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and its stylistic confidence: the "Deutsche Schallplattenkritik" Annual Award, the "Echo Klassik", the "Diapason d'Or", the "Choc de la Musique" and the "Grand Prix du Disque" to name but a few. Since 2020 Yuval Weinberg has been the ensemble's artistic director. With the complete recording of all choral works by György Ligeti, released in 2023, he presented his first recording as chief conductor of the *SWR Vokalensemble*, being rewarded with the annual "Diapason D'Or" and "Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik".

Repertoire:

The repertoire for the masterclass consists of the following works:

- Olivier Messiaen: Cinq Rechants für 12 Stimmen a cappella (1/2 Chor)
- Kaija Saariaho: Nuits, Adieux für 4 Soli und 12-stimmigen Chor a cappella (1/2 Chor)
- Bohuslav Martinu: Tschechische Madrigale (Auswahl)
- Johannes Brahms: Fünf Gesänge op 104 Nr 1-3

Preparations:

In preparation for the masterclass, participants are expected to study the score in detail and familiarise themselves with the works. The successful applicants will receive materials in advance (e.g. on Czech pronunciation). If necessary, there will be an online preliminary meeting prior to chor.com. Details will be announced in good time.

Participants:

This masterclass is aimed at advanced choir conducting students as well as experienced choir conductors who would like to deepen their knowledge of conducting techniques and body expression to strengthen communication and artistic output. The number of active participants is limited to six persons. Selected parts of this masterclass will be open to passive participants (listeners) as well. **The masterclass is held in German and English.**

Applications for active participation:

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

- CV
- Cover letter
- Video (showing the applicant from the front and from the side).

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 Weinberg, Karl-Marx-Str. 145, 12043 Berlin, Germany.

The closing date for applications is 30 June 2026. A selection of the active 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 special 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 organized independently. Full-access tickets are available at 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

