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BIOGRAPHY **Ton Koopman**

Born in Zwolle, the Netherlands, Ton Koopman received a classical education, studying organ, harpsichord, and musicology in Amsterdam, where he was awarded the prestigious Prix d'Excellence for both instruments. Naturally attracted by historical instruments and fascinated by historically informed performance practice, Koopman devoted his studies to Baroque music, with particular focus on J. S. Bach and D. Buxtehude. He soon emerged as one of the leading figures of the historically informed performance movement.

As an organist and harpsichordist, Ton Koopman has performed in the world's most prestigious concert halls and played many of Europe's finest historic instruments. At the age of 25, he founded his first baroque orchestra, and in 1979 established the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, followed by the Amsterdam Baroque Choir in 1992. United as the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra & Choir, the ensemble quickly achieved international acclaim.

With a repertoire spanning from the early Baroque to the Classical period, the ensemble has appeared at leading venues worldwide, including the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and Salle Pleyel in Paris, the Barbican Centre and Royal Albert Hall in London, the Musikverein and Konzerthaus in Vienna, the Philharmonie in Berlin, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York, and Suntory Hall in Tokyo, among many others.

In recent years, Ton Koopman has been highly active as a guest conductor, appearing with many of the world's most prestigious orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam, Vienna Symphony Orchestra, Munich Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, and NHK Symphony Orchestra Tokyo.

Ton Koopman has recorded well over 400 CDs and LPs for Erato, Teldec, Sony, Deutsche Grammophon, and Philips. Since 2003, his recordings have been released on his own label, Antoine Marchand, an imprint of Challenge Classics.

Among Ton Koopman's most ambitious achievements is the recording of the complete cantatas of J. S. Bach, a monumental project that earned him numerous international distinctions, including the Deutsche Schallplattenpreis Echo Klassik, the BBC Music Award, and the Hector Berlioz Prize, as well as nominations for both the Grammy Award in the United States and the Gramophone Award in the United Kingdom.

Alongside his devotion to Bach's oeuvre, Koopman has long been a passionate advocate of the music of Dieterich Buxtehude, Bach's great predecessor. Following the completion of the Bach Cantata project, he embarked on the recording of Buxtehude's Opera Omnia, a landmark edition comprising 30 CDs.

Ton Koopman is also a prolific scholar and editor. Among his many publications, he has prepared a complete edition of Handel's Organ Concertos for Breitkopf & Härtel and has published new editions of Handel's Messiah and Buxtehude's Das Jüngste Gericht for Carus Verlag.

President of the International Dieterich Buxtehude Society, Koopman has received numerous honours throughout his career, including the Bach Medal of the City of Leipzig (2006), the Buxtehude Prize of the City of Lübeck (2012), the Bach Prize of the Royal Academy of Music in London (2014), and the prestigious Edison Classical Award (2017). In 2024, he was awarded the honorary medal of his hometown, Zwolle, and was appointed Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Republic. In 2025, he received the VSCD Oeuvre Award in recognition of his lifetime achievements.

Since 2019, he has served as President of the Leipzig Bach Archive.

Ton Koopman is Emeritus Professor at Leiden University and the Royal Conservatoire The Hague, an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music in London, an Honorary Doctor of the universities of Linz and Lübeck, and Artistic Director of the Itinéraire Baroque Festival.

Season 2026-27

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