

Status: November 2026 – changes only with authorization of Weigold & Böhm Agency
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BIOGRAPHY **The Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra & Choir**

Ton Koopman founded the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra (ABO) in 1979. The group consists of internationally renowned Baroque specialists who meet up several times a year and work together to prepare and perform exciting new programmes. For the musicians, each concert is a new experience, and Koopman's boundless energy and enthusiasm are a sure guarantee of the highest quality.

The Amsterdam Baroque Choir (ABC) was founded in 1992 and made its debut during the Holland Festival of Early Music in Utrecht, performing the world première of the Requiem (for 15 voices) and Vespers (for 32 voices) by H.I.F. Biber. The recording of both works won the Cannes Classical Award for best performance of 17th/18th-century choral music. For its rare combination of textural clarity and interpretative flexibility, ABC is considered among today's most outstanding choirs.

Between 1994 and 2004, Ton Koopman and his ABO&C realised one of the most ambitious recording projects of the last decades: the integral recording of Bach's secular and sacred cantatas. For this extraordinary project, Koopman and his ensembles received the Deutsche Schallplatten-Preis Echo Klassik.

In 2014, ABO&C completed another major recording project: performing and recording all surviving works by Dieterich Buxtehude, a great source of inspiration for the young Johann Sebastian Bach. The CD series Dieterich Buxtehude Opera Omnia includes Buxtehude's chamber music, harpsichord, organ, and vocal works.

Over the years, ABO&C have recorded a great variety of works from the Baroque and Classical periods: from Bach's Passions to all of Mozart's symphonies, and from Locatelli's concerti grossi to Christmas songs. Major recognitions include the Gramophone Award, Diapason d'Or, Prix Hector Berlioz, Edison Award, BBC Award, and Echo Klassik Award. Ton Koopman and his ABO&C remain regular guests at the great concert halls and festivals of Europe, North America, and Asia.

The 2024-2025 season marked the celebration of Ton Koopman's 80th birthday, as well as the 45th anniversary of the orchestra. This festive season included performances of Handel's very first English oratorios, Esther and Deborah, alongside the complete Brandenburg Concertos.

The 2025-2026 season built on this momentum with a successful tour to China, and reached a further milestone in the autumn of 2025 with the completion of the Handel oratorio trilogy through the performance of Athalia, following Esther and Deborah.

Looking ahead, the 2026-2027 season centres on a couple of major new projects: the ABOC&C will be touring with Bach's Christmas Oratorio (Weihnachtsoratorium) in Europe in November and December 2026, alongside performances of Mozart's Requiem in both Spain and the Netherlands early 2027 to the next highlight of Bach's Matthew Passion in 2027 with concerts in The Netherlands, Germany and Hungary.

Season 2026-2027