

Salzburg, June 2011

Festival for young choirs 2011 in Zell am See

Zell am See resounded with song this past weekend. After a break of seven years Zell am See organized a festival for young choirs, with 14 choirs and over 350 voices in attendance. The singers ranging from 14 – 26 years old came from all parts of Austria, from Aosta-valley, Friaul/Italy, the Trentino and the South-Tyrol. The city of Salzburg dispatched “Men only” and the “Salzburger Chorknaben- und Mädchen”.

On Friday the choirs participated in a beautiful Mass on the Asitz in Leogang and in the afternoon performed a concert on the “Open stage” of the Asitz summit (Tonspurenbühne). On Saturday the participants made Zell am See resound with song, as they sang at locations throughout Zell am See. On three evenings the townspeople could attend public concerts in the Ferry Porsche Congress Center under the motto “Youth sings”.

Saturday held a great surprise for participants and attendees of the concert: The famous musician “Bluatschink” was in Zell am See and fascinated everybody with his music. Toni Knittel, who is a choirmaster himself, incorporated the musical abilities of the young voices in his concert, resulting in a wonderful musical extravaganza right through till midnight. On Sunday the festival finished with an ecumenical mass in the parish church of Zell am See “Saint Hippolyt”.

The “Festival for young choirs” was organized by the Federation of Choirs Salzburg, in memoriam to Hanspeter Lugstein, the president elect of the Federation of Choirs, who died a few months ago, and who, before he died, laid the groundwork for this successful event. The fine weather of the weekend was certainly a result of his good influence.

The head-organizer comes from Zell am See:

Ferry Steibl, who sings in the “Liedertafel Zell am See”, is vice-president of the Federation of Choirs.

“With this festival we wanted to offer young singers the possibility, to present their abilities and proficiency in a broad public. Additionally they found friends and contacts among kindred spirits”, said Steibl, with Dieter E. Schaffer, president of the Salzburg Federation for Choirs, in full agreement.

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