

# Calmus, vocal ensemble

**Anja Pöche** - soprano; **Maria Kalmbach** - alto; **Friedrich Bracks** - tenor; **Ludwig Böhme** - baritone; **Manuel Helmeke** - bass

Described as “nothing short of remarkable...they, quite simply, bring whatever they sing to glorious life” by Deseret Morning News, Calmus was founded in 1999 in Leipzig, Germany.

A perfect blend of sound, precision, lightness and wit. These are the hallmarks of Calmus, nowadays one of the most successful a cappella quintets in the world. The ensemble has forged a refined sound which few groups achieve. The wide range of sound colors, the joy in performing that musicians convey on the concert platform, and their varied and imaginative programs are praised by the press time and time again. These five Leipzig musicians have won a whole string of international prizes and competitions, including Concert Artists Guild International Competition, the OPUS KLASSIK (Best Choral Performance), the ECHO KLASSIK and Supersonic Award, and the reach of their activities is constantly expanding, taking them throughout Europe as well as to North and South America. The group has performed at major series and halls in North America including Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, Lincoln Center Great Performers series, Ravinia Festival and Washington Performing Arts, the Virginia Arts Festival and Early Music Now.

The musicians are tireless in their quest to discover new repertoire. Shaped by the centuries-old tradition of great German boys' choirs, the music by Bach, Mendelssohn and other great German composers who lived and worked in Leipzig, they are naturally at home in the vocal music of the Renaissance, the Baroque and the Romantic. The music of our own time is also a real passion. In all their ventures, there are frequently interesting partnerships with musicians such as the vocal ensemble Amarcord, the Lautten Compagny Berlin, the Raschèr Saxophone Quartet, Hamburger Ratsmusik and the Frankfurt Radio Bigband. As this often means totally new repertoire in the area of contemporary music, over the years Calmus has commissioned numerous new works from composers including Bernd Franke, Steffen Schleiermacher, Wolfram Buchenberg, Mathew Rosenblum, Bill Dobbins, Paul Moravec, Michael Denhoff and Harald Banter, and the group has given many world premieres. It goes without saying that they revel in singing pop, folk and jazz.

Calmus' latest project from Spring 2021 is called **MOSAİK** and it contains of 41 commissioned miniature vocal works by composers and friends from all over the world as a statement about the time of the Corona pandemic. The result can be heard and seen online at [www.calmus-mosaik.de](http://www.calmus-mosaik.de) and it's just breathtaking.

Part of the work of this five Leipzig based singers is devoted to encouraging the up-and-coming generation, so teaching and workshops are part of their regular schedule, both at home in Leipzig and on their travels. It's no wonder that Calmus is gaining more and more fans worldwide.

[www.calmus.de](http://www.calmus.de)  
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