



Press Release

"FIFTY / FIFTY"

Qatari and German choirs sing side by side

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Doha, Qatar; April 4, 2017: The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region are happy to announce a unique choir exchange as part of Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture. The Doha Youth Choir invited the famous "Magdeburger Knabenchor" (Magdeburg Boys and Men Choir) to join for a cultural and musical experience in Qatar from 7 to 12 April 2017.

The choir exchange is independently financed by the Doha Youth and Junior Choirs, their families and choir sponsors Millennium Hotel, Yamaha Fifty One East, Saracen Community Initiative, Doha College and German International School of Doha. The travel costs of the German choir are financed by special funds of the Goethe-Institut.

HE Hans-Udo Muzel, German Ambassador to Qatar, says, *"I welcome Magdeburger Knabenchor to Doha, one of the best German Boys Choirs, and I wish us an exciting concert together with their hosts of Doha Youth and Junior Choirs. Many thanks to our partners, the Doha Youth and Junior Choirs, Qatar Museums and the German International School Doha!"*

Part of the exchange program is a joint concert of both choirs at the German International School on 8 April 2017 at 7:30 pm. Alena Pyne, director of the Doha Youth Choir, has initiated this unique exchange during a visit to Germany. Pyne says *"The concert program will present a mix of songs from around the world. The Doha Junior Choir will sing songs by Arvo Pärt and a Maori song from New Zealand. Doha Youth Choir will contribute songs from Arabia, America, Africa, Northern and Eastern Europe to the program. The lyrics will be in German, Latvian, Serbian, Georgian and English. Also, more modern arrangements of music by the Beatles and by Sting are part of the concert. The German choir will perform pieces by Mozart, Carl Maria von Weber, Mendelssohn, Schubert and Max Reger."* She concludes, *"The concert will close with all three choirs singing together. This is a true highlight, because you do not have the chance very often in Doha to hear 100 youths sounding in such a harmony that will fill the room. Fifty singers from Qatar*



side by side with fifty singers from Germany – this is why we have chosen the title 'Fifty/ Fifty' for the concert."

The concert is a ticketed event. Tickets are available from qtickets.com/fifty-fifty.

Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture is a year-long program designed to deepen understanding between nations through the mutual exchange of arts, culture, heritage and sport, developed by Qatar Museums in partnership with the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region, the German Embassy in Doha and the Embassy of Qatar in Germany.

-ENDS-

About Doha Youth Choir

The ambitious Doha Youth Choir comprises of 30 mixed voice singers aged 13-17. Now in its fourth year, this choir is being booked regularly for events and concerts. They perform at corporate events on various themes and enjoy exploring and expressing new music. The Doha Youth Choir was awarded a distinction in a board examination in 2016. International soprano Felicitas Fuchs has become the choir's honorary patron, which is startling for such a fresh inexperienced choir. Yet when you hear the Doha Choir singers, they sound like they have been singing together a lot longer.

About Magdeburg Boys Choir

The "Magdeburg Knabenchor" can be considered a German Institution. It has been founded 32 years ago and has always been under the direction of their brilliant conductor Frank Satzky. The choir has performed all over Europe such as in Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Russia, the Netherlands, Spain, Poland and France. It has recorded many CDs and DVDs. The visit to Qatar is the first time the choir travels to the Middle East.

About The Goethe-Institut:

The Goethe-Institut is a world-wide organization working to promote German language and culture. With a network of 159 institutes in 98 countries around the world and 12 institutes in Germany, the Goethe-Institut acts on behalf of the German Government to implement its cultural relations policy. The Goethe-Institut Gulf Region offers German language courses and organises cultural events in the Gulf Region. Together with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region arranges the programs of Qatar Germany Year of Culture 2017.

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