

Christian Bährens

COMPOSITIONS



Portfolio
August 2025

Short CV

Christian Bährens is choral conductor, composer, vocal coach and music teacher in his hometown Berlin where he studied Music and English at university. He was a committed flutist and graduated in music with additional diplomas in choral conducting and music theory. In the early 1980s he was member of conducting masterclasses with Heinz Hennig and Laszlo Heltay and founded the Wilmerdorfer Kammerchor and later his vocal ensemble Cantico Nuovo. He has conducted the students choir of Beethoven Gymnasium since he started teaching music there in 1991 and has directed the Matthäus-Kantorei Steglitz for over twenty years. In 2000 he worked with the RIAS-Kammerchor and prepared with them a baroque program for René Jacobs.

In 2011 he was promoted Doctor of Music at Bydgoszcz University in Poland and was invited as lecturer for choral music, conducting and voice training by Poznan Music Academy, Bydgoszcz University and different institutions in Berlin and around. As singer he has committed himself to the song repertoire of the 17th – 20th century and realised projects like *In darkness let me dwell - English Lute Songs*, Schubert's *Winterreise*, Schumann's *Liederkreis* and Vaughan Williams' *Songs of travel*.

Having written choral arrangements and some partsongs occasionally, Bährens started his genuine activity as composer in spring 2017, inspired by a cooperation with the Norwegian female choir EMBLA and by the support of Norsk Musikkforlag editor Jan Stefan Bengtsson, who he met at the World Symposium of Choral Music in Barcelona. His works were first published by *Cantando Musikforlag* and since 2019 by *Norsk Musikforlag* in Norway and *Edition Ferrimontana* in Germany. Some of his latest pieces will soon be published by *Helbling Verlag* in Austria. A number of pieces had premiers by choirs of international reputation such as CANTUS in Trondheim and BALTA in Riga.

An outstanding experience for him was the visit to Røros in Norway when Norunn Giske and EMBLA premiered his *Missa Brevis* and *Magnificat*. Following special moments were the premiers of *Fear no more the heat of the sun* with the internationally renowned violin DUO GELLAND together with his WILMERSDORFER KAMMERCHOR, the premier of *Veni, veni Emmanuel* in cooperation with SIPARANTUM CHOIR from Kosovo at the first CHORALSPACE winter festival, the premier of *Four Shelley songs* which he performed himself in an old church in Cornwall in summer last year and his visit in Riga to attend the 2022 Christmas concert of the female choir BALTA who premiered *Ave Maria*, *O nata lux* and *Veni, veni Emmanuel*.

In March last year CONCENTUS in Sandnes (Norway) premiered his cycle *Shakespearean Women – Eight musical evocations for female voices* and effectually included choreography and solo dance. The German premier will also be performed by them in Berlin this November. In May 2023 SOPHIA CHAMBER CHOIR KIEV performed *Dona nobis pacem – A prayer for Ukraine* in Berlin and in September last year he premiered his *Deutsches Requiem für Chor a cappella* with his vocal ensemble CANTICO NUOVO.

In 2024 *Birds of Passage* was premiered by VOX LUSCINIAE in Buffalo (USA) and his festival cantata *Machet die Tore weit* for solo, choir, brass ensemble and organ in December bei MATTHÄUSKANTOREI. In April 2025 he premiered *Hear my prayer* with SIPRANTUM CHOIR in Berlin and in May *Licht – Leben!* was premiered by JUNGER KAMMERCHOR LUCENTE in Munich.

He has just finished a song cycle on poems by Emily Brontë, a new folksong arrangement for Solo&SATB, three more Shakespeare pieces for Concentus in Norway and is now working on a female choir setting of *Ubi caritas et amor* for BALTA in Riga. Commissions welcome!

Selected COMMENTS by choral conductors

It has been a pleasure to read and listen to your interesting, rhythmical and vocally smooth compositions. Contemporary music which pays respect to the traditional choral music – I really like it! (Biljana Wittstock, Germany)

I like your choral music very much! I don't have my own choir at the moment, but I would immediately choose a piece which fits in the program. Your sense for sound, your colourful musical language with convincing connection to the harmonic structures, beautiful atmospheric moments and the smooth vocal lines are specially appealing and outstanding in your music.
(Reiner Schuhenn, Germany)

I already see a number of pieces to be included in the programs and the repertoire of my chorus in the future. (Aira Birzina, Latvia)

Your music is lovely! For sure I will keep it in mind for future projects. (Kelly Galbraith, Canada)

When we rehearsed your Magnificat for the first time, we were totally smitten by it!
(Norunn Giske, Norway)

The audience loved your music! (Tove Ramlo-Ystad, Norway)

Beautiful harmonies, rhythm close to the words and not predictable, and easy to listen to and to enjoy. I shall love to work with this music! (Emma Undemar, Sweden)

It fills me with joy to think about your beautiful music we premiered at Røros with Embla!
(Norunn Giske, Norway)

SACRED CHORAL MUSIC

An Irish blessing for mixed choir & 2 violins – ed. 2015 Cantando Musikkforlag

Premier performance 2016 in Berlin by Wilmersdorfer Kammerchor dir. Christian Bährens & Duo Gelland

Ave Maria for female choir a cappella – ed. 2020 Norsk Musikforlag

Premier performance 2022 in Riga (Latvia) by Balta dir. Mara Marnauza [→ YOUTUBE](#)

Ave Maria for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2020 Norsk

Premier performance 1991 in Berlin by Wilmersdorfer Kammerchor dir. by the composer

Ave Maris stella for female choir a cappella – ed. 2023 Norsk – *not premiered yet*

Cantico delle creature for female choir a cappella – ed. 2023, Norsk

dedicated to BALTA dir. Mara Marnauza, premier in 2026

DEUTSCHES REQUIEM for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2018 Edition Ferrimontana

Premier performance 2023 in Berlin by Cantico Nuovo dir. by the composer

Dona nobis pacem – A prayer for the Ukraine for female choir a cappella – ed. 2022 Norsk

Premier performance 2022 in Trondheim by CANTUS dir. Tove Ramlo-Ystad

German premier performance 2024 in Berlin by CONCENTUS dir. Per Sigmund Rettedal

Dona nobis pacem – A prayer for Ukraine for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2022 Norsk

Premier performance 2022 in Berlin by Matthäus-Kantorei dir. by the composer

Performance 2023 Sophia Chamber Choir Kiev [→ YOUTUBE](#)

Hear my prayer, o Lord for female choir a cappella – ed. 2019 Norsk

Premier performance 2024 in Buffalo (USA) by Vox Luscinia dir. Brian Stevens [→ YOUTUBE](#)

Hear my prayer, o Lord for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2019 Norsk

Premier performance in April 2025 in Berlin by Siparantum Choir (Kosovo/Memli Kelmendi) dir. by the composer

Jubilate Deo for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2019 Ferrimontana

Premier performance 2021 in Berlin by Wilmersdorfer Kammerchor dir. by the composer

Laudate Dominum for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2017 Cantando

Premier performance 2018 in Berlin by Matthäus-Kantorei dir. by the composer

Laudate Dominum for female choir a cappella – ed. 2018 Cantando – *not premiered yet*

Libera me for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2024 Norsk

dedicated to Siparantum Choir (Kosovo/Memli Kelmendi) – not premiered yet

Licht – Leben for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2025 Helbling Verlag (in preparation)

Premier performance in May 2025 in Munich by Junger Kammerchor Lucente dir. Inga Brüseke [→ YOUTUBE](#)

Lux aeterna for female choir a cappella – ed. 2018, Cantando – *not premiered yet*

Machet die Tore weit Cantata for solo, mixed choir, brass ensemble & organ – Edition in preparation

Premier performance 2024 in Berlin by Matthäuskantorei dir. by the composer

Magnificat for female choir a cappella – ed. 2017 Cantando
Premier performance 2018 in Røros (Norway) by Embla dir. Norunn Giske

Magnificat & Nunc dimittis for choir unison or medium solo voice & organ – ed. 2021 Norsk
Premier performance 2021 in Berlin by Matthäus-Kantorei dir. by the composer

Magnificat & Nunc dimittis for mixed choir & organ – ed. 2021 Norsk – *not premiered yet*

Missa brevis for female choir a cappella – ed. 2017 Cantando
Premier performance 2018 in Røros (Norway) by Embla dir. Norunn Giske

O magnum mysterium for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2020 Norsk
Premier performance 2021 in Berlin by Wilmersdorfer Kammerchor dir. by the composer

O nata lux for female choir a cappella – ed. 2019 Norsk
Premier performance 2022 in Riga (Latvia) by Balta dir. Mara Marnauza [→ YOUTUBE](#)

Peace I leave with you for female choir a cappella – ed. 2019 Ferrimontana
First sung at Riga Dome service 2019 in Riga (Latvia) by Girls' Choir TIARA of Riga Cathedral dir. Aira Birzina
Upcoming Premier concert performance 2025 by the Ladies of Junger Kammerchor Lucente dir. Inga Brüseke
[VIDEO geplant](#)

Thank God for life and love for female choir a cappella – ed. 2019 Norsk
Premier performance 2021 by Doylestown High School Choir (USA) dir. Joseph Ohrt

The Lord is my light and my salvation for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2020 Norsk – *not premiered yet*

The Lord is my shepherd for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2018, Cantando – *not premiered yet*

Veni, veni, Emmanuel for female choir a cappella – ed. 2022 Norsk
Premier performance 2022 in Riga (Latvia) by Balta dir. Mara Marnauza [→ YOUTUBE](#)

Veni, veni, Emmanuel for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2021 Norsk
Premier performance 2021 in Berlin by Siparatum Choir (Memli Kelmendi) & Wilmersdorfer Kammerchor dir. by the composer at the CHORALSPACE Winter Festival

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

FIVE GERMAN ADVENT SONGS for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2022 Norsk
Premier performance 2022 in Berlin by Wilmersdorfer Kammerchor dir. by the composer [→ YOUTUBE](#)

Lulajze Jezuniu (in Polish) for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2011 Cantando
Premier performance 2011 in Berlin by Wilmersdorfer Kammerchor dir. by the composer [→ YOUTUBE](#)

Maria durch ein Dornwald ging for female choir / male choir a cappella – ed. 2012, Norsk
Premier performance 2013 in Berlin by the Gentlemen of Wilmersdorfer Kammerchor dir. by the composer

SECULAR CHORAL MUSIC

Abendlied for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2019 Ferrimontana

Premier performance 2001 in Berlin by Wilmersdorfer Kammerchor dir. by the composer

A dream for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2018 Ferrimontana – *not premiered yet*

Auf der Wiese for female choir a cappella – ed. 2020 Ferrimontana – *not premiered yet*

Birds of Passage for female choir a cappella – ed. 2024 Norsk

Premier performance 2024 in Buffalo (USA) by Vox Lusciniae dir. Brian Stevens

Daffodils for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2017 Ferrimontana

Premier performance 2001 in Berlin by Matthäus-Kantorei dir. by the composer

Die Elfe der Nacht for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2024 Ferrimontana

Premier performance 2024 in Berlin by Wilmersdorfer Kammerchor dir. by the composer

Du gehst durch unsere Träume for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2020 Ferrimontana – *not premiered yet*

Fear no more the heat of the sun für mixed choir & 2 violins – ed. 2018 Cantando

Premier performance 2019 in Berlin by Wilmersdorfer Kammerchor & Duo Gelland dir. by the composer → [YOUTUBE](#)

Festival Hymn for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2022, Norsk – *not premiered yet*

SHAKESPEAREAN WOMEN – Eight musical evocations for female sextet or choir – ed. 2021 Norsk *Premier*

performance 2023 in Sandnes (Norway) by Concentus dir. Per Sigmund Rettedal

German premier 2024 in Berlin by Concentus dir. Per Sigmund Rettedal → [Video-Production 2005/6](#)

SHAKESPEAREAN WOMEN 2 – Three more musical evocations for female sextet or choir – Ed. in preparation

Premier performance in 2026 by Concentus → [Video-Production 2005/6](#)

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? for mixed choir – ed. 2018 Cantando

Premier performance 2019 in Berlin by Wilmersdorfer Kammerchor dir. by the composer → [YOUTUBE](#)

FOLK, SACRED & CLASSICAL SONG ARRANGEMENTS

Be thou my vision for low solo voice and mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2023 Norsk

*Premier performance 2024 in Basel (CH) by Markus Haas & Quatuor*Ch* → [YOUTUBE](#)

Blow the wind southerly for low solo voice and mixed choir a cappella – Ed. in preparation

*Premier performance 2026 by Markus Haas & Quatuor*Ch*

Der Kuckuck und der Esel for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2020 Ferrimontana – *not premiered yet*

Der Mond ist aufgegangen for male choir a cappella – ed. 2020 Ferrimontana – *not premiered yet*

Die Blümelein, sie schlafen for female choir a cappella – ed. 2020 Ferrimontana

Upcoming premier performance 2025 by the Ladies of Junger Kammerchor Lucente dir Inga Brüseke

Ha-Rikud – Chassidic dance song arranged for mixed choir – ed. 2025 Helbling *in preparation*

Hjärtats Skär for mixed choir and two violins – ed. 2023 Norsk

Premier performance 2023 in Berlin by Matthäus-Kantorei & Duo Gelland dir. by the composer → [YOUTUBE](#)

Kein schöner Land for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2006 Cantando

Premier performance 2008 in Berlin by Wilmersdorfer Kammerchor dir. by the composer → [YOUTUBE](#)

Måne och sol (in Norwegian) for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2023 Norsk – *not premiered yet*

Nachtigall, wie sangst du so schön for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2009 Ferrimontana

Premier performance 2010 in Berlin by Wilmersdorfer Kammerchor dir. by the composer → [YOUTUBE](#)

Ned i vester soli glader for female choir a cappella – ed. 2018 Cantando

Premier performance 2021 in Hannover by Frauenchor Hannover dir. Biljana Wittstock → [YOUTUBE](#)

Ode an die Freude (Beethoven) for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2019 Ferrimontana

Premier performance 2019 at Glienicker Brücke by Beethoven Gymnasium's school choirs dir. by the composer

Til lags at alle (in Norwegian) for female choir a cappella – ed. 2018 Cantando – *not premiered yet*

Wiegenlied (Brahms) for mixed choir a cappella – ed. 2019 Ferrimontana

Premiered 2019 by Cantico Nuovo dir. by the composer

MUSIC FOR SOLO VOICE &

DIE ZWEI GESELLEN (The two journeymen) for Tenor, Bass & piano – Edition in preparation

FOUR PERCY SHELLEY SONGS for low/high voice and piano – ed. 2022 Norsk

Premier performance 2022 in Porthcurno (England) by the composer

Magnificat & Nunc dimittis for solo voice or choir unison & organ – ed. 2021 Norsk

Premier performance 2021 in Bautzen by the composer and organist Patrick Wildermuth

ON THE UNBOUNDED MOOR – Twelve songs on poems by Emily Jane Brontë – Edition in preparation

Premier performance 2025/6 by the composer

Psalm 145 for Bass or Alto unaccompanied – ed. 2021 Ferrimontana

Premier performance 2021 in Bautzen by the composer

SIEBEN MEERESLIEDER (Seven Sea Songs) for medium voice & piano – ed. 2021 Ferrimontana

Premier performance 2022 in Porthcurno (England) by the composer

SIEBEN PSALMEN (Seven Psalms) for Bass or Alto unaccompanied – ed. 2020 Ferrimontana

Premier performance 2020 in Berlin by the composer

Wie liegt die Stadt so wüst for Bass or Alto & organ – ed. 2022 Ferrimontana

Premier performance 2022 in Berlin by the composer and organist Patrick Wildermuth

How lonely lies the city (English version of *Wie liegt die Stadt so wüst*) – ed. 2022 Ferrimontana

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Frühlingserwachen (spring awakening) *for alto recorder and piano* – Edition in preparation

Irish Sonata *for clarinet or violin or flute* – ed. 2021, Norsk – *not premiered yet*

Website with all information about the pieces with videos or audios: www.christian-baehrens.de

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