

## PRESSREPORT

### Howard Arman new Artistic Director from 2026/27

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear media partners,

**Johanna Soller**, conductor, harpsichordist, and organist and the first woman to conduct the **Munich Bach-Choir & Munich Bach-Orchestra** as well the **Munich Bach Academy** will take over the artistic direction of the **Nederlandse Bachvereniging** for the 2026/27 season.

Beginning with the 2026/27 season, **Howard Arman** - the internationally acclaimed conductor, choral director, and composer - will stand at the podium of the distinguished ensemble.

"It is an honor for me to take over the artistic direction of the Munich Bach-Choir and the Munich Bach-Orchestra. The importance of these ensembles as cultural mediators can hardly be overestimated. I am therefore looking forward to continuing with them a lively engagement with the great choral works of the baroque, as well as to presenting communicative and stylistically varied concert programs for a contemporary audience," Howard Arman said on his appointment.

In view of the great response of fifty applications for the artistic direction, **the board of the Munich Bach-Choir** explains the ensemble's decision in its statement: "With Howard Arman, a personality of great charisma and impressive versatility will take over from the 2026/27 season, one who can look back on a long and successful career. For our choir, this collaboration is a special opportunity – to continue to grow artistically, to gain new perspectives and at the same time to continue what distinguishes us as an ensemble: the historically informed performance practice that we have developed in recent years and that we would like to consistently deepen together with Howard Arman. We are convinced that his experience, curiosity and broad musical horizon will give our choir additional impulses and a broader musical horizon – in rehearsals as well as on stage."

Versatility distinguishes the London-born musician and is his most important musical concern. Howard Arman has made a name for himself in all epochs, genres, and forms of classical music: from historically informed baroque concerts to symphonic choir and opera to jazz programs and broad-based, sing-along concerts presented by him.

Howard Arman was educated at the Trinity College of Music, going on to cooperate with renowned English ensembles before expanding his sphere of activity to Europe and beyond. In Germany he worked with the choirs of the NDR, SWR and RIAS before becoming Artistic Director of the MDR Radio Choir Leipzig from 1998 to 2013, and of the Bavarian Radio Choir from 2016 to 2022.

In addition to his work as a choral and orchestral conductor, he was General Music Director at the opera house in Altenburg-Gera, Music Director of the Lucerne Theatre and Principal Guest Conductor at the Gärtnerplatz Theatre in Munich.

His CD recordings have received numerous awards, most recently the International Classical Music Award for his recording of Caplet's *Le Miroir de Jésus* with Bayerischer Rundfunk.

As a conductor, harpsichordist and organist, **Johanna Soller** is one of the most versatile artists of her generation. She has earned an outstanding reputation as a specialist in vocal music and historical performance practice and within a fleeting time was able to convincingly shape the profile of the Munich Bach-Choir and -Orchestra with high quality in the direction of early music. In addition to the performance of the great choral works, Johanna Soller conceived a new a Capella series BACH<sup>2</sup> as an open, unique concert format with a vocal focus on the great canon of a cappella literature.

More Information: Howard Arman [MBC&MBO](#) [Johanna Soller](#)

Attachments: Press Report German / English

Photos: Howard Arman©Astrid Ackermann | Johanna Soller©Simon Pauly

Kind regards

Anke Kienitz-Kirk  
Münchener Bach-Chor  
Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit

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Anneliese und  
Dr. Wolfgang Schieren-Stiftung  
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