

**Virginia Arts Festival presents
Vienna Boys Choir**

Two Performances

**St. Bede Church, Williamsburg
Wednesday, December 20 at 7:30pm**

**Sandler Center for the Performing Arts, Virginia Beach
Thursday, December 21 at 7:30pm**

Tickets from \$28

Virginia Arts Festival brings a celestial, celebratory sound to the region's holiday calendar this year! In a time where holiday lights are glowing, families and friends are gathering, and high spirits abound, the Vienna Boys Choir will be an unforgettable addition to the area's celebrations.

And in a time when traditions are treasured most, the traditions of this acclaimed ensemble are worth noting. With a rich history dating back more than 500 years, the Vienna Boys Choir has been associated with many of the world's greatest composers, including Mozart and Bruckner; Haydn and Schubert were themselves choristers when they were young. Centuries after their founding, the Choir maintains the tradition of Vienna's Imperial Chapel, still providing music for Sunday mass as they have done since 1498.

Today, there are 100 choristers between the ages of ten and fourteen from 31 nations, divided into four touring groups. Altogether, the four choirs give as many as 300 concerts and performances each year, reaching half a million people throughout Europe, Asia, Australia and the Americas.

The Festival will present the world-renowned Vienna Boys Choir in two performances: December 20 at Williamsburg's beautiful St. Bede Church, and December 21 at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts in Virginia Beach. The program, called "Christmas in Vienna," includes an enchanting array of songs in the spirit of the season, from centuries-old sacred songs to traditional Christmas carols to popular holiday favorites and songs from around the world.

Tickets for Virginia Arts Festival's presentation of the Vienna Boys Choir range in price from \$28-\$85 and may be purchased online at www.vafest.org, by phone at 757-282-2822 or by visiting the Virginia Arts Festival box office located at 440 Bank Street in Norfolk between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. (Tickets for the December 21 Sandler Center performance may also be purchased at the Sandler Center box office.)

About the Virginia Arts Festival

Since 1997, the Virginia Arts Festival has transformed the cultural scene in southeastern Virginia, presenting great performers from around the world to local audiences and making this historic, recreation-rich region a cultural destination for visitors from across the United States and around the world. The Festival has presented numerous U.S. and regional premieres, and regularly commissions new works of music, dance, and theater from some of today's most influential composers, choreographers and playwrights. The Festival's arts education programs reach tens of thousands of area schoolchildren each year through student matinees, in-school performances, artists' residencies, master classes and demonstrations.