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Local choir returns with silver and gold awards

The Audite Nova choir of Zug with its 75 members recently returned from a highly successful visit to Latvia, where they performed in the World Choir Games.

The World Choir Games are for singing what the Olympic Games are for sports and these took place between 9 and 19 July in the capital city of Riga, along with no fewer than 500 other choirs from 73 different countries.



Beim Auftritt in der Quartierskirche in Riga. Musik: von Hugo Wolf, Audite Nova, die Schweizerische Kantorschule auf Einladung Riga.

Audite Nova, under the leadership of choirmaster Johannes Meister, won a gold award for its entry in the spiritual music section and a silver award for its entry in the contemporary music category. Among the songs they performed were works by Unterägeri composer Carl Rütli and Ebikon composer Martin Völlinger in addition to two works by Latvian composer Eriks Esenvald. Indeed they sang one of these in Latvian, which went down very well.

"I can only recommend any choir to take part in a such an international competition," said Meister. "It was wonderful to hear how other countries interpret music and indeed to see what works they choose to perform. Singing in choirs is particularly popular in China and no fewer than 50 from there performed in Riga. It is good to see that choir singing is becoming more popular in Switzerland, too."

Meister added how interesting it was to see how competing choirs dressed for the occasion. Some choirs from Indonesia wore golden crowns while others wore national costumes. In fact one choir from Papua New Guinea performed topless wearing only grass skirts while members of Audite Nova opted for a more conservative ensemble in beige and white as can be seen on the photograph.

What is not so easily seen in the photograph is that some members held singing bowls and producing sound from glasses in one of the works by Esenvald they performed.

Nearer home, the Audite Nova will be performing a number of works by J.S. Bach at Cham Church in November and next January they will be taking part in a national choir competition in Unterägeri. In autumn 2015 they will be performing Bach's Mass in B Minor (BWV 232), also in the church in Cham.

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