

## ***Press Release***

München, June 8, 2012

### **Change of Choir Conductor**

## **Andrea Figallo becomes new Artistic Director**

**The don camillo chor has got a new leader: Andrea Figallo, bass and vocalpercussionist of the A-cappella formation „The Flying Pickets“, as well as coach for pop and jazz singing all over Europe, has taken up his work with the Munich ensemble. He is the successor of Florian Helgath, who will concentrate his future effort on classical choir music.**

For over ten years now, Andrea Figallo is a known constant in A Cappella music in Europe and beyond. Not only is he the bass singer and vocal percussionist of the international known a-cappella group „The Flying Pickets“, but also a well appreciated arranger, producer (The Ghost Files, The Flying Pickets), composer and coach for choirs and vocal groups all over Europe. He is frequently invited to participate as a jury member in international renowned competitions like the Vokal Total in Graz, Austria. In addition to further projects as a singer he appears in the 2010 Grammy nominated Bobby McFerrin's CD "Vocabularies".

„I am absolutely thrilled to be joining Don Camillo as their new conductor. This choir has what I consider to be the perfect mix of exceptional talents, beautiful voices, lovely personalities, a friendly and welcoming atmosphere, a natural group instinct that effectively conveys emotions during live performances, and many more qualities that make Don Camillo human, musical, inspiring, and one of a kind.“, said Figallo, looking forward to the collaboration.

The former conductor Florian Helgath, who directed the don camillo chor the past seven years, and who achieved great success with choir in national and international competitions, intends to focus his work in the future on professional classical choir music. This includes the direction of the Danish Radio Choir and the via-nova-chor München. In addition Helgath accepted the position as chorus master of the ChorWerk Ruhr last year. „I had an incredibly intense and wonderful time with unforgettable experiences with the don camillo chor, and not only with music. I leave with a heavy heart, but I'm very happy, that the choir has found such a competent and renowned conductor.“

Signe Faber, chairwoman of the don camillo chor e.V., adds: „With his work Florian enabled the choir to take a decisive step forward, musically speaking. We thank him for the many successful and eventful years, during which he has been our „boss“.“ However, Faber is convinced to successfully continue with Figallo in this direction to present exceptional pop and jazz arrangements in a sophisticated sound: „It's simply awesome, that we were able to win a jazz choir expert like Andrea for us.“

The regular rehearsals with Figallo, who is commuting to this purpose between his home town near Genoa to Munich, have started in June 2012. His debut as conductor of the don camillo chor he will make in September 2012 with a big farewell concert for his forerunner Florian Helgath.

*Presseanfragen:*

***(please do not publish)***

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### **About the don camillo chor:**

„Goose bumps all over“ - that is this special feeling the don camillo chor creates for 18 years now amongst lovers of sophisticated vocal music, with jazz ballads, swing standards, sophisticated a-cappella rock arrangements, but also with rare, precious classical pieces. Most important to the 35 singers is working on details concerning timbre, vocal technique and interpretation, which, in the end, bestow its own, musical brilliance upon a song.

The don camillo chor stands for the pure Jazz and Pop delight and is one of the best jazz choirs of Germany: After having won the first prize at the Bavarian Choir Contest in 2009, the choir was awarded with 3<sup>rd</sup> prize at the German Choir competition in 2010.

National and international competitions and festivals brought the Munich vocalists, amongst other destinations to Mainz (Vocal Jazz Summit), Austria (vokal.total) and Poland. At the World Choir Games 2008 in Graz the ensemble won a gold medal category Jazz.

The Italian name „don camillo“ which the choir is called since their foundation, now specifically points to a concrete transalpine relationship: don camillo chor has a new artistic leader, Andrea Figallo, who lives near Genoa. He is a coach for choirs and vocal groups all over Europe and is frequently invited to participate as a jury member in international renowned competitions. Not only is he the bass singer and vocal percussionist of the international known A cappella group „The Flying Pickets“, but also a well appreciated arranger, producer.