Founded over 70 years ago, the RIAS Kammerchor Berlin today sets standards in nearly all domains of musical culture – from celebrated historically informed interpretations of the Renaissance and the Baroque through works of Romanticism, which not infrequently lead listeners to a new conception of the 19th-century sound world, up the most demanding world premieres, in which the possibilities of contemporary vocal music are sounded out and newly defined.

A forefront musical position has given rise to a sense of cultural and social responsibility which the RIAS Kammerchor assumes passionately and intensively. On concert tours through Europe and to important music centres worldwide, the choir serves as a cultural ambassador of Germany and, with its guest performances, continues the valuable legacy of German choral culture into the 21st century.

In brief: The RIAS Kammerchor is one of the ten best choirs in the world (Gramophone, 2010).

Leading artistic personalities of the recent past and present have shaped and left their mark on the choir during their chief conductorships. Uwe Gronostay (1972-1986) laid the foundations for historical performance practice and developed the chamber choir sound, for which the choir is today exemplary. Marcus Creed (1987-2001) achieved the increasing internationalisation of the RIAS Kammerchor, particularly through the coupling of early and contemporary music. Daniel Reuss (2003-2006) placed an emphasis on the classical modern and strengthened connections with cooperating partners at home and abroad. Hans-Christoph Rademann (2007-2015) broadened the content and tonal range of expression, devoting particular attention to central German music history of the 17th to 19th century. Starting with the 2017-18 season, Justin Doyle is principal conductor and artistic director of the RIAS Kammerchor.

Numerous awards and prizes document the artistic journey and the choir’s high international reputation: The German Record Critics’ Award, the Gramophone Award, the Choc de l’année and the Prix Caecilia are only a few of many honours. In 2012 the choir received the “Nachtigall” honorary prize from the Jury of the German Record Critics’ Award.

An enduring and fruitful collaboration binds the choir to the Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra, Ensemble Resonanz and Capella de la Torre. In addition, the choir works together with conductors such as Sir Simon Rattle, René Jacobs, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Andrea Marcon, Thomas Hengelbrock, Iván Fischer, Ottavio Dantone and Rinaldo Alessandrini.

The RIAS Kammerchor is an ensemble of the Rundfunk Orchester und Chöre GmbH (ROC). Other partners are Deutschlandradio, the Federal Republic of Germany, the State of Berlin and the Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg broadcasting company.