

*... meets contemporary  
performance*



The singers' repertoire contains traditional as well as modern music; sacred and secular, and pieces especially written for the **Pfälzische Kurrende**. The special performances of this chorus, with various formations and gestures, have moved the listeners both at home and abroad.

The internationally acclaimed German female chorus **Pfälzische Kurrende** was founded in 1985 by conductor Carola Bischoff, who still is head and heart of the chorus. The voices are selected and formed by the conductor, in order to create a special sound, and thus allowing her to perform her selection of music at a high international level. In autumn 2010 the choir celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



To this day the Kurrende has visited Russia, Israel, Iceland, Switzerland, the USA and Sweden. The chorus twice won the first prize in the German National Choral Competition in 2002 and 2010.

The singers did also win the third prize in the International Choral Contest in Tolosa/Spain in 2004 as well as a third and a second prize in the International Choral Contest "Venezia in Musica" in Venice in 2009.

## The Canada-Tour of the **pfälzische KURRENDE**

was supported by:



*A German female chorus -  
one of the best*

conducted by  
**Carola Bischoff**



*Pfälzische Kurrende –  
Winner of national  
and international awards*

# pfälzische KURRENDE

*Thank you  
to all sponsors and visitors!*

[www.pfaelzische-kurrende.de](http://www.pfaelzische-kurrende.de)

On tour in Canada

16<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> april 2011



*Time-honored tradition ...*

The origin of the **Kurrende singers** in Germany dates back to the Middle Ages. Students used to walk from door to door to offer their services for holidays, weddings and funerals.

Around Christmas time they also used to sing carols in order to collect alms.

The Latin word **currere**, meaning “to walk”, led to the name of these “walking choirs”. With their special robes, the Kurrende singers are still well known as part of the famous Christmas Pyramids.

A Christmas Pyramid is a Christmas decoration that has its roots in the Erzgebirge (Ore Mountains) of Germany but has become popular throughout.



*Kurrende Singers*



*... still going strong ...*

The tradition of Kurrende singers is still alive in Germany, often they are connected to a parish, but most singers neither walk nor wear special robes today.

In one of the old heartlands of Germany, down south on the grape-growing slopes of the Rhine Valley, is the ancient city of **Neustadt**, capital of the Palatine region.



*Neustadt an der Weinstraße*

*Photo: Rolf Schädler*

This is where the **Pfälzische Kurrende**, the Palatine Kurrende singers, come from.

In spring 2011 this chorus can be heard in Canada for the first time.

*... with caring musicians ...*

**Carola Bischoff**, founder and conductor of the **Pfälzische Kurrende**, is a music teacher and a church musician at the Paulus-Kirche (St. Pauls church) in Neustadt.

There she works with children in a beginner's chorus, with adults in the church choir and, of course, with the Kurrende.



*Carola Bischoff*

Apart from this local work, she is a member of the national board of “Conductors for young people”, and she is often invited as a jury member in choral competitions.



*Pauluskirche Hambach  
home of the Kurrende*

*Photo: Rolf Schädler*