



The church choir of Muri/Aargau under the direction of Johannes Strobl came to Oberelsbach on Sunday, September 16, 2007, to perform the newly discovered "Mass of Muri" of Rathgeber in the Catholic pilgrimage church of Oberelsbach, the birthplace of the composer. Parish priest Andreas Bosl celebrated mass and preached. For that performance the church choir of Muri was strengthened by soloists and instrumentalists from the Rhoen. Edith Eyring, Soprano, Sonja Rahm, Alto, Mathias Hüttner, Tenor und Paul Back, Bass have been the vocalists. Members of the Thuringian-Bavarian chamber orchestra played the music. This limited lineup gives a good insight in the sound volume of the 18th century which is known for its economical lineup of instrumentalists and vocalists. Rathgeber wrote his music especially for small ensembles, not for big orchestras and massive choirs.



The Swiss church choir spends its yearly holiday this time in Oberelsbach, to become acquainted to the home of the composer who had dedicated a mass to their place. Of course, Rathgeber has not dedicated this mass to Muri, but to Gerold Haimb, prince abbot of Muri. Only in the later manuscript of Seedorf is this mass labelled "Mass of Muri" so that later tradition has assigned this mass to the Swiss place Muri. It is an a

