

Europe AND ITS Songs



XIV International Folksong Festival
Barcelona, Spain 19th - 22nd September 2012





COURTIAL INTERNATIONAL

under the patronage of

Associazione Internazionale Amici della Fondazione Pro Musica e Arte Sacra

Founder and President: Sen. Dr. h.c. Hans-Albert Courtial

XIV INTERNATIONAL
FOLKSONG FESTIVAL

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After the great success of the previous editions, also this year it is an honor and a great pleasure for the Associazione Internazionale Amici della Fondazione Pro Musica e Arte Sacra to give its patronage to the International Folksong Festival "Europe and its Song" in Barcelona. This year we celebrate the fourteenth edition and we are very glad to host outstanding choirs from all over the world at this prestigious cultural event.

The aim of this Festival is not only to present a program consisting of international folksongs repertoire but, at the same time, to raise awareness and to promote the unifying power of music. Music improves contacts among cultures, traditions and people, and gives also the possibility for all those who participate in the Festival to achieve personal, spiritual and cultural enrichment. Furthermore, the choirs will have the great opportunity to experience Barcelona singing in the extraordinary setting of the Church of Santa Maria del Pi and taking part in the enchanting open-air concert, which will take place in Plaza Catalunya, the heart of the city.

During this special concert the choirs will union their voices singing all together the beautiful Chant "An die Freude", bringing to the audience a message of hope and solidarity.

I am glad to continue the great tradition of the Folksong Festival "Europe and its Songs", looking forward to seeing you again at one of our various events. I also hope that you will keep a wonderful memory of the Festival ever after. I wish that all of you will enjoy our XIV. Festival and that you will have unforgettable days in this magnificent city.

Sen. Dr. h.c. Hans-Albert Courtial

President and Founder

of the Associazione Internazionale Amici della Fondazione Pro Musica e Arte Sacra

Program of the festival

Choir participating:

Academic Choir Podlipki – Moscow, Russia

Chamber Choir Gallerie – Helsinki, Finland

Female Ensemble Šal-lal-laa – Sindi, Estonia

Mixed Choir Sõprus – Tallin, Estonia

Mixed Choir Ugandi – Sindi, Estonia

Wednesday, September 19th, 2012

Arrival of all choirs

Thursday, September 20th, 2012

- ▷ h. 21.00 Inaugural concert with all the choirs participating in the Festival at the Church S. Maria del Pí, Plaza del Pí - Barcelona.

Friday, September 21st, 2012

- ▷ h. 21.00 Concert performed by all choirs at the Church S. Maria del Pí, Plaza del Pí – Barcelona

Performance of the common chant
“An die Freude” all together.

Saturday, September 22nd, 2012

- ▷ h. 10:30-12.00 Open-air concert for all choirs in Plaza Catalunya.





ACADEMIC CHOIR PODLIPKI

From: Moscow, Russia - Founded: 1929

Conductor: Inna Yakovleva - Singers: 47

RUSSIA

Academic choir "Podlipki" was founded in 1929. During its 80-years activity the choir was headed by many talented choir-masters such as M. Volkov, A. Astafiev, S. Sakharov. And thanks to their intensive work it has become a world-famous choir. It was a laureate of the World Youth and Students Festival in Moscow in 1957. Also the choir was awarded the title of the "National Academic Choir" in 1964.

Boris Tolochkov, a talented musician, who has been a leader of the choir from 1977 till 2001 has joined the work of the Children choir school "Podlipki" with the Academic choir "Podlipki". Therefore most of the singers were musically educated graduates. And as a result of this the professional level of the choir has grown up and the repertoire has become much more complicated.

In 2001 Inna Yakovleva became the art director of the choir. Nowadays Academic choir "Podlipki" leads a wide concert activity and cooperates with well-known musicians and composers. Its repertoire consists of pieces of various schools and styles: Russian and foreign classic music, folk-songs of different nations, modern polyphonic compositions and popular music. Academic choir "Podlipki" has also participated in many national and international competitions.

Inna Yakovleva was born in 1968. She graduated from the Russian Academy of Music (former Gnesins' Conservatoire) in 1992, speciality - "Choir conductor". Since 1984 she has worked in the Children Choir School "Podlipki" as the head of the choir. In 2001 Inna became the head conductor of the Children Choir School "Podlipki" (about 700 children) and art director of the Academic choir "Podlipki".

Inna often holds seminars for conductors from Moscow region and Russia and takes part in different competitions as a jury member. She is an author of different choir versions. Her choirs participate in more than 30 concerts every year and they are multiple winners of different International Choir Competitions and festivals. In 2008 Inna was awarded the title of the "The teacher of year" of Moscow region, in 2010 Inna was awarded the title of "Best teacher" of Russia.



CHAMBER CHOIR GALLERIE

From: Helsinki, Finland - Founded: 2003
Conductor: Victoria Meerson - Singers: 18

FINLAND

Chamber choir Gallerie was founded by Victoria Meerson in 2003. At the present moment about 20 ladies, their average age being 35, sing in the choir. Repertoire of the choir includes a wide scale of choral music from classical and spiritual pieces to folk songs and popular music. Orthodox church music has a very special place in Gallerie's repertoire. In 2007 the choir participated in the international Orlando di Lasso festival. One year later Gallerie performed successfully in the international church music competition in the town of Preveza, Greece. Gallerie received a silver medal and a special prize for the best interpretation of the Orthodox church music. In 2010 the choir participated in an international choral competition "Voci d'Europa" in Sardinia returning home with a silver medal and the best conductor prize received by Victoria Meerson.

Victoria Meerson got her education in Russia at Musical College in Murmansk and at the Petrozavodsk State Conservatory. She graduated as a choirmaster and teacher of music and solfeggio. After moving to Finland Victoria continued her studies at the Sibelius-Academy majoring in choir conducting. Her teachers were M. Hyökki and H. Liimola. During the years of her studies Victoria took master classes from E. Eriksson, A. Almila, L. Segerstam and Kurt Thomas. Nowadays she is leading several choirs in Finland: Gallerie, Mystica, Lauttasaaren Laulajat, Canto D'Oro, Aleksis-kuoro. With these choirs Victoria participated in various choir competitions, festivals, seminars and workshops. At the "Voci d'Europa" competition Victoria Meerson received the special prize for the best conducting.

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FEMALE ENSAMBLE ŠAL-LAL-LAA

From: Sindi, Estonia - Founded: 2009
Conductor: Kristel Reinsalu - Singers: 9

ESTONIA

Sindi Society's female ensemble Šal-lal-laa was formed in February 2009 by women shared an interest in singing and befriended in Sindi choir. The name of the ensemble can be heard in many songs and it expresses their lifestyle – always singing, happy and together! Today, the number of singers has increased, the repertory has diversified and new challenges have been found in competitions, singing days and different events. The ensemble has won award-winning places and special prizes in national and county level competitions. For the last 3 years the ensemble has been the audience's favorite in the Pärnu County's vocal ensembles' competition and in the spring of 2012 we won the title of the best vocal ensemble in Pärnu County. Our repertory consists of folk songs, Estonian pop songs and also classical music.

Kristel Reinsalu graduated the Teachers Training College in 1996 as a music teacher and choir conductor. She has worked in a basic school for 6 years as a music teacher and has conducted school choirs with whom she has participated in Estonian Students Singing Festivals. Since her studies she has conducted different vocal ensembles and has been a long-time concert master for Pärnu Eliisabet church's girls' choir "Elise". She has received the title of the best concert master in Pärnu County's vocal ensembles' competition for 4 years. Since 2009 she is the conductor of the Female Ensemble "Šal-lal-laa", she is also the conductor of "Ulgandi" mixed choir since the choir was established in autumn 2010.



MIXED CHOIR SÕPRUS

From: Tallin, Estonia - Founded: 1950
Conductor: Kadri Loigom - Singers: 36

ESTONIA

Mixed choir Sõprus of the Tallinn Firefighters Association was established on 23 November of 1950. Currently the choir consists of 36 amateur singers and 2 conductors. The choir's repertoire consists of works of Estonian authors and foreign composers. The concert programmes are chosen to suit the venue and include spiritual songs and secular music. During its years of activity Sõprus has given concerts everywhere in Estonia and also abroad. The Choir has represented Estonia at almost all Nordic and Baltic Song Festivals. Sõprus took part in the Finno-Ugric Song Festival in Hungary (Budapest) in 1996, in Norway (Brønnesund) in 1998, and in Alta Pusteria choir festival in Italy (San Candido) in 2001. During a summer visit to St. Petersburg in 2004 the Ensemble performed at the Finnish St Mary Church and in 2005 at the Medieval Festival in Gotland, Sweden. In the spring of 2003 the choir, in cooperation with the Tallinn Firefighters Association Brass Band, recorded its first songs on CD, including the Anthem of Estonia and the Anthem of Firefighters that were ordered by the Rescue Board for use at outdoor events. Sõprus has been conducted by many famous Estonian conductors. For many years the choir has been cooperating with Kadri Loigom, who has been the assistant conductor and head conductor as well. She has now been Sõprus head conductor since the autumn of 2001 and is currently assisted by Jevgeni Suits.

Kadri (Ausmaa) Loigom, born 24.11.1966, is an Estonian music teacher and a conductor. She has been the member of the "League of Estonian Conductors" since 2004. She has worked with mixed - choir "Sõprus" since 1986 as both an assistive-, as well as head-director. She began her musical education in choir conduction in the "Georg Ots Tallinn Music School" and continued in the "Tallinn Conservatoire". In 2006 she got her masters degree in "Tallinn University" on the field of preschoolers pedagogy. Today she works as a childrens music-teacher in "Salme Culture-center" as well as a music-teacher in the Tallinn kindergarden "Mudila". She still co-operates with the Tallinn University pedagogy department. In addition to the mixed-choir "Sõprus" she is also the founder/conductor of the family-choir (mixed-choir) "Ausmaa", which started its activity in 2007.

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MIXED CHOIR ULGANDI

From: Sindi, Estonia - Founded: 2010

Conductors: Kristel Reinsalu, Karin Taukar - Singers: 54

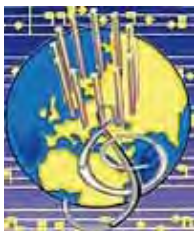
ESTONIA

"Once upon a time, two brothers who loved choral singing had an idea to join the two choirs they were singing in. The singers and conductors befriended quickly and the sound of the choir was beautiful. A year went by and in 2011 Sindi Singing Choir and Tarvastu mixed choir "Üits viis" joined together, they named the choir "Ulgandi" which means "together" in one of the dialects in Estonia". The choir's repertoire consists of older and newer folk songs, choral pieces of Estonian classics and contemporary rock and pop songs. The songs are often arranged by our conductors Kristel Reinsalu and Karin Taukar. Ulgandi has performed in Pärnu County's and Viljandi County's singing days, Midsummer Day festivities, joint events in the summer and Estonian national or festive events.

Kristel Reinsalu graduated the Teachers Training College in 1996 as a music teacher and choir conductor. Since her studies she has conducted different vocal ensembles and has been a long-time concert master for Pärnu Elisabet church's girls' choir "Elise". She has received the title of the best concert master in Pärnu County's vocal ensembles' competition for 4 years. She is the conductor of Sindi Singing Choir since 2005 and since 2009 female ensemble "Šal-lal-laa", she is also the conductor of "Ulgandi" mixed choir since the choir was established in autumn 2010.

Karin Taukar graduated Tallinn National Conservatory in 1983, where she specialized in music teacher and choir conductor's studies. Besides conducting "Ulgandi" mixed choir, she also works as an assistant conductor in Helsinki University Music Society's Chamber Choir and as an artistic director at Vantaa Tikkurila male choir.

Our next Festivals and Choir Competitions



XV INTERNATIONAL FOLKSONG CHOIR FESTIVAL "EUROPE AND ITS SONGS"

Competition & Concerts

Barcelona (Spain)

September 18th – 21st 2013

Deadline: 16.05.2013

Next edition: September 17th – 20th 2014



VIII INTERNATIONAL MUSIC CHOIR FESTIVAL

Latium Region, Rome and the Vatican City, Italy

October 19th – 22nd, 2013

Deadline: 29.03.2013

Next edition: July 18th - 21st 2014



XIII INTERNATIONAL CHOIR FESTIVAL

"ORLANDO DI LASSO"

Competition & Concerts

Rome and the Vatican City, Italy



Technical Organizer



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