



# Europe AND ITS Songs



XI International Folksong Choir Competition & Concerts

Barcelona, Spain *23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>* September 2009





COURTIAL INTERNATIONAL

*under the patronage of*  
**Associazione Internazionale Amici della Musica Sacra**  
Founder and President: Sen. Dr. h.c. Hans-Albert Courtial

*XI* INTERNATIONAL FOLKSONG  
CHOIR COMPETITION & CONCERTS

*Europe*  
AND ITS *Songs*



**Barcelona, Spain**  
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# Organigram of the festival

*President of the Festival*

**Dr. h.c. Hans Urrigshardt**

*Founder and President of the Associazione Internazionale Amici della Musica Sacra*

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

*Artistic Direction*

**M° Pablo Colino**

Emeritus Director of Music of Saint Peter's in the Vatican

*International Giury*

**Michael Rinscheid** (President), Germany

**Kai-Tõe Ellermaa**, Estonia

**Felix Resch**, Italy

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**Loredana Ramozzi**

*Permanent Festival Secretariat*

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**Associazione Internazionale Amici della Musica Sacra**



*Dear Choirmasters,  
Choristers and Friends of choral music,*

It is my great pleasure to welcome the choirs who take part in the XI International Folksong Choir Competition "Europe and Its Songs". The wonderful city of Barcelona hosts the Festival which is extraordinary for its considerable number of participants and for the vastness and artistic level of the repertoires performed by the choirs. This is a very special year because we are in Barcelona since 11 years and we look forward to remaining here for many other years! Choirs have always fascinated me in a particular way, not only during the performance when the union of voices produces intense emotions, but also in their preparation. Getting used to be in a group, having a certain determined role, understanding that only a common effort will create great results, this has always appeared to me as a highly qualifying school, especially in the case of youth choirs. The aim of our Festival is to promote the unifying power of music, which improves contacts among cultures, traditions and people. I am sure that your stay in Barcelona will bring you pleasant, interesting and joyful experiences. I wish all of you to enjoy our Festival and have unforgettable days in this magnificent city.

**Dr. h.c. Hans Urrigshardt**  
*Festival President*



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 Musica Sacra to give its patronage to the Festival which is very special because it is eleven years that it takes place in Barcelona with choirs from all over the world. You will have the great opportunity to sing in the beautiful Church of Santa Maria del Pi and to take part in the enchanting open-air concerts in the heart of Barcelona. Last but not least, you will enjoy the choir parade through the streets of the Barrio Gotico. This will be an unique chance to meet international choirs. I am looking forward to seeing you again at one of our various events (concerts, choir parades and festivals in Italy and abroad) and I hope you will keep a wonderful memory of the Festival ever after.

**Sen. Dr. h.c. Hans-Albert Courtial**  
*Founder and President*  
*of the Associazione Internazionale Amici della Musica Sacra*

# Program of the festival

## Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

- ▶ 17.00 Meeting of choir directors in the historical hall of S. Maria del Pi. Welcome by the international Jury.
- ▶ 20.00 Inaugural concert with all the choirs participating in the Festival at S. Maria del Pi.

## Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009

- ▶ 19.30 Competition for all choirs in the categories X2, Y, V, F2 at S. Maria del Pi.

## Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009

- ▶ 16.00 Parade through the streets of the historical centre of Barcelona.
- ▶ 17.00 Open-air concert in the historical centre of Barcelona.

## Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009

- ▶ 10.30 Announcement of the winners, prize awarding ceremony in S. Maria del Pi. Final concert with the winning choirs of the festival.  
  
Performance of the common chant "An die Freude" arranged by Felix Resch.

# Choirs Participating

## **CATEGORY X2** MIXED CHOIRS FROM 16 TO 39 VOICES

TEHRAN VOCAL ENSEMBLE, IRAN  
SAN PIETRO IN FORMIS CHOIR, ITALY  
BJØRGVIN MIXED CHOIR, NORWAY  
PRO MUSICA T CHOIR, ROMANIA

## **CATEGORY F2** FEMALE CHOIRS FROM 16 TO 39 VOICES

FEMALE CHOIR CARMINA, ESTONIA  
BODØ FEMALE CHOIR, NORWAY  
FEMALE CHAMBER CHOIR CANTO-CANTARE, POLAND

## **CATEGORY V** VOCAL GROUPS UP TO 12 VOICES

KLAPA SERPENTINA, CROATIA  
QUARTETTVEREIN „DIE 12 RÄUBER“ HÜNSBORN, GERMANY  
FEMALE CHOIR EUFONIA, ITALY  
FEMALE ENSEMBLE TONIKA, RUSSIA

## **CATEGORY Y** YOUTH CHOIRS MAX. 21 YEARS

LAULUJOUTSENET GIRLS CHOIR, FINLAND

“Europe and its songs”

# International Jury

**Michael Rinscheid** (President), Germany

**Kai-Tõe Ellermaa**, Estonia

**Felix Resch**, Italy



**M**ichael Rinscheid is the chief conductor of the Sängerbund Rheinland Pfalz, the President of the German Choir Conductor Association (FDB-Fachverband Deutscher Berufs-Chorleiter), a member of the music association 'Sängerbund NRW', a Board member of national and international choir competitions (Verona, Prague, Barcellona, etc.), Professor of Choir Direction, and honorary citizen of Nebraska and of its capital city Lincoln (USA). He works with the St. Petersburg Chamber Choir, the Wesleyan University Choir, and with other important institutions in the USA. He is very well known due to his choirs performing in concerts and choir competitions in Germany and abroad. He studied at the Johannes-Gutenberg University in Mainz where he got the diplomas in Choir and Orchestra Direction.



**K**ai-Tõe Ellermaa is the founder and has been the conductor of the girl's choir Elise since 1990. She started choir conducting studies in Tartu Music School. She got the higher music education in Tallinn Conservatoire choir conducting class by A. Uleoja in 1984. She has conducted the girls choir "Nurmenukk", the children's choir "Poial-Liisi" and also the chamber choir "Ave Canto" of Pärnu town. She has sung for years in the chamber choir of Estonian choir conductors and participated in the conductors study tour in Europa Cantat in France 1997, Austria 2000 and Netherlands 2009. With Elise choir she participated successfully in international choir festivals and made several recordings. She has been jury member in song competitions in Pärnu (Estonia) and Barcelona (Spain).



**F**elix Resch is professor for "Harmonie- and Formenlehre" at the Music Academy "C. Monteverdi" of Bozen and since 2008 he is the director of this important institution. He works as a composer and choral conductor. He graduated in choral music and choral conducting at the Music Academy in Bozen. His work was shown at contemporary music festivals and won prizes at international and national competitions in Antwerpen, Trieste, Uster, Interlaken, Verona, Szombathely, Riva del Garda, Arezzo, Recklinghausen, Innsbruck, Spittal a.d. Drau, Bozen, Bruneck, and Prague. His orchestral and choral work has been published in Tv (Rai, ORF, SFS), on the radio, and on CD.





## KLAPA SERPENTINA

From: **Split, Croatia** - Founded: **2006**  
Conductor: **Siniša Vuković** - Category: **V** - Singers: **10**

The idea of establishing the men's Klapa (vocal group of singers) at the Faculty of Economics in Split was created as a part of the Student Association Puntari. The initiator of this idea and the current president of the association is F. Lukas. At the beginning the group was formed by 5 men and then it increased up to 11 singers. It was under the conduction of I. Peko for 2 years. With the "Chorus Cantores" from Vranjica it recorded the album "Sacred Chants Leopold". It has the youngest average age of all Klapas in Dalmatia. It performed in concerts with a special attention to the humanitarian projects. In 2008 it hosted the humanitarian Christmas spectacle in which 5 Klapas (Kamen, Putalj, Ardura, Raspe, Hurania) performed. It sang in Kaštel Stari to raise funds together with Klapa Sveti Juraj, Šufit, Neverin, Sedam Kastela. In 2008 it performed during the Christmas concert in Selca (Brač). In 2009 it participated in the Lenten concert in Split with the Christ the King Choir and the Chorus Spalatensis.

Siniša Vuković studied in Selca, and in Bol (Island of Brač). He finished his academic education at the Faculty of Liberal Arts in Split. He studied music composition and harmony with V. Sunko, and conduction with M. Tarbuk. He was the conductor of various choirs and with them he performed in Croatia and abroad (Italy, Germany, France, Poland). With the choir from Kamen, he won the II place in the male choirs category at the coral singing festival in Verona (2001). He wrote 15 books of poetry, essays, literary music criticism, ethnomusicology, and one of the most detailed dialect dictionaries of Dalmatia. He also published linguistics essays. He specialized in opera and published his work in Croatian newspapers and magazines. He wrote church and folk songs. With his choir Christ the King he recorded an album with the complete glagolic singing of Selca (Brač Island), and with Klapa Mrduja he recorded a CD of Dalmatian songs. He is a member of the Croatian Literary Society and the Croatian Society of Compositors.

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## FEMALE CHOIR CARMINA

*From: Tallinn, Estonia - Founded: 1989*

*Conductor: Margit Vösa - Category: F2 - Singers: 26*

The choir was founded in 1989 in Tallinn and its repertoire contains older and contemporary Estonian composers, foreign music, pop and gospel songs. It is a member of the Estonian Female Song Society. Since its foundation, it participated in all Estonian General Song Festivals and in 2000, 2005, 2008 in Tallinn contests for female choirs. It performed in Estonia and in the neighbouring countries. It took part in international festivals: Oskarshamn/Sweden 1994; Tallinn/Estonia 1994; Marktoberdorf/Germany 1995; Maasmechelen/Belgium 1996; Bach Cantate Festival in Spain 1998; Orlando di Lasso Festival in Italy (golden medal for folklore performance and silver medal for sacred music) 2003; Nancy/France 2005; Tallinn/Estonia 2007; Preveza/Greece (bronze medal in female and male choirs categories) 2007. For the results achieved during the "Orlando di Lasso" Festival, the Estonian Female Song Society presented the choir as a nominee for the Best Choir Award in 2003. It performed in St. Petersburg, Stockholm, Goteborg, Oskarshamn, Huitits, Vampula, Bavaria, Maas and Catalonia. It recorded for the Estonian Radio and TV. In 2005 it recorded the CD "Carmina".

Margit Vösa is the conductor and founder of the Choir. She studied choral conducting at the Conservatoires of Tallinn and St. Petersburg and graduated as Master of Music. Since 1985 she lectured in the Music Department of the Cultural Faculty at the University of Tallinn and she is currently working in the Estonian Academy of Music. In 1994–2002 in addition to Carmina she conducted the Tallinn Chamber Choir, the Soprus Mixed Choir and Academic Female Choir of Tallinn Technical University. She has been one of the general conductors during the Estonian female song days.



## LAULUJOUTSENET GIRLS CHOIR

*From: Nurmijärvi, Finland - Founded: 1996*  
*Conductor: Heli Vapaakallio - Category: Y - Singers: 27*

The Lauujoutsenet Girls Choir from the Nurmijarvi Music Institute was founded in 1996. Several girls have sung in the choir over the last 10 years, but there are girls who started one or two years ago. The girls are 12-18 years old and many of them study music and play instruments. Until now there are 29 girls in the choir. The choir attended the Tampere Choir Festival in 2001 where it got two silver awards. In 2003 it participated in the Finnish national choir review achieving the I prize in its category. It took part almost every year in some national choir festival or reviews. The choir made recordings, performed on TV and the radio and sang during the opening ceremony of the 2005 European Athletics Championships in Helsinki. It toured in Sweden, Estonia, Ireland, Holland, Germany and Italy. The last trip was in 2008 in Gambia, Africa with the aim of a concert tour and a charity journey. In Finland it hosted youth choirs from Africa, Venezuela, Australia, USA, Great Britain. The Lauujoutsenet girls grow into the choir being one of the main goals of the choral activities to raise balanced, self-confident and internationally-minded girls.

Heli Vapaakallio, is currently a music pedagogue at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Espoo and a choir conductor in the Nurmijarvi Music Institute. She graduated as a kindergarten teacher from Jyväskylä University and as a Music pedagogue from Helsinki Polytechnic school. She studied choir conducting as a part of her studies and in summer courses in Finland. She took part in many choir conducting excursions all around Europe. Before she started working with the parish, she worked for ten years as a teacher in Nurmijarvi Music Institute and a few years as the executive director of The Association of Youth Choirs in Finland.

*"Europe and its songs"*



## QUARTETTVEREIN „DIE 12 RÄUBER“ HÜNSBORN

*From: Wenden-Hünsborn, Germany - Founded: 1968*  
*Conductor: Elisabeth Alfes Blömer - Category: V - Singers: 13*

In the beginning of the 60's some friends from a common school of southern Sauerland belonged to an organization of the protective community "German Wood". It was usual in this organisation to gather in the evening and to sing old folk songs. Thus grew the idea to found a choir and in 1968 they decided to appear officially as a choir with the name "Quartettverein". The choir had its first public appearance in summer 1969 with a great success both for the new choir and its choirmaster K. Koch. The repertoire ranges from folk songs to choral literature. In the years the choir was named "12 Räuber (12 robbers)" what is presumably to be led back on the original number of the singers or on treasury of songs of Russian origin. Since its foundation, it took part in concerts in Germany and abroad. It sang in choral competitions and appeared on the radio and TV, sang in a concert to honour Pope John Paul II in the Lateran basilica in Rome as well as in the holy mass in St. Peter's Basilica and took part in an international choral competition in Malta. But even performances in hospitals and old people's homes are part of its annual program. In the last years the choir has changed with many new singers, but at least 2 old members are still active.

At the age of 7 years Elisabeth Alfes Blömer took her first piano lessons with K. Koch, the first choirmaster of the Quartettverein. In 1991 she finished her studies at the Academy for Catholic Church Music and Musical Education in Regensburg. She was active at different music schools in the South of Germany as a professional pedagogue. Since 1993 she maintains her own music school in Hünsborn. Beside her music school activity she is choirmaster of several choirs. Since 1996 she is a choral manager in the FDB. In 2006 she became conductor of 12 Räuber after K. Koch.



## TEHRAN VOCAL ENSEMBLE

*From: Tehran, Iran - Founded: 2005*

*Conductor: Milad Omranloo - Category: X2 - Singers: 17*

The Ensemble was founded in 2005 by M. Omranloo. The first performance of the group was in 2006. M. Omranloo conducted the choir of "Bahman Farhangsara" and the Tehran Vocal Ensemble in a joint concert at "Fajr International Festival 2006". A new season was opened for Tehran Vocal Ensemble by omitting instruments (singing a capella) and singing orchestral and instrumental pieces. The first concert of this group in this style took place in 2007 at the "Rudaki Hall". The group continued its activity performing in the "Classical to Modern Music Festival" in 2007. After that it was invited to sing in the "23<sup>rd</sup> Fajr International Music Festival". The concert was on the festival's opening at the performing arts centre "Niavaran Farhangsara". In 2007 it was invited to perform during the "Fajr Festival Ceremony". It obtained a third place during the "Olympic and Singing" contest. It holds seasonal concerts at the music department of the Art University. In 2008 it achieved the I place during the "24<sup>th</sup> Fajr International Festival". It performed in Yerevan, Armenia in 2009.

Milad Omranloo studied in Tehran at the Soureh University and in 2005 obtained a Master at the Art University. Since 2004 he studied Composition, Conducting, Percussion. Since 2006 he is Music teacher at the Art University and Music Teacher at the Tehran Conservatoire. Since 2007 he is Percussion Teacher at the Tehran Symphony Orchestra. He plays percussion at the Iran National Music Orchestra. He has been Guest Conductor of the Khavaran Chamber Orchestra and the Bahman Culture Centre. Highlights of his Musical Career: Foundation of "Tehran Vocal Ensemble"; tour in Germany with the "Tehran Symphony Orchestra" (2006); participation in Austria with the "Tehran Symphony Orchestra" in the "Modern Music Festival" (2000); Concert in Armenia, with the "Tehran Vocal Ensemble" (2009). Competitions: I place in "24<sup>th</sup> Fajr International Music Competition", Iran; III place in Iran "Sport and Singing" competition (China, Olympic) 2008.

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## FEMALE CHOIR EUFONIA

*From: **Gavoi (Sardinia), Italy** - Founded: **1998**  
Conductor: **Mauro Lisei** - Category: **V** - Singers: **12***

The choir was founded in 1998, on the initiative of a group of girls and it is composed of 16 singers. Since the beginning they focused on an original repertoire, based on the rhythms and melodies of the island tradition, rediscovered and harmonized by M. Lisei and it is in the pioneer position in this style in Sardinia. It decided to sing texts dealing with matters close to the feminine world, sometimes accompanying the songs with ethnic instruments. It has organized coral events and taken part in shows and concerts both in the Island and in the Continent. In 2007 it won the I Prize in the "Rassegna Competitiva Barilari in Buddusò" (SS). In June 2008 the prestigious "Trofeo Provincia di Sassari" was conferred to the Chorus. The Prize, granted "to a group that sets off and hands down the Sardinian ethnomusical tradition with strictness, originality and modernity", was awarded by the "59<sup>th</sup> Premio Ozieri di Letteratura Sarda". The film Director G. Columbu engaged the choir in the film "Su Re": the choir members participate as singers of an integral part of the sound track and as actresses. An unpublished piece sung in the film and composed by M. Lisei was welcomed with great success during the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chorus in 2008.

Mauro Lisei studied at Nuoro Grammar School and then at the DAMS (Bologna University), where he attended the courses in Ethnomusicology held by Prof. Leydi, and in Harmony and Counterpoint held by Prof. Donadoni. He took the Teaching Music Licence and started the career as a teacher of Music which he is still practising. At the same time he has been carrying out research in the field of traditional music and studying composition in depth. He has founded and directed numerous Sardinian Choruses, for which he writes original pieces and harmonizes traditional melodies. At present he is the Art Director of five Choruses. He was the forerunner of women's choruses in Sardinia in 1995. He won many prizes with his compositions for "the originality within the respect of tradition". Some of his compositions have been requested for TV programmes, for theatre, for documentaries, for films.



## SAN PIETRO IN FORMIS CHOIR

From: **Aprilia/Latina, Italy** - Founded: **2000**  
Conductor: **Sonia Sette** - Category: **X2** - Singers: **22**

The choir is composed of 30 persons and was created in the church of its town to accompany the celebration of the Mass. It soon evolved and it enlarged the repertoire with songs of different styles: sacred choral music, modern, both Italian and international folk music, gospels and spirituals, songs from the most famous musicals. The choir took part in many important festivals: XXVII "National Congress of Sacred Music" in 2003 in Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome at the presence of His Holiness Giovanni Paolo II; the IX "Rassegna della Coralità Romana e Laziale" in Rome in 2006; "Solstizio d'Estate"; "Maggio Apriliano"; "Corinfesta", organized by ARCL in Rome. Since 2007, featuring with the organization of the Campoverde Farm Fair, they organize the Festival "Tradizioni in... Cantoverde" in which they face other choral realities coming from all over Italy.

Sonia Sette is the choir's soul. She pushes the members of the choir towards new music arranging and adapting them to its style. She graduated in piano with B. Brandani, then studied with S. Bracci and F. Saponaro. She attended the Art's Academy with S. Di Giacomo and F. Di Cesare. She refined her level attending the "Alto Perfezionamento Academy" in Pescara with P. Bordoni. She works as a teacher in "Le Muse" High School of Nettuno. She also had a collaboration with some other schools in Aprilia. She is the Artistic Director of many groups: San Pietro in Formis Choir, treble voices choir "Voci di cristallo", vocal group "Six for Seven" and since 2009 Schola Cantorum Cappella Laurentiana from Ardea.

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## BODØ FEMALE CHOIR

From: **Bodø, Norway** - Founded: **1940**

Conductor: **Kristin Kostopoulos** - Category: **F2** - Singers: **21**

The Bodø Female Choir sang several times in 2008: it performed the Psalm 42 (F. Mendelsson) with male guest singers in a project with the Bodø Symphony Orchestra in Rønvik kirke. It was invited by the Song festival "De Vive Voix" in Vivonne (France) to perform the opera "Suor Angelica" by Puccini in its original language. It had a joint concert with a French choir from Vivonne in the Kjerringøy kirke. It performed Vivaldi's Magnificat with the Bodø Symphony Orchestra and sang in three concerts of gospel and spirituals with a big band (Sulitjelma musikkorps) of its same region. In 2007 the choir performed Vivaldi's Gloria together with the Bodø Symphony Orchestra, it went to Vivonne (France) where it performed concerts with Norwegian composers. In 2006 it celebrated its 60 years' foundation singing in a concert and it performed three times the opera "Suor Angelica" by Puccini in its home town.

Kristin Kostopoulos is a Norwegian lyric soprano. She studied at the Academy of Music in Oslo with E. Skaug and A. Hansli from 1982-1985. She made her opera-debut in 1991 when she sang Pamina in "Die Zauberflute" by Mozart. She sang in works by Strauss, Mozart, Bjorklund, Gundersen, Bizet, Berlioz, Puccini. She sung various works of sacred music. She sang "Exultate Jubilate" by Mozart, "Petit Messe Sollenelle" by Rossini and "Die Schopfung" by Haydn. She performed in concerts in Sweden, Russia, China, Italy, Lithuania, France, Hungarian, South-Africa and USA. She finished her Master degree at the Academy of Music in Oslo in 2005 where she studied with the tenor S. Bjorkoy and the baritone H. Hagegard. She often sings with Norwegian orchestras performing both classical and contemporary repertoires. Since 2001 she is the conductor of "Bodø Female Choir".





## BJØRGVIN MIXED CHOIR

From: **Bergen, Norway** - Founded: **1952**  
Conductor: **Jørn Oftedal** - Category: **X2** - Singers: **34**

NORWAY

The Bjørgvin Mixed choir was founded in 1952 in Bergen on the west coast of Norway. The choir is composed of approximately forty singers and performs different kind of music: church music, musicals, folk music, etc. The choir has travelled in different countries such as Ireland, Hungary, Sweden and performed many concerts in Norway.

Jørn Oftedal was born in Bergen in 1953. He studied Music and he plays the classical guitar. He works as a conductor since 1978 and he has been conducting several mixed choirs since the beginning of his career. He works today as a musical producer.

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## FEMALE CHAMBER CHOIR CANTO-CANTARE

*From: Poznań, Poland - Founded: 1996*

*Conductor: Ewa Maćkowiak-Sibilska - Category: F2 - Singers: 25*

The choir was founded in 1996 at the Ignacy Jan Paderewski Secondary School in Poznań on initiative of the current conductor. It sings during the most important school celebrations and the artistic events of Poznań. The repertoire is wide and consists of a capella music ranging from renaissance to contemporary music, works by Polish composers, vocal-instrumental works such as: "Carmina Burana" by Orff, "Requiem" by Faure and "Mirror of Perfection" by the contemporary English composer Blackford performed in the biggest Philharmonics of Poland. During the last 13 years it has taken part in 10 important competitions and festivals in Poland, Europe and USA winning Grand Prix and first places with high honours, gold and silver medals. It performed in Greece, Sweden, France, Finland, Italy, Spain, USA and in many Polish cities. Since 1996 it sings in Christmas Charity concerts raising money for people in need. The choir represent not only the Ignacy Jan Paderewski Secondary School but also the City of Poznań and the whole Poland.

Ewa Maćkowiak-Sibilska is the conductor and artistic manager of the Female Chamber Choir Canto-Cantare. She studied violin class in the Poznań Music School and she graduated in Choral Singing and Music Education at the Poznań University. Since the beginning of her artistic career she has been choirs' conductor, singer and music teacher in secondary schools. She is a tutor animator in the Movement of Young Music Lovers'-Pro Sinfonica at Poznań Philharmonic. She was awarded the highest prize "Grand Prix of Pro Sinfonica" by A. A. Łuczak. She organized and performed in the oldest Great Charity Concerts for the Palliative Medical Care of J. Łuczak. She is the winner of school headmaster's prizes. She got publications connected with music tuition in secondary schools and with choir leading. She is the vice president in Youth Musical Society "Fermata". The President of Poland Lech Wałęsa awarded her the Golden Order of Merit for her outstanding achievements as a director of a choir and in the promotion of polish culture.



## PRO MUSICA T CHOIR

*From: Targoviste, Romania - Founded: 1873*

*Conductor: Florin Nicolae Emil Badea - Category: X2 - Singers: 32*

The choir was founded in 1873 in relation with the creation of the gymnasium "Ienachita Vacarescu". G. Rusu conducted the choir from 1892-1943 under the name of "Reuniunea muzicala a cantarii". From 1919-1990, it was named "Cantarea Romaniei". In 1990 it changed the name and became "Pro Musica T Choir". Its repertoire is composed of secular, catholic and orthodox songs and also of choral music from the international repertoire. During the last 20 years it sang with the Romanian singers: Petrescu, Agachi, Carje, Ohanesian, Harasteanu, Marineascu, Georgescu, Iurascu, etc. Many composers wrote songs for the choir (Botez, Paladi, Popescu, Romascanu, Doncescu, etc.). It performed in national competitions and events: "Ion Vidu" Festival-Lugoj (1982); centenary of Ciprian Porumbescu from Bucharest and Suceava (1983); 600 anniversary of Pitesti (1988). It toured in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Russia, Ukraine, Latvia, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, France. In France it performed the most important concerts in Strasbourg for the European Council and at the Cathedral. In 1993 it was in North of Italy, in 1994 again in France for the 120 years of the choir's activities. In 1994 it took part in the festival "Timotei Popovici" in Sibiu. In 1995, 1996, 1997 it went again to France and then in Spain.

Florin Nicolae Emil Badea is doctor in Musicology, degree obtained at the National University of Music of Bucharest in 2004. He began his musical carrier as violin player in the Chindia Ensemble of Targoviste, but the teaching vocation placed him in the education area. Since 1998 he works at the Valahia University of Targoviste - Faculty of Sciences and Arts.

Florin Nicolae Emil Badea will conduct the choir replacing **Gheorghe Dimancea** who recently passed away. The choir's performances will be dedicated to their past conductor.

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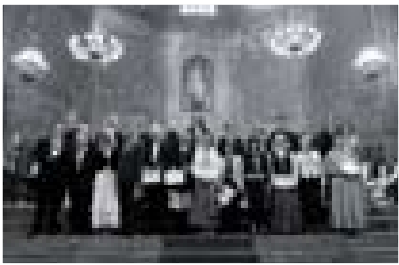
## FEMALE ENSEMBLE TONIKA

*From: Saint Petersburg, Russia - Founded: 2005*  
*Conductor: Valeria Yareshko - Category: V - Singers: 8*

RUSSIA

The Female ensemble “Tonika” was founded in 2005. The ensemble is composed only of non professional singers of different ages. The majority of them never learned music, but all of them have a great interest into the vocal and choir skills. Their musical abilities constantly improve due to the use of the hands in managing the voice, to the attention and the singing breath following the effective vocal exercises. The concert activity of the choir started towards the end of 2007. The repertoire of the ensemble includes Russian and foreign classic music, sacred music, spirituals and folk songs per 2 or 3 voices “a capella”. The ensemble performs in charity concerts in different auditoriums and also gives concerts on the tours.

Valeria Yareshko is the choir conductor and art director. She is a master of culture history (with a Ph.D. thesis in 1999). She graduated at the Conducting-Choral Department of Leningrad State Institute of Culture. She currently teaches in the Herzen State Pedagogical University and manages her own non-commercial organization The Creative Centre “Tonika” which was established in 2006 with the aim of the preservation and popularization of the vocal exercises for the harmonization of the central nervous system and development of music talents on the basis of Dmitry E. Ogorodnov's system.



*Pictures of the 2008 edition*







*Under the patronage of:*



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