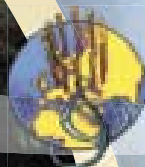




# *Europe and its Songs*

9<sup>th</sup> International  
Folksong Choir  
Competition  
& Concerts

Barcelona, Spain - 26-30 September 2007







## COURTIAL INTERNATIONAL

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

President of the Festival: Dr. h.c. Hans Urrigshardt

# *Europe and its Songs*

*9<sup>th</sup>* International Folksong Choir Competition & Concerts



**Barcelona, Spain**  
**26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September, 2007**

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

Artistic Direction

**M° Pablo Colino**

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

International Giury

**M° Michael Rinscheid (President) - Germany**

**M° Miroslav Kosler - Czech Republic**

**M° Winfried Siegler - Germany**

**M° Felix Resch - Italy**

General Coordinator

**Loredana Ramozzi**

Permanent Festival Secretariat

**Vittoria Assettati**

Technical Organization

**Loredana Matticari, Francesca Miccoli**

Marketing

**Francesca Miccoli, Marina Madeddu**

Translations and proof reading

**Stephanie Kolb**

Technical support in Barcelona

**Núria Llorach i Molons**

**Guillem Ferreres**

In cooperation with

**Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals**

Technical Organizer: Courtial International

Patronage: 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 pleasant, interesting, joyful and sometimes unforgettable 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. 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 Gótico. This will be an unique chance to meet choirs from all over the world. I am looking forward to seeing you again for 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. Dr. h.c. Hans-Albert Courtial**  
President and Founder  
of the Associazione Internazionale Amici della Musica Sacra

# *Program of the festival*

## **Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

- ▶ 17:00 Meeting of all choir directors in the historical hall of the Church S. Maria del Pi (Pl. del Pi). Welcome by the Jury.
- ▶ 19:30 Inaugural concert with The Barcelona Choir (Germany) and all the choirs participating in the Festival at the Church S. Maria del Pi.

## **Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

- ▶ 17:30 - 19:00 Open-air concerts for choirs in category F2, M2, M1 at the Cathedral square.
- ▶ 17:00 - 19:30 1<sup>st</sup> part of the competition for choirs in the categories V, X1, X2 at the Church of Santa Maria del Pi.

## **Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

- ▶ 17:00 - 19:00 Open-air concert for the choirs in the categories V, X1, X2 at the Cathedral square.
- ▶ 20:00 - 22:30 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the competition for choirs in the categories F2, M2, M1 at the Church of Santa Maria del Pi.

## **Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

- ▶ 10:30 Parade through the streets of Barcelona from Plaça Catalunya (Rivadeneyra) to the Church of Santa Maria del Pi.
- ▶ 12:00 Concert of The Barcelona Choir. Announcement of the winner choirs and prize awarding ceremony in the Church Santa Maria del Pi. Final concert with the winner choirs.
- ▶ 19:30 Concert of The Barcelona Choir at the Mare Magnum Center.

# *Choirs Participating*

## **CATEGORY F2**

**FEMALE CHOIRS FROM 16 TO 39 VOICES**

**FEMALE CHOIR "ZLATNA LIRA", BULGARIA**

**FEMALE CHOIR "JUMARA", LATVIA**

**FEMALE CHOIR "SV. ZLATA MEGLENSKA", MACEDONIA**

## **CATEGORY M2**

**MALE CHOIRS FROM 16 TO 39 VOICES**

**ASS. CORALE "AMICI DEL CANTO SARDO", ITALY**

**CORO ALPI APUANE, ITALY**

## **CATEGORY M1**

**MALE CHOIRS MINIMUM 40 VOICES**

**MALE CHOIR FROHSINN 1866 BAD SODEN, GERMANY**

**MALE CHOIR SILVICOLA, LATVIA**

## **CATEGORY V**

**VOCAL GROUPS UP TO 12 VOICES**

**ENSAMBLE ARTE CORAL, ARGENTINA**

**FEMALE VOCAL GROUP TERANKE, CROATIA**

**FOLK SONG GROUP JANE, CROATIA**

## **CATEGORY X1**

**MIXED CHOIRS MIN. 40 VOICES**

**THE PEOPLE OF NOTE COMMUNITY CHOIR, GREAT BRITAIN**

## **CATEGORY X2**

**MIXED CHOIRS FROM 16 TO 39 VOICES**

**CORO DE CAMARA DE LA ALIANZA FRANCESA DE SALTA, ARGENTINA**

**ESTONIAN YOUTH MIXED CHOIR, ESTONIA**

**VIVANDI CHOIR, FINLAND**

**UCD CHORAL SCHOLARS, IRELAND**

**CHAMBER CHOIR MEDERA, LATVIA**

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# *International Jury*

**M° Michael Rinscheid** (President) - Germany  
**M° Miroslav Kosler** - Czech Republic  
**M° Winfried Siegler** - Germany  
**M° 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, 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 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.



**M**iroslav Kosler has been engaged since 1951 as the artistic head of the Prague Mixed Choir with outstanding successes in 23 European countries and performances in Japan and the USA. He attended prestigious musical festivals including the Prague Spring, Dresdner Musikfestspiele, Bruckner Musikfestival Linz, Hollandfestival, and Bodensee Musikfestival. He worked with world-renowned conductors such as Z. Mehta, R. Muti, G. Sinopoli, K. Nagano, P. Boulez, J. B. and V. Válek in performances of oratorios by Dvořák, Wagner, Berlioz, Mahler, Schönberg, Stravinsky, etc. He is frequently called as a member of juries at international choral competitions. He is the artistic director of the international choir festival "Praga Cantat", the Prague opera and symphonic festival "Prague Winter". Since



1993 he has been a professor of choral conducting at the Prague Conservatory and also teaches this subject at the Faculty of Pedagogy at Charles University in Prague. He is currently engaged as the house choir master of the Prague Philharmonic Choir. With them he has rehearsed Mahler's 8<sup>th</sup> Symphony with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. In 2007 he prepared this work with the Prague Philharmonic Choir for the complete Mahler cycle for the Berlin Symphonic Orchestra with P. Boulez. He works with the Prague Philharmonic Choir as an expert advisor to its director.

**W**infried Siegler was born in Nieder-Roden in 1933. He studied Scholastic Music and Conducting of Choirs and Orchestras at the University of Frankfurt a.M. He became Director of the Conductor's School at the Hoch Conservatory in Frankfurt a.M. He conducts concerts in the Darmstadt-Frankfurt area and takes part in music productions of soloists and orchestras such as: Orchestra of the Hessian Broadcast, Symphonic of Carlsbad, Philharmonic Orchestra of Hradec Králové-Czech Republic, Symphonic of Prague, and others. Moreover he composed and arranged for all types of a-cappella choirs or accompanied by orchestra. Several times he was invited to join national and international competition's juries. He won the German Choir Competition "Liederfeunde Hainstadt" and the "Order of Merit" of the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesverdienstkreuz) was awarded to him for his cultural commitment in the district of Offenbach and the city of Rodgau (Male Choir 1842 Dudenhofen).



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**F**elix Resch is professor for "Harmonie and Formenlehre" at the Music Academy "Monteverdi" of Bozen (Italy) and works as a composer and choral conductor. He was born in Brixen (Italy) in 1957 and graduated in choral music and choral conducting at the Music Academy in Bozen. His work was shown at contemporary music festivals and won prices 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. Resch's orchestral and choral work has been published in Tv (Rai, ORF, SFS), on the radio and on CD.



## CORO DE CAMARA DE LA ALIANZA FRANCESA DE SALTA

### Argentina



From: **Salta, Argentina**

Founded: **2007**

Conductor: **Luis Fernando Benavidez**

Category: **X2**

Singers: **18**

The Alianza Francesa is a cultural institution active since more than 80 years. Its own Camera Chorus is created at the beginning of 2007 and it is considered as a new way of working with music to reduce the cultural differences between Salta and the rest of the World. The Alianza Francesa introduces this new choral group into the cultural local activities, with its wide choral repertory from the Renaissance to the actual popular music. They give an important diffusion to Argentinean, Latin American authors and to the worldwide popular music. It is integrated by 18 singers who are currently studying and preparing new technical training in order to get better performances in their presentations.

**Luis Fernando Benavidez** was born in Salta in 1980. He studied guitar, violin, singing and flute in the Music High School of Salta where he is professor of the Singing class and Repertory. He studied Composition and Musical Education at the National University in Cordoba. He attended courses of choral conduction with important Argentinean Masters (N. Andrenacci, N. Zadoff, M. Pacheco). He studied orchestral conduction and participated in courses in chorus conduction and chamber music with J. P. i Lladó (Spain), W. Pfaff and M. Kraemer (Germany). He founded the Ensamble Vocal Juvenil (1998) and the Ensamble Arte Coral (2001). He is also the conductor of the Principal Official Chorus of Salta. He is part of the folk group Los Huayra.

## ENSAMBLE ARTE CORAL

**Argentina**



From: **Salta, Argentina**

Founded: **2001**

Conductor: **Luis Fernando Benavidez**

Category: **V**

Singers: **12**

The Ensemble Arte Coral was formed by L. F. Benavidez. It is integrated with singers interested in the diffusion of the choral activity. Created in 2001, its first concert was in 2002. It performed in many concerts in Salta and participated with in the "1<sup>st</sup> International Choral Festival–Salta/02". Many of their performances are for schools, hospitals and public institutions. Its repertoire includes music from Renaissance, French and German Romanticism, Negro Spirituals, Latin American Folk music, sacred music, etc. It always prepares projects in order to share knowledge and experience with other choirs. They organized presentations of choral groups in Salta with important directors internationally recognized. The responsible work, the attendance of families and friends are the only ways to give them the courage to continue this project.

**Luis Fernando Benavidez** was born in Salta in 1980. He studied guitar, violin, singing and flute in the Music High School of Salta, where he is professor of the Singing class and Repertory. He studied Composition and Musical Education at the National University in Cordoba. He attended courses of choral conduction with important Argentinean Masters (N. Andrenacci, N. Zadoff, M. Pacheco). He studied orchestral conduction and participated in courses in chorus conduction and chamber music with J. P. i Lladó (Spain), W. Pfaff and M. Kraemer (Germany). He founded the Ensamble Vocal Juvenil (1998) and the Ensamble Arte Coral (2001). He is also the conductor of the Principal Official Chorus of Salta. He is part of the folk group Los Huayra.

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## FEMALE CHOIR "ZLATNA LIRA"

**Bulgaria**



From: **Targovishte, Bulgaria**

Founded: **1973**

Conductor: **Iliana Ivanova**

Category: **F2**

Singers: **30**

The choir was founded in 1973 by Borislav Hadijski. It took part in several festivals: Festival of Chamber Choirs "Golden Diana (1976), May Choral Festival in Varna (1978), Panorama of Bulgarian Choral Art in Sofia-Bulgaria (1980); festivals in the Greek cities Carditsa (1985), Carpenisi (1994); Chamber Choirs Festival-Kraguevats - former Yugoslavia (2001); Spiritual Music in Preveza-Greece (2001) - bronze medal; X International Competition "Orlando di Lasso" - Italy (2003) - bronze medal, 21<sup>st</sup> International Choir Festival of Nis-Serbia (2006). It performed in Germany, Italy, Russia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Greece, Macedonia, and Serbia. In 2000 the Choir received the "Zlatna Lira", the most valuable prize of the 'Association of Bulgarian Music and Dance Artists'. Its repertoire consists of compositions from the Renaissance till nowadays. The Choir organizes the Festival of Women and Girls' Choirs in Targovishte every two years.

**Iliana Ivanova** is the conductor and the artistic director of the choir since 1998. She graduated from the 'Academy for Music and Dance Art' in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. She learnt choir conducting from professor Marin Chonev. She is one of the founders of the choir. She works as a lecturer of classical singing and sol-fa in School of Music of Targovishte.

## FOLK SONG GROUP JANE

Croatia



From: **Velika Gorica, Croatia**

Founded: **2004**

Conductor: **Ivan Potočnik**

Category: **V**

Singers: **12**

The group was founded in 2004 in Velika Gorica. Even though the group's history is short, all its members have been part of folkloric amateur ensembles for many years. The group has 25 members, including the tamburitza players who accompany the singers on traditional Croatian instruments. The songs of their repertoire cover the entire Croatia and their interpretation emphasizes the variety of folkloric music of their country. They show great enthusiasm for the Croatian cultural heritage and aim to keep alive traditional folk and church songs. They have obtained great renown in the highest music circles. The quality of the group is mostly due to Ivan Potočnik, on one hand as their conductor, on the other as the arranger of their repertoire's songs. They performed with the Croatian Radio Television's Tamburitza Orchestra. One of their most prominent performances happened during the week of Croatian music when the Group presented Croatian folk songs to the world through a joint radio broadcast. They record Croatian traditional music with the Croatian Radio-Television's Tamburitza Orchestra.

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## FEMALE VOCAL GROUP TERANKE

**Croatia**



From: **Pula, Croatia**

Founded: **2002**

Category: **V**

Singers: **9**

The group participated in more than 80 public performances, in numerous festivals, and competitions for vocal groups and a cappella singing. They took part in: 'Festival of Istrian vocal groups' in 2003 where they won the second prize and in 2004-2007 the first prize (Buzet); 'Festival of the North Adriatic vocal groups' where they won the first prize in 2003 and 2005 (Senj); 'Festival of Dalmatian vocal groups' where they won the second prize in 2004 and in 2005 (Omiš'). They were also winner of the 'Silver shield of the City of Omiš'.

The group is the organizer of the 1<sup>st</sup> review "Puna je Pula" for vocal groups in Pula. It performed at the opening ceremony of the 'Pula Film Festival' (2005), sang at the Lisinski Hall in Zagreb, and cooperates with the musical group 'Gardenia' and the Istrian singers B. Krajcar, V. Neži-Ruži and T. Obrovac. It toured in Italy, Germany, Ireland. The choir's wish is to care for female vocal expression within the area of Istria and Croatia and is trying to pass on the value of Istrian - coastal music, idiom, and creativity. Apart from Istrian and Croatian vocal music, its repertoire includes spiritual negro, popular songs, classic and polyphony music.

## ESTONIAN YOUTH MIXED CHOIR

**Estonia**



From: **Tallinn, Estonia**

Founded: **1998**

Conductor: **Taavi Esko, Kadri Leppoja**

Category: **X2**

Singers: **41**

The choir was founded on the initiative of Estonian Mixed Choirs' Union. It consists of about 60 young singers from all over Estonia. It has gained international appreciation: in 1999 it won the 1<sup>st</sup> prize and a golden diploma in a folksong festival in Italy. It has also been successful in Estonian choir competitions winning the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize at the 15<sup>th</sup> Estonian Mixed Choirs' competition "Tuljak". During the last performance the choir gave a concert together with an Estonian youth symphony orchestra performing Gabriel Fauré's Requiem.

**Taavi Esko** is the founder, artistic director and conductor of Estonian Youth Mixed Choir. He is also a music teacher at the Kuusalu Secondary School. He graduated at the Tallinn Pedagogical University in 1973. He founded the Kuusalu Youth Choir and the Kolga-Kuusalu Chamber Choir. In 1995 he established the vocal group 'Voices'. He conducted the joint mixed choirs at the Estonian 'Youth Song' celebrations in 2002 and 2007.

**Kadri Leppoja** graduated at the Estonian Conservatory in music pedagogy and choir conducting in 1976. She works as a music teacher at the Tartu Miina Härma Gymnasium, leading there mixed girls' and boys' choirs. She also conducts the Tartu Youth Choir. She was recognized as 'Teacher of the Year 2005'. She conducted the joint girls' choirs at the Estonian Youth Song celebrations in 2007.

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## VIVANDI CHOIR

### Finland



From: **Vanda, Finland**

Founded: **1988**

Conductor: **Maria Bruncrona**

Category: **X2**

Singers: **22**

Vivandi mixed choir was formed in 1988. In the beginning it consisted mainly of parents whose children attended the music institute "Musikinstitutet Kungsvägen". It performed at the 'All Swedish-Finn Song' festivals in Mariehamn (1996) and Esbo (2001). The choir performs annually at the traditional Christmas concerts in Vanda as well as at the Spring concerts. It participated also at the 'All Swedish-Finn Song' Festival in Vasa, an event that takes place every five years gathering choirs from all over the Swedish-speaking Finland.

**Maria Bruncrona** studied in Esbo until 1985 and then attended the Helsinki University of Technology. She received her Master degree in 1992. She has been singing in choirs since 1972. She began to work with the girls' choir of the Tampere Conservatoire and from 1979-1992 she conducted the choir "Esbobygdens musikskolas ungdomskör" which changed its name in 1988, becoming the "Serena" choir. She has been a member of the group "Eight Voices" since this group was formed in 1986. She has a degree in solo singing and has attended conductor courses.

## MALE CHOIR FROHSINN 1866 BAD SODEN

Germany



From: **Bad Soden-Salmunster, Germany**

Founded: **1866**

Conductor: **Gerd Zellmann**

Category: **M I**

Singers: **57**

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The choir was established in 1866. After the war the choral society became a successful competitive choir, celebrating many triumphs ranking first. The choir has a wide repertoire including sacral, popular, and contemporary music and practice many activities around its hometown: concerts, castle festivals, and wine festivals. The choir toured to Austria, Italy, and the Czech Republic. The choir set itself the aim to visit at least one singing contest a year and is particularly proud of the quantity of its young active singers.

**Gerd Zellmann** studied music and conducting at the Goethe University and the Frankfurt Conservatoire. He teaches music and conducts several school choirs at the 'Kopernikusschule Freigericht', a secondary school in Germany. He is a member of the board of the 'Fachverband Deutscher Berufschorleiter' (Association of German professional Choirmasters), and of the Federal Music Commission for the German state Hesse. He is frequently invited to take part in the competitions' jury and lecturer and conducts several choirs in the Frankfurt area.

## THE PEOPLE OF NOTE COMMUNITY CHOIR

### Great Britain



From: **Bristol, Great Britain**

Founded: **2000**

Conductor: **Nick Petts and Nickomo Clarke**

Category: **XI**

Singers: **70**

The choir was formed in Bristol in 2000. It performs songs from all around the world. The musical style of these songs varies greatly and includes traditional folk, classical, jazz, and contemporary 'pop' genre. The membership of 'People of Note' is now 140 singers. The People of Note annual season culminates in a concert at the St. George's concert venue in Bristol. In addition, through its touring arm—PONITA (People of Note International Touring Association), the choir has performed at the 'Galway Festival of Voice' in the Republic of Ireland in 2004 and 2006. PONITA also organises performances such as the 'Bristol Harbourside' and 'Streets Alive' Festivals, and gives an annual Christmas concert.

**Nickomo Clarke** is a musician, singer, composer, and arranger specialising in a-cappella harmony music of various genres. He is internationally known for his 'Harmonic Temple' pieces, the fifth volume of which was released in 2007. He currently co-leads the 'People of Note Community' choir, the 'Frome Community' Choir, and the 'Bath Community' Singers.

**Nick Petts** for the last ten years has been running community choirs and organising singing events. He formed 'People of Note', which he co-leads with Nickomo Clarke. For the last 7 years he has organised a community choir convention called "Unaccompanied Adults" for community choirs based in South West England.

## UCD CHORAL SCHOLARS

Ireland



From: **Dublin, Ireland**

Founded: **1998**

Conductor: **Desmond Earley**

Category: **X2**

Singers: **21**

UCD Choral Scholars is University College Dublin's award-winning vocal ensemble with a repertoire ranging from the contemporary to the medieval. Setup by the Governing Authority, they have become cultural ambassadors for UCD. They released CDs in 2001 and 2004. They have made tours to Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Italy. They returned to Rome in 2003 to perform during the celebration of Ireland's assumption of EU presidency and at a concert to mark the 25 years of the Pontificate of John Paul II. It won two competitions at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Sligo International Choral' Festival in 2003; the 'Mayor of Sligo Perpetual Trophy' for Irish Choirs and the 'Rev. Michael O'Connor Memorial' Trophy for Irish and international competitors. Recent performances have included Messiah by Handel, Requiem by Fauré and Krönungsmesse by Mozart.

**Desmond Earley** is a scholarship winner of the 'College of Music' and an honours graduate in Music and Politics of the University College Dublin, where he took the BA and Bmus. He undertook organ studies with P. Sweeney at the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama. He was awarded the UCD Organ Scholarship in 1997. He is Organist of the University College Dublin, a former Director of UCD College Choir, and Artistic Director of UCD Choral Scholars since its foundation.

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## ASS. CORALE “AMICI DEL CANTO SARDO”

**Italy**



From: **Sassari, Italy**

Founded: **1998**

Conductor: **Salvatore Bulla**

Category: **M2**

Singers: **26**

The choir “Amici del Canto Sardo” was unofficially born in Sassari in 1998. It aims to keep alive the traditions of Sardinian choral music. Its repertoire is based on the execution of pieces from both liturgical and popular Sardinian culture. Since its beginning the choir has taken part in various events both in Sassari and in the whole Region of Sardinia: performances at the most important festivals held by the ancient Gremi (guilds) of Sassari; 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Prize ‘Città di Ozieri’; Festival of Popular Song and Dance at the 58<sup>th</sup> Cavalcata Sarda (2007); 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Fiera del Folklore in Sassari; 7<sup>th</sup> Festival della Canzone Sassarese; at Easter (2006-2007) it performed a dramatization of the Passion of Christ. In 2004 it was awarded the ‘Fonte di Rosello’ prize at the University of Sassari.

**Salvatore Bulla** undertook his musical studies at the diocesan seminary in Sassari and then at the regional one in Cagliari focusing on the relationship between Music and Liturgy and on popular Sardinian music both sacred and secular. He founded and conducted the polyphonic choir ‘San Paolo Apostolo’ of Sassari and currently conducts also the ‘Coro della Nurra’ (Sassari). Over the years he has put into music various poems from the Sardinian tradition.

## CORO ALPI APUANE

Italy



From: **Pieve Fosciana, Italy**

Founded: **1973**

Conductor: **Luca Bacci**

Category: **M2**

Singers: **30**

The choir was created on the initiative of some passionate mountaineers. Since the beginning, the repertoire was composed of the most important Italian folk songs. Later it was enriched by Tuscan folk songs with a special attention to the Garfagnana area. Nowadays the repertoire includes: songs of mountain, Italian and Tuscan folklore, songs of war, sacred songs, international folk music. It participated in the international Festivals of Wolfsberg (Austria), Truro (Great Britain), Lugano (Switzerland), Clusone (Italy) and held concerts in Croatia, France, Switzerland, Austria, and in many Italian regions.

**Luca Bacci**, graduated in flute at the Musical Institute “L. Boccherini” of Lucca. He attended music classes at the Accademia Chigiana. He studied composition and held concerts as a soloist and with chamber orchestras in many Italian towns. He participated in national and international competitions. He is Artistic Director of the Teatro Alfieri in Castelnovo Garfagnana, Director of the Chamber Orchestra “L. Boccherini” of Lucca. He also teaches in the Municipal School of Castelnovo Garfagnana. From 1987 he has been the conductor of the Cathedral Choir of Castelnovo Garfagnana, and from 1994 he has conducted the ‘Chorus Alpi Apuane’.

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## CHAMBER CHOIR MEDERA

### Latvia



From: **Riga, Latvia**

Founded: **1996**

Conductor: **Gunta Vāvere**

Category: **X2**

Singers: **20**

Pharmacists' Society of Latvia (PSL) Choir "Medera" was born in 1996. It consists of 25 singers: pharmacists, physicians, students, etc. The repertoire includes: Latvian folk songs and classical music, spirituals, sacred music, classical music, pop music, jazz. It won the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the international choir competition in Ireland in 2001. It sang in Norway, Hungary, Italy, France, and St. Petersburg. It has always been active in participating in Latvian Song Festivals and Song Days. The choir has participated in several projects with other choirs performing songs from the repertoire of Sting, opera, and jazz music. It performed in Riga at the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, at the concert "Song for Baltic freedom" in 2004 dedicated to the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Baltic Way", and at the 'Ogre Opera Festival'. It appeared on TV and in the movie "Ki-lnieks" in 2005. Every year at Christmas time the choir organizes a masquerade with a special theme.

**Gunta Vāvere** has 28 years of experience in working with different choirs. While studying at the Latvian Academy of Music, she started with the mixed choir "Teiksmā". Later she worked as a music teacher at Riga's Language School. She also took the responsibility of conductor of students' choirs. Since 1996 she conducts the Pharmacists' Society of Latvia choir "Medera".

## FEMALE CHOIR JUMARA

Latvia



From: **Valmiera, Latvia**

Founded: **1978**

Conductor: **Inga Zirne**

Category: **F2**

Singers: **32**

The choir was founded in 1978. The first conductor of the choir was M. Izaks. The choir is composed of 38 singer. Since its foundation it has experienced interesting friendships and trips. It has taken part in several festivals and performed in many concerts: Competition in Riva del Garda-Italy (1995); Concert tour to Bavaria-Germany (1995), Competition in Montreux-Switzerland (1998); 22<sup>nd</sup> Song festival Choir competition in Riga-Latvia (1998); Competition in Preveza-Greece (2000); Country folk song festival Mazsalaca-Latvia (2002); concert tour to Hungary (2002); 23<sup>rd</sup> Song festival Choir competition in Riga-Latvia (2003); Country folk song festival Mazsalaca-Latvia (2004); Competition Christmas in Prague-Czech Republic (2004); Concert tour to Lithuania (2005); Concert tour to Finland (2006).

**Inga Zirne** graduated in 1990 at the Latvian National Conservatory in the faculty of conducting and vocal art. She is currently a teacher of theoretical subjects in the Valmiera Academy of Music. She is the conductor of several choirs: the female choir “Jumara”, the chamber choir “Cats”, and the male choir “Baltie Bērzi”. In 1995 she joined the choir “Jumara” as a singer, later she become the second conductor. In 2003 she become the art director.

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## MALE CHOIR SILVICOLA

### Latvia



From: **Riga, Latvia**

Founded: **1980**

Conductor: **Aivar Opicans, Eriks Derums**

Category: **M I**

Singers: **44**

The name of the choir come from the Latin and means “inhabitant of the woods”. A choice due to the fact that all the members work in the forest industry. The choir is divided in 8 ensembles who sing independently in different regions of Latvia. Every month the ensembles meet and give a concert. All together they have sung in more than 260 concerts. Its repertoire include mostly Latvian folksongs and songs written by Latvian composers. The main theme of these songs is the nature. The choir has performed in all regions of Latvia as well as abroad in Lituania, Estonia, Russia, Germany, Czech Republic, Wales and Sweden. It took part in international festivals in Italy, England, and Slovakia.

**Aivars Opicans** was born in 1952. After graduating at the Latvian Academy of Music in 1972, he started to work as a music teacher and choir conductor. He has worked with mixed choirs and he currently conducts the male choirs Silvicola and Frachori. He is also a teacher at the Pedagogic Academy of Riga. His choirs have taken part in festivals in Italy, Wales, Spain, Czech Republic, and Germany.

**Eriks Derums** was born in 1953. He has worked as a male, female, and mixed choir conductor since 1980 when he graduated at the Latvian Academy of Music. His choirs have taken part in festivals in Italy, Wales, the Czech Republic, and Germany.

## FEMALE CHOIR “SV. ZLATA MEGLENSKA”

Macedonia



From: **Skopje, Macedonia**

Founded: **1980**

Conductor: **Letka Dimovska Polizova**

Category: **F2**

Singers: **20**

The Choir makes part of the Macedonian Orthodox Church and is the first of its kind among the choirs in the Republic of Macedonia. It consists of 22 women who study at the Faculty of Music Art in Skopje. They contribute to the reputation of the Macedonian Orthodox Church and the Macedonian tradition. It is supported by the Agency of Emigration, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by several embassies of the Republic of Macedonia abroad. It has travelled to the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Greece, Slovenia, Slovakia, Croatia, Poland, Portugal, Belgium, Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Sweden, Germany, Australia, etc.

**Letka Dimovska Polizova** is the founder of the choir. She is the chief of the Department for Information, Culture, and European Integration at the Agency of Emigration. She acquired high reputation through her choral activities in Macedonia. She is the winner of important national and international prizes. As conductor of the children's choir of Macedonian Broadcast, the choir “Zlatno Slavejce”, the youth's mixed choir “Koco Racin”, the chamber choir of the Orthodox cathedral “St. Climent Ohridski”, and many others, she achieved the epithet of the ‘most successful female conductor in Macedonia’.

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## **XIII INTERNATIONAL CHOIR FESTIVAL "ORLANDO DI LASSO"**

*Marche Region (Italy), May 29<sup>th</sup> - June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008*

The Festival is held in the charming Marche region located in the centre of Italy between the Adriatic seaside and the mountains. It will be a very special and impressive event organised in this enchanting area. Its central position in Italy makes it an important crossroads of historical cities and beautiful landscapes. Choirs will have the possibility to perform in wonderful churches and theatres with great acoustics, to have fun during the open air concerts and to take part in the parade through the streets of the cities of the Region in their typical uniforms. At the same time they will be able to visit the historical cities and go to the beaches surrounded by a blue and warm sea. Countryside and sea, mountains and hills who gradually decline toward the coast: in Marche Region you will sing in this unique variety of landscape. **Dead Line: 14.03.2008**

## **IV INTERNATIONAL SACRED MUSIC CHOIR FESTIVAL**

*Rome and the Vatican City (Italy), July 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008*

Rome, the city of history, art and Christianity. Imagine yourself singing in this perfect scenario, with centuries of art and culture all around you. Imagine meeting singers from all over the world. Imagine combining the emotions of a musical performance with an all-round artistic experience. It will be for you an occasion to perform in the most beautiful churches and open spaces of the Eternal City and also in the charming villages of the roman countryside. Combine a splendid summer vacation with unforgettable choir events in the marvellous Italian venues. **Dead Line: 02.04.2008**

## **9<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL FOLKSONG CHOIR FESTIVAL "EUROPE AND ITS SONGS"**

*Barcelona, Spain, September 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008*

Every year the festival is held in the beautiful city of Barcelona. We chose Barcelona for its strategic location by the seaside and its folkloristic and enchanting atmosphere. Addressed to male, female, mixed, youth, and children choirs; repertoire of folksongs without compulsory piece and difficulty level with at least one piece of folk music from the choir's country of origin and one European folksong. The choir competition will take place in the spectacular setting of the Church of Santa Maria del Pi. A Spanish fiesta will close the Festival. A unique chance to meet choirs from all over the world. **Dead Line: 16.05.2008**

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**COURTIAL INTERNATIONAL S.R.L.**

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