

# Europe AND ITS Songs



XII International Folksong Choir Competition & Concerts

Barcelona, Spain *22nd. - 25th* September 2010



COURTIAL INTERNATIONAL

*under the patronage of*

**Associazione Internazionale Amici della Musica Sacra**

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

*XII* INTERNATIONAL FOLKSONG  
CHOIR COMPETITION & CONCERTS

*Europe*  
AND ITS *Songs*



**Barcelona, Spain**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

# *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

*General Coordinator*

**Loredana Ramezzi**

*Permanent Festival Secretariat*

**Vittoria Assettati**

*Tourist Organization*

**Bettina Burgass**

*Marketing*

**Vittoria Assettati**

*Translations and proof reading*

**Vittoria Assettati**

*Technical support in Barcelona*

**Núria Llorach i Molons**

**Carme Saldó i Gasull**

**Guillem Ferreres i Sagarra**

*In cooperation with*

**Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals. Demarcació del Barcelonès.**

*Technical Organizer*

**Courtial International**

*Patronage*

**Associazione Internazionale Amici della Musica Sacra**



Dr. h.c. Hans Urrigshardt

*President of the  
XII International Folksong Choir Competition  
"Europe and its Songs"*



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

It is my great pleasure to welcome the choirs who take part in the XII 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 12 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 pleasant, interesting, joyful and sometimes unforgettable experience. 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 twelve years that we organize it 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 Barcelona. This will be an unique chance to meet international choirs. 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. h.c. Hans-Albert Courtial**  
*Founder and President  
of the Associazione Internazionale Amici della Musica Sacra*

# *Program of the festival*

## Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

- ▶ 17.00 Meeting of choir directors in the historical hall of S. Maria del Pi. Welcome by the international Jury.
- ▶ 20.30 Inaugural concert at S. Maria del Pi (Plaça del Pi).

## Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

- ▶ 11:30 - 13:00 Performance of choirs in the Festival category at S. Maria del Pi.
- ▶ 19.30 - 23.30 Competition for all choirs in the categories M2, M1, X2, X1, V, F2, Y, G1 at S. Maria del Pi.

## Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010

- ▶ 18.00 - 20.00 Open air concert in Plaça del Rei in cooperation with the Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals. Demarcació del Barcelonès.

## Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010

- ▶ 10.30 Parade through the streets of the historical centre of Barcelona.
- ▶ 11.30 Prize awarding ceremony in S. Maria del Pi and 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

CORO MUNICIPAL DE BRANDSEN, ARGENTINA  
CHAMBER CHOIR CANORUS, ESTONIA  
NÕMME MUSIC SCHOOL CHOIR, ESTONIA

## CATEGORY X1

MIXED CHOIRS  
MIN. 40 VOICES

LAKSEVAG MIXED CHOIR, NORWAY

## CATEGORY V

VOCAL GROUPS  
UP TO 12 VOICES

VOCAL ENSEMBLE "MUSICALIS", LITHUANIA  
FEMALE CHAMBER CHOIR "CANTILENA", RUSSIA

## CATEGORY F2

FEMALE CHOIRS  
FROM 16 TO 39 VOICES

SANTANNA CHOIR, ITALY  
CÁNTALO, FEMALE VOCAL GROUP, VENEZUELA

## CATEGORY M2

MALE CHOIRS  
FROM 16 TO 39 VOICES

BRIANZA CHOIR, ITALY

## CATEGORY M1

MALE CHOIRS  
MIN. 40 VOICES

PRETORIA BOYS HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR, SOUTH AFRICA

## CATEGORY G1

GOSPEL CHOIRS  
FROM 1 TO 30 VOICES

MILLELIRE GOSPEL CHOIR, ITALY

## CATEGORY Y

YOUTH CHOIRS MAX. 21 YEARS

EKURHULENI CHILDRENS CHOIR, SOUTH AFRICA

## FESTIVAL CATEGORY

(WITHOUT COMPETITION)

DALTROCANTO CHOIR, ITALY  
SA PINTADERA CHOIR, ITALY  
ST. AMBROGIO-ELIANICO CHOIR, ITALY



# International Jury

**Michael Rinscheid** (President), Germany

**Kai-Tõe Ellermaa**, Estonia

**Felix Resch**, Italy



**M**ichael Rinscheid is the chief conductor of the Sangerbund Rheinland Pfalz, the President of the German Choir Conductor Association (FDB-Fachverband Deutscher Berufs-Chorleiter), a member of the music association 'Sangerbund 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 Parnu 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 Parnu (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.





## CORO MUNICIPAL DE BRANDSEN

*From:* **Brandsen, Argentina** - *Founded:* **1976**

*Conductor:* **Maximiliano Mancuso** - *Category:* **X2** - *Singers:* **20**

The Coro Municipal de Brandsen was created in 1976 under the initiative of the Department of Municipal Culture, with the patronage of the Sub-secretariat of Culture of the Buenos Aires Province. Its repertoire is composed of traditional composers and contemporary arrangers from Argentina and Latin America. Since 2000 it performed the "Misa Criolla" by Ramírez that was recorded with Z. Quipildor. It toured to Uruguay and México (2001). It participated in "Encuentro Mundial de Coros" in Mexico (2003), in "Encuentro Mundial de Coros" in Spain (2005), in "X Nordeste Cantat" in Brazil (2008), in "Festival Coral Internacional-Coro Aparcanto" in Uruguay (2009). In 2006 it made a recording with Argentinian and Latin American songs. In 2009 it made concerts in Brandsen, Capital Federal, La Plata, Quilmes, Adrogué and others halls of Buenos Aires. It performed the "Folkloric Cantata of Christmas" by M. Mancuso accompanied by the orchestra "Sinfonietta Bonaerina". Since 2007 and until now it participates as a guest in the "Festival Mundial Buenos Aires Coral" with choirs from Serbia, Mexico, Venezuela and Brazil.

**Maximiliano Mancuso** graduated at the Conservatorio Municipal de Música Manuel de Falla of Capital Federal (Transverse Flute Professor and Choir Conductor). In 1987 he started his activity as the conductor of the Coro Municipal de Brandsen. He also conducts: Coro de la Universidad de Belgrano, Coral Vivace, Coral Canon, Coro de la Ribera. He performed and took part in international festivals in Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Mexico, Austria, Spain, USA. In 2003 he starts his studies in orchestra conducting with B. Teruggi in La Plata City. He conducted the Orquesta Sinfónica Normalista de Puebla and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Buenos Aires as a guest conductor. He took part in the soundtrack of the films "La mujer rota" and "Martín Fierro, un ave solitaria". Since 2007 he organizes the Festival Mundial Buenos Aires Coral in Capital Federal and the Provincia de Buenos Aires with choirs from Europe, Latin America and local choirs. Since 2009 he is Secretary of the Association of Choir Conductors of Argentina Republic (ADICORA).



## CHAMBER CHOIR CANORUS

*From: Tallinn, Estonia - Founded: 1988*

*Conductor: Piret Aidulo - Category: X2 - Singers: 28*

The Chamber Choir Canorus, the choir of the EELC (Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church) Toompea Kaarli Congregation in Tallinn, started its activity in the autumn of 1988 under the name of Noortekoor (Youth Choir). The initiative in founding the choir was taken by Marika Kahar, the long-time organist-conductor of Kaarli Congregation. A year later Piret Aidulo took up working with the choir and remained the only leader of it since the year 1990. The choir often sings in the services in their home church Kaarli but also in other churches all over Estonia and participates in ecumenical music projects. The choir has also taken part in the Estonian Song Festivals, Church Festivals in Otepää, Pärnu and Tartu and in the Estonian-Finnish joint Song Festival. Concert trips have taken it to Finland, Sweden, Lithuania, England, Russia and Austria. There are people of different ages and various professions singing in the choir. Many of them are deeply interested in the furtherance of folk culture and art. The repertoire mostly consists of early music and the arrangements of the Estonian religious folk songs.

**Piret Aidulo** is the conductor and organist. She graduated from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre. She gives organ concerts, she is active in different chamber ensembles and often accompanies orchestras. She participated several times in the Organ Festivals in Tallinn, Pärnu and Jalta and accompanied numerous recording projects. She has given lectures on the history of organ and organ music in various educational institutions. Starting from the year 1989 Piret Aidulo is the chief organist and conductor of Tallinn Kaarli Church, where there is also the largest organ in Estonia (Walcker/1923). Alongside with her work with the Chamber Choir Canorus, she also conducts the vocal group Vexilla Regis at the same time being the second conductor of Kaarli Congregation's concert choir.

*"Europe and its songs"*



## NÕMME MUSIC SCHOOL CHOIR

*From: Tallinn, Estonia - Founded: 2000*

*Conductor: Indrek Vijard - Category: X2 - Singers: 22*

Chamber Choir of Nõmme Music School is celebrating the 10 anniversary of its existence this year. The singers are mostly students of Nõmme Music School and graduated from the same school. Today, there are young people aged 16 to 24 in the choir. This choir is unique among the others. There are 82 music schools in Estonia, but only in Nõmme Music School there is such a high-level chamber choir with active concerts. Two awards got last year in Estonian choir contests show the high artistic level of the choir: II prize in All-Estonian Mixed Choirs and Ensembles Competition in Tartu, Special prize - "the most hopeful" youth choir - in All-Estonian Chamber Choirs Contest in Rakvere, II prize in the 2 International chorfestival Randres-Denmark (2005), Gold Medal in Preveza (2008), Gold Medal in Olomouc (2009). Chamber Choir of Nõmme Music School also participated in festivals in Sopron (Hungary) in 2003, in Usedom (Germany) in 2004. Estonia's best-known trademarks in the world are choir music and the Song Festival. Relying on long-term traditions of Estonian choir music, the youth choir of Nõmme Music School as a representative of a new generation, has an essential role in continuing this tradition.

**Indrek Vijard** is an active choir conductor. Today he conducts The Boys' Choir of Järvamaa, The United Estonian Boys' Choir "Kalev", the Chamber Choir of Nõmme Music School and the Male Choir of Tallinn University. He graduated at the Tallinn Music High School in 1983 as a pianist and at the Tallinn State Conservatory (Estonian Academy of Music) in 1990 as a choir conductor (he was the student of prof. Kuno Areng). Indrek Vijard has participated in numerous international choir festivals in USA, Australia and Europe with his choirs. For several times he has been among the general conductors of Estonian Song Festivals as a respected choir conductor. For ten years he has been a director of Nõmme Music School in Tallinn.



## BRIANZA CHOIR

*From: Missaglia (Lecco), Italy - Founded: 1968*

*Conductor: Fabio Triulzi - Category: M2 - Singers: 32*

The Brianza Choir was created in Missaglia in 1968 after a group of friends' passion for mountain songs. It was decided to create an alpine chorus. It started to being known in its territory participating in shows, festivals and concerts and since the beginning it has been sensitive to charities. The choir had changes in its formation, conductors and repertoire in the years. It always tried to be opened to the new without forgetting its origins. It also tried new genres as the gospel music. These new music experiences made its repertoire larger and the Choir not only performed in the Lombardia Region but also in other Italian regions and abroad in France and Germany. Some choir's experience: trips to Stuttgart and Munich (Germany), Loire Region and to La Roche Posay (France), Bari, Busseto, Rome (Italy), Prague (Czech Republic). The Choir made two recordings with songs from its old and new repertoire. The first LP "Coro Brianza" was registered in the eighties. In 1998 the CD "Fantasie Popolari" was recorded to commemorate the choir's 30° anniversary. In 2007 the Choir realized his last recording: "Ve Saludi Brianza". Nowadays it is directed by F. Triulzi, and M. Scaccabarozzi is its chairman.

**Fabio Triulzi** obtained his diploma in Choral Music and Choir Direction studying with Domenico Zingaro and Guido Camillucci. He studied with Giovanni Acciai, Azio Corghi, Jürgen Jürgens and Susan Lovegrove. He has been conducting the "Polifonica Ambrosiana" in Milano and "Amici del Canto" choir in Cesano Maderno for thirteen years, obtaining important results (being awarded three times in a Festival close to Milano and its surroundings, the last one in 1999 at the "Sala Verdi" of the Milano Conservatory). He directed other choirs in Seregno (S. Ambrogio), Nova Milanese and Paina. He planned and organized the class of Choral Singing at "Unitrè" University of Cesano Maderno which he administrated from 1997 to 1999. Since September 2001 he is the conductor of the "Coro Brianza".

"Europe and its songs"





## DALTROCANTO CHOIR

*From: Salerno, Italy - Founded: 2001*

*Conductor: Patrizia Bruno - Category: Festival - Singers: 23*

Daltrocanto choir is present in Salerno since 2001 thanks to the dedication and commitment of 30 singers. Founded and directed by P. Bruno, it participates in many performances. It appeared on television, it was acclaimed by the press and took part in national and international events: Festival of Choral Music (Rome), Prague International Music Festival (Prague), Choral Competition "Musicantando" (III place), European Young Musicians Competition "Luigi Denza" (1<sup>st</sup> prize). Its repertoire is varied and wide ranging from gospel to jazz. All the arrangements and harmonies of the songs are produced by P. Bruno expressly for the choir. With an original repertoire and the choir members' joy, it performs arriving to the hearts of the people on the streets, in churches, theatres, with the modesty of not being professional, but with the enthusiasm of those who sing as if it was the first time. The freshness and sympathy of the singers, the energy of its director and their great emotional involvement are the most important aspects of this group that spread a positive atmosphere.

**Patrizia Bruno** graduated in piano, attended courses with M. Campanella, C. Bruno, S. Fiorentino. She followed her studies in Arts, Music and Performing Arts at the University of Bologna. She studied composition and choral music with T. Procaccini, and then arranging and jazz with T. Bruno, S. Rotondi, F. Cerri, G. Marotti. She composed music for chamber groups, for voices and chamber orchestra and choir harmonies. She worked as an arranger and musician with record labels and digital music production studio. From 1986-1999 she was an official member of the Yamaha Music Foundation as a pianist and later as a teacher, writing arrangements and original compositions published in Italy and abroad. Winner of the Composition "Music-Poetry" in Perugia, she was awarded at the National Composition Competition Città di Castello and the International Piano Composition Prize of Rome. She participated in national and international competitions (Perugia, Naples, Rome, Messina, Trent), as a soloist and in chamber groups. She also played for the Italian Radio and Television (RAI). She is a music psycho therapist and an expert of psycho vocal therapy.



# MILLELIRE GOSPEL CHOIR

*From: **Genova, Italy** - Founded: **2000***

*Conductor: **Andrea Porta** - Category: **G1** - Singers: **25***

The Millelire Gospel Choir was founded in 2000 by a group of friends linked by "insane" passion for music: the passion was contagious and the choir expanded up to 35 current members. The repertoire is directed towards the deepening of traditional Gospel & Spiritual together with exploration of traditional and local popular music. The Choir only sings 'a cappella' music. Despite his young age, the choir performed dozens of concerts in theatres, squares, churches and bars! Important events in which the choir took part: a special show alongside Brenda Waters in Teatro Modena in Genoa; spectacle of the Band 'Cavalli Marci' in Politeama Genovese in Genoa; participation in the Gospel Jubilee Festival in Turin; participation at the Congress of the Ligurian Choirs from 2002 to 2009. It participated with success to Bottroper Gospelnacht in Bottrop, Germany in 2008 and 2009. An unnumbered variety of performances for charity are one of the main issue of the Choir that is always available and interested to mix music and help.

**Andrea Porta** was born in Genoa and in 1998 got a singing diploma with full marks at Genoa conservatoire "Niccolò Paganini". In 1999 he won "Giuseppe Di Stefano" competition, making his début in Rossini's "L'Italiana in Algeri". Since then he has been singing as soloist in the major Italian theatres (Regio in Turin, Fenice in Venice, San Carlo in Naples, Carlo Felice in Genoa, Bellini in Catania), and abroad (Salzburg Festival, La Monnaie in Brussels, Palau Les Artes in Valencia). He worked with conductors such as L. Maazel, R. Muti, J. Conlon and the directors F. Zeffirelli, D. Fo, W. Allen. From 1998 to 2004 he was a member of the vocal quartet Ring Around Quartet whose repertoire is ancient, modern and contemporary. In 2000 he started with some friends the Millelire Gospel Choir, amateur (non professional) choir, and he is so far its conductor.

*"Europe and its songs"*



## SA PINTADERA CHOIR

*From:* **Oristano, Italy** - *Founded:* **2008**

*Conductor:* **Costantino Mirai** - *Category:* **Festival** - *Singers:* **26**

The women's polyphonic choir Sa Pintadera is an Academy that was created in 2008. It's composed of 40 women from different areas of Sardinia. Its repertoire is based on popular songs, both traditional and unpublished, sacred and profane pieces in consideration of the ancestral roots of the Sardinian music. It's based on the classical four-part women's songs conducted by C. Mirai who's carrying out a new repertoire including church songs and unpublished songs. It also sings old traditional songs to reevaluate the old knowledge of the Sardinian tradition. Every year at Christmas, the Academy organizes a choral show with choirs from various areas of Sardinia and Italy.

**Costantino Mirai** started his music studies in the eighties and then he attended the Palestrina Conservatory in Cagliari where he graduated in Opera singing. In 1992 he won an Opera singer national audition in the Opera Institution of Cagliari. He went on with his studies in choral conducting and composition, chamber singing, Gregorian chant and church music, attending courses in Sardinia, Bologna and Rimini with world famous music teachers, like Gary Graden (Stockholm National Choir Conductor), Andrea O. Veneration (Madrigal Singers Choir Conductor), Guido Milanese, Valentino Donella and others. He conducted the Saint Jacob's Chamber Choir of Stockholm (1999), the Studium Canticum Choir of Cagliari (2007), the Euridice Choir of Bologna (2008). Between 1996 and 1999 he set up and conducted four choral associations in various towns of the Sardinia region with whom he performed all over Italy and abroad. He is currently an opera singing teacher and the artistic conductor of different choral associations.





## SANTANNA CHOIR

*From: Tortoli (Ogliastra), Italy - Founded: 2005*

*Conductor: Paolo Flumini - Category: F2 - Singers: 17*

The Santanna Choir of Tortoli was created in 2005. Its main interest is to explore the worlds of the women's songs. Every year it organizes a choir review only for female choirs. In 2007 it took part in the Vocal Technique class in the Music Civic School of Ogliastra held by Paolo Flumini. Since 2008 the Choir is directed by Paolo Flumini who is very attentive to the international popular repertoire and of XVI century composers. In March 2010 it participated in the Choral Song of Cagliari Contest being awarded the II place in the folksong category.

**Paolo Flumini** graduated at the National Conservatory of Music "G.P.L. da Palestrina" of Cagliari under the guidance of R. Orani and C. Desideri. He specialized in Chamber Music with R. Leone. He continued his vocal studies with C. Desideri at the International Musical Studium in Norma (Latina). He won a competition held by the National Academy of Music "S. Cecilia" of Rome and by then he studied with N. Balatsz and M. Faggiani. He attended several Choral Direction and Composition Classes with M. Mazza, M. Martinelli and P. Neumann. He studied Harmony and Counterpoint with F. Bianco in Cagliari. In 2002 he has been the Artistic Manager of the female choir Klapa Luka of Rijeka (Croatia) considered one of the best vocal ensemble of the whole Croatia. He attended classes and specific courses in Opera and modern music with the EVTS method studying in Rome with Anna Turlà. He has been the Manager of various polyphonic choral and folkloristic ensembles. He is currently teaching Lyric Music at the Ogliastra Music School.

"Europe and its songs"



## ST. AMBROGIO-ELIANICO CHOIR

*From:* **Monfalcone (Gorizia), Italy** - *Founded:* **2003**  
*Conductor:* **Franca Zanolla** - *Category:* **Festival** - *Singers:* **30**

ITALY

The Sant'Ambrogio-Elanico Choir represents the union of two chorals groups of the Gorizia Province in the Friuli-Venezia-Giulia Region: a mixed choir together with a female choir. The Sant'Ambrogio Choir has a long career of concerts related to choral music. It performed in most of the European countries under the conduction of Piero Poclen who taught in Italy at the Duino United Word College and that prematurely disappeared. The Female Chorus Elanico comes from the same province. It has been performing for years the popular repertoire with the aim to promote intercultural exchanges with the close states of Slovenia and Austria. The aim of the two choirs' union is to focus on the Italian tradition of the region and to promote its own popular tradition.

**Franca Zanolla** studied pianoforte at the "Giuseppe Tartini" Conservatory of Trieste with Giorgio Rittmayer. Later on she began her choral studies under the guidance of Piero Poclen and then continued with the director and composer Marco Sofianopulo. She attended stages and courses held by directors such as Cori, Nieder, Martinolli and Pfaff and focused her attention to the study of the repertoire, vocal techniques and choral conducting. She taught singing at the Primary School children and she's been conducting choruses in the last 15 years. She is currently conducting the Female Chorus Elanico of Fogliano-Redipuglia and the Sant'Ambrogio Choir of Monfalcone.



## VOCAL ENSEMBLE "MUSICALIS"

*From: Kaunas, Lithuania - Founded: 2007*

*Conductors: Jurgita Česnakaitė, Rima Indriūnienė - Category: V - Singers: 11*

Musicalis is a Lithuanian workshop and also a girls singing ensemble formed in 2007 in Kaunas. Their repertoire include contemporary, classical, popular, sacred, jazz and rock songs. The number of the singers varies on a wishful to be into the group and today it is composed of 11 members. Each year they offer their services to those who wish to sing and participate in the general activities. During the year they arrange several concerts in different venues such as music halls, churches, art galleries and music clubs. They organized concerts in the Lithuanian Music and Theatre Academy hall, in Kaunas Archbishopric Curia hall, in Great Aula of Vytautas Magnus University. In 2008 they took part in the "XI International Music Festival of Edvard Grieg and Mikalojus Konstantinas Ciurlionis" (Kaunas, Lithuania) and in the International cultural cooperation project "Italietuva - Incontrarsi in Musica", in which they prepared and performed the general concert program with "the Orchestra "V. Rocco" in Sant' Arpino's theatre, in the Naples St. Maria delle Grazie concert hall. In 2009 they took part in Lithuanian Radio and Television project "The Voices of Lithuania".

**Jurgita Česnakaitė** and **Rima Indriūnienė** are the principle leaders and conductors. They both obtained a master degree in Lithuanian Music and Theatre Academy under the guidance of professor Petras Bingelis. Jurgita Česnakaitė has a full time music teacher job at Kaunas Saint Matthew Gymnasium, leading and conducting the children choir, arranging various local and international projects. Rima Indriūnienė is an actress of the Panevėžys Musical Theatre, leading, singing and playing violin in several folk music bands, arranging various ethnic culture events.

"Europe and its songs"



## LAKSEVAG MIXED CHOIR

*From:* **Bergen, Norway** - *Founded:* **1950**

*Conductor:* **Turid M. Vage** - *Category:* **X1** - *Singers:* **52**

Laksevaag Mixed Choir (Laksevaag Blandet Kor - LBK) celebrates its 60 years anniversary in 2010. The choir was established in 1950 with 9 members - out of these, one was a male singer. The choir is from the Laksevaag district in Bergen, the second largest town in Norway on the western coast. Nowadays it counts more than 60 members aged from 25 to 75 from all over Bergen. It is one of the largest choirs in Bergen. Every year on May 1<sup>st</sup> it gives a spring concert in Trolldhaugen, home of the famous composer E. Grieg. It also performs a pre-Christmas concert in December in its local church, Laksevaag Kirke. The choir also contributes to local cultural events. Each semester seminars and group rehearsals are being held with professional local teachers. The participation in these events is an important supplement to the weekly choir rehearsals and thereby to the "daily run" of the choir. The superior choir's aim is to always improve its performances. It has a tradition of traveling abroad every second year, participating in a choir festival or a competition, or traveling by themselves like in Ireland in 2006. The choir visited Vienna, Italy, Prague. The last trip was to Jersey in 2008. The choir's participation in the competition "Europe and its Songs" is the choir's Cultural Event of the Year.

**Turid M. Vage** has recently started to conduct the Laksevag Mixed Choir. She has been conducting mixed choirs for more than twenty years. She studied Music at The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). She currently works as a music teacher and conducts also four large school choirs in Bergen. She has been occupied as a guest instructor at seminars and courses, and has been directing several performances with choirs and bands during the years.



## FEMALE CHAMBER CHOIR "CANTILENA"

*From: Saint Petersburg, Russia - Founded: 1992*

*Conductor: Elena Petrova - Category: V - Singers: 11*

RUSSIA

Female Chamber Choir "Cantilena" has been working under the program "Youth for Revival of Saint Petersburg" for 17 years. Being the member of International Association (2003), it supports creative contacts with almost all General Consulates in Saint Petersburg. The chorus repeatedly took part in celebrating Days of Culture of many countries accredited in Saint Petersburg. The repertoire of the chorus is very rich and impressive. It varies from ancient Russian, European and world sacred music to folk music and jazz, composed both by masters of old schools and contemporary ones. Original songs are performed in 16 world languages. The winner of many prestigious International and Russian choral festivals, such as Arezzo (Italy), Prague (The Czech Republic), Albena and Dobrich (Bulgaria), the chorus has made some European and Scandinavian tours. Numerous charity concerts performed in the best concert halls of Saint Petersburg have been always welcomed by a delighted and thankful auditorium. Chamber chorus "Cantilena" is a devoted keeper of old Russian traditions of choral singing. The concert activity of the chorus has been blessed by Mitropolit Vladimir of Saint Petersburg and Ladoga.

"Europe and its songs"

**Elena Petrova** is the art director and the conductor of youth chamber chorus and she is a professional musician. She graduated from St. Petersburg State University of Culture and Arts (a class of the well-known professor Stanislav F. Gribkov, who is also the art director of Children chorus of Radio and TV of St. Petersburg), she started her career first as an accompanist for the music-teachers' training college N°3 in St. Petersburg, then as a conductor of Music School N°37 Children's Chorus for Arts School "On Vasilevsky Island". Since 1993 Elena Petrova has been a talented organizer, devoted art director and conductor of Youth Chamber Chorus "Cantilena". Not once Elena Petrova has been highly appreciated for her professionalism. She has been awarded a number of various honourable certificates and diplomas. One of the most distinguished decorations is a Silver Cross of Georgievsky League (St. George League) "Symbol of Honour" (2006).





## PRETORIA BOYS HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

*From: Pretoria, South Africa - Founded: 2001*  
*Conductor: Michael Barret - Category: M1 - Singers: 49*

The Pretoria Boys High School Choir is a multi-cultural choir consisting of 49 singers. The choir was established by Christo Burger in 2001 and since 2008 M. Barrett has been the conductor. It achieved many awards during this period, the most recent in 2009, when it was selected as one of the top choirs in the country when performing at the National South African Choral Competition. It has undergone several national tours and in 2010, it will do its first International tour to Spain, France and Turkey. The choir specialises in Western European music and Traditional South African Music. It is accompanied by Mrs Yvonne Reyburn.

**Michael Barrett** was a member of the Drakensberg Boys' Choir School from 1992-1997. He attained the degree BMus (Performance) in 2005 (cum laude) specialising in Opera. He studied Singing, Piano and Theory at the University of South Africa (UNISA). In 2007 he received his Performance Licentiate in singing from the University of South Africa. In 2008, he received the degree MMus Performance from the University of Pretoria, specialising in Choral Conducting. He was a member of the University of Pretoria Camerata when he was a student and was appointed Assistant Conductor in 2004. He attended master classes from world renowned conductors and singers. He has been an adjudicator for choir competitions. He has composed works performed by Youth Choirs and High School Choirs across the country. He is currently the conductor of the University of Pretoria Jakaranda Children's Choir, the Pretoria Boys High Choir and the Pretoria High School for Girls Junior and Senior Choirs. He regularly attends workshops of conductors and singers. He has been asked on several occasions to conduct workshops on South African Music. He won national and International Choir Competitions with his choirs, the most recent being a 2<sup>nd</sup> Place at the Llangollen Eisteddfod in Wales (2009) and 1<sup>st</sup> Place and Grand Prix Winner of the Youth and Music Festival in Bratislava (2010). He sings in the amateur choir Akustika Chamber Singers under the direction of Christo Burger.



## EKURHULENI CHILDRENS CHOIR

*From: **Springs (Gauteng), South Africa** - Founded: **2005***

*Conductor: **Christine Dercksen** - Category: **Y** - Singers: **48***

The Ekurhuleni Children's Choir was established in February 2005. Students are selected from a variety of ethnic social, economic and cultural backgrounds with ages ranging from 9-16 years. The choir comprises 48 children representing 22 schools from the Ekurhuleni Metro, Gauteng, South Africa. Towns and townships represented within the Metro include Boksburg, Kwa-Thema, Benoni, Daveyton, Springs, Geluksdal, Heidelberg, Tsakane and Brakpan. A large percentage of the choir represents previously disadvantaged communities. The choir serves the broader community in church performances, concerts and choir festivals. In 2008, the choir took part in the 18th International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music in Prague, Czech Republic, and won the children's choir section with a Gold Band Award.

**Christine Dercksen** is the co-founder of the Ekurhuleni Children's Choir. She studied music at the conservatory of the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa. She has been involved with children's choirs since 1986 and has an outstanding track record and experience which complements the choir.

*"Europe and its songs"*





## PRETORIA BOYS HIGH SCHOOL DIXIE BAND

*From: Pretoria, South Africa - Founded: 1987*  
*Conductor: Niel van der Watt - Musicians: 11*

Of all the music activities at Pretoria Boys High School, the Dixie Band is the most popular and specialised. This vibrant group of musicians performs extensively both at school and in the community. The Band celebrates its twentythird birthday at the end of 2010 and has been under the direction of Niel van der Watt since 1988. The Dixie Band has played with distinction at Festivals (Play Music and Ted Youth Music Festival, Rentmeester Youth Arts Festival), at the Roodepoort Eisteddfod and at several functions and concerts in Pretoria and Johannesburg. Several successful tours have ensured a wider reputation for the band: to Durban, the Mpumalanga and Kimberley and Bloemfontein and to Cape Town where they played at the v & A Waterfront and in the Kirstenbosch Gardens. An extended concert tour to Zimbabwe was undertaken in 1996 and more recently to Reunion in May 2001 and April 2007. The Dixie Band has recorded a full length CD and has been part of several other recordings. Despite the obvious difficulties of maintaining continuity in a school band, the style and quality of playing has remained largely consistent. Niel van der Watt arranges many of the pieces specifically for the standard of individual players, as the exact composition of the band varies on an annual basis according to the availability of suitable instrumentalists.

**Niel van der Watt** (1962-) has a Masters degree (1992) in music composition from the University of Pretoria and a Doctorate in musicology (1997) from the University of South Africa. He has been teaching music at Pretoria Boys High School since 1987 and is Head of the Music Department since 1998. He composes and arranges music of diverse styles and for a variety of forces. Many of his choral works, in particular, have been recorded in South Africa and abroad. Complete CD recordings of his works include, *Liedwerk van Kip* (Cantamus Corde), *Mass from the Soathern Earth* (University of Johannesburg), *Chamber Music* (Annalien Ball, et al).



*From:* **Caracas, Venezuela** - *Founded:* **2000**

*Conductor:* **Enrique Marín** - *Category:* **F2** - *Singers:* **16**

The choir was created by a group of singers with a wide experience in 2000. It performed its first concert in the Miraflores' s Palace and from that moment they have devoted themselves to the investigation and performances related to the feminine world in all the aspects. It sang in the best concert halls of the whole Venezuela. It took part in national and international festivals receiving the best awards. Women of different ages and professions, they have formed the choir not only to sing but also to share happy moments, victories, failures and professional successes. In the group the harmony, respect and solidarity are very important values. They sing wherever there is a worthy spectacle, when the Venezuelan music is accurately interpreted and the academy music respects the styles and the heart-breaking boleros. In 2008 thanks to their own effort, they made their first international tour in Spain taking part in the Cantonigros International Festival. In November 2008 they participated in the III Choral Festival of Santander in Bucaramanga (Colombia) with excellent results. In 2009 they took part in the International festival D'Canto in Isla Margarita (Venezuela) obtaining the prize of the audience the night when the concert took place.

**Enrique Marín** graduated in Administration and Music in 1969 in Cumaná (Venezuela). He is a lyric singer, a teacher of students graduating from the CEEM and a teacher of vocal technology for choirs. From 1974 to 1999 he worked as teacher of vocal technology in several choral groups. In 1990 he starts conducting choirs and he has always been appreciated for doing a worthy work. He was the advisor of several vocal groups. He participated in international Festivals and he has realized tours in North, Center and South America and also in Europe. He currently conducts Innt Chorus, Retired Cantv Chorus and The Coral Inac.

*"Europe and its songs"*

# *International music choir festivals 2011-2012*

## **XIII International Folksong Choir Festival "Europe and Its Songs" Barcelona (Spain) - September 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

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. Special category without competition. A Spanish fiesta will close the Festival. A unique chance to meet choirs from all over the world.



## **VII International Music choir Festival Rome, the Vatican City, Latium Region (Italy) - July 13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Rome, the city of history, art and Christianity. Imagine yourself singing in this perfect scenario, with centuries of culture all around you. Imagine meeting singers from all over the world and 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 in the charming villages of the roman countryside. Combine a splendid summer vacation with unforgettable choir events in the marvellous venues of the Eternal City.

*For further information:*

Associazione Internazionale Amici della Musica Sacra  
**info@aiams.it - [www.amicimusicasacra.com](http://www.amicimusicasacra.com)**



*Under the patronage of*



**Associazione Internazionale Amici della Musica Sacra**

*Tel. 0039 06 68805816*

*info@aiams.it - [www.amicimusicasacra.com](http://www.amicimusicasacra.com)*

*Technical Organizer*



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

*Via Paolo VI, 29 - 00193 Rome - Italy*

*Tel. 0039 06 6889951 - fax. 0039 06 68308568 - [dir@courtial-international.it](mailto:dir@courtial-international.it)*