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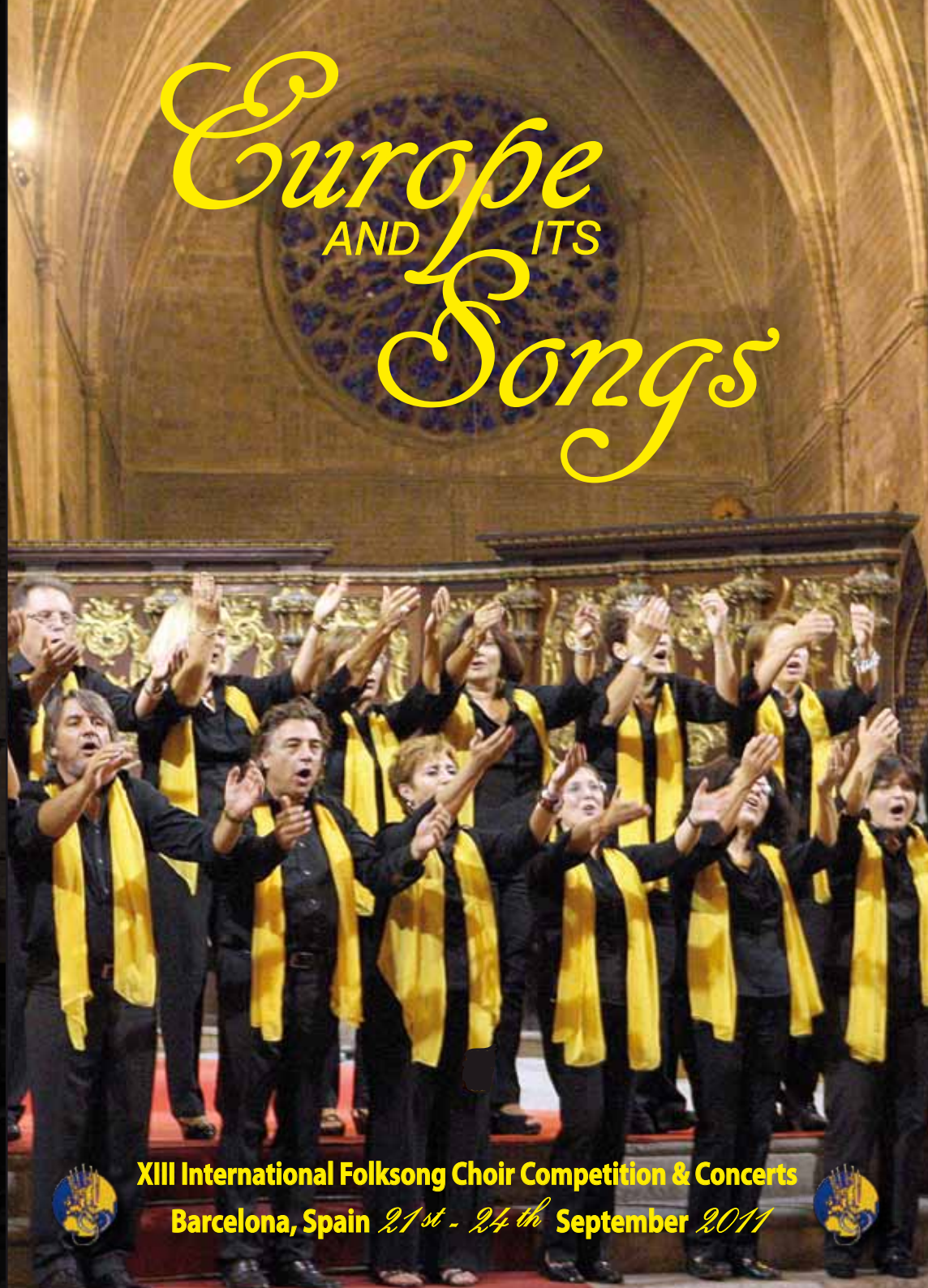
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Europe AND ITS Songs



XIII International Folksong Choir Competition & Concerts

Barcelona, Spain 21st - 24th September 2011





COURTIAL INTERNATIONAL

under the patronage of

Associazione Internazionale Amici della Musica Sacra

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

**XIII INTERNATIONAL FOLKSONG
CHOIR COMPETITION & CONCERTS**

Europe
AND ITS *Songs*



Barcelona, Spain

21st - 24th September 2011

Organigram of the festival

President of the Festival

Dr. h.c. Hans Urrigshardt

Founder 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

Xavier Baulies i Bochaca - Catalonia

Kai-Tõe Ellermaa - Estonia

Felix Resch - Italy

General Coordinator

Loredana Ramozzi

Permanent Festival Secretariat

Vittoria Assettati

Tourist Organization

Bettina Burgass, Anna De Benedetti

Marketing

Vittoria Assettati

Translations and proof reading

Vittoria Assettati

Technical support in Barcelona

Bàrbara Anglí, Guillem Ferreres

In cooperation with

Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals

Technical Organizer

Courtial International

Patronage

Associazione Internazionale Amici della Musica Sacra



Dr. h.c. Hans Urrigshardt

President of the

XIII 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 XIII 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 13 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 thirteen years that we organize the Festival 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 atmosphere of joy, music and songs through the streets of Barcelona. This will be a 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
*President and Founder
of the Associazione Internazionale Amici della Musica Sacra*

Program of the festival

Wednesday, September 21st, 2011

- ▷ 17:00 Meeting of choir directors in the historical hall of S. Maria del Pi in Plaça del Pi. Welcome by the international Jury.
- ▷ 20:00 Inaugural concert with all the choirs participating in the Festival at S. Maria del Pi. Special participation of the choir Orfeó Atlàntida de Barcelona (Catalonia).

Thursday, September 22nd, 2011

- ▷ 12:00 - 15:00 I part of the competition for all choirs in the categories V, F2.
- ▷ 19:00 - 23:00 II part of the competition for all choirs in the categories X1, X2, M1, Y.

Friday, September 23rd, 2011

- ▷ 11:30 - 12:30 Performance of choirs in the Festival category at S. Maria del Pi.
 - ▷ 17:00 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.

Saturday, September 24th, 2011

- ▷ 11:00 Open-air concert for all choirs in Plaça Catalunya.

Choir Participating

CATEGORY X2 MIXED CHOIRS FROM 16 TO 39 VOICES

WIENER JÜDISCHER CHOR, *AUSTRIA*
MUSICA OECONOMICA PRAGENSIS, *CZECH REPUBLIC*
SILESIAN UNIVERSITY CHAMBER CHOIR, *CZECH REPUBLIC*
THE PIKANTIT CHOIR, *FINLAND*
YOUTH CHOIR MASKA, *LATVIA*
SUNNMØRE FESTIVAL CHOIR, *NORWAY*
ENSAMBLE VOCAL ATONO, *VENEZUELA*

CATEGORY M1 MALE CHOIRS MIN. 40 VOICES

"FROHE STUNDE" WEROTH, *GERMANY*

CATEGORY F2 FEMALE CHOIRS FROM 16 TO 39 VOICES

COLLEGIUM CANTANTIUM, *CZECH REPUBLIC*
FEMALE CHOIR MYSTICA, *FINLAND*
YOUTH CHOIR MASKA, *LATVIA*
SANDEFJORD VOCAL ENSEMBLE, *NORWAY*
VALBORGS, *NORWAY*

Choir Participating

CATEGORY X1 MIXED CHOIRS MIN. 40 VOICES

SALZBURGER VOLKSLIEDSINGKREIS, *AUSTRIA*

CATEGORY Y YOUTH CHOIRS MAX. 21 YEARS

BICHEBI FOLKLORE CHOIR, *GEORGIA*
FANTASIYA YOUTH CHOIR, *UKRAINE*

CATEGORY V VOCAL GROUPS UP TO 12 VOICES

VOCAL GROUP VIISIPIDAJANNAD, *ESTONIA*
YOUTH CHOIR MASKA, *LATVIA*
VOCAL ENSEMBLE CANZONA, *UKRAINE*

FESTIVAL CATEGORY (WITOUT COMPETITION)

GUALEGUAY VOCAL ENSAMBLE, *ARGENTINA*
SANTA RUGHE CHOIR, *ITALY*

International Jury

Michael Rinscheid (President) - Germany
Xavier Baulies i Bochaca - Catalonia



Michael Rinscheid is the President of the German Choir Conductor Association (FDB-Fachverband Deutscher Berufs-Chorleiter), the chief conductor of the choir association Rheinland Pfalz, a member of the choir association Nordrhein-Westfalen, 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 well known choirs, for example the St. Petersburg Chamber 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. In 2008 he founded the chamber choir "Belcanto". He studied at the Johannes-Gutenberg University in Mainz where he got the diplomas in Choir and Orchestra Direction.



Xavier Baulies i Bochaca was born in Tremp (Catalonia). He studied at the Superior Conservatorium of Liceu. His musical formation ranges classical singing, classical guitar, piano, violin, choral and orchestral direction. He specialized in musical direction. He has integrated the Alexander Technique, Cos-Art and Inner Game in the field of choral and orchestral direction and has developed a Dynamic Tuning method applied to choral pedagogy and interpretation. He is founder director of the choir and orchestra Camerata Sant Cugat and Coral Polifònica of Tremp. He is a guest conductor of several other choirs and orchestras. He is founder director of the International Singing Course of Sant Cugat in which a professional singing pedagogy integrated with the Alexander Technique has been developed. He is a member of the Music Commission of the Catalan Federation (FCEC) and European Choral Association Europa Cantat Music Commission.

International Jury

Kai-Tõe Ellermaa – Estonia
Felix Resch – Italy



Kai-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).



Felix Resch is professor for "Harmonie-and Formen lehre" 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.



GUALEGUAY VOCAL ENSEMBLE

From: Gualaguay, Argentina - Founded: 2010

Conductor: Nora Ferrando - Category: Festival - Singers: 5

Gualaguay Vocal Ensemble is composed by Diana Angélica Zignego (Mezzo-soprano), Muriel Walther (Soprano), Mabel Cecilia Benedetti (Mezzo-soprano), Marisa Arias (Mezzo-soprano) and Nora Ferrando (Soprano). It is a vocal group with piano accompaniment and it usually performs Argentinian composers with the aim of taking the music of their country to the different cities in the world. Gualaguay Vocal Ensemble has been recently created in March 2010. They took part in 2010 at a concert held at the House of Music in Vienna and at the Festival Magic Mozart Moment in Salzburg.

Nora Ferrando is the manager of Gualaguay Vocal Ensemble. She is a National Music Teacher specialized in piano. She is also conductor of children, teenagers and adults choirs. She works as a Music teacher in different schools of Gualaguay City and she is also the organizer of the "XI International Choir Meeting" which is going to take place in November 2011 in "Choral Gualaguay".



SALZBURGER VOLKSLIEDSINGKREIS

From: Salzburg, Austria - Founded: 1977

Conductor: Arūnas Pečiulis - Category: X1 - Singers: 41

The Salzburger Volksliedsingkreis was founded in 1977 by Horst Deutl. Nowadays it is composed of 65 active members. Since 2000 Mag. Arūnas Pečiulis is the choirmaster and Renate Harant the choir's president. The choir's repertoire includes various styles, but its main emphasis is given to the traditional folk-music. The first recordings were made in 1982 by the Austrian public radio (ORF). The Salzburger Volksliedsingkreis has been promoting benefits for 29 years to support handicapped people. These concerts took place at the Mozarteum Salzburg and at the Liederhalle Stuttgart/Germany. Another important event is the annual "Hellbrunner Volksliedsingen" arrived this year at the thirty-four edition. Further big events: Passionssingen in Salzburger Dom, Pfarrkirche Mülln/Salzburg, Prinz Regenten-Theater in München/Germany and "Goldener Saal" in Landshut/Germany; involvement in the Festival opening at Salzburger Festspiele. Concert tours in Germany, Italy, Netherlands, South-Africa, Japan, Lithuania, Ukraine, Norway.

Arūnas Pečiulis was born in Lithuania. He studied Conducting and Piano at the Conservatory S. Simkus. He also studied at the Music Academy in Vilnius and Orchestra and Choir Conducting at the Mozarteum of Salzburg. From the age of 15 he won many competitions in classical and folk music. He is actually the conductor of the "Salzburger Volksliedsingkreis" and several other choirs and ensembles in Salzburg. He is the municipal choir conductor and leading conductor of regional choirs. He is a guest conductor in many different countries and a permanent Jury member at international competitions.



WIENER JÜDISCHER CHOR

From: Vienna, Austria - Founded: 1989

Conductor: Roman Grinberg - Category: X2 - Singers: 39

The Wiener Jüdischer Chor is a folk choir. Its repertoire consists of songs that were passed on in Jewish families from generation to generation: songs that have given people in the ghetto resistance, strength and comfort; songs that were skipped from the main stage of Yiddish theater to the whistling lips of the audience. Singing has been very important for the Jews since immemorial time. When playing together they expressed the sweetness and above all the hardships of life during centuries. Parents passed their songs on to their children. The Shoah interrupted painfully this tradition and much of the musical vocabulary has disappeared with the Jews of Europe. For the past 20 years the Vienna Jewish Choir has been committed to rediscover these songs and fill them with new life. In the rehearsals in Vienna and in concerts at home and abroad (from Israel to the Ukraine, from Florida to Moldova), the choir performs Jewish songs in a wide variety, in Yiddish, Hebrew and Ladino. Also the set up of the choir is very special as the repertoire: men and women, Jews and Non-Jews, young and old, all united by their passion for Jewish music and for lively intercultural exchanges.

Through **Roman Grinberg** who is the music director since 2002 after Lev Vernik, Oleg Berkovitch and Abraham Breuer, the Vienna Jewish Choir maintains close relations with the international klezmer scene and also with some of the few musicians who survived the Holocaust and whose memory is preserved in its repertoire.

Barcelona, Spain



COLLEGIUM CANTANTIUM

From: Prague, Czech Republic - Founded: 1992

Conductor: Zdeněk Kudrnka - Category: F2 - Singers: 19

The women's chamber choir Collegium Cantantium was founded in 1992 by Radek Rejšek. The next conductors were Milena Holeckova and Pavla Fendrichova. Since 2007 it has been conducted by Zdeněk Kudrnka. They realized projects including recording of original scenic music for a theatre performance, concerts with the Czech organ players J. Tůma and J. Krušina, concerts with the pianist R. Schenk. Since 1994 it cooperates with the Czech Olympic Comitee providing cultural program for social events. It took part in international music festivals and competitions: Limburg/Germany (1996), Roma (1997), Prague (1996, 2000, 2003, 2009), Litomyšl (1997), Netanya/Israel (1998), Hradec Králové (1999), Pecs/Hungary (2005), Olomouc (2006), Graz/Austria (2008), Rimini/Italy (2010). In 2003 it received the best (gold) evaluation at the 17th International Choir Competition Praga Cantat and won in the female choirs' category. In 2005 it took part in the Pecs International choir competition (Hungary) and was awarded for the best performance of the obligatory piece. In 2006 it was awarded at the festival Festa Olomous (Czech Republic) with Gold medal. With the accompaniment of young musicians, it regularly performs during the music cycle Songs of Sanctuary. It consists of about 22 young amateur singers with different occupations.

Zdeněk Kudrnka is the artistic director and conductor of the Chamber Choir Collegium Cantantium since 2007. He studied at the Conservatory Pardubice (student of Vladislav Novak) and Janacek Academy of Art-JAMU (student of Lubomir Matl). He took also many special courses for conductors after he graduated (Bratislava, Dunajská Streda – teachers from Russia, Austria, France and Poland). He was awarded in many international competitions (Horovice, competition of Conservatories; Castelfidardo, Italy; Reinach, Switzerland). Nowadays he works as a conductor in Pardubice, Prague, Chrudim, Hlinsko (Czech Republic).

21st - 24th September 2011



MUSICA OECONOMICA PRAGENSIS

*From: Prague, Czech Republic - Founded: 2001
Conductor: Martina and Kryštof Spirit - Category: X2 - Singers: 38*

The mixed choir Musica Oeconomica Pragensis was founded in 2001. Its members are mainly students and graduates of the University of Economics in Prague. It was originally led by Ota Friedl. Since 2003 the choir is co-managed by Martina and Kryštof Spirit. The repertoire is very broad with a general tendency towards younger music. The choir sang at many concerts and festivals in the Czech Republic and abroad (Lyon, Tmava, Poznań, etc.), and cooperated with famous soloists (M. Mazourová, O. Socha, etc.) and renowned orchestras (Prague Philharmonia, etc.). The choir won many prizes (Europees muzikfestival voor de jeugd 2004 in Neerpelt, Belgium – 1st prize Cum laude; Praga Cantat 2004 – 1st prize in the mixed choir category; The FONS Festival 2008 in Žďár nad Sázavou – 1st prize). In 2007 it co-organized and took part in Festa Academica, a get-together of mature academic choirs. In 2010 the very first professional CD was recorded.

Martina Spiritová studied at the Charles University in Prague. She graduated as a choirmaster and studied at the Universidad Complutense/Madrid. She is a doctoral student of choir-mastery. She cooperated with the DPS Rolnička choir and was in charge of the Libeňský zámek Secondary School Mixed Choir. In 2008 she founded the GJP Voices choir at the Jan Palach Secondary School. She is choirmaster of the choir Voks. With her choirs she performs, takes part in festivals, creates recordings. Her choirs ranked among the best at competitions abroad and in the Czech Rep. She is a singer of various ensembles.

Kryštof Spirit is a student at the Charles University in Prague where he studied choir-mastery. He took private lessons under Valášek. He was conductor's assistant in the Bach-Collegium Prague choir. Until 2007 he was head of the vocal group Kiks that won first prizes at international competitions. He is member of the choirs Pražští pěvci and Voks (in which he is also co-choirmaster). He specializes in transcription of works of music and adapting folk songs. He works with the Prague Philharmonia as a musicologist and during the 2010-2011 season he conducts concerts for children with this orchestra.

Barcelona, Spain



SILESIAN UNIVERSITY CHAMBER CHOIR

*From: Opava, Czech Republic - Founded: 1990
Conductor: Vladimíra Vašínková - Category: X2 - Singers: 31*

The Silesian University Chamber Choir in Opava was established in 1990 as a hobby musical group associating students, teachers, and graduates of the university. The choir is fully polyphonic; the number of members is about 30. Every year it organises many concerts both university events and performances intended for the audience. The choir's repertoire includes more than a hundred compositions from the treasury of Czech and world music from the Middle Ages up to contemporary production. In a wide variety of songs it keeps the sacred, folk and composers' compositions balanced. In 2006 and 2010 the choir recorded its two CDs. The choir is conducted by the choirmaster Vladimíra Vašínková. The choir successfully represented the Czech culture of choir singing at shows and competitions in Italy, Spain and Poland.

The choirmaster **Vladimíra Vašínková** was born in 1984. She completed two cycles of keyboard playing at Basic Art School in Opava. At present she is finishing her studies with the specialization in Musical Education and Choir Conduction at the Pedagogical Faculty of the Ostrava University. Besides conducting the Chamber Choir of Silesian University in Opava she also works as a choirmaster of the Silesian Teachers Singing Association in Opava.

"Europe and its songs"



VOCAL GROUP VIISIPIDAJANNAD

From: Pärnu, Estonia - Founded: 2006

Conductor: Toomas Voll - Category: V - Singers: 9

Viisipidajannad is Toomas Voll's singing studio's ensemble. They have sung together for five years. All members of the ensemble sing also in the studio's youth female choir Argentum Vox. It was in this choir that they got an idea to make music also in a smaller group. The repertoire includes songs from folk music to complicated jazz arrangements. On the place of honor for the ensemble is singing a cappella. The ensemble won many prizes and Grand Prix both locally in Pärnu and republican competitions. In 2010 during the VIII Pärnu International Choir Festival, it was awarded the Golden diploma and I prize (in the vocal ensembles category)

Toomas Voll was born in 1958. He is a composer, conductor and music teacher. He holds a degree in conducting from Tallinn National Conservatory. Throughout many years he has been conducting several choirs and educating young singers. Since 1996 he founded his own music studio where he works as music teacher and manager. He is conducting all-Estonian girls choir "Leelo", Viljandimaa Chamber Choir, the girls choir "Argentum Fox" and children choir "Pärnu Piigad". Since 2006 he is working with vocal group "Viisipidajannad". Toomas Voll has been successful with his choirs at the international music festivals, he has often been recognized and awarded for excellent conducting. He is a highly valued conductor at nationwide Song Celebrations. As a composer he has written over 50 pieces of solo-and choir music.

Barcelona, Spain



FEMALE CHOIR MYSTICA

From: Nurmijärvi, Finland - Founded: 1971

Conductor: Victoria Meerson - Category: F2 - Singers: 25

Female Choir Mystica from Nurmijärvi is a group of 25 women aged 25-70 with different occupations. Founded in 1971, today two singers are original members. In 2011 it celebrates its 40 anniversary. Its repertoire ranges from folk songs to traditional choir works. It commissioned P. Kostiainen to compose a choral work in celebration of the writer A. Kivi, born in Nurmijärvi. The choir cooperates with gifted young soloists and accompanists to perform in its concerts. It performed in Estonia, Sweden, Hungary, Spain, Germany. It took part in competitions in Wales (International Festival Eisteffod, 1988), Italy (Riva del Garda Choir Competition, 1994 with a 2nd place and golden diploma), Norway (1st Grieg Festival, 2005); France (Florilege vocal de Tours, 2008). It attended in 1997, 1999, 2009 the Tampere Vocal Music Festival and in 1995 it received there 3 silver stamps. In 2002 it released its debut album "Valkea joulu". The second album "Kukkui kaukaa kullaa ääni" was released in 2011 and it consists of classical Finnish folk songs and modern pieces of folk music including lyrics from Finnish national epos, Kalevala.

Victoria Meerson started her musical studies at age 6. She finished the Musical school majoring in Piano. Later on she continued her studies at Musical College in Murmansk obtaining a diploma of qualifications as conductor, solfeggio and music teacher. After her studies at the Musical College she applied to the Petrozavodsk State Conservatory of Music. After moving to Finland she began her studies at the Sibelius Academy majoring in Choir Conducting. Her masters were M. Hyökki and H. Liimola. During the years of her studies she has been taken the Master Classes of E. Eriksson, A. Almila, L. Segerstam, K Thomas (The Netherlands). Nowadays she is running several choirs: Mystica, Lauttasaaren Laulajat, Gallerie, Canto d'Oro, Aleksis-kuoro. With her choirs she participated in choir competitions, festivals, seminars, workshops. At the Voci d'Europa competition in 2011 she received the special prize for the best conducting.

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THE PIKANTIT CHOIR

From: Kangasala, Finland - Founded: 2007
Conductor: Johanna Rinne - Category: X2 - Singers: 38

Pikantit is a mixed choir from Kangasala that was established in 2007 and supported by the association Kesäpäivän laulury. The conductor of the choir is Johanna Rinne. Previously the choir performed under the name of Kangasalan Karjalakuoro, but due to the official registration of the association, the name of the choir was also changed. The goal of the choir composed of about sixty singers is to meet the challenges of today by presenting a versatile repertoire and by carrying different kinds of musical projects. The most important aim of choir is to present and preserve the work by composers and poets, both from the past and the present, with connections to Kangasala.

Johanna Rinne conducts the Pikantit Choir since 2003. She graduated with a major in choir conducting at the Pirkanmaa Polytechnic University of Applied Sciences in 2007. She has studied accordion, piano and voice as well. Besides Pikantit Choir she also conducts Teekkarikuoro, The Academic Singers of Tampere and Laulu-Siukut, The Female Choir of Hämeenlinna. In addition she works as a vocal teacher. She has a master's degree in environmental engineering from the Tampere University of Technology.



BICHEBI FOLKLORE CHOIR

From: Tbilisi, Georgia - Founded: 1990
Conductor: Archil Ushveridze - Category: Y - Singers: 23

The Bichebi Folklore Choir was established in the music school named after Zurab Anjapharidze in 1990. The repertoire of the choir includes polyphonic folk songs (mostly three-part voices) of different regions of Georgia and Orthodox Christian choral church chants. Since 1990 the "Bichebi" Choir performed in many concerts in Georgia. The choir had successfully performed on tours in Germany (Hamburg – Solo Concerts, 1991), Singapore (Singapore International Musical Festival, 1994), Kazakhstan (Almaty International Musical Competition, 1996), Czech Republic (Prague-Solo Concerts, 1997). In September 2007 the choir has participated in the International Festival "Venezia in Musica" and has become the winner of the first prize in the folklore category. The choir was awarded with different diplomas of honor and had an exclusively high appreciation of musical critics in press. The choir recorded 2 CDs in 2000 (Georgian Church Chants) and 2006 (Georgian Choral Folk Songs). Singers' age is 9-20 years (boys only).

Archil Ushveridze was born in Tbilisi, in 1973. He has joined the folklore choir "Martve" at the age of seven and then has become an active singer. Later he started conducting boys' folk choirs. Since 1992 he is the choirmaster of the Bichebi's boys' folk choir. While conducting folklore choir, he has also graduated from the Tbilisi State Conservatory in 1997 studying at the faculty of Choral conducting. He has been working as a teacher of choral conducting and study of choir. Since April 2005 he is a Head Chorus Master of Georgian National Symphony Choir.



"FROHE STUNDE" WEROTH

From: **Weroth, Germany** - Founded: **1900**
 Conductor: **Jens Röth** - Category: **M1** - Singers: **41**

The choir was founded by 21 singers in 1900. The current 49 singers live in the community of Weroth with 650 inhabitants. After 110 years the male choir "Frohe Stunde" today is a special guest with good achievements. It claims to present achievements in music at a high level. According to great projects in the 1980s and 1990s such as concerts in the "Alte Oper" Frankfurt or the "Kurhaus" in Wiesbaden, it started participating in choir competitions without forgetting its social engagements at home. Since 1994 J. Röth is the choir's conductor. Highlights in the last 10 years: winning of the "Golden Certificate" at the International Competition in Lindenholzhausen in 2009; special mention with the "Golden Bond" for the 1st prize at the 21st Praga Cantat in Prague in 2007. It provided an impressive performance during the Landeschorwettbewerb Rheinland-Palatinate in 2009 (special prize of the prime minister of Rheinland-Palatinate) and during the 8th Deutscher Chorwettbewerb in 2010 with the achievement in the 5th place.

Jens Röth: Musical and protestant theological studies for Teaching Certificate (degree: 1st State Examination); Traineeship in teaching (degree: 2nd State Examination); Musicological studies (Master's degree); Teaching profession in Hessen; Choir conductor/accompanist of piano; Awardee at choirs' competitions (1st prize winner & golden certificate, International Competition of Choirs Lindenholzhausen in 2005; 1st prize winner & golden certificate, International Competition of Choirs "Praga Cantat" in 2007 in Prague). Conductor of a capella groups, orchestras, instrumental ensembles. Juror at concerts. Musical director FDB. Cooperation in the board of directors of the Fachverband Deutscher Berufsschorleiter e. V. Publications of compositions and arrangements. Awardee of "Coup de Lutece" by the "Academie Internationale de Lutece" (Paris) during the "24th Grand Concours Internationale". 1st prize winner at the competition of compositions "2nd International Robert-Schumann choir competition" in Zwickau.

Barcelona, Spain



SANTA RUGHE CHOIR

From: **Pattada (Sassari), Italy** - Founded: **2009**
 Conductor: **Giuseppe Fenu** - Category: **Festival** - Singers: **13**

The choir "Santa Rughe di Pattada" was founded in 2009. It's an amateur group. The repertoire mainly consists of traditional Sardinian songs, sacred and profane, with particular attention to Sardinia, and with some Gregorian pieces. They took part in various concerts, Christmas events and other musical occasions. None of the singers has studied music. They sing because of their love for singing.

Giuseppe Fenu is the director of the choir "Santa Rughe di Pattada". He was born in Pattada where he currently lives. He is 63 years old and he had always had a strong passion for music, especially singing. He studied Ethnomusicology in the second year at the Conservatory of Sassari. He sung in various choirs in the traditional Sardinian. He often worked as a director. He's also the director of a church choir made up of women.



YOUTH CHOIR MASKA

From: Riga, Latvia - Founded: 2000

Conductor: Jānis Ozols - Category: X2, F2, V - Singers: 37, 25, 12,

LATVIA

There are more than 300 choirs in Latvia. Maska is not just a choir among them. It is a community with its charm, unique ideas and traditions. The leader and conductor since 2000 is Jānis Ozols. Since 2005 the role of choir-master is fulfilled by Laura Jēkabsone. She is the heart of the choir. Duties of vocal teacher are performed by Jānis Strazdiņš. Since its origins, the choir can be proud with its success and high achievements not only in Latvia but also abroad: Golden medals won at the international choir contests Venezia in Musica, Italy (2007); Tonnen 2000, Netherlands (2006); "The best choir of Riga region and towns of Latvia" in the XXIV Song and Dance Festival (2008); Grand Prix finals in Harald Andersen's choir contest in Finland (2009); Grand Prix at the international youth choir contest in Valmiera (2010); Golden and Silver medals and the prize of the most talented conductor in the international choir in the 49th international choir contest Seghizzi Gorizia, Italy (2010)

Jānis Ozols is one of the promising new conductors in Latvia. He is a member of the vocal group Cosmos. After graduating at the Emils Darzins's Secondary School of Music, he studied choir conducting in Riga Dome Choir School. He studied music management. He got his Bachelor's degree in choir conducting at Jazeps Vītols Latvian Music Academy. In 2004 he formed the group Cosmos. He attained prizes and awards in different events including the Great Latvian Music Award in 2009. He won many prizes in Latvia and abroad while conducting Maska Choir. He got the III place in the International Conductor Contest of Jazeps Vītols in 2009. He attained a unique prize of the jury when he participated in the International Choir Singing Contest Seghizzi in Italy. He was nominated the best new conductor of the contest and was invited to take part in the jury in 2011.

Barcelona, Spain



SANDEFJORD VOCAL ENSEMBLE

From: Sandefjord, Norway - Founded: 1990

Conductor: Ole Ramsøy - Category: F2 - Singers: 19

NORWAY

Sandefjord Vokalensemble is a young choir. It was created in 1990 but somehow it has a longer history. Most of the members started in Sandefjord Jentekor, a girls choir that gained worldwide reputation in the 1980's and 1990's under Sverre Valens' leadership. The best singers in Sandefjord Jentekor were gathered in Valens Solistensemble, which became one of Norway's leading female choirs. However, after Sverre Valens' retirement, some members decided to continue the choir under the name Sandefjord Vokalensemble. Its aim is to perform a-cappella and accompanied music of various styles from classical to jazz and pop at high level. In 2005 the choir achieved a great success by winning the I prize in the Folk Music Competition in Riva del Garda, Italy. It gained the highest score of all 43 participating choirs and the highest score in the competitions' history. In 2009 it was invited to participate in Sligo International Chorus Festival and gained the II place in the Folk Music Competition. Norwegian folk music is a natural part of the choir's broad repertoire which also includes works by Schubert, Brahms, Grieg, Elgar, Kodaly, Busto, Rutter and other classical masters as well as jazz and pop standards and various first performances.

Ole Ramsøy studied Piano and Conducting at the Conservatory in Oslo. He has an extensive experience in conducting both choirs and various ensembles. The conductor has been involved with music by Carl Orff: pieces like Carmina Burana, Gabriel Faure: Requiem and Karl Jenkins: The Armed Man.

"Europe and its songs"



SUNNMØRE FESTIVAL CHOIR

From: Sunnmøre, Norway - Founded: 2004
Conductor: Svein Eiksund - Category: X2 - Singers: 19

The Sunnmøre Festivalkor is an amateur mixed choir with members from different places in the county of Møre and Romsdal in Western Norway. The choir was created in 2004 with the purpose to participate in festivals in different countries in Europe and in Norway. The choir also gives concerts in its local communities. In the repertoire there is a wide variety of music/songs from Norway and Sweden, some from the Baltic countries and a few from Denmark and Iceland. It participated in its first festival in 2006 in Riva Del Garda. Later they have been to Cork, Tartu (Nordic-Baltic, 2008), Kraków and Reykjavik (Nordic-Baltic, 2010).

Svein Eiksund has been working with choirs during his entire life. In the years he has been conductor for a great number of choirs, he has been giving seminars for singers and conductors and he has been judging in choir competitions. Svein Eiksund is Member of Honor of Norges Korforbund, Sunnmøre.

Barcelona, Spain



VALBORGS

From: Rykkinn, Norway - Founded: 1991
Conductor: Christine Wille Jordheim - Category: F2 - Singers: 28

Valborgs from Norway was established in 1991 and today it comprises 28 women aged from 40 to 65. They gather for rehearsals once a week, and their repertoire covers several genres, from national and international folksongs to popular music. They also have their own songwriters. Valborgs is well recognized in the local environment and the choir is often asked to perform at local events. Among the several choirs in the Bærum municipality, Valborgs often experiences to be the choir of choice at various arrangements. Valborgs has established several annual traditions in the local environment, such as Christmas-concerts in the local church and a popular celebrating of the International Women's day. The choir produced 3 CD's: two with Christmas-songs and one is a collection of folk/pop-songs. The choir has also been to Tallinn in Estonia and Tuscany in Italy. In both countries the main purpose of the trip was to meet and perform with a local choir. These experiences were very successful in a cultural, social and musical way, and they gave the choir further desire for more singing abroad and more performing with groups of singers from other countries.

Christine Wille Jordheim is the Valborgs' conductor. She studied to be a music teacher and a music therapist. She has been conducting other choirs as well and she was for a long period member of The Norwegian Soloist Choir. In addition to her brilliant soprano-voice, she is masterly handling several musical instruments, such as piano, guitar, violin and flute.

"Europe and its songs"



FANTASIYA YOUTH CHOIR

From: Nikolaev, Ukraine - Founded: 1995
Conductor: Ganna Gatsuk - Category: Y - Singers: 38

The youth choir "Fantasiya" of the Student Teaching School of Nikolaev State Higher Musical College and branch of Children musical school № 8. was established in 1995. It was awarded in the regional festivals "The Source of the Young Talents", regional contest of young composers "Pentatone". In 2005 it became the first degree awarded at the V All-Ukrainian Festival of children choir singing "The Golden Orpheus"; in 2007 it won the I prize at the international festival competition "The Southern Palmyra" in Odessa. In 2008 it took part in the 10th International children-junior festival "Moscow is on" and was awarded with: 1st Diploma at the main contest; 2nd diploma for the performance of church music, 3rd Diploma for the performance of the Orthodox music. In 2008 it got the rank of "Prime". In 2010 the choir led by Ganna Gatsuk, took part in "Summa Cum Laude" international youth music festival in Vienna. It was awarded the II place in the category "Treble Choir" with excellent success. In its repertoire there are the works of classical composers, church hymns, arrangements of Ukrainian folk songs and modern choral music. The choir has an active part in the municipal concerts. The concertmaster Iryna Belyaeva graduated at the Kyiv Music Academy. The concertmaster Sergey Kadykov studied at the Odessa State Music Academy.

The choir director **Ganna Gatsuk** graduated at the Odessa State Music Academy and is a lead teacher of the highest category. She is an experienced choir conductor who has a vast experience and knowledge of working with children's vocals. She is a great singer herself and took part in multiple international choral contests as the participant of the famous Nikolaev female choir of S. Fominykh in Hungary (Debrecen), Bulgaria (Varna), France (Tours, Belfort), Germany (Marktoberdorf), Poland (Poznan), Spain (Tolosa).



VOCAL ENSEMBLE CANZONA

From: Nikolaev, Ukraine - Founded: 2007
Conductor: Serghei Golovanov - Category: V - Singers: 12

The vocal ensemble "Canzona" was created in 2007. The vocal ensemble "Canzona" consists of the students of vocal and choir conducting departments of Nikolaev state higher music school. The repertoire of "Canzona" includes compositions of ancient, classical and contemporary composers. This ensemble takes an active part in the concerts in the city and region stages. In 2009 it took part in the XVI International contest of choir music named after A. Zaytseva in Odessa (Ukraine) for the first time and became the second Laureate in the nomination "Vocal ensembles". In May 2011 "Canzona" got the Grand Prize at the VI International Choir festival "Prague Mozart". Altos and sopranos from "Canzona" are also members of the Youth Choir Fantasiya.

Serghei Golovanov is a graduated from the Odessa music Academy A. Nezhdanova where he studied Choral Conducting and Piano. He is currently a music teacher at the Nikolaev Music Public School.



ENSAMBLE VOCAL ATONO

From: Caracas, Venezuela - Founded: 2000

Conductor: Enrique Marín - Category: X2 - Singers: 16

The Ensemble Vocal ATONO was founded in 2000 by Venezuelan choral singers under the direction of Carol Montagutelli, with the intention of singing national, international, folk, academic music. Enghel Mata became the new Director in 2005. With him the group began to perform in private and corporate events. In 2010, Enghel Gabriel decided to stay in the choir, but as Assistant Director of his teacher Enrique Marín. Under the direction of Enrique Marín, the group's style and repertory have experienced a complete change and with him they toured around important choral festivals in the whole country.

Enrique Marín is an important musician with a Degree in Administration. He began to sing in 1969, in Cumaná, Venezuela. He is a lyrical singer graduated in Vocal Technique from the Experimental Studies Center of Malaga, Spain. He worked in several choirs as Vocal Technique Professor since 1974, and he is Choral Director since 1990. During his career, he directed choirs around Latin America and Europe, and advised several singers that have participated in important international contests and festivals. Nowadays he is Director of Venezuelan choirs such as: INAC (National Institute of Civil Aeronautic), CANTV (National Company of Telecommunications Venezuela), Ensemble Vocal ATONO.