

10th edition



Europe and
 its Songs

International Folksong Choir Competition & Concerts

Barcelona, Spain

24th - 28th September 2008



COURTIAL INTERNATIONAL

under the patronage of

Associazione Internazionale Amici della Musica Sacra

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

Europe and its Songs
10th International Folksong Choir Competition & Concerts



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Organigram of the festival

President of the Festival

Dr. h.c. Hans Urrigshardt

President and 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

Kai-Tõe Ellermaa - Estonia

Kálmán Strausz - Hungary

Felix Resch - Italy

General Coordinator

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Permanent Festival Secretariat

Vittoria Assettati

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Translations and proof reading

Vittoria Assettati

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Nuria Llorach i Molons

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Dr. h.c. Hans Urrigshardt

*President of the
X 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 10th 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 celebrate our 10th Anniversary in this marvelous city 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 experiences. I wish all of you to enjoy our Festival and have unforgettable days in this magnificent city.

Dr. h.c. Hans Urrighardt
President of the Festival



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 since ten years we welcome in Barcelona choirs from all over the world. You will have the great opportunity to sing in the beautiful Church of Santa Maria del Pi and to take part in the enchanting open air concerts in the heart of Barcelona. Last but not least, you will enjoy the choir parade through the streets of the Barrio Gotico. This will be an unique chance to meet international choirs. I am looking forward to seeing you again 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*

Choirs Participating

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

- THE GUSLA CHOIR, BULGARIA
- PÄRNU CHAMBER CHOIR, ESTONIA
- VANALINNA SEGAKOOR, ESTONIA
- VENE KOORIKAPELL, ESTONIA
- SOMMELO MIXED CHOIR, FINLAND
- SALDAVA MIXED CHOIR, LATVIA
- ACADEMICAL CHOIR OF LUBLIN ENVIRONMENT UNIVERSITY, POLAND
- CHOIR OF SRPSKO ZANATLIJSKO PEVACKO DRUŠTVO «NEVEN», SERBIA

CATEGORY X1 MIXED CHOIRS MINIMUM **40** VOICES

- MIXED CHOIR SPD JEDINSTVO, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
- BELCANTO LINSINGERICHT, GERMANY
- AMICII DELLA MUSICA CHOIR, ROMANIA

CATEGORY M2 MALE CHOIRS FROM **16 TO 39** VOICES

- TÜRNPÜ MALE CHOIR, ESTONIA
- SANT'ALENE DE TULA CHOIR, ITALY
- VOCHES' E AMMENTOS DE GARTEDDI CHOIR, ITALY

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

- KLAPA DIŠPET, CROATIA
- KLAPA BRACIERA, CROATIA

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

- CHILDREN CHORUS LEL, RUSSIA

CATEGORY G1 GOSPEL CHOIRS FROM **1 TO 30** VOICES

- IL CORETTO DEI PINGUINI, ITALY

FESTIVAL CATEGORY (WITHOUT COMPETITION)

- ARMONIA CHOIR, ITALY
- ALTRE NOTE CHOIR, ITALY
- POLIFONICO FARNESIANO CHOIR, ITALY
- SCHOLA CANTORUM OFFICIUM CHOIR, ITALY

Program of the festival

Wednesday, September 24th, 2008

- ▶ 17:00 Meeting of choir directors in the historical hall of S. Maria del Pi. Welcome by the international Jury.
- ▶ 20:30 Inaugural concert with all the choirs participating in the Festival at S. Maria del Pi.

Thursday, September 25th, 2008

- ▶ 11:00 - 13:00 Performance of choirs in the Festival category at S. Maria del Pi.
- ▶ 17:00 - 20:00 1st part of the competition for choirs in the categories X2, Y at S. Maria del Pi.
- ▶ 17:30 - 19:30 Open air concert for the choirs in Plaça del Rey (near the Cathedral).

Friday, September 26th, 2008

- ▶ 17:00 - 20:00 2nd part of the competition for choirs in the categories V, G1, M2, X1 at S. Maria del Pi.
- ▶ 17:30 - 19:30 Open air concert for the choirs in Plaça del Rey (near the Cathedral).

Saturday, September 27th, 2008

- ▶ 10:00 Parade through the streets of Barcelona from Plaça Catalunya to S. Maria del Pi.
- ▶ 11:30 Announcement of the winning choirs, prize awarding ceremony in S. Maria del Pi. Final concert with the winning choirs of the festival. Performance of the common chant "An die Freude" arranged by Felix Resch.

International Jury

Michael Rinscheid (President) - Germany

Kai-Tõe Ellermaa - Estonia

Kálmán Strausz - Hungary

Felix Resch - Italy

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



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Kai-Tõe Ellermaa is the founder and has been the conductor of the girl's choir Elise since 1990. With her choir she took part in international festivals and contests among which Slovakia Cantat in 2008, where it was awarded the silver medal in the children category. She started her studies in choir conducting in Tartu Music School. She got the higher music education in Tallinn Conservatoire graduating in Choir Conduction in 1984. She has conducted the girls choir "Nurmenukk", the children's choir "Pöial-Liisi" and also the chamber choir "Ave Canto" of Pärnu. She has sung for years in the chamber choir of Estonian choir conductors and participated in the choir conductors workshops in Europa Cantat in Linz, Austria and in Nevers, France. She took part in several



choir conductors seminars in Estonia. She has been jury member of a children song contests in Estonia and in the International Choir Festival "Europe and Its Songs" in Barcelona. Since 2005 she organizes during the summer the International Organ festival in Pärnu (Estonia).

Kálmán Strausz, Hungarian conductor and choir director, studied at the Budapest Music Academy "Liszt Ferenc". His Professors were István Párkai and Zoltán Vásárhelyi. He worked first as music editor at the Hungarian Radio, later as section leader for broadcasting of classical music at the Hungarian Television. He had been director of the Budapest Youth Choir since 1977. He was also teaching Conduction at the Budapest Music Academy. He was director of the world famous Kodály Choir of Debrecen between 1985 and 1991. He founded the Budapest International Choir Competition in 1988. He became director of the Mixed Choir of the Hungarian Radio and Television in 1992. He was assistant to Sir Georg Solti in Berlin and participant of his very last CD recording in the summer 1997. As conductor, he had concerts in Italy, Belgium, Japan, Israel, USA, Greece, Finland, Netherlands, Austria (Konzerthaus/Vienna, Salzburger Festival) and Germany.



Felix Resch is professor for "Harmonie-and Formenlehre" at the Music Academy "C. 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 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. Resch's orchestral and choral work has been published in Tv (Rai, ORF, SFS), on the radio, and on CD.



MIXED CHOIR SPD "JEDINSTVO"



From: **Banja Luka, Bosnia-Herzegovina**
Founded: **1893**
Conductor: **Nemana Savić**
Category: **X1**

It is one of the oldest choirs in Republic of Srpska and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Since its beginning it has performed in many concerts. The repertoire is wide including spiritual, secular works, medieval and contemporary composers. It has recorded on the radio and TV and made 4 CDs. It took part in festivals in former Yugoslavia and abroad: Vidovdan Festival in 1994 (Banja Luka, Republic of Srpska)-I prize; Yugoslav Choral Competition in 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000 (Nis, Yugoslavia)-I prize; International Competition in Riva del Garda in 2001 (Italy)-2 gold medals; International Choir Festival Orlando di Lasso in 2002 (Italy) - gold medal. It took part in sacred music festivals in: Belgrade and Novi Sad from 1994-1998; "Days of Mokranjac" Festival in 1996, 2001 (Negotin, Yugoslavia); festival of Balkan choirs in 1997, 2000, 2004 (Argos Orestiko, Greece); Festival in Vranov nad Toplou in 2000 (Slovakia); "Ducic Poetry Evenings" Festival in 1999, 2000 (Trebinje, Republic of Srpska); "Zlatna vila" Competition in 2004 (Republic of Srpska-Prijedor); International Competition of Sacred Music (Preveza-Greece) in 2005; 4th Choir Olympics in 2006 (Xiamen-China)-gold medal; Competition Musica sacra 2007 (Slovakia-Bratislava)-I prize.

Nemana Savić graduated from the Belgrade University where he obtained a BSc and a MSc in the conducting department. He worked as music pedagogue and conductor in former Yugoslavia. Today he works in Banja Luka as teacher and director of a Music School, as professor at Academy of Arts, as conductor of the Mixed Choir SPD "Jedinstvo" and as conductor of the Mixed Choir of University. He has given concerts in the former Yugoslavia, Italy, France, Switzerland, Hungary, Greece, Slovakia and Bulgaria. He has received many recognitions for his work and more than 20 first prizes in choir festivals.

THE GUSLA CHOIR



From: **Yambol, Bulgaria**
Founded: **1898**
Conductor: **Vasil Sheytanov**
Category: **X2**

The Gusla Choir is one of the first Bulgarian choirs. It was founded in 1898 and during its 110 years of life it has always been one of the best choirs in Bulgaria. It has been awarded with many national and international prizes as well as Government prizes. It won the second prize at the International Choir Competition in Arezzo (Italy). The choir performed both in Bulgaria and abroad. Its repertoire includes all periods and music styles.

Vasil Sheytanov is the conductor of the Gusla Choir since twelve years. He graduated in choir conducting at the Art Academy of Sofia with two important teachers: Prof. Samuil Vidas and Prof. Vasil Arnaudov. He has successfully worked with all types of choirs including folk choirs. He was awarded the First prize both at the International Competition in Varna, Bulgaria and at the 27th International Choir Competition in Gorizia, Italy.

KLAPA BRACIERA



From: **Bol, Croatia**

Founded: **2000**

Conductors: **Jurica Boskovic, Srećko Damjanović**

Category: **V**

Klapa Braciera was founded in Bol (Brač Island). In 2001 it performs in the Festival of Dalmatian Klapa. Since 2003 it enhances cultural life of Bol and Brač island. With its performances it is one of the symbols of Bol and Dalmatian traditional singing. It performed in Dalmatia and Croatia with concerts in HGZ (Croatian Music Institute) and Milan (Italy). It participated in: Festival of Dalmatian Klapa in Omiš (2001, 2004-2007), Festival of Dalmatian Song in Kaštela-gold medal winner (2006), Concorso Internazionale di Canto Corale in Verona-gold medal winner (2007). Its repertoire focuses especially on the traditional Dalmatian a cappella singing trying to preserve the beautiful Dalmatian melodies.

Jurica Boskovic sings since 1998 in choirs of the Croatian radio and television. He is the founder of six a cappella groups. With his groups he won over 20 prizes in Croatian festivals and concerts. With Braciera he won a prize in the Bol district. In 2007 he took part in the Festival in Verona with two groups and he won two golden medals and the first place. He participated in the "17th International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music, 2007" in Prague and was golden medal winner. He was awarded in festivals and choral contests. He was gold medal winner in the "II International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music, 2008" and in the "Slovakia Cantat International Choir and Folksong Choir Festival". He organized concerts in Zagreb and seminars for a cappella singers and their conductors. He is the president of Croatian association of a cappella groups. He published 7 CDs.

KLAPA DIŠPET



From: **Zagreb, Croatia**
 Founded: **1998**
 Conductor: **Jurica Boskovic**
 Category: **V**

Since its beginning the group performs in folklore festivals and concerts in Croatia. The first performance was in 1999 in "The Festival of Traditional Dalmatian Vocal Groups", Omiš. Since 2000 it is regularly awarded. It performs in Croatia and abroad and frequently on the radio and television. The repertoire focuses on the cappella singing with a special attention to the Dalmatian melodies contributing to preserve the Croatian heritage. In 2006 it recorded the CD "Rusulica" and in 2007 a CD for its X anniversary. In 2007 it was gold medal winner in the "Concorso Internazionale di canto corale", Verona and gold medal and the first in its category in the "17th International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music", Prague. In 2008 it won a gold medal in Bratislava (Slovakia Cantat) and a gold medal in Zagreb.

Jurica Boskovic sings since 1998 in choirs of the Croatian radio and television. He is the founder of six a cappella groups. With his groups he won over 20 prizes in Croatian festivals and concerts. With Braciera he won a prize in the Bol district. In 2007 he took part in the Festival in Verona with two groups and he won two golden medals and the first place. He participated in the "17th International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music, 2007" in Prague and was golden medal winner. He was awarded in festivals and choral contests. He was gold medal winner in the "II International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music, 2008" and in the "Slovakia Cantat International Choir and Folksong Choir Festival". He organized concerts in Zagreb and seminars for a cappella singers and their conductors. He is the president of Croatian association of a cappella groups. He published 7 CDs.

PÄRNU CHAMBER CHOIR



From: **Pärnu, Estonia**

Founded: **2001**

Conductors: **Ave Sopp, Anne Uusna**

Category: **X2**

The choir is composed of singers belonging to the choirs "Ave Canto" and "Mattone" who created the Pärnu Chamber Choir after two concert tours in Norway and USA. It performed major works among which Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" (together with the Tartu University Chamber Choir and Pärnu City Orchestra); Bryars' "Jesus Blood Never Failed Me Yet", Beethoven's 9th Symphony during the Pärnu International Choir Festival (2004); Mozart's "C minor Mass"; Ulvaeus-Andersson's rock musical "Chess". It took part in festivals and competitions: VII Estonian Chamber Choirs' Festival in Pärnu (2002); Robert Schumann Choir Competition in Zwickau, Germany (silver diploma), Mixed Choirs Contest of Estonia (I prize, 2008); International Pärnu Choir Festival folk song competition (II prize, special prize for the best interpretation of Estonian folk song, 2002).

Ave Sopp is the founder and conductor of the Choir. She graduated at the Estonian Music Academy as choir conductor. She is the Artistic Director of Pärnu International Choir Festival and she works as music editor of Estonian Song and Dance Celebration Foundation.

Anne Uusna graduated from Tallinn University as music teacher in 2006. She is a well-known music teacher and her students won many prizes in several music competitions. She is the choir master of Pärnu Chamber Choir and conductor of Pärnu Youth Choir.

TÜRNPÜ MALE CHOIR



From: **Tallinn, Estonia**
 Founded: **1916**
 Conductor: **Ene Kangron**
 Category: **M2**

The first choir conductor was the Estonian composer K. Tüرنpu. Its history is connected with its conductors A. Kapp, A. Topman, G. Ernesaks, A. Karindi, J. Variste, H. Ilja. Its repertoire consists of sacred, classical, contemporary music, folk songs, popular music. It toured to Sweden, Norway, Finland, Poland, Hungary, Switzerland, England and Italy. It took part in the Festivals: International Festival of Kotka, Finland (I prize, 1991); Male choirs competition organized by Estonian Men's Choral Society (I prize, 1994); Idoco-Festival "Arbeiter-Sängerfest" in Bern, Switzerland (Gold Diploma, 1995) International Choir Festival in Llangollen, Wales (1997). It has been active in the promotion of Estonia's music activities and worked in the organization of Festivals and competitions with the aim of obtaining new songs for male's choirs.

Ene Kangron graduated from the Estonian Academy of Music as a choral conductor and music teacher. She studied conducting with G. Ernesaks. From 1971-1980 she worked as a music teacher in Westholm Gymnasium in Tallinn. From 1980-1985 she taught conducting in Tallinn Pedagogical University. Since 1986 she is working in the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre teaching choir conducting. From 1996-2002 she was president of the Estonian Society for Music Education and from 2003 she is member of the board. She is head of the Estonian Commission for Music in Schools and member of the board of the European Association for Music in Schools. She is a prize winner of choral competitions: gold medals in Karditsa, Greece (1991); Arezzo, Italy (1992); Llangollen, Wales (1994).

VANALINNA SEGAKOOR



From: **Tallinn, Estonia**

Founded: **1996**

Conductor: **Lauri Aav**

Category: **X2**

The choir was formed in 1996, when two chamber choirs joined their forces. The repertoire includes classical choir music, contemporary authors, Estonian folk music. It performed in Estonia and abroad in Switzerland, France, Finland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Israel, Croatia, Romania, Italy, Turkey, Greece. It took part in important projects: Nordic Students Choir composed of 1500 singers with whom it performed the Beethoven 9th Symphony; "West End the Musicals" with soloists from West End International (London) and the Estonian national Symphony Orchestra. It took part in national and international competitions: Choir Competition "Tuljak" in Estonia (II-III award in 1998 and I award in 1999); International Competition of Academic Choirs in Latvia, (II award in mixed choir category in 1999); in International Competition and Festival of Academic Choirs IFAS in Czech Republic (silver award in mixed choir category and bronze award in folk music category in 2006); Preveza International Choir Competition in Greece (bronze award in mixed choir category 2007).

Lauri Aav studied clarinet at the Tallinn High Music School and he graduated from the Estonian Music Academy in conducting in 1992. From 1989-1991 he conducted Estonian Boys Choir studio choirs, from 1992-1998 he was the principal conductor of the mixed choir "Sõprus" and from 1998 he is the conductor of the choir. He is the head of marketing in theatre and producer of music projects in Estonia.

VEENE KOORIKAPELL



From: **Tallinn, Estonia**
 Founded: **1974**
 Conductor: **Olga Tungal**
 Category: **X2**

The Russian Choir was set up in 1974. It is an amateur mixed choir. The repertoire includes classical compositions of the Russian, Estonian and European composers, Russian sacred music, folk songs. There are about 30 singers in the choir. They work in different fields and some of them are students. The average age of the singers is approximately 30-35 years. Since 1975 the choir has participated in several music festivals. It has taken part in festivals in many countries: Latvia, Byelorussia, Moldova, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Karelia, Ukraine, Sweden, Germany and Netherlands. Last years the choir achieved bronze and silver prizes in music contests in Budapest, Bratislava, Sopot. The choir also performs on the best stages in Estonia.

Olga Tungal is a vice-professor of Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre. She studied at the Tallinn and St. Petersburg conservatories. She is leading the Russian Choir since the days of its establishment. She was born in a family of musicians, then she studied at the Tallinn Musical School and Tallinn Conservatory in classes of choral conducting. She graduated from St. Petersburg conservatory. Since 1975 she works in the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre teaching Solfeggio, Choral Conducting. She brought up over 60 students who now work in the state choirs and schools. Under Olga Tungal's conducting the Choral Chapel is the winner of many choir competitions in Estonia and outside of Estonia.

SOMMELO MIXED CHOIR



From: **Akaa, Finland**

Founded: **1976**

Conductor: **Leena Aarnipuu-Lampela**

Category: **X2**

SommeLO is a mixed choir of about 35 singers from the town of Akaa. The name of the home town is better known as Toijala, which is a junction of railways in south of Finland. The name changed at the beginning of last year when Toijala merged with its neighbouring commune. It has been an essential part of Toijala's cultural life for more than 30 years. The age of the singers varies from 16-62 years, and there are some members who have been singing since the beginning. It has a wide repertoire: spirituals, hymns, traditional a cappella songs, folk music from Finland and abroad, pop music, modern music. It made 3 recordings and toured to Estonia and the Check Republic.

Leena Aarnipuu-Lampela has been a professional choir conductor for 25 years. Besides the SommeLO Mixed Choir, she conducts five other choirs: two mixed choirs, one chamber choir, one male choir and two female choirs. With her choirs she performed in several concert and competition tours abroad. She has been to Estonia, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Hungary, Germany, Poland, the Check Republic, Russia and Spain. A few years ago she got a medal for choir work awarded by the home town of the great Finnish composer Sibelius.

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BELCANTO LINSENGERICHT



From: **Linsengericht, Germany**
 Founded: **1981**
 Conductor: **Gerd Zellmann**
 Category: **X1**

It is composed of about 50 singers from the Gelnhausen area and the Main-Kinzig-County. It was founded as a youth choir in 1981. Its repertoire ranges from sacred to secular choir music, folksongs, Gospels, Spirituals, Jazz, Pop, Musicals. It has been the music ambassador of the Main-Kinzig-County and has represented the Hessian choral environment. It sang during a gala concert at the German Festival in 2003 in Berlin as representative of the Hessian mixed choirs. It takes part in national and international competitions and has won almost always first prizes (the series of five first places at the Hessian Choir Competition, held every 4 years). It was 1 prize winner at the International Choir Competition in Verona, 1989. Among its activities: concerts with choirs and soloists from Germany, Europe, America and Asia, concert tours (2 tours to USA), recordings of CDs, etc. It won the "Kulturförderpreis" of the Main-Kinzig-County and was awarded the "Ehrenpokal des Ministerpräsidenten" for the best choir at the Hessian Choir Festival.

Gerd Zellmann studied Music and Choral Direction at the Goethe University and the Frankfurt Conservatoire. Further studies with famous choirmasters have formed his artistic style. He teaches Music and Choral Singing at the Kopernikusschule in Freigericht and directs choirs in the Frankfurt region. He is on the board of the "German Professional Choirmasters-Association"; he is a member of the Federal Music Commission for the Hessen region, lecturer at seminars and much sought after judge at national and international choir competitions.

ALTRE NOTE CHOIR



From: **Roma, Italy**
Founded: **2007**
Conductor: **Francesca Palombi**
Category: **Festival**

The choir was created in 2007, on the basis of the previous "Noterranti" Chorus, inheriting most of its repertoire and the peculiar musical gender. Its main objective is to sing the theme of "Universality", by representing different cultures and traditions from all over the world. The repertoire includes songs from the Christian and the Jewish traditions, from various continents, all linked to hope, peace, freedom, celebration and pray themes. Most of the songs have no author, some of them are very old, passed on by many generations. Other objectives of the choir are: musical research by searching texts, music, voices, books; worldwide travels; meeting other choruses. This leads the choir to "travel" by singing through different populations and continents. It is composed of about 20 singers, all adults and non-professionals.

Francesca Palombi even non-professional, acquired a wide experience in organizing recitals, concerts and gatherings, moved by a deep passion for popular music from all over the world. In her musical experiences, she collected songs and music from popular traditions from Africa, Asia, North America and Europe. She is also focused on sacred music, always of popular origin and of "no-author". She directed the previous Noterranti chorus for 7 years, participating in evening gatherings, Masses, national and international shows. Among them: popular festival of Zaire's tradition in 1982, show "Don't bury me in a slave's land" for the European Community in 1996, sacred ceremony in Krakow's Dome in 2005, Music and Friend festival in Amsterdam in 2006.

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ARMONIA CHOIR



From: **Casorate Primo/Pavia, Italy**
 Founded: **1995**
 Conductor: **Lidia Vignoni**
 Category: **Festival**

The choir was formed in 1995 by a group of friends with the passion for music and singing. It is composed of 26 amateur members, between 16-70 years. It is mixed with two, three and four part singing. In the years, it has been singing secular and sacred songs, ranging from gospels and spirituals to Beatles and "Sister Act" movie songs, from traditional and folk music to musicals, a cappella or accompanied by a piano. The choir has given several concerts for charity and it has recently put on stage the musical 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. In 2007 for the first time the choir took part in the "International Rimini Choir Contest".

Lidia Vignoni studied music with Corradini and Bertolini, graduating in Piano at Bergamo's Gaetano Donizetti Conservatoire in 1983. She attended a piano advanced qualification course with Romanini and the advanced qualification courses in Music Teaching and Choir Conduction. She has given concerts as solo pianist, in duo with a violin and with another pianist. She has been the director of 'Angelo Fassina Music School' in Casorate Primo for 20 years and the music teacher at the Comprehensive Grammar School since 1983. She conducts the 'Armonia' Choir, Motta Visconti's 'Piccolo Coro dell'Arcobaleno' and Casorate Primo's 'AVIS' Choir. As conductor of the Grammar School Choir, she won the I prize at the 'Città di Castiglione delle Stiviere National Contest' in 2002 and at 'Città di Omegna National Contest' in 2007, along with the Jury's Special Prize. At the same contest her students' orchestra was given the I prize in 2008.

IL CORETTO DEI PINGUINI



From: **Volterra/Pisa, Italy**

Founded: **1996**

Conductor: **Michele Bracciali**

Category: **G1**

"Il Coretto dei Pinguini" was created inside the Academy of Music "Città di Volterra" in 1996. It performs programs for four, six, until eight mixed voices, always preferring the "a cappella" style". It has a wide concert activity performing in Italy, France, Germany. In 1997 it participated in the VI International tourney of Music (T.I.M), achieving the Honour diploma. It participated in the VII Regional Festival for young Chorus achieving the Special Mention in the category "Schools of Music". It participated in the VI and VII "International Festival of the Chorus of Clusone" (2000, 2007). It has collaborated with Jazz musicians: S. Onorati, C. Paoletti, M. del Testa, F. Desideri, D. Dainelli, M. Ambrogini, M. Capecchi. The repertoire ranges from Gospel, Spiritual and African music. It has recorded two Cds.

Michele Bracciali graduated in Classic Accordion at the Conservatory "G. Rossini" of Pesaro under Sergio Scappini. It carries out concerts activity as choir conductor both in Italy and abroad. He is currently teaching Accordion at the Music Academy "Città di Volterra" and he is a music and choral teacher in several schools of Pisa and Livorno provinces. Since 1995 he is the Artistic Director of the Academy of Music "Città di Volterra".

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POLIFONICO FARNESIANO CHOIR



From: **Piacenza, Italy**
 Founded: **1976**
 Conductor: **Mario Pigazzini**
 Category: **Festival**

The Choir was founded in 1976 by Roberto Goitre, with the intention of spreading the knowledge of polyphonic singing in Italy. After the choirmaster's death in 1980, the leadership of the choir was assigned to M^o Pigazzini who keeps conducting the choir with the pedagogical and artistic applications developed by his predecessor. The repertoire includes choral works from the Renaissance onwards: Bach's Magnificat and Cantatas, Vivaldi's Magnificat and Gloria, Mozart's Vesperae Solemnes, Krönungsmesse and Requiem, Haydn and Traetta's Stabat Mater, Beethoven's Missa in C major (op. 84), Bruckner's Te Deum, Puccini's Messa di Gloria, Zanaboni's De Placentiae Sinodo and Cantate.

Mario Pigazzini studied at G. Nicolini Conservatory in Piacenza, graduating in Choral Music and Conducting under R. Goitre, and in Singing with teacher specialisation under A. M. Favini Lottici. In 1981 he takes over the direction of the Polifonico Farnesiano Choir. He was trained in Goitre's school and has a deep knowledge of his method. He strongly believes in this enterprise and the choir itself grows strong roots. He is an expert in the didactics of the "cantar leggendo" method in which he is constantly training. He participated as lecturer in numerous conferences for teachers and choirmasters. He is currently responsible for the training of the G. Nicolini choir in Piacenza.

SANT'ALENE DE TULA CHOIR



From: **Berchidda/Sassari, Italy**

Founded: **2000**

Conductor: **Giovanni Marongiu**

Category: **M2**

The choir's name was chosen in the Sardinian language in honour of the Holy Virgin patron of Tula. It was created with the aim to enrich Tula cultural life and to keep alive the ancient and allegoric sacred chants. It is under the direction of G. Marongiu since almost 4 years. It performed successfully in Sardinia, in several Italian cities and abroad. It has recently toured in Switzerland. The choir was awarded the I and II prizes during the Ozieri Festival dedicated to the traditional choirs. One of the most important performance was in the St. Peter's Basilica of Rome with the "Missa in Limba".

Giovanni Marongiu was born in Berchidda. At 13 years old he started playing with the band "Bernardo Demuru". He studied in Sassari at the Canepa Conservatory and he joined Paolo Fresu's big band as a double bass player. He graduated in Double Bass and studied Choir conduction, Harmony and Orchestration. In 1987 he created the ethnic group "Prendas". With the group he recorded 5 CDs, performed concerts in Sardinia and in Italy. Since 1984 he is the Director of Music in Berchidda's S. Sebastiano and S Lucia parishes. He is conducting the Sant'Alene de Tula Choir since 4 years. He is actually making researches on the Sardinian traditional chants. He has a wide experience of 30 years in the choirs' conduction both in music harmonisations and in the arrangements of "a cuncordu" traditional chants.

"Europe and its songs"

SCHOLA CANTORUM OFFICIUM CHOIR



From: **S. Andrea Apostolo dello Jonio/Catanzaro, Italy**
Founded: **2000**
Conductor: **Christian Cosentino**
Category: **Festival**

It consists of 25 members and the repertoire includes sacred and profane music, gospels and folk songs. Its aim is the promotion of sacred music and the Calabria folk traditions. It is member of the O.C.C. and FE.N.I.A.R.CO. Its name is linked to the liturgical chants and the Gregorian vespers which represent a tradition in Sant'Andrea. It performed in Calabria and other parts of Italy. It sang during a television program about its town. In 2002-2003, with the "Coro di Voci Bianche" of Sant'Andrea, it was awarded during the "Rassegna Nazionale Città di Paola". In 2002, some choir members met the Holy Father in the Vatican. In 2003 and 2005 it took part in concerts in the Cathedral of Reggio Calabria. Together with the Municipality of Sant' Andrea Jonio, it organizes the "Raduno Regionale Corale di Canti Natalizi". In 2005 it took part in the "I Rassegna di Cori Polifonici: Maria e l'Eucarestia".

Christian Cosentino studied Piano and Singing. He graduated in Opera singing at the Conservatory of Reggio Calabria. He studied Harmony and Composition and he specialized in Lyrical singing. He completed a course in Choral Conducting, Choral Vocalism and Sacred Musicology. He specialized in Choral Conducting and Choral Vocalism with: Marzilli, Acciai, Scattolin, etc. He set up a project called "A Course in Choral Singing: The Formation of a Choir" with funds of the European Union. He conducted the musicals Grease and The Lion King. He is the founder of the "Sound Academy" of Sant'Andrea Jonio, where he teaches singing, accordion, piano and keyboard. He founded the festival "Una Voce per lo Jonio".

VOCHES' E AMMENTOS DE GARTEDDI CHOIR



From: **Galtelli/Nuoro, Italy**

Founded: **2000**

Conductor: **Anna Mossa**

Category: **M2**

It was created in 2000 with the aim to promote the local ethnic music, both religious and secular. It is located in Galtelli in the north-east part of Sardinia, just a few kilometres from Orosei gulf. The poetic language of the music of their land constitutes a patrimony of inestimable value in the richness of the simple strophic structures, in the poetry, in the millennial tradition of "a cuncordu" song for four voices. The choir participated in the competitions: Folk Choir Festival in Porto San Paolo, Loiri - Sardinia (2002); International Festival of Llangollen Eisteddfod in Wales (2003); Chiampo Festival Competition, Italy (2004); VII Festival Internacional De Cant Popular Europa I Els Seus Cants in Barcelona, (2004); 2nd Grieg International Choir Festival, Bergen, Norway (2007). In 2006 the choir published the first CD "Su Cristos Baroniesu".

Anna Mossa conducts the choir since 2007. She was born in 1969 in Nuoro, Sardinia, and graduated in Canto Artistico in the Luigi Canepa Conservatory of Sassari. She is a music teacher and director of children's choir at school and a vocal technique consultant. For many years she was a singer and soloist in the Complesso Vocale di Nuoro. She took part in classes of Gregorian Chant and Romantic Music. She took part in courses about the Gisela Rohmert's method: "Functional Method of the Voice" and "Children's Psychology and Direction of Children's Choir" under the guide of M. Giuseppe Costi.

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SALDAVA MIXED CHOIR



From: **Saldus, Latvia**
 Founded: **1972**
 Conductor: **Itana Lipsane**
 Category: **X2**

The Saldava Mixed Choir was created in 1972 in Saldus. Its first conductor was Daumants Reiters (from 1972 to 1999). Since the beginning and many years after, it was performing as a choir Teacher. Other conductors have been: Karlis Kreicbergs, Sandra Snipke and starting from 2005 the conductor is Itana Lipsane. Since 1973 the choir takes part in the National Latvian Song and Dance Celebration in Riga which is held every five years. The choir has participated in many concerts in Saldus and Latvia, and in international festivals in Europe. The first time the choir participates in a competition will be in Barcelona during the current 2008 Festival. The choir is usually composed of 56 singers, but only 26 singers will be present during the Festival in Barcelona.

Itana Lipsane was born in 1974 in Saldus. She studied in Saldus Elementary school and Saldus music school, where she obtained a degree in Violin class in 1989. Then from 1989-1993 she studied Choral Conduction in Liepaja's music high school. From 1998-2002 she studied in Liepaja's Pedagogy Academy. She has been a conductor of many choirs such as "Kaleti" and "Lira". But in 2003 she came back to her hometown Saldus, and since 2005, she is the conductor of the Saldava Mixed Choir. She works in the Saldus music school as the choir class leader.

ACADEMICAL CHOIR OF LUBLIN ENVIRONMENT UNIVERSITY



From: **Lublin, Poland**
Founded: **1952**
Conductor: **Miroslav Ziomek**
Category: **X2**

The Academical Choir of Environment University in Lublin is one of the oldest academical choir. It was found in 1952 by Prof. Boguslaw Szot who was the main director during the first 15 years. After him thr Choir was conducted by Prof. M. Ochalski, J. Jaworski, A. Jaworska., J. Chudalla, Prof. W. Marian Maciejowski who was at that time the youngest choir director in Poland. After him T. Lulek, Z. Bernatowicz and from 2002 M. Ziomek who is the current director. The Choir in his 56 years history visited almost all European countries. The last concerts abroad were in 2006 in Italy and San Marino. In 2005 the Choir went to Belgium where it performed in the European Parliament and participated in the commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of Solidarnosc.

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Mirosław Ziomek studied from 1980 till 1985 at the Institut of Musicology of the Catholic University of Lublin (Master in Musicology). In 1999 he obtained there a Master in Sacred Music. From 1988-1990 he undertook Choirmaster Post-graduates studies at the Music Academy in Bydgoszcz and also a course in Institutions cultural administration. In 2003 he received a qualification in Music arts. His professional activity started in 1985 when he got the position of second conductor of Academical Choir of Agriculture Academy in Lublin where since 2002 he is main conductor and art director. In 1988 it was created the Lublin Archicathedral Choir where he has been the conductor until 2003. During that time he provided didactic activities such as a lecturer at the Institute of Organ, Sacred music and Improvisation at the Art Faculty of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University.



AMICII DELLA MUSICA CHOIR



From: **Găesti-Dâmbovitza, Romania**

Founded: **1933**

Conductor: **Dimancea Gheorghe Silvestru**

Category: **X1**

It consists of 45 members and the repertoire ranges from Renaissance and modern, sacred and secular music to Romanian folk music. It participated in national festivals, it was invited by the National Television Studios and it recorded for the Bucharest Radio. It performed abroad in: International Festival in Castiglione del Lago (Italy, 1985), tour in Italy (1990) and in France (1991), Song Festival of Rome (Italy, 1992), International Song Festival in Treviso (Italy, 1995), concerts in Rhodes (Greece, 1996/2005), International Music Festival in Athens (Greece, 1998), International Song Festival in Barcelona (Spain, 2001/2003), International Festival of Religious Music in Mindelheim (Germany, 2002). In 2007 it took part in the III International Festival of Sacred Music held in Rome and the Vatican City.

Dimancea Gheorghe Silvestru graduated at the Music University in Bucharest in 1965. He was a teacher for 36 years, and conducted many folk music orchestras, vocal groups and other vocal instrumental bands, with whom he took part in many national and international contests. Since 1980 he conducts the Pro Musica Choir in Targoviste, and since 1988 the Amicii della Musica Choir of Găesti. With these two groups he participated in different contests in Italy, France, Spain, Austria and Greece.

CHILDREN CHORUS LEL



From: **Moscow, Russia**

Founded: **1998**

Conductor: **Yuriy Pavlovich Sukolenov**

Category: **Y**

The senior chorus of musical choral centre "Lel" was created in 1998 by a children and youth centre in Zelenograd (Moscow). Its repertoire includes folk, national, modern music, Russian and foreign classics, spiritual music. It took part in choral contests. It is a prize winner of the Moscow International choral festival "Moscow Sounds", 2002. It toured abroad performing concerts in Ukraine and Lithuania; "Choir Olympic Qualitying Competition" in Bremen (Germany) where it received a silver diploma (2004); Festival "Musica Sacra a Roma" (Italy) with a Gold Diploma (2005); "6th International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music" in Prague (Czech Republic) with a Gold diploma (2005); "Termenyaldas-2006 Kerteszeti Kiallitas es Kulturális Fesztivalon" (Hungary); "XIV Festival International de Chant Choral" in Nancy (France) with the Diplome d'honneur (2007); Laureat I ranga Internationalla Festivalen "Julsagor I Scandinavien" in 2007.

Yuriy Pavlovich Sukolenov was born in Moscow in 1938. He graduated from Moscow Musical Pedagogic Institute by Lenin. He has a great 50 years experience of work with amateur and educational choir in Moscow. He has been conducting "Lel" for the last years. He has the following titles: Honoured worker of Russian musical society, "The Grant of Moscow" winner, Honoured worker of education in Russia.

CHOIR OF SRPSKO ZANATLIJSKO PEVAČKO DRUŠTVO "NEVEN"



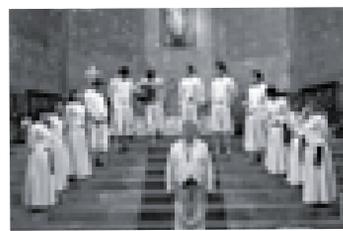
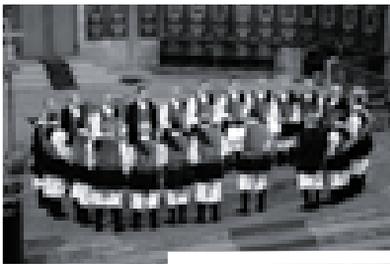
From: **Novi Sad, Serbia**
 Founded: **1892**
 Conductor: **Jasmina Nešković**
 Category: **X2**

The choir belongs to the Srpsko Zanatlijsko Pevačko Društvo "NEVEN" (SZPD "NEVEN" means Serbian Craftsmen Singing Company "NEVEN"). It has a rich repertoire of compositions (Mokranjac's liturgy was performed for the first time on Palm Sunday in 1896.). It performed in Smederevo, Kovin, Bela Crkva, Beograd and in 1914 at "Slet" of singers associations in Sombor. It was awarded with acknowledgement of the court marshalate in 1921. It got a diploma from Vojvodina's culture in 1953. Its repertoire is based on domestic music tradition and foreign composers. In 2008 at "Seventh May's Festival" held in Bijeljina (Bosnia and Herzegovina) it won the golden medal in mixed choirs' category.

Jasmina Nešković studied in Novi Sad at the music school "Isidor Bajic" and at the Art Academy (department for Music Pedagogy). She works at Pedagogic Academy and since 1987 she teaches music culture. She won 2 bronze and 3 silver medals in Zrenjanin, a bronze medal and "Predrag Perunicic" diploma in 1994 in the Youth Choir Festival in Novi Pazar. In 2002 at the VII International competition in Riva del Garda (Italy) she won a silver medal and in 2003 the gold medal in the III Johannes Brahms Festival (Germany). She was awarded in Moscow (2007), Austria (Anton Bruckner festival), Bijeljina (Bosnia-Herzegovina). Since 2008, she is working with elder singers in the adult choir belonging to SZPD "NEVEN".



*Pictures of the
2007 edition*



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International music choir festivals 2009-2010

V International Choir Music Festival Rome and its surroundings and the Vatican City (Italy)

July 17th-20th, 2009

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.

XI International Folksong Choir Festival "Europe and its Songs"

Barcelona (Spain); September 23rd-27th, 2009

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.

XIII International Choir Festival "Orlando di Lasso"

Rome and the Vatican City (Italy); February 25th-28th, 2010

Addressed to male, female and mixed choirs, vocal groups with max. 12 singers, folksong choirs, youth and children choirs, the competition will take place in the marvellous city of Rome. Comprehends categories with and without compulsory piece; a repertoire of both sacred and profane a-cappella music is to be presented, with one piece of folk music from the choir's country of origin; special category for folk choirs. Special category without competition. Besides the competition, choirs will have the possibility to perform in the wonderful churches and squares of the Eternal City, and to take part in the parade through the streets of the historical centre.

For further information:

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