



COURTIAL INTERNATIONAL

under the patronage of  
Associazione Internazionale Amici della Musica Sacra

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

**III INTERNATIONAL  
SACRED MUSIC  
CHOIR FESTIVAL**

**Rome and the Vatican City  
July 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007**



Dear Choirmasters, Choristers and Friends of choral music,

It is a pleasure for me to welcome the choristers that take part in the III International Festival of Sacred music. The wonderful city of Roma hosts the Festival which is extraordinary for the variety of the participating choirs and for artistic level of the repertoires performed by the choirs. Choirs have always fascinated me in a particular way, not only in the moment of 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. 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 Roma will bring pleasant, interesting, joyful and sometimes unforgettable experience for the choirs from all over the world. I wish all of you to enjoy our Festival and have nice days in this magnificent city.

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

President and Founder of the International Association Friends of Sacred Music





**PARTICIPATING CHOIRS**

**LEANDROS SITAROS CHOIR  
CYPRUS**

**POLYPHONIC CHOIR OF PATRAS  
GREECE**

**CHOIR OF THE UNIVERSIDAD DEL ISTMO  
GUATEMALA**

**CHORUS MARIGNANENSIS  
ITALY**

**COLLEGIUM BACCALARUM CHOIR  
POLAND**

**AMICII DELLA MUSICA CHOIR  
ROMANIA**



## PROGRAM OF THE FESTIVAL

### Friday – July 27<sup>th</sup>

- 6.30 pm Meeting of all conductors in the “Farmacia” in the Church St. Ignatius
- 8.30 pm Concert with all the choirs in the Church St. Ignatius

### Saturday – July 28<sup>th</sup>

- 10.30 am Parade with all the choirs  
(Largo Argentina, Piazza della Minerva, Pantheon)
- 5.00 pm Holy Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica  
**Chorus Marignanensis - Italy**
- 9.00 pm Concert in S. Eustachio’s Basilica  
**Polyphonic Choir of Patras - Greece**  
**Choir of the Universidad del Istmo Guatemala**
- 9.00 pm Concert in the Church St. Lorenzo Lucina  
**Chorus Marignanensis - Italy**  
**Collegium Baccalarum Choir - Poland**

### Sunday – July 29<sup>th</sup>

- 12.15 am Holy Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica  
**Amicii della Musica Choir - Romania**
- 4.00 pm Holy Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica  
**Choir of the Universidad del Istmo Guatemala**
- 5.30 pm Holy Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica  
**Collegium Baccalarum Choir - Poland**
- 9.00 pm Concert in St. Eustachio’s Basilica  
**Leandros Sitaros Choir - Cyprus**  
**Amicii della Musica Choir - Romania**

### Monday – July 30<sup>th</sup>

- 5.00 pm Holy Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica  
**Polyphonic Choir of Patras - Greece**

## LEANDROS SITAROS CHOIR CYPRUS



The **Leandros Sitaros Choir** took its name from its founder in 1966. Since 1984 it is conducted by M. Skordi. It collaborated with the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation, Cypriot and foreign soloists and conductors with Yugoslavian String Orchestra Sinfonietta, Students' Orchestra of the University of Bonn, Cyprus State Orchestra. Its repertoire consists of Christmas, religious, patriotic, folk and classical music. It performed: *Requiem* (Fauré), *Creation* and *Te Deum* (Haydn), *Missa in G* (Schubert), *9<sup>th</sup> Symphony* (Beethoven), *Carmina Burana* (Orff), *When it will be Dawn* (Tsiolas), *Dighenis Akritas* (Filippou), *Famagusta of the Lemon Blossoms* (Meletiou), *Axion Esti* and *Pneumatikon Emvatirion/March* (Theodorakis), *The Milk of Aphrodite*, *Struggle for Freedom – 1955* (Christodoulides). It recorded six CDs. It participated in festivals in Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, France, Spain, Czech Republic, England, Malta and Italy.

**Maro Skordi** studied piano with D. Tirimo and got a Diploma in Harmony at the Ethinkon Odeion of Cyprus with Y. Michaelides. She studied Music at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and at the Jordanhill College of Education. She got a Master Degree in Music Education at the Institute of Education of the University of London with K. Swanwick. She was music teacher and assistant Headmistress in schools. She also worked for the Curriculum Development of the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Committee for the 9-year Curriculum Development, the Pedagogical Academy of Cyprus, the Pedagogical Institute and the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Education Department of the University of Cyprus. She was President of the Cyprus Secondary Music Teachers' Association, member of the jury for Cypriot and International music competitions. She conducts the Leandros Sitaros Choir since 1984. Since 2000 she is Inspector of Music for Secondary Education.

## POLYPHONIC CHOIR OF PATRAS GREECE



The **Polyphonic Choir of Patras** was founded in 1983. It appeared in Greek TV and Radio. It participated at choir meetings and competitions: International choir meeting in Pescara (Italy, 1984), International choir competition Athens (1985, II prize), Patras International Festivals (in 1986/87/ 89 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> place), International Choir Competition of Debrecen (Hungary 1988, folklore prize), International Religious Festival Loreto (Italy 1990 and 2001), Choir Olympics Linz (Austria 2000, 2 bronze metals in classic and folklore categories), International Festival Mikis Theodorakis in Naupactus (Greece, 1<sup>st</sup> prize and gold medal), International Choir Festival of Athens (2004 silver medal). It recorded for BP Hellas ltd. It organized Music Research (1995-98) and, since 1995, Christmas Concerts with the Prefecture of Achaia. It cooperated with the Orchestra of Era and with the Orchestra and the Choir of Ert. The choir presented the *Byzantine Oratorium* by Bishop of Patras Nikodimos in the ancient theater “Irodis o Attikos”.

**Stavros Solomos** studied theory of music and piano at Hellenic and Achaiko Conservatoire, conducting at Zoltan Kodaly workshops in Hungary, other workshops with A. Kontogeorgiou and I. Parkai. In 1983 he founded the Polyphonic Choir of Patras. He received the award of the Chamber Choir of Polyphonic Choir in the International Competition Takarazuka (Japan 1993), the award with the Mixed Choir in the 1<sup>st</sup> Choir Olympics in Linz (Austria 2000) and the awards with the Chamber and mixed choir in the International Festival of Athens, Preveza and Naupactus (Greece). In 1996 he was honored by the Union of Greek Choirs for his offer at the Greek Choral Music.

**Prof. Efi Kavvadia-Zerva** is the pianist of the choir.



## CHOIR OF THE UNIVERSIDAD DEL ISTMO GUATEMALA



The **Choir of the Universidad del Istmo** was formed in the Istmo's University in Guatemala City in the year 1997. It is formed by students of the different faculties. The choir has appeared in different presentations in several cities of Guatemala and it constitutes an active part of the Guatemalan coral movement. Its repertoire includes polyphonic work of Guatemalan authors and music of diverse genres and countries. Among the main objectives of the group is to bring to light the popular and choral music from their country. From its beginning it has been directed by the Professor Raúl Padilla.

**Raúl Padilla** studied piano at the National Conservatory, Organ with the Prof. Elías Blas, Choir conduction. He also studied Education at the San Carlos University. He graduated as Bachelor in Sciences and Literature and as Music Professor. Actually he is the titular Organist of the Guatemala City's Cathedral. He conducted the San Carlos' University, Istmo's University and San Sebastian's School Choirs. On October 2002, under his conduction the female choir, who represented Guatemala at the Canonization of Saint Jose María Escrivá, performed in St. Peter's Square and in the churches of St. Andrea della Valle, St. Eugenio and St. José María Escrivá in Rome. Last year he participated in the II Festival Corale Internazionale di Musica Sacra with the children's choir Ki Agush of his country.

## CHORUS MARIGNANENSIS ITALY



The **Chorus Marignanensis**, which consists in 30 women's voices, was founded in 2000. The choir performed many concerts also with soloists like Maria Parazzini, Olga Salati, Simona Baldolini and others. Since 2005 it is prepared by P. Saso Leone and accompanied at the organ by G. Mulazzani. The choir has a versatile repertoire: summer and Christmas concert, church music and also events like *Quando il cuore canta* (in the Teatro Massari, in S. Giovanni in Marignano, 2003), where some songs were coupled with poems by S. Bernardi. In 2004 the choir took part in the Musical Reviews Incanto Corale in Rimini and IV Choir Festival, organized by L. Perosi Choir in San Mauro Pascoli. In 2005 it participated in the International Choir Festival Alta Pusteria and in 2007 at the Musical Review Vocinfesta in Rimini, performing *Stabat Mater* by Pergolesi..

**Leonardo Gabellini** studied with Matteo Tosi. Then he studied Organ, Harmony, Composition and Orchestral conduction at the G. Rossini Conservatory in Pesaro with A Gallina, P. Giorgi and L. Liviabella. Called by Lorenzo Perosi at the Sistine Chapel, he preferred to remain among his people. He founded choirs, musical schools and conducted the Cappella del Tempio Malatestiano in Rimini. He wrote music of different kinds, especially sacred. He writes and adapts music for the Chorus Marignanensis, which he founded and has been conducting since 2000.



## COLLEGIUM BACCALARUM CHOIR POLAND



Olsztyn's **Collegium Baccalarum Choir** includes 35 members . This is an amateur choir, whose mission is the popularization of the music culture at local and international environment. It performs old and modern, Polish and international music. Since 1997 it has been conducted by A. Wilińska. With her it won many prizes. It gave over 300 concerts in Poland and in Belgium, France, Austria, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Ukraine. The choir took part in many contests and festivals: the 12<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Orthodox Church Music in Hajnowka, the presentation of Teachers' Choirs in Krosno in 1993, Polish Festival of Religious Music in Rumia (1995/1998), Choir Music Festival in Grazu (Austria, 1999), International Legnica Cantat Festival (2001, III price), International Choir Music Festival in Olomoucu (Czech Republic, 2004, two silver medals).

**Agata Wilińska** is the conductor of Collegium Baccalarum, children's choir Cantabile and youth choir Continuo, performing at the State School of Music in Olsztyn. She is graduate of the Warsaw Academy of Music, where under Prof. H. Wojnarowski's guidance she was awarded a distinction for completing her conducting tutorial (1987). She studied also conducting technique with E. Ericson and Prof. U. Gronostay. In 2003 she obtained a Doctorate in Art at the Warsaw Academy of Music. She has been awarded by President of the Republic of Poland, Minister of Culture and President of City Olsztyn.

## AMICII DELLA MUSICA CHOIR ROMANIA



The **Amicii della Musica Choir** started its activity in 1933. G. Dimancea has been its conductor since 1988. It participated in many national song festivals, was invited by the National Television Studios and recorded for Bucharest Radio Co. It performed abroad: 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). It consists of 45 members. Its repertoire includes Renaissance and modern, sacred and secular music. The choir is specialized in the Romanian folk music.

**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 which 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 Gaesti. With these two groups he participated in different contests in Italy, France, Spain, Austria and Greece.

### **XIII INTERNATIONAL CHOIR FESTIVAL “ORLANDO DI LASSO”**

**Marche Region (Italy), May 28<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008**

This choral event is held in a charming Italian region located in the centre of Italy between the Adriatic seaside and the green hills of the Appennini. It will be for you an occasion to spend few days singing in marvellous venues such as historical theatres, churches and typical Italian squares.

**Dead Line: 14.03.2008**

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

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

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

**Dead Line: 02.04.2008**

### **IX INTERNATIONAL FOLKSONG CHOIR FESTIVAL “EUROPE AND ITS SONGS”**

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

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

**Dead Line: 15.05.2008**

**Technical Organizer: Courtial International s.r.l.**

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