

REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA
GRAD ZADAR



14th international choir competition Zadar

MAY 22 – 22, 2025

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MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Dear contestants, singers, conductors, organizers, dear guests, dear citizens of Zadar, it is my great honor and pleasure to welcome you in Zadar, on the occasion of another edition of the International Choir Competition in Zadar – a musical festivity that has been elevating the cultural life of our city and enriching its international recognizability for years.

Song has had a special place in this city of millennial history, where cultures, languages and customs have been meeting forever. It is an echo of the spirit, togetherness and aspiration towards beauty that overcomes all differences. These days we will witness such an encounter – the encounter of singers, musicians, and choral enthusiasts from various parts of the world, gathered around this noble competition that highlights commitment, excellence, and the joy of joint creation.

Our competition, which fosters a long-lasting tradition and highest artistic standards, once again gathers choirs that affirm the strength of human connectedness through singing. Bringing us diverse cultural and musical treasures, the choirs turn our city into a place of meeting, fellowship and inspiration.

Zadar is proud to be the host of this meeting. I truly believe that all the participants and guests will take precious memories from our city, enriched with new friendships and spiritual experiences generously lent by music.

I wish all the contestants to give inspired performances, I wish the members of the jury to adjudicate wisely and fairly, and I wish the audience to spend moments of musical magic that will resound in their hearts for many years to come.

Mayor of the City of Zadar
Branko Đukić

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Nela Šarić, president

Dina Bušić

Igor Cecić

Marta Hut

Vinka Bedeković

Jasenka Ostojić

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Tomislav Košta

Jasenka Ostojić

Nela Šarić

INTERNATIONAL JURY

Jasenka Ostojić (Croatia), president

Viktorija Čop (Croatia)

Brett Scott (United States of America)

Cristiano Dell'Oste (Italy)

Franz Jochum (Austria)

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Tomislav Košta

ORGANISATION AND REALISATION

Zadar Concert Office

Vinka Bedeković, acting director

Sunčica Špoljarević, producer

Ivana Erlić, producer

Amir Šiljdedić, technical manager

Saša Miočić, sound designer

Dora Lisica, accountant

Ivan Del Vechio, production assistant

EXTERNAL ASSOCIATES

Ana Marušić, programme host

Sara Košta, secretary of the International Jury

Ognjenka Finci, logo design

Gordana Brborović, certificate design

Snježana Habuš Rončević, certificate manuscript

Antonija Gospić (Museum of Ancient Glass Zadar), special award design

Antonio Ošratić, translation

Rosanda Tometić, proofreading

Željko Karavida, photographer

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COMPETITION SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, May 22, 2025, 8:00 pm

OPENING CEREMONY

Church of St. Chrysogonus

Mixed Choir “Chorus angelicus”, Varaždin, Croatia

Luka Šopar, conductor

Tea Kulaš, organ

Filip Šopar, piano

Klara Blažunaj, soprano

John Rutter, Anđelko Igrec

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2025

COMPETITION (Church of St. Chrysogonus)

6:00 – 6:20 pm **Vocal Ensemble Aurora**, Ljubljana, Slovenia – cond. Janja Dragan Gombač

6:20 – 6:40 pm **Haxhi Zeka University Choir**, Peja, Kosovo – cond. Hysen Nimani

6:40 – 7:00 pm **Maribor Octet**, Maribor, Slovenia – cond. Špela Drašler

7:00 – 7:20 pm **Stockholm School of Economics in Riga Mixed Choir**, Riga, Latvia – cond. Lauris Goss and Laura Elizabete Godiņa

7:20 – 7:40 pm **Coro giovanile Effetti Sonori**, Foiano della Chiana, Italy – cond. Elisa Pasquini

PROMENADE PERFORMANCES (Sea Organ)

6:40 – 7:00 pm **Vocal Ensemble Aurora**, Ljubljana, Slovenia – cond. Janja Dragan Gombač

7:00 – 7:20 pm **Haxhi Zeka University Choir**, Peja, Kosovo – cond. Hysen Nimani

7:20 – 7:40 pm **Maribor Octet**, Maribor, Slovenia – cond. Špela Drašler

7:40 – 8:00 pm **Stockholm School of Economics in Riga Mixed Choir**, Riga, Latvia – cond. Lauris Goss and Laura Elizabete Godiņa

8:00 – 8:20 pm **Coro giovanile Effetti Sonori, Foiano della Chiana**, Italy – cond. Elisa Pasquini

8:20 – 8:40 pm **Academic Choir of the University of Zadar**, Zadar, Croatia – cond. Tomislav Košta

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025

COMPETITION (Church of St. Chrysogonus)

11:20 – 11:40 am **Youth Choir “Josip Kaplan” Rijeka**, Croatia – cond. Doris Kovačić

11:40 – 12:00 am **Continuo Pardubice**, Pardubice, Czech Republic – cond. Lucie Gregorovič Fárová

12:00 – 12:20 pm **Cantus ante omnia**, Zagreb, Croatia – cond. Snežana Ponoš

12:20 – 12:40 pm **Hugo Wolf Chamber Choir**, Maribor,
Slovenia – cond. Aleš Marčič
12:40 – 1:00 pm **Mixed Choir of the KUD Moreška**,
Korčula, Croatia – cond. Goran
Milošević

PROMENADE PERFORMANCES (People's Square,
Roman Forum)

11:40 – 12:00 am **“Zoranić” Croatian Music Choral
Society, Zadar, Croatia** – cond. Branka
Višić Karavida
12:00 – 12:20 pm **Youth Choir “Josip Kaplan” Rijeka**,
Croatia – cond. Doris Kovačić
12:20 – 12:40 pm **Continuo Pardubice**, Pardubice, Czech
Republic – cond. Lucie Gregorovič
Fárová
12:40 – 1:00 pm **Cantus ante omnia**, Zagreb, Croatia –
cond. Snežana Ponoš

1:00 – 1:20 pm **Hugo Wolf Chamber Choir**, Maribor,
Slovenia – cond. Aleš Marčič
1:20 – 1:40 pm **Mixed Choir of the KUD Moreška**,
Korčula, Croatia – cond. Goran
Milošević

**CLOSING CEREMONY, COMPETITION FOR THE
GRAND PRIX** (Church of St Chrysogonus)

8:00 – 9:30 pm Three choirs with the highest total score

**SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025
(St. Anastasia Cathedral)**

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

11:00 – 12:00 am Only for those choirs who wants to
perform

OPENING CEREMONY

Thursday, May 22 2025

Church of St Chrysogonus

8:00 pm

“Chorus angelicus” Mixed Choir,

Varaždin, Croatia

Luka Šopar, conductor

Lijepa naša domovino, croatian national
anthem

Wellcome address

“Chorus angelicus” Mixed Choir,

Varaždin, Croatia

Luka Šopar, conductor

Tea Kulaš, organ

Filip Šopar, piano

Klara Blažunaj, soprano

PROGRAMME:

Anđelko Igrec (1968): Pjesme štovanja i hvale

III. Kao što košuta

XIV. Podignite vrata

XVIII. Upravi korake moje

John Rutter (1947): Magnificat

I. Magnificat anima mea

II. Of a Rose, a lovely Rose

III. Quia fecit mihi magna

IV. Et misericordia

V. Fecit potentiam

VI. Esurientes

VII. Gloria Patri

Chorus Angelicus Mixed Choir is a Varaždin-based choir devoted to performances of musical pieces of Croatian and world musical heritage of all style periods. The choir was founded in 1999 by Maestro Anđelko Igrec, who has been the choir's artistic director since. Luka Šopar is the choir's assistant choirmaster. Chorus Angelicus demonstrated its greatest strengths in big and demanding projects – performances of integral masterpieces of the world musical heritage, such as J. S. Bach's *St Matthew Passion*, *St John Passion* and *Mass in B-minor*, G. Verdi's *Requiem*, G. F. Händel's *Messiah*, C. Orff's: *Carmina Burana*, J. Haydn's oratorio *The Creation*, C. Monteverdi's *Vespro della beata Virgine*, J. Rutter's *Magnificat*, A. Bruckner's *Te Deum*, W. A. Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and *Requiem*, A. Vivaldi's *Gloria*, C. Ph. E. Bach's *Magnificat*, and A. Honegger's *King David*. Those performances resulted in numerous awards, such as the 2024 Porin Award for the best classical music performance, for the performance of *St Matthew Passion* at the Varaždin Baroque Evenings, the Ivan Lukačić Award at the 2016 Varaždin Baroque Evenings, for the performance of *St John Passion* by J. S. Bach, the 2018 Milka Trnina Award of the Croatian Society of Musical Artists, as well as the 2010 City of Varaždin Plaque. The choir has appeared in numerous concerts, mainly in Varaždin and its vicinity, but also in other parts of Croatia; it has toured in a great number of countries abroad (Austria, Hungary, Italy, Israel). The choir has collaborated with a number of Croatian and international ensembles specialized in Baroque music performances: "Le Parlement de Musique" from Strasbourg, "Hofkapelle" from Munich, "Musica Coeli" from Graz, "Pratum Integrum" from Moscow, "Accademia Bizantina" from Ravenna, "Sonatores Panoniae" from Hungary, as well as with the local Varaždin Chamber Orchestra, Croatian Baroque Ensemble, "Camerata Garestin" and others, and with many conductors (Vladimir Kranjčević, Tomislav Fačini, Josef M. Döller, Ottavio Dantone, Hidemi Suzuki, etc.) and soloists (Valentina Fijačko, Stjepan Franetović, Ivana Lazar, Margareta Klobučar, Matija Meić, Lidija Horvat Dunjko, Martina Gojčeta Silić, Hugo Hymas, Krešimir Stražanac, Sonja Runje, Armando Puklavec, Monika Cerovčec, etc.). The choir has released twelve records with its performances, such as: "W. A. Mozart: *Requiem*", "A. Igrec: *Kyrie*", "A. Igrec: *Songs of Respect and Praise*", "J. S. Bach: *St John Passion*", "20 Years: *Musical excerpts from Great Works of Baroque and Classicism*", "F. Mendelssohn: *Elijah*", "J. S. Bach: *St Matthew Passion*". In addition to its concert activities, the choir has given workshops on the Baroque, Renaissance and choral singing in schools of less developed parts of Croatia, with the aim of bringing cultural programs and content closer to the children who do not have access to them, within the project *Backpack (full) of culture* of the Ministry of Culture and Media. In February 2025, the choir Chorus Angelicus, in collaboration with the Croatian National Theatre Varaždin, performed the world premiere of the opera "*The Return of the Prodigal Son*" by Anđelko Igrec (libretto by Miro Gavran) with internationally renowned soloists (Mislav Lucić, Tia Pikija, Berislav Puškarić, Matija Meić, Martina Menegoni, etc.) and Varaždin Chamber Orchestra conducted by Mo. Igrec, and directed by the Austrian-Japanese director Taro Morikawa.

Luka Šopar was born in Varaždin, where he graduated in cello in the class of Davor Gluhak, simultaneously with attending solo singing classes with prof. Dorotea Ilčić and the First Gymnasium in Varaždin. He graduated in computing from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing of the University of Zagreb in 2020, with *magna cum laude*. He is

a member of Chorus Angelicus from Varaždin, in which he is assistant conductor to Mo. Igrec, a choral singer and a soloist. From 2018 to 2022 he was the choirmaster of the Mixed Choir of the Croatian Catholic University in Zagreb, with which he performed the cycle “Songs of Respect and Praise” by Anđelko Igrec. Since 2013 he has been the choirmaster of the Via choir of St Vitus parish in Varaždin, with which he, as choirmaster, rehearsed significant works of the world music heritage (F. Mendelssohn's oratorio “Elijah”, J. Haydn's oratorio “The Creation”, C. Orff's “Carmina Burana”) and, as conductor, he directed several acclaimed performances (A. Dvořák's “Te Deum”, G. Puccini's “Messa di Gloria”), of which “Croatian Mass” by Boris Papandopulo in Vienna in 2022 stands out, as well as the concert with the Varaždin Chamber Orchestra in the European Parliament in Brussels.

The Artistic Director of Zadar Organ Festival and Artistic Organisation Zara, **Tea Kulaš** (Zadar, 1994) is an organist and musicologist with a master's degree from the Music Academy in Zagreb. She continued refining her mastery of the organ studying under Gunther Rost at the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz. Her artistic journey started at the age of 6 as a piano student. Apart from the piano studies, she studied contemporary dance, music theory, and organ (M. Lazar, P. Mašić), winning awards at regional and national competitions. She continued her award-winning education of organ and chamber music at Zagreb Music Academy with Ljerka Očić, graduating in 2018. Within the artistic/scientific project *Religiophony* (2016) she performed as a soloist accompanied by Orchestra of the Zagreb Music Academy in Zagreb, Čakovec and Ljubljana, and held a lecture called *Josip Štolcer Slavenski – composer on the margins* in collaboration with her colleague, D. Perković. In 2019, she performed as a soloist with the Zadar Chamber Orchestra and the Croatian Radiotelevision Choir (HRT), and in 2024, she performed with the Zagreb Orchestra YMO. Her versatile artistic affinities, curiosity and openness led her to enroll in the School of Applied Art and Design in Zadar, where she finished her studies in graphic design. She started studying organ under G. Rost at Graz University after receiving an Erasmus scholarship in 2016. Two years in a row, she was a prize-winner at the Martha Debelli Competition (Graz). In 2024, she was presented with the Coat of Arms of the City of Zadar Award for outstanding contribution to arts and culture. She regularly performs throughout Croatia and abroad, and has participated in several domestic and international festivals, including “Varaždin Baroque Evenings”, “Music Evenings at St. Donatus”, “Ars Organi Sisciae”, “Anabasis”, “St. Mark's Organ Concerts”, “PagArtFestival”, “Petar Nakić”, “Organum”, “Classical Music on Košljun”, “Zagreb Musical Spring”, “Panona Organo”, “Klingender Advent Calendar” (Austria), “Orgelfrühling Steiermark” (Austria), “Orgelets” (Norway), “Trnava Organ Days” (Slovakia), “Green Guitar Youth Festival Graz” (Austria), “Año International Organ Festival” (Greece), “TimOrgelFest” (Romania), “Herford Organ Summer” (Germany), “Orgelsoirée der Saison in St. Margaret” (Germany), “Fano Organ Festival” (Italy), “Mykonos Art Festival” (Greece), among others. She has actively participated in organ music interpretation seminars led by renowned musicians such as H. Fagius, M. Schmeding, T. Ospital, R. Prieto Ramirez, K. Volostnov, T. Sevshek Šramel, N. J. Laube, S.-Y. Lee, W. Reisinger, and H. Fairs.

Klara Blažunaj was born in Varaždin in 2004. From 2017 to 2022 she studied solo singing in Varaždin Music School in the class of Prof. Dorotea Ilčić. During her secondary education she participated in many school projects, such as the performances at the 2019, 2020, and 2021 Varaždin Baroque Evenings, recording the CD *“A la Media Noche”* in December 2021 as soloist with the choir and orchestra of Varaždin Music School, recording a promotion video *“Untold beauty of the Varaždin County”*, as well as participating in an Erasmus+ project in The Hague in March 2022. She has received awards from domestic and international solo singing competitions. Since 2023 she has been studying solo singing at Pula Music Academy in the class of Prof. Margareta Klobučar. In September 2024 she was invited to give a soloist recital in the Consulate of the Republic of Croatia in Kraków, Poland. In November 2024 she participated in the Musical Pathways Project titled *“I love, I love, I love!”*, participating in the Vatroslav Lisinski Concert Hall.

Jelena Horvat graduated in Music Theory from the Department of Composition and Music Theory of the University of Zagreb Music Academy, and in Organ in the class of Prof. Ljerka Očić. During her studies she trained with many renowned pedagogues (Christoph Bossert, Nathan Laube, Andrew Benson Wilson and others). Since 2018 she has taught theoretical music subjects in Varaždin Secondary Music School. She has acquired her singing experience as a long-lasting member of the choir Chorus Angelicus and as the director of the Horvat Quintet, an ensemble which, in addition to dozens of standalone evening concerts and concert programs at various international festivals (International Early Music Festival – *Dvigrad Festival*, International Organ Music Festival – *Organum Histriae*, Varaždin Baroque Evenings, etc.), has released three albums with representative programs from Croatian church songbooks from the 17th and the 18th centuries.

RULES OF COMPETITION

Competition is open to choirs consisting of amateur singers exclusively, on the basis of the Programme Committee's acceptance of the application form and attachments.

The choirs compete in three categories:

Category A: mixed choirs (at least 16 singers)

Category B: men's or women's choirs (at least 14 singers)

Category C: vocal ensembles (at least 12 singers)

Obligatory parts of choirs' programmes are:

- One composition of a composer born in the 16th century or earlier
- One composition of the contemporary choral expression
- One composition from the choir's national repertoire of music production
- One or more compositions to the choir's choice

It is recommended that choirs perform one composition by a Croatian author.

All compositions are to be interpreted in the language of the original and à cappella.

Duration of choir programmes is limited within the range of 15 minutes (minimum) to 20 minutes (maximum), starting from the beginning of the first composition until the end of the last composition. Choirs that do not meet this requirement shall be awarded negative points.

Three choirs with the highest total score, regardless of the category they compete in, continue the competition for the **GRAND PRIX OF THE CITY OF ZADAR** in the amount of 3,000 EUR. The Grand Prix programme shall include at least one composition that has not been performed in the first part of the competition. Other compositions may be performed again. The total duration of the programme from the beginning of the first composition until the end of the final composition shall not be longer than 10 minutes.

The competing choirs are also required to appear in the outdoor review part of the programme, at the attractive locations in the city centre, with a free choice of programme within the duration of 15 to 20 minutes.

The organizer reserves the right to make sound and image recordings during the Competition.

AWARDS

All choirs with the final total score ranging from 70 to 79,99 points will be awarded the Third prize; those from 80 to 89,99 points will be awarded the Second prize, and those from 90 to 100 points will be awarded the First prize. The remaining choirs will receive certificates of participation.

Conductors receive the corresponding set of awards.

The best choirs may be awarded a Golden, Silver, or Bronze Abbess Čika's Cross by the Jury. Prizes are not shareable. The Jury reserves the right to award special awards to choirs and/or conductors.

The Croatian Composers' Society assigns one or more awards for the best performance of a choral composition by a Croatian composer.

SCORING PROCEDURE

Performances will be adjudicated by an International jury comprising of five members. Each adjudicator awards up to 100 points. The lowest score vote and the highest score vote are annulled in the final sum.

Decisions of the International jury are final and irrevocable.

ABBESS ČIKA'S CROSS: A CROSS-SHAPED RELIQUARY

In its original form, Čika's Cross is a tiny cast copper box, covered with gold leaf and in a shape of a cross. Originally, it had a chain-buckle at the top and served as a pectoral cross. So far as its stylistic design is concerned, the cross is to be attributed to a Syrian-Palestinian or Egyptian craftsmanship of the 7th and the 8th centuries. Such crosses were brought along by pilgrims as mementos on their way back from the Holy Land and some of them were also found here in Croatia. Grga Oštrić named it the Abbess Čika's Cross. There is a possibility that the reliquary, along with other precious artefacts mentioned in the foundation charter (1066), was brought along to the treasury of St Mary's Convent in Zadar by its foundress Čika. Abbess Čika's Cross has been the prize awarded at the Choir Competition in Zadar since 1995. The organisers would like to express their gratitude to St Mary's Benedictine Convent in Zadar for the permission to use the name of Abbess Čika's Cross as the official prize title of the International Choir Competition in Zadar.

MEDAL

Medals were designed and created by Damir Mataušić, born in Zagreb in 1954. He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb in 1979. His first medal works were figured in 1973 and since that time the medal work, as well as miniature plastic art, has been an area of his special concern. Ever since, he has issued more than 450 medals designed on both sides, and miniature plastic art works. All his works are reputed to be recognizably unique, very complex in composition and pure in expression. Since 1993, he has been an associate of the Croatian Monetary Institute and has produced some twenty jubilee and currency denominations. Among his 16 one-man exhibitions the most distinctive one is a monographic exhibition staged in the Klovićevi dvori Gallery in Zagreb. In addition, he has participated in more than 40 group exhibitions, including FIDEM (International Exhibition of Medals) and exhibitions held in Paris, London, Neuchâtel, and The Hague. He is currently a lecturer at the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb. The Medal of the Zadar International Choir Competition symbolically represents an amalgamation of the unifying forces of history, climate and singing tradition. The shimmering light of its chromium-plated core evokes not only the sparkling sea motion but notes as well, as a music alphabet. Undulatory images of the singing silhouettes resemble reflections in the sea-mirror, symbolizing in the same time the ascending patterns of human voice and choral singing. Abbess Čika's Cross is an emblem of our sense of belonging to the everlasting city of Zadar and its fascinating millennial cultural heritage.

INTERNATIONAL JURY

President:

Jasenka Ostojić (Croatia)

Members:

Viktorija Čop (Croatia)

Brett Scott (United States of America)

Cristiano Dell'Oste (Italy)

Franz Jochum (Austria)

Jasenka Ostojić (Croatia)

Conductor Jasenka Ostojić is a Full Professor at the Music Academy of the University of Zagreb. She teaches conducting-related courses, as well as the subjects Choir and Chamber Choir, with which she regularly presents outstanding vocal-instrumental projects praised by both the public and music critics. Since the 2018/2019 academic year, she has also been a professor at the Music Academy of the University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), where she teaches conducting and related professional subjects. She is a lecturer and leader of seminars and professional training courses in Croatia and a guest lecturer at universities in Poland, Austria, Slovenia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the USA. She serves as a jury member at conductor, orchestra, and choir competitions in Croatia and abroad (Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Greece). As a conductor of choirs and orchestras, she has won dozens of national and international awards, including two international Grand Prix titles. She maintains an active concert career, performing at prestigious festivals in Croatia, as well as in the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Greece, and the United States. She has conducted world premieres of numerous compositions, receiving special recognition for several of them. As a conductor, she has collaborated with the Zagreb Philharmonic, Sarajevo Philharmonic, Zagreb Soloists, Croatian Chamber Orchestra, Varaždin Chamber Orchestra, the Croatian Armed Forces Wind Symphony Orchestra, the Croatian Radiotelevision Choir, among others. As part of the CEMAN project, she conducted an orchestra composed of students from 11 music academies across nine European countries, performing at Vatroslav Lisinski Concert Hall (Zagreb) and Teatro Verdi (Trieste, Italy) in 2018.

She specialized in vocal training for young singers with the Vienna Boys' Choir in Austria. She served as conductor of the Zagreb Boys' Choir and mentored numerous boys who performed as soloists in professional productions at national opera and concert houses. In 2006, she founded the Croatian Collegium pro arte Society, which includes the award-winning choirs Cappella Zinka and Cappella Odak, as well as the Odak Camerata and the Celeste Ensemble, a musical theater group. From 2012 to 2022, she was the Artistic Director of The World Choir Festival on Musical in Thessaloniki, Greece. She is increasingly recognized for her work as a composer and arranger. She is the author of set pieces for all choir categories performed at the Croatian Youth Music Festival in Varaždin in 2019. She has long served as a member of the Governing Board, the Programme Committee, and President of the Jury of the International Choir Competition in Zadar, as well as on the National Committee and Jury of the Croatian Youth Music Festival in Varaždin. She is the editor of the anthology *Anthology of Croatian Choral Music*, published by the Zadar Concert Office in 2021. Since the 2022/2023 academic year, she has been serving as Vice-Rector for Art, Culture and Interuniversity Cooperation at the University of Zagreb.

Viktorija Čop (Croatia)

Viktorija Čop graduated in composition from Music Academy in Zagreb in class of professor Željko Brkanović, and later on she obtained her master's degree at Faculty of Music in Utrecht in The Netherlands (Hogeschool voor de Kunsten Utrecht), awarded with HUYGENS scholarship, by "nuffic" organisation (The Netherlands organization for international cooperation in higher education). Some of her compositions were awarded: 3rd prize at "International summer Academy "Wien – Praha – Budapest 2001" in Reichenau, Austria; Vice-chancellors prize awarded in 2003. for orchestral piece "Shadows of sunken colours; in 2007 she was given The Stjepan Šulek Award for orchestral composition Adieu; The Rudolf & Margita Matz Fondation awarded her in 2010. In the year 2016 her piece Makapaka (for piano) was selected to be a Croatian representative at World music days during Tongyeong international music festival in South Korea. Some of her music was published at Donemus (MuziekGroep Nederland), at Croatian Music Information Center (MIC); or Cantus ltd who published also an audio CD with her works: Viktorija Čop – Musial moments, nominated for Croatian discography prize Porin (best classical album of the year – 2012.), and audio CD - 40: Kiš/Čop/Borić as well. Her music is performed in Croatia at all important festivals, and abroad as well. Furthermore, as composer she likes to cooperate in theatre and visual (movie) projects. She works as music producer and music manager for television recording of classical concerts (for Croatian national television – HRT) and as score editor in Croatian publisher's houses. From 2025 she also teaches as full professor at University of Zagreb, Catholic Faculty of Theology (Institute for Church Music), where she initiated and conducted notable projects that deal with research, publishing and promotion (premieres) of music scores in the field of sacral music of Croatian composers.

Brett Scott (United States of America)

Brett Scott is Professor of Ensembles and Conducting at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), where he conducts the CCM Chorale, teaches undergraduate and graduate-level conducting and literature, and serves as music director of Opera d'arte, CCM's undergraduate opera company. Under his leadership, the CCM Chorale has released two commercial recordings: *Lux Dei*, new choral works by Douglas Knehans, and *Deus et Machina: Sacred Music for Choir and Electronics*. The Chorale's current project is the world premiere recording of the English version of Fredrik Sixten's *St. John Passion*. The CCM Chorale has presented numerous regional and world premieres by American and international composers, including the North American premieres of Ivan Moody's *Stabat Mater* and Fredrik Sixten's *St. John Passion*, and the U.S. premiere of Andrew Staniland's *Dark Star Requiem*. Under his direction, Opera d'arte has received multiple awards from the National Opera Association. Confident in front of a wide range of ensembles, Scott currently conducts Musica Sacra in Cincinnati and is the music director of Coro Volante, a vocal ensemble dedicated to the performance and recording of works by living composers. Under his leadership, Coro Volante has released recordings including *New Choral Voices* volumes 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, as well as *The Blessed Among Women, Weeping: Sacred Choral Music of Fr. Ivan Moody*. Their recording of Jeremy Beck's *Requiem* was released in 2024, along with *You Are Illuminated: Choral Music of R. Murray Schafer*. Past performances have included *Passion and Resurrection* by Fr. Ivan Moody and David Lang's *Little Match Girl Passion*. An acclaimed interpreter of contemporary music, Scott is internationally sought after as a lecturer on Canadian music and has presented at numerous national and international conferences. He was the editor of Chorus America's Research Memorandum Series, associate editor of The Choral Scholar (NCCO), and currently serves on the editorial board of the International Choral Magazine. He has contributed to several scholarly choral publications and is a contributor to the latest edition of *The New Grove Dictionary of American Music*. His authorized biography of composer, educator, and soundscape activist R. Murray Schafer, titled *R. Murray Schafer: A Creative Life*, was published by Rowman & Littlefield in March 2019.

Cristiano Dell'Oste (Italy)

Cristiano Dell'Oste was born in Udine (Italy) in 1970. After completing his classical studies, he moved to the Conservatory in Parma, where he graduated in organ with distinction under the guidance of Stefano Innocenti. He studied composition with Andrea Mannucci and earned a degree in musicology from the University of Cremona. From 1993 to 1996, he studied harpsichord with Kenneth Gilbert, choral conducting with Hagen Groll, and orchestral conducting with Michael Gielen at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. He also attended chamber music classes with Nikolaus Harnoncourt. He has lectured for the Italian Cultural Institutes in New Delhi, Singapore, and Budapest on Rossini's theatre. At the age of 13, he began conducting choirs in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region. Since 1994, he has been the conductor of the "Juvenes Cantores" Cathedral Choir in Udine. The choir has won two national competitions and performed numerous

outstanding oratorios, including *St. John Passion*, *St. Matthew Passion*, the *Mass in B Minor*, and various sacred cantatas by J.S. Bach, as well as Handel's *Messiah* and *Dixit Dominus*, and Monteverdi's *Vespers of the Blessed Virgin*. In the meantime, he has worked as a choral conductor in several opera seasons at the Teatro Nuovo in Udine, conducting works such as Puccini's *La Bohème*, Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Verdi's *Don Carlos*, and Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*. Since 2001, he has been the General and Music Director of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Symphony Choir, a regional ensemble that collaborates with the Symphony Orchestra of the Teatro Nuovo in Udine. Over the past 20 years, Dell'Oste has prepared and conducted the choir for a wide range of performances including Mozart's *Requiem* and *Mass in C Minor*, Haydn's *The Creation* and *The Seasons* (which he also conducted), Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* and *Missa Solemnis*, Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Verdi's *Requiem*, as well as numerous programs ranging from jazz and pop to world premieres. In 2014, Riccardo Muti entrusted him with the coordination and preparation of choirs from Slovenia, Hungary, and Croatia, along with the Friuli Venezia Giulia Choir and the Teatro Verdi Choir in Trieste, for the Eurovision concert at the Redipuglia War Memorial marking the centenary of the Great War. Riccardo Muti conducted the production, featuring more than 150 musicians and 300 singers, with some of the world's leading orchestras including the Berlin Philharmonic, Vienna Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, and La Scala of Milan. Dell'Oste also collaborated with Muti in 2012 and 2016, preparing the Friuli Venezia Giulia Choir for works by Brahms and Verdi. In addition to his extensive activity in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region, the choir has performed at many prestigious festivals: Monteverdi Festival in Cremona, Società del Quartetto and Pomeriggi Musicali in Milan, Emilia Romagna Festival, Klagenfurt Musikverein, Stadttheater Klagenfurt, Wien Musikwoche, Ljubljana Festival, Mittelfest, Ravenna Festival, Mi.To Festival, Innsbrucker Festwochen der Alten Musik, Les Concerts Parisiens, and Musikverein Vienna. In the autumn of 2022, the Friuli Venezia Giulia Choir performed Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 2* at the sold-out Großer Saal of the Musikverein in Vienna. In addition to preparing the choir, Dell'Oste also performed on the organ.

Franz Jochum (Austria)

Franz Jochum, born in Kempten (Germany) and currently residing in Graz (Austria), is a conductor and choral director. He studied violin, choral conducting, orchestral conducting, and sound engineering at the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz. He graduated with distinction and was awarded a diploma of recognition by the Federal Ministry of Vienna for his academic achievements. Following his work as a music and choir assistant at the Graz Opera, Franz Jochum began teaching at the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz, initially as assistant to Prof. Johannes Prinz in the Department of Choral Conducting. As a result of his artistic habilitation, Jochum now teaches the course "Choral and Orchestral Conducting" at the Institute for Church Music, which constitutes one of the core artistic subjects of the Choral Conducting Pedagogy and Oratorio programs designed for students of vocal music. He serves as artistic director of the Chor der Kunstuniversität Graz and the Chor der Kirchenmusik. Priv.-Doz. Mag. art. Franz Jochum

has led large-scale inter-institutional projects and collaborative events with, among others: Graz Opera, Brucknerfest Linz, Musikverein Kroatien (Croatian Music Association), Musikverein für Steiermark, Kunsthaus Graz (Museum of Contemporary Art Graz), Wagner Forum, Montclair State University, Zagreb Academy of Music, La Strada, Signale Graz, Voice of Spirit, Steirischer Herbst, and Wien Modern. Within his extensive international concert activity, he has performed in the United States, France, Hungary, Italy, Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Germany, Switzerland, and Austria, conducting major oratorios, a broad a cappella repertoire, and numerous contemporary works. His artistic partners include the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, Savaria Symphony Orchestra, Die Wiener, Ornamentum Philharmonicum (featuring members of the Vienna Philharmonic), members of Klangforum Wien, the Graz Symphony Orchestra, various instrumental and vocal ensembles from the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz, The Real Group, Ateneo de Manila College Glee Club, Graz Opera Chorus, Wiener Vokalisten (composed of members of the Vienna State Opera Chorus), and many others. In addition to cultivating the “classical” concert repertoire, this versatile artist is also passionate about contemporary vocal music, choral improvisation, innovative concert design, and interdisciplinary artistic projects.

COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS

Category A – Mixed Choirs:

Continuo Pardubice, Pardubice, Czech Republic – cond. Lucie Gregorovič Fárová

Coro giovanile Effetti Sonori, Foiano della Chiana, Italy – cond. Elisa Pasquini

Stockholm School of Economics in Riga Mixed Choir, Riga, Latvia – cond. Lauris Goss and Laura Elizabete Godiņa

Mixed Choir of the KUD Moreška, Korčula, Croatia – cond. Goran Milošević

Haxhi Zeka University Choir, Peja, Kosovo – cond. Hysen Nimani

Youth Choir “Josip Kaplan”, Rijeka, Croatia – cond. Doris Kovačić

Hugo Wolf Chamber Choir, Maribor, Slovenia – cond. Aleš Marčič

Category B – Male or Female Choirs:

Cantus ante omnia, Zagreb, Croatia – cond. Snežana Ponoš

Vocal Ensemble Aurora, Ljubljana, Slovenia – cond. Janja Dragan Gombač

Category C – Vocal Ensembles:

Maribor Octet, Maribor, Slovenia – cond. Špela Drašler

Vocal Ensemble Aurora

/Category B/

LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

Janja Dragan Gombač, onductor

PROGRAMME:

Iacobus Gallus (1550–1591): Pueri concinnite

Lojze Lebič (1934): Poletje

Francis Poulenc (1899–1963): Ave verum corpus

Radovan Gobec (1909–1995): Ne ouri, ne sejaj

Michael Bojesen (1960): Gloria

Vocal Ensemble Aurora from Ljubljana was formed out of friendship and a shared love of singing among former members of the Girls' Choir Aurora. Since its foundation in 2011, the singers of the women's vocal group Aurora have been working under the artistic direction of Janja Dragan Gombač, developing an ambitious repertoire that includes both Slovenian and international choral music. Their performances of Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" and Rutter's "Dancing Day" with harpist Sophia Ristić, as well as Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater", have been particularly well received by audiences. Aurora has successfully participated in international competitions in Rimini (2014), Slovakia Cantat (2016), and Aurora Cantat (2019).

Janja Dragan Gombač graduated from the Academy of Music in Ljubljana. In addition to her work with the women's vocal ensemble Aurora, she has conducted children's, youth, and mixed choirs. With the Girls' Choir Aurora, she has won gold awards and category prizes at several international competitions. She regularly participates in international symposia, festivals, and workshops. She works as a music educator at the Secondary School for Preschool Education and Grammar School in Ljubljana (Srednja vzgojiteljska šola, gimnazija in umetniška gimnazija Ljubljana).

Haxhi Zeka University Choir

/Category A/

PEJA, KOSOVO

Hysen Nimani, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–1594): Sicut cervus

Traditional: Iso-polyphony Janinës ç'i panë sytë

Mato Leščan (1936-1991): Zdrava Devica

Rafet Rudi (1949): Një tokë, një kokë

Ola Gjeilo (1978): Northern Lights

Jake Runestad (1986): Nyon Nyon

The **Choir of the Faculty of Arts, University of Haxhi Zeka in Peja**, founded in 2012, is one of the most prominent and respected choirs in Kosovo and beyond. Under the direction of Professor Hysen Nimani, the choir has contributed to the development and promotion of choral music as an important element of both national and international culture. It has participated in numerous important events and festivals, performing both domestically and abroad – in Albania, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Germany, Croatia, and Greece. Over the years, the choir has performed a wide-ranging repertoire from internationally renowned composers of various historical periods to notable Albanian composers such as Fahri Beqiri, Esat Rizvanolli, Valton Beqiri, Çesk Zadeja, and others. Some of these works were premiered by the choir itself. A major success was the 2012 collaboration with the Kosovo Philharmonic in a performance of Carl Orff's monumental "Carmina Burana" on the main square in Pristina, in front of a large audience. The choir has taken part in many festivals, such as the Albanian Choir Festival, and has received several awards. At the recent International Choir Competition in Zadar (2023), they won third place, and second place at the festival in Poreč, Greece. In 2018, they achieved great success performing at the prestigious Tonhalle Hall in Germany with the Heinrich Heine Symphoniker from Düsseldorf. Their performance of "Carmina Burana" left a strong impression on both the audience and German critics. The choir is an important representative of the choral culture and artistic youth of Peja and Kosovo.

Hysen Nimani completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Prishtina, followed by postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Music of the "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" University in Skopje, in the class of Sasha Tatarchevski, where he earned a master's degree in conducting. He actively performs with vocal/choral

and symphonic orchestral ensembles in numerous concerts and festivals in Kosovo and abroad – including Albania, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Germany, Croatia, Greece, and others. Notable appearances include concerts in Sofia (Bulgaria), the “Teho” festival in Tetovo, the international Southeast Europe a cappella choral music festival, the “Skopje Sings” festival in Skopje (at the North Macedonia Philharmonic Hall), as well as preparing the choir for Carl Orff’s monumental “Carmina Burana” with the Heinrich-Heine-Symphoniker orchestra in the great hall of the Tonhalle, and conducting a recital tour in Oberhausen, Xanten, and Düsseldorf with a demanding repertoire of local and global choral literature. In addition to his conducting work, he is also known for his organizational skills and commitment to student advancement. He is the initiator of the now-traditional event “Student Art Week,” a jury member at various festivals, and coordinator of the first international conference on law and art “ICLA – International Conference on Law and Art.” His work also includes original compositions and orchestrations, such as “77” for solo piano and “Waltz” for chamber trio, performed in Bulgaria, London, and other cities. He is also deeply committed to academic and pedagogical work. Over the years, he has made a significant contribution to the development of the University of Haxhi Zeka, serving as a member of the Board of Directors, Head of the Department of Music Education, Senate member, and was re-elected as Dean of the Faculty of Arts for a second consecutive four-year term.

Maribor Octet

/Category C/

MARIBOR, SLOVENIA

Špela Drašler, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Iacobus Gallus (1550–1591): O magnum mysterium

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809–1847): Zwei
Geistliche Chöre, op. 115/1 – Beati mortui

Zorko Prelovec (1887–1939): Sedem si rož

Vlado Sunko (1954): O Gospe Sinjska, I. Još ne biše zora
zarudila

Andrej Filipič (1983): Sem šel čez gmajnico

The **Maribor Octet** began its journey in the autumn of 1973, when nine young men from the II. Gymnasium in Maribor decided to form an octet. Since 2020, the ensemble has been composed of a new generation of singers who continue the tradition of their predecessors with equal dedication. Over the years, the octet has strengthened its presence on national and international stages and has become recognized for its refined performances of Slovenian folk and art songs. Their mission lies in seeking beauty and depth in musical expression, particularly in the rich treasury of Slovenian musical heritage. Despite a younger lineup, the octet remains unwaveringly committed to preserving tradition while also opening up new musical horizons. The members of the Maribor Octet are: Marko Perger, Matevž Štrekelj – 1st tenors; Uroš Kavkler, Erik Zavolovšek – 2nd tenors; Uroš Jurgec, Anton Pori – baritones; Aljaž Komprej, Smiljan Pintarič – basses.

Špela Drašler holds a degree in music pedagogy from the Faculty of Education at the University of Maribor. She works as a teacher in several music and primary schools. She is the recipient of the award and plaque of the Municipality of Bistrica ob Sotli. She regularly attends masterclasses and various seminars in the field of choral conducting. Since autumn 2020, she has been the artistic director of the Maribor Octet.

Stockholm School of Economics in Riga Mixed Choir

/Category A/

RIGA, LATVIA

Lauris Goss and Laura Elizabete Godiņa, conductors

PROGRAMME:

Thomas Tallis (1505–1585): If ye love me

Andris Dzenītis (1978): Pater noster

Elaine Hagenberg (1979): Alleluia

Laura Jēkabsone (1985), Latvian folk song:

Perkontevs (Father Thunder)

The **Stockholm School of Economics in Riga Mixed Choir** was founded in the same year as the university – in 1994. Over the years, the choir has become an essential part of the faculty's social and cultural life. Choral tradition is deeply rooted in the culture of the three Baltic countries, and since the choir brings together members from all three nations, it is uniquely positioned to nurture and transmit this tradition. The choir consists of current and former students who share a passion for singing. As a multicultural ensemble, their repertoire transcends stylistic, historical, and national boundaries. The programs vary in form and theme, including medieval, renaissance, sacred, jazz, and popular music, as well as ethnic music from India, Africa, Australian Aboriginals, and Native Americans. The choir has toured across Europe and regularly participates in the Latvian Song Festival, the Baltic Student Song Festival, and numerous other local events.

Lauris Goss (born in 1978) studied choral conducting at the Riga Cathedral Choir School (1996) and the Latvian Academy of Music (2000). In 2002, he earned a master's degree in cultural management from the Latvian Academy of Culture. He currently works as a leading choral music specialist at the Latvian National Centre for Culture and is the conductor of the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga Mixed Choir.

Laura Elizabete Godiņa is Latvian choir conductor and music teacher. Artistic director to Riga 6th Secondary School's Boys choir, assistant director to Stockholm School of Economics in Riga mixed choir, mixed choir "Ogle", Riga 6th Secondary school's mixed choir "Saule".

Coro giovanile Effetti Sonori

/Category A/

FOIANO DELLA CHIANA, ITALY

Elisa Pasquini, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548–1611): Ave regina caelorum

Samuele Broseghini (1995): Car l'amour est fort

Claudio Monteverdi (1567–1643): Sì, ch'io vorrei morire

Boris Papandopulo (1906–1991): Kad igra kolo

Lorenzo Donati (1972): Manum meam

The **Coro giovanile Effetti Sonori** was founded in December 2011 in Foiano della Chiana by a group of young singers wishing to continue their experience from the 'Vocalmente' project, during which they had collaborated with two other youth choirs and performed at important events and concerts in Florence, Prato, Rome, Empoli, Arezzo and surrounding areas. Each October, the choir organizes the International Youth Choir Festival 'Gaudeamus igitur', and in February they present the musical cabaret 'Humor Bizzarro' as part of the Foiano Carnival. The choir served as the laboratory choir of the Choral Conducting School of the Guido d'Arezzo Foundation, working with renowned lecturers. At its first competition in April 2016, the choir won first prize at the 'Riviera Etrusca' competition in Piombino with a score of 96/100. It has performed at numerous festivals across Italy, including Voci d'Europa, Voce al domani, Festival di primavera, and others. The choir regularly collaborates with the ensemble Anonima Frottolisti from Assisi on historical music reconstructions. Ten choir members were selected for the Tuscan Youth Choir (Coro Giovanile Toscano) for the 2016/2017 season. The choir has premiered three works: 'Accenna il cuore' by Riccardo Schioppa (2017), 'Bacco e Arianna' by Marco Ferretti (2018), and 'Manum meam' by Lorenzo Donati (2021). It has received numerous awards, including 1st prize at the National Polyphonic Competition Guido d'Arezzo (2019) and 3rd prize in the Sacred Music category (2022). The choir has been led by conductor Elisa Pasquini since its inception.

Elisa Pasquini, born in 1987, is a pianist, soprano, and conductor. She graduated with top marks in piano from the Conservatory in Perugia under M. Albrizi, following long-term training with M. Cartesi. She received the 'Marcello Cricchi' prize for best graduate. She continued her training with numerous renowned teachers and studied as a

collaborative pianist. Alongside her piano activities, she has always been involved in choral singing and graduated in choral conducting at the Guido d'Arezzo Foundation, where she later also lectured. She further refined her skills at the European Academy for Choral Conductors and at the Chigiana Music Academy. She has sung and collaborated with numerous vocal ensembles and orchestras, performing with renowned artists such as Ella Armstrong and Hans Zimmer. She frequently collaborates with the instrumental ensemble Anonima Frottolisti and has recorded for the Tactus and Amadeus labels. She graduated in solo singing at the Conservatory in Fiesole. She is the artistic director of the Effetti Sonori Association in Foiano della Chiana, where she teaches piano and directs several choirs (children's, mothers', and youth choirs). She has won several awards at national competitions, led school and parish choirs, and was the conductor of the Tuscan Youth Choir. She is also active as a composer and was awarded a special mention at the 'G. Salvadori' choral composition competition. She teaches at the Italian Choral Academy and at the dance lyceum in Arezzo.

Youth Choir 'Josip Kaplan'

/Category A/

RIJEKA, CROATIA

Doris Kovačić, dconductor

PROGRAMME:

Hans Leo Hassler (1564–1612): Tanzen und Springen

Adalbert Marković (1929–2010): Voćka poslije kiše

Jaakko Mäntyjärvi (1984): Double, Double Toil and Trouble

Ola Gjeilo (1978): Ubi caritas

Josip Hatze (1879–1959): Hrvatska rapsodija

Moses Hogan (1957–2003): Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel

The **Youth Choir 'Josip Kaplan'** was founded in 2006 in Rijeka and operates within an association that includes mixed, girls', and children's choirs under the name "Kap." The choir became widely known after winning the first season of the HRT show 'Do posljednjeg zbora' in 2012, but also through numerous successful projects and collaborations. These include concerts with Tony Cetinski in Ljubljana, Pula, and Zagreb, a concert with Doris Dragović at the Lisinski Concert Hall, a performance of Brahms' 'Nänie' in 2013 under maestro Kranjčević, participation in the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the 'Storm' military operation in Zagreb, the stage performance 'Whisper of Eternity' with the dance group 'Ri dance' as part of Summer at the Castle in 2016, and full-length concerts with the Opera Orchestra of the Croatian National Theatre Ivan pl. Zajc Rijeka under maestro Fačini. The choir also participated in the musical 'Evita' by T. Rice and A. L. Webber in 2019/2020. The choir has achieved many notable results at choral competitions in Croatia and abroad, including 9 national golds, 12 international golds, 6 international silvers, and many special awards for artistic impression, program selection, best performance of individual pieces, stage presentation, conductor, and more. Additionally, they have won three Grand Prix awards: at the international competition 'Lege artis' in Tuzla (2018), at the 56th Croatian Choir Meeting in Novigrad (2023), and at the international competition 'Zlatna lipa Tuhlja' (2024). Their repertoire spans all stylistic periods from the Renaissance to the 21st century and includes arrangements of folk, popular, and gospel music. They have recorded the songs 'RiRock Medley,' 'Christmas is Coming,' and the original 'Christmas Feeling,' with video clips for the latter two. However, their favorite pieces to perform are by the composer whose name they proudly bear – Josip Kaplan.

Doris Kovačić was born in 1977 in Rijeka. In 2000, she graduated in primary education from the Faculty of Philosophy in Rijeka, and in 2006 in Music Culture and Art with a major in Conducting from the Academy of Music in Pula. She works at the Ivan Matetić Ronjgov Music School in Rijeka as a professor of theoretical music subjects. She is the founder and artistic director of the Youth Choir 'Josip Kaplan' (mixed, girls', and children's choirs 'Kap') and the Rijeka Chamber Choir 'Val'. She mentors at the vocal workshop at the 'Novigrad Spring' School of Creativity. She is the author of children's songs, poetry collections, and music culture textbooks. With her choirs, she performs at numerous concerts in Croatia and abroad and wins top prizes at competitions. She received the Young Conductor Award for Outstanding Performance at the National Choir Competition in Varaždin (2009), the 'Čestmir Mirko Dušek' Award for Best Conductor at the 'Lege artis' International Competition in Tuzla (2018), and several artistic impression awards. She has prepared choirs for participation in operas, musicals, ballets, cantatas ('La Bohème,' 'Carmen,' 'The Nutcracker,' 'Carmina Burana,' 'Evita,' 'The Queen of Spades,' etc.). With the Youth Choir 'Josip Kaplan,' she won the HRT show 'Do posljednjeg zhora' in 2012. In 2018, she won two Grand Prix awards at the 'Lege artis' competition with the Girls' and Mixed Choirs 'Josip Kaplan.' In 2023, she won the Grand Prix at the national choir competition, two international golds, two special awards for best program selection, and two awards for best performance of a Croatian composer's work. In 2024, she won gold and the Grand Prix with the Youth Choir at 'Zlatna lipa Tuhlja' and gold at the 3rd International Choir Competition 'Lisbon Sings' in Lisbon (Portugal). That same year, at the 17th Croatian Choir Competition in Zagreb, she won a gold recognition with the Children's Choir Kap, a gold plaque with the Girls' Choir at the 21st Meeting of Croatian Small Vocal Ensembles in Đurđevac, and a gold plaque with RKZ 'Val' at the national choir meeting, along with an award for best performance of a Croatian composer's work.

Continuo Pardubice

/Category A/

PARDUBICE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Lucie Gregorovič Fárová, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Knut Nystedt (1915–2015): Gloria

Jacques Arcadelt (1507–1568): Il bianco e dolce cigno

Piotr Jańczak (1972): Kyrie

Javier Busto (1949): Sagastipean

Vytautas Miškinis (1954): Gloriosa

Eugen Suchoň (1908–1993): Bodaj by vás

Continuo Pardubice is a mixed chamber choir from Pardubice that brings together individuals who love beautiful choral music. Singing is their hobby and an integral part of their lives. The choir was founded and initially led by Jana Kosínková, a former member of the Pardubice Children's Choir and VUS Pardubice. Since September 2005, the choir has been conducted by Doc. Ing. Vlastislav Novák, and since May 2010, his granddaughter – Mgr. Lucie Gregorovič Fárová, DiS. The choir's repertoire includes classical choral works as well as pieces by contemporary composers, encompassing all musical genres and styles. They have recorded their own profile CD and participated in a recording with the PIRATE SWING BAND. Continuo organizes annual May and Christmas concerts, often featuring guest vocal and instrumental soloists such as Václav Uhlíř, Leoš Čepický, Hana Medková, Alfred Strejček, and others. In recent years, they have performed at the Art Mirror Festival in Pardubice, collaborated with various choirs and ensembles, and participated in charitable concerts for various institutions and individuals in need. Their first competition experience was at the Harant Festival in 2005, where they received an award. In the following years, they participated in many festivals and competitions, earning numerous accolades.

Lucie Gregorovič Fárová (b. 1987) graduated in organ (under Mgr. Václav Uhlíř) and choral conducting (under Doc. Ing. Vlastislav Novák, Mgr. Jaroslav Brych, and Mgr. Jaromír M. Krygel) from the Conservatory in Pardubice (2002–2009). In 2011, she completed a Master's degree in choral conducting and music education at the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové. From 2005 to 2008, she led preparatory choirs of the Pardubice Children's Choir

IUVENTUS CANTANS. She is the granddaughter of conductor Doc. Ing. Vlastislav Novák, from whom she took over the leadership of the mixed and women's choir Continuo in Pardubice. Since September 2008, she has been leading preparatory and main choirs of JITRO, together with Professor Jiří Skopal, in the Hradec Králové Children's Choir. She regularly participates in choral conducting courses in the Czech Republic and abroad and serves as a jury member at competitions.

Cantus ante omnia

/Category B/

ZAGREB, CROATIA

Snežana Ponoš, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Giovanni Domenico da Nola (1510): Chi la Gagliarda

Ola Gjeilo (1978): Ave Generosa

Adalbert Marković (1929–2010): Podne

Tomislav Uhlik (1956.): Mak

Arvo Pärt (1935): Peace Upon You, Jerusalem

Tomislav Uhlik (1956): Marinada

Cantus ante omnia is a women's choir founded in August 2007 in Zagreb. The choir pays special attention to exploring the possibilities and cultivating the distinctive sound of a women's choir. Its repertoire includes valuable works from the artistic and folk heritage of various historical periods and geographic areas, as well as successful arrangements of popular, gospel, and jazz music. Since its foundation, Cantus ante omnia has regularly participated in choral competitions. Performing at competitions in Croatia (Varaždin, Petrinja, Karlovac, Krapina, Novigrad - Cittanova, Rovinj, Bjelovar, Šibenik, Pula, Sisak, Tuhelj, Vrsar, Đurđevac) and abroad (Neerpelt, Prague, Graz, Rimini, Prijedor, Maribor, Rome), the choir has won a total of eighteen first, five second, and one third prize at international competitions, as well as ten first and two second prizes at national competitions, along with twelve special awards and five Grand Prix titles. For its artistic achievements during its first decade of work, in 2017 the Croatian Choral Directors Association awarded the choir a Certificate of Excellence. The choir is conducted by its founder, Snežana Ponoš.

Snežana Ponoš, a musicologist, choral conductor, and music educator, was born in Vukovar. Since arriving for her studies in 1982, she has lived and worked in Zagreb. As a musicologist, she conducts research in the field of chorusology and actively participates in scientific symposia dedicated to the voice, singing, and choral art. She has been engaged in educational work since 1987, and since 1993 she has been permanently employed at the XVI Gymnasium in Zagreb as a music arts teacher and choir conductor. She also lectures on music history at the School for Choral Conductors at the Vocal Academy in Zagreb. Snežana Ponoš has been involved in choral conducting since 2003, initially as the conductor of the XVI Gymnasium Girls' Choir, and since 2007 also as the conductor of the girls' choir Cantus ante omnia. Between 2003 and 2024, she participated with both choirs in national and international choral competitions, earning numerous awards. She is also the recipient of several special conducting awards. Snežana Ponoš serves as a member of juries at national and international choral competitions. In 2009, she was awarded the title of Maestro Mentor by the Croatian Choral Directors Association.

Chamber Choir Hugo Wolf

/Category A/

MARIBOR, SLOVENIA

Aleš Marčič, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Felice Anerio (1560–1614): Christus factus est

trad., arr. Jacques Cohen (1969): Gaudete (solisti: Eneja Lina Berglez, sopran; Mitja Krajnc, tenor)

Hugo Wolf (1860–1903): Resignation

Tadeja Vulc (1978): Časa tek (solisti: Dora Ožvald, sopran; Žan Stajnko, bariton)

Andrej Makor (1987): O lux beata Trinitas

Boris Papandopulo (1906–1991): Kad igra kolo (solo: Dora Ožvald, soprano)

The **Hugo Wolf Chamber Choir** was founded in 2020 to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Austrian composer of Slovene origin, Hugo Wolf. It was established within the association 'Mostovi', dedicated to promoting harmony between Slovene and German culture in the city of Maribor. Maribor, the second largest city in Slovenia near the Austrian border, is where Hugo Wolf attended high school and composed his first works. The choir consists of 35 experienced singers under the direction of conductor Prof. Aleš Marčič, performing complex choral music, both old and contemporary. Special attention is given to reviving the memory of forgotten composers connected to Maribor, especially Hugo Wolf and Robert Stolz, among others. In addition to numerous concerts in Slovenia and abroad, the choir participates in national and international choir competitions, where they have won top prizes (Garda/Italy, Cork/Ireland, Maribor/Slovenia, Ohrid/North Macedonia, Tuzla/Bosnia, Miltenberg/Germany, Genk/Belgium, Preveza/Greece).

Aleš Marčič graduated in solo singing from the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz, Austria. He further refined his vocal skills with Walter Berry, Marjana Lipovšek, Alfred Burgstaller, and Kurt Widmer. In his singing career, he has performed as an opera singer in Germany, Austria, and Slovenia, and as a concert soloist in Slovenia, Austria, Italy, Germany, Hungary, the USA, and Canada. He has been involved with several chamber ensembles (All Capone Štrajh Trio, Schnittpunkt vocal) and is the artistic director of vocal ensembles Liguster, Mater Misericordiae, Robert Stolz Vocal Atelier, and Oktet Planika. As a lecturer and head of the National Singing Committee, he collaborated with the National Education Institute of Slovenia, and continues to do so. He co-founded the Anton Martin Slomšek Music and Ballet School in Maribor, where he has worked as director and vocal teacher since 2008. His students regularly win top awards at national and international competitions. Since 2010, he has been the conductor of the Hugo Wolf Chamber Choir. His passion for choral music is evident in his work as a répétiteur and vocal technique teacher with various choirs.

Mixed Choir of the KUD Moreška Korčula

/Category A/

KORČULA, CROATIA

Goran Milošević, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Orlando di Lasso (1532-1594): Matona mia cara

Jack Halloran (1916-1997): Witness

Vlado Sunko (1954): Dirnutost

Thomas Caplin (1960): Agnus Dei

Franjo Dugan ml. (1901-1934): Zahvalnica

Since the Korčula Choral Society *Sveta Cecilija* was founded in May 1883 — the first choir in Dalmatia to sing in the Croatian language — the **Mixed Choir of Moreška Korčula** organizes its annual concert every May. The choir has participated in the Croatian Radio and Television competition *To the Last Choir Standing (Do posljednjeg zbora)*, the international choral competition *Cro Patria* in Split, but they especially cherish their performances in Slovenia, Zlatar Bistrica, and, of course, in Korčula. In addition to his role as conductor, Goran Milošević successfully arranges and composes songs for choirs and klapa ensembles. In its repertoire, the choir strives to blend traditional Croatian songs with works by contemporary composers across different genres, always respecting authenticity while embracing new musical approaches, thus building a bridge between the past and the present. Every year, the Mixed Choir of Moreška Korčula welcomes an increasing number of members of all ages and various nationalities. Their rehearsals focus not only on preparing pieces for concerts and performances but also on preserving Korčula's heritage by performing traditional songs such as the *kolenda* on St. Martin's Day, the *kanconeta* on New Year's Day, and other deeply rooted local melodies. The Moreška Korčula Choir guarantees the preservation of choral singing on the island while promoting unity and pride in the history symbolized by Moreška — both as a cultural society and a traditional knightly dance.

Goran Milošević holds a master's degree in music education from the Arts Academy of the University of Split. He is employed as a music teacher at Petar Kanavelić Elementary School. Since 1993, he has been an active member of *Moreška Korčula* — a cultural and artistic society where he performs the traditional knightly dance *moreška* and participates in the folklore section. As a student, he became a scholarship holder of the Moreška Society and took over the artistic leadership of the revived singing section, becoming the leader of the klapa ensemble in 2002 and the conductor of the mixed choir in 2005. In 2008, in cooperation with the Korčula Cultural Center and the City of Korčula, he founded the renowned klapa gathering *Martinovo lito*, where he continues to serve as artistic director.

FORMER LAUREATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHOIR COMPETITION ZADAR

1ST INTERNATIONAL CHOIR
COMPETITION ZADAR 1997.

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross

OBALA MIXED CHOIR

Walter LO NIGRO, conductor
Koper, Slovenia

The Choir was awarded the special
Charter of the Croatian Society of
Composers for the best performance
of a composition by a Croatian author.
Abbess Čika's Silver Cross

PASARÉTI FERENCES TEMPLOM KORUS

Andras DÉRI, conductor
Budapest, Hungary

Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross

DUBROVNIK CHAMBER CHOIR

Frano KRASOVAC, conductor
Dubrovnik, Croatia

2ND INTERNATIONAL CHOIR
COMPETITION ZADAR 1999.

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross was not
awarded.

Abbess Čika's Silver Cross

DUBROVNIK CHAMBER CHOIR

Frano KRASOVAC, conductor
Dubrovnik, Croatia

The Choir was awarded the special

Charter of the Croatian Society of
Composers for the best performance
of a composition by a Croatian author.

Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross

CANTORES SANCTI MARCI

Ivan REPUŠIĆ, conductor
Zagreb, Croatia

3RD INTERNATIONAL CHOIR
COMPETITION ZADAR 2001.

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross

CANTORES VEIHEROVIENSES

Marek ROCLAWSKI, conductor
Wejherowo, Poland

Abbess Čika's Silver Cross

PÉCSI KAMARAKÓRUS

Aurel TILLAI, conductor
Pécs, Hungary

Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross

LIPA CROATIAN CHORAL SOCIETY

Valerija FISHBACH, conductor
Osijek, Croatia

The Choir was awarded the special
Charter of the Croatian Society of
Composers for the best performance
of a composition by a Croatian author.

4TH INTERNATIONAL CHOIR
COMPETITION ZADAR 2003.

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross

LJUBLJANA MADRIGALISTS

Andreja MARTINJAK, conductor
Ljubljana, Slovenia

Abbess Čika's Silver Cross

CANTORES SANCTI MARCI

Tomislav FAČINI, conductor
Zagreb, Croatia

Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross

VESZPRÉM VÁROS VEGYESKARA

Ágnes ERDÉLYI, conductor
Veszprém, Hungary

5TH INTERNATIONAL CHOIR
COMPETITION ZADAR 2005.

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross

CANTORES SANCTI MARCI

Tomislav FAČINI, conductor
Zagreb, Croatia

The Choir was awarded the special
Charter of the Croatian Society of
Composers for the best performance
of a composition by a Croatian author.

Abbess Čika's Silver Cross

HANSABANKA KORIS

Artūrs ANCĀNS, conductor
Riga, Latvia

Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross

DUBROVNIK CHAMBER CHOIR

Frano KRASOVAC, conductor
Dubrovnik, Croatia

6TH INTERNATIONAL CHOIR
COMPETITION ZADAR 2007.

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross

**IPAJSKA CULTURAL SOCIETY
CHAMBER CHOIR**

Matjaž ŠČEK, conductor
Vipava, Slovenia

The Choir was awarded the special
Charter of the Croatian Society of
Composers for the best performance
of a composition by a Croatian author.

Abbess Čika's Silver Cross

SAULKRASTU KORIS ANIMA

Artūrs ANCĀNS, conductor
Saulkrasti, Latvia
Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross

DUBROVNIK CHAMBER CHOIR

Frano KRASOVAC, conductor
Dubrovnik, Croatia

7TH INTERNATIONAL CHOIR
COMPETITION ZADAR 2010.

Grand Prix of the City of Zadar

SWEDBANK KORIS

Artūrs ANCĀNS, conductor
Rīga, Latvia

MIXED CHOIRS

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross

SWEDBANK KORIS

Artūrs ANCĀNS, conductor
Rīga, Latvia
Abbess Čika's Silver Cross

CHAMBER CHOIR OF DOMŽALE

Fernando MEJIAS, conductor
Domžale, Slovenia

Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross

PRO MUSICA CHAMBER CHOIR

Zoltan SIPOS, conductor
Sf. Gheorge, Romania

MEN'S CHOIRS

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross

**VINKO VODOPIVEC ACADEMIC
CHOIR**

Primož MALAVAŠIČ, conductor
Ljubljana, Slovenia

WOMEN'S CHOIRS

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross was not
awarded.

Abbess Čika's Silver Cross

ZINKA GIRLS' CHOIR

Jasenska OSTOJIĆ, conductor
Zagreb, Croatia

Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross

**STO ROŽ'Č IZ STOŽ'Č WOMEN'S
CHOIR**

Marta MOVRIN, conductor
Ljubljana, Slovenia

8TH INTERNATIONAL CHOIR
COMPETITION ZADAR 2012.

Grand Prix of the City of Zadar

CAPPELLA ZINKA CHOIR

Jasenska OSTOJIĆ, conductor
Zagreb, Croatia

MIXED CHOIRS

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross

**NORTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY CHOIR**

Jo Ann MILLER, conductor
 Fargo, North Dakota, USA

Abbess Čika's Silver Cross

**WARSAW SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
CHOIR**

Tomasz HYNEK, conductor
Warsaw, Poland

Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross

**JOSIP ŠTOLCER SLAVENSKI CHOIR
ČAKOVEC**

Senka BAŠEK-ŠAMEC, conductor
Čakovec, Croatia

WOMEN'S CHOIRS

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross

CAPPELLA ZINKA CHOIR

Jasenska OSTOJIĆ, conductor
Zagreb, Croatia

Abbess Čika's Silver Cross

**WOMEN'S VOCAL GROUP OF JOSIP
ŠTOLCER SLAVENSKICHOIR**

ČAKOVEC

Senka BAŠEK-ŠAMEC, conductor
Čakovec, Croatia

Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross

STOŽENKE CHOIR

Marta MOVRIN, conductor
Ljubljana, Slovenia

9TH INTERNATIONAL CHOIR
COMPETITION ZADAR 2014.

Grad Prix of the City of Zadar was not
awarded.

MIXED CHOIRS

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross
CHAMBER CHOIR GRGAR
Andrej FILIPIČ, conductor
Nova Gorica, Slovenia
Abbess Čika's Silver Cross
MIXED CHAMBER CHOIR
POSTOJNA
Mirko FERLAN, conductor
Postojna, Slovenija
Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross
JOSIP ŠTOLCER SLAVENSKI CHOIR
ČAKOVEC
Senka BAŠEK – ŠAMEC, conductor
Čakovec, Croatia
MIXED CHOIR CONDURA
CROATICA
Ivo NIŽIĆ, conductor
Zadar, Croatia
The Choir was awarded the special
Charter of the Croatian Society of
Composers for the best performance
of a composition by a Croatian author.

10TH INTERNATIONAL CHOIR
COMPETITION ZADAR 2016.
Grand Prix of the City of Zadar
STOCKOLM MUSIC GYMNASIUM
MIXED CHOIR
Bengt OLLÉN, conductor
Stockholm, Sweden
MIXED CHOIRS
Abbess Čika's Golden Cross
STOCKOLM MUSIC GYMNASIUM
CHOIR
Bengt OLLÉN, conductor

Stockholm, Sweden
Abbess Čika's Silver Cross
PA SAULEI MIXED CHOIR
Janis OZOLS, conductor
Riga, Latvia
Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross
PARNU CHAMBER CHOIR
Elo KESKULA, conductor
Parnu, Estonia
MEN'S CHOIRS
Abbess Čika's Golden Cross
Nagrada nije dodijeljena
Abbess Čika's Silver Cross
STOCKHOLM MUSIC GYMNASIUM
CHOIR
Bengt OLLÉN, conductor
Stockholm, Sweden
Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross
WARSAW SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
CHOIR
Tomasz HYNEK, conductor
Warsaw, Poland
WOMEN'S CHOIRS
Abbess Čika's Golden Cross
STOCKHOLM MUSIC GYMNASIUM
CHOIR
Bengt OLLÉN, conductor
Stockholm, Sweden
Abbess Čika's Silver Cross
VOKALNI ANSAMBL SAKCINSKI
Nada PEČEK, conductor
Ivanec, Croatia
Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross
MARA VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Frida JOHANSSON, conductor
Goteborg, Sweden

11TH INTERNATIONAL CHOIR
COMPETITION ZADAR 2018.
Grand Prix of the City of Zadar
CARDINAL SINGERS
Kent HATTEBERG, conductor
Louisville, USA
MIXED CHOIRS
Abbess Čika's Golden Cross
CARDINAL SINGERS
Kent HATTEBERG, conductor
Louisville, USA
Abbess Čika's Silver Cross
KOMORNI ZBOR GLASIS
Ernest KOKOT, conductor
Markovici, Slovenia
Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross
CHRISTOPHORUS KANTOREI
Michael NONNENMANN, conductor
Altensteig, Germany

12TH INTERNATIONAL CHOIR
COMPETITION ZADAR 2021.
Prize of the City of Zadar
CAMERATA VOCALE MIXED CHOIR
Sara DODIG BAUČIĆ, conductor
Split, Croatia

13TH INTERNATIONAL CHOIR
COMPETITION ZADAR 2018.
Grand Prix of the City of Zadar

MORAVIACHOR

Josef Surovák, conductor

Czech Republic

MIXED CHOIRS

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross

MORAVIACHOR

Josef SUROVÍK, conductor

Czech Republic

Abbess Čika's Silver Cross

JOSIP KAPLAN YOUTH CHOIR

Doris Kovačić, conductor

Rijeka, Croatia

Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross

MIXED CHOIR POMLAD

Alenka Podpečan, conductor

Novo Mesto, Slovenia

MEN'S OF WOMEN'S CHOIRS

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross

MORAVIACHOR (Women's choir)

Josef SUROVÍK, conductor

Czech Republic

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