

REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
CITY OF ZADAR



11th international
CHOIR competition
ZADAR

May 24 – 27, 2018

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MAYOR'S ADDRESS

*Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear musicians and friends of music,*

The City of Zadar is the proud host of the International Choir Competition for the eleventh time. As in all previous competitions, this cultural manifestation is going to tone our town with a rich spectre of colourful human voices for four days.

Singing, being one of the most natural forms of artistic expression, has been an inevitable part of cultural heritage of Zadar and its citizens.

I am deeply convinced that the joy of singing is being increasingly meliorated through this biennial manifestation and that singing and music are more successfully promoted through all the activities around the Competition. I particularly hope that these efforts will reach the youth! The international character of the Competition exceptionally pleases me. Our singers have the opportunity to meet with singers from all around the world and exchange invaluable experiences, which create genuine, not just momentarily trendy virtual connections.

The City of Zadar and Zadar Concert Office, the organiser of the manifestation, are delighted to raise those numerous possibilities of connecting, whose common denominator is music – an art that is woven into the fabric of this town.

I wish a lot of success to all participants and competitors. I am sure that, based on the expert jury's rigorous judgment, the Grand Prix of the City of Zadar and the Golden, Silver, and Bronze Abess Čika's Crosses will go to those who most deserve them.

Mayor of the City of Zadar
Branko Dukić

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Igor Cecić, president
Antun Dolički
Radovan Dunatov
Ivana Kocelj
Tomislav Košta, artistic director
Edo Mičić
Jasenka Ostojić

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Ružica Ambruš-Kiš
Tomislav Košta
Jasenka Ostojić

INTERNATIONAL JURY

Jasenka Ostojić (Croatia), president
Christian Balandras (France)
Davor Bobić (Croatia)
Damijan Močnik (Slovenia)
Zapro Zaprov (Macedonia)

ORGANISATION AND REALISATION

Zadar Concert Office
Dina Bušić, director
Sunčica Špoljarević, producer
Marijo Smoljan, technical manager
Saša Miočić, sound designer
Ivana Panžić, production assistant

EXTERNAL ASSOCIATES

Ana Marušić, programme host
Sara Košta, secretary of the International Jury
Nilo Karuc, certificate design
Mate Komina, photographer

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF

City of Zadar

REALISATION SUPPORTED BY

Archdiocese of Zadar
Zadar Nautical School

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MAY 24

8:00 p.m. **OPENING CEREMONY**
St Anastasia's Cathedral
Choir of the Slovenian Philharmonic
Sebastjan Vrhovnik, conductor
*J. Handl-Gallus, U. Prauliniš, J. Sandström,
D. Močnik, K. Pahor, P. Merku, S. Kvoščinski,
Ē. Ešenvalds, U. Krek, A. Makor, A. Čopi,
F. Kimovec*

FRIDAY, MAY 25

6:00 – 8:40 p.m. **COMPETITION**
Bersa Brothers Concert Hall,
Rector's Palace

6:20 – 6:40 p.m. *Glasis Chamber Choir*
(Markovci, Slovenia)

6:20 – 6:40 p.m. *Dangė Women's Choir*
(Klaipėda, Lithuania)

6:40 – 7:00 p.m. *Academic Choir of VSB -*
Technical University of Ostrava
(Ostrava, Czech Republic)

7:00 – 7:20 p.m. *Louisville University Cardinal Singers*
(Louisville, United States)

7:20 – 7:40 p.m. ****break*

7:40 – 8:00 p.m. *Zoranić Croatian Choral Society*
(Zadar, Croatia)

8:00 – 8:20 p.m. *Christophorus Kantorei*
(Altensteig, Germany)

8:20 – 8:40 p.m. *Stockholm University Mixed Choir*
(Stockholm, Sweden)

7:20 – 8:40 p.m. **PROMENADE CONCERTS**
Sea Organ, Greeting to the Sun

7:20 – 7:40 p.m. *Dangė Women's Choir*
(Klaipėda, Lithuania)

7:40 – 8:00 p.m. *Academic Choir of VSB -*
Technical University of Ostrava
(Ostrava, Czech Republic)

8:00 – 8:20 p.m. *Louisville University Cardinal Singers*
(Louisville, United States)

8:20 – 8:40 p.m. *Zoranić Croatian Choral Society*
(Zadar, Croatia)

SATURDAY, MAY 26

11:30 a.m. –
2:10 p.m. **COMPETITION**
Bersa Brothers Concert Hall,
Rector's Palace

11:30 – 11:50 a.m. *Schola Cantorum Mixed Vocal Ensemble*
(Split, Croatia)

11:50 a.m. –
12:10 p.m. *Palma Academic Choir of the Basilica of*
the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Zagreb
(Zagreb, Croatia)

12:10 – 12:30 p.m. *Mater Libertatis Vocal Ensemble*
(Zagreb, Croatia)

12:30 – 12:50 p.m. *Josip Štolcer Slavenski Choir*
(Čakovec, Croatia)

-
- 12:50 – 1:10 p.m. ***break
- 1:10 – 1:30 p.m. *Samoborke* Vocal Ensemble
(Samobor, Croatia)
- 1:30 – 1:50 p.m. Mixed Choir of the Arts Academy in Split
(Split, Croatia)
- 1:50 – 2:10 p.m. *Schola Cantorum* Women’s Vocal Ensemble
(Split, Croatia)

11:10 a.m. –
2:35 p.m. **PROMENADE CONCERTS**
People’s Square, Roman Forum

- 11:10 – 11:30 a.m. Stockholm University Mixed Choir
(Stockholm, Sweden)
- 11:30 – 11:50 a.m. Louisville University Cardinal Singers
(Louisville, United States)
- 11:50 a.m. –
12:10 p.m. *Christophorus Kantorei*
(Altensteig, Germany)
- 12:10 – 12:30 p.m. *Glasis* Chamber Choir
(Markovci, Slovenia)
- 12:30 – 12:50 p.m. *Palma* Academic Choir of the Basilica
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Zagreb
(Zagreb, Croatia)
- 12:50 – 1:10 p.m. *Mater Libertatis* Vocal Ensemble
(Zagreb, Croatia)
- 1:10 – 1:30 p.m. *Josip Štolcer Slavenski* Choir
(Čakovec, Croatia)
- 1:30 – 1:45 p.m. Academic Choir of VSB -
Technical University of Ostrava
(Ostrava, Czech Republic)

- 1:45 – 2:05 p.m. *Samoborke* Vocal Ensemble
(Samobor, Croatia)
- 2:05 – 2:20 p.m. Mixed Choir of the Arts Academy in Split
(Split, Croatia)
- 2:20 – 2:35 p.m. *Schola Cantorum* Mixed Vocal Ensemble
(Split, Croatia)

- 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. **CLOSING CEREMONY**
Croatian National Theatre Zadar
Awards Ceremony
Competition for the Grand Prix of the
City of Zadar

SUNDAY, MAY 27

- 11.00 a.m. **EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION**
St Anastasia’s Cathedral
Louisville University Cardinal Singers
(Louisville, U.S.A.) will sing during the
Mass.

OPENING CEREMONY

Thursday, 24 May 2018
St Anastasia's Cathedral
8.00 p.m.

CROATIAN CHORAL SOCIETY

ZORANIĆ

Lijepa naša domovino, the Croatian
national anthem

Tomislav Košta, conductor

Address of Welcome

**Choir of the Slovenian Philharmonic
(Ljubljana, Slovenia)**
Sebastjan Vrhovnik, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Jacobus Handl-Gallus (1550 – 1591)

Pater Noster, OM 1/69

Mt 6:9b-13a

Uğis Prauliņš (1957)

Missa Rigensis – Kyrie

Jan Sandström (1954)

Gloria

Soloists:

Monika Fele, soprano

Gašper Banovec, tenor

Robert Kožar, tenor

Damijan Močnik (1967)

Regina Cæli

Karol Pahor (1896 – 1974)

Oče naš hlapca Jerneja

Text: Ivan Cankar

Pavle Merku (1927 – 2014)

Pater Noster

Mt 6:9b-13a

Sergey Khvoshchinsky (1957)

Bogoroditse Devo, raduysia

Soloists:

Anamarija Lazarevič, soprano

Monika Fele, soprano

Ēriks Ešenvalds (1977)

Magnificat

Lk 1, 46b–55

Soloist:

Monika Fele, soprano

Uroš Krek (1922 – 2008)

Salmo XLII

Andrej Makor (1987)

O lux beata Trinitas

St. Ambrose

Ambrož Čopi (1973)

Psalm 108

Choir of the Slovenian Philharmonic is a professional choir established in 1991 as the Slovenian Chamber Choir. Until autumn 2009 the Choir was led by its founder Dr Mirko Cuderman. In the 2012/2013 the artistic leadership of the Choir was taken over by Martina Batič. The artistic mission of the Choir includes performances of *a cappella* music from all style periods; however, it also involves performances of vocal-instrumental music with the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra and other domestic and foreign orchestras, as well as recording choral music. The ensemble's discographical oeuvre is very rich – more than 80 recordings are included in the *Musica Sacra Slovenica* and Slovenian Choral Music collections. At the end of 2014, under the direction of Martina Batič, the Choir recorded sacral compositions by Ambrož Čopi entitled *Sanjam*, for which record the composer was awarded the *France Prešern* Award. Their most recent record is *Oratorium Nativitatis / Christmas Oratorio* (2016), composed by Damijan Močnik. In May 2016, at the International Conference in Paris, the Choir of the Slovenian Philharmonic became member of the European Choir Association TENSO, which is a great step in its advancement.

Sebastjan Vrhovnik directed his professional career towards choral conducting, which he graduated in from Graz University in 2008. Since 2014 he has been employed as assistant professor of choral conducting at the Music Academy in Ljubljana. He has been adjudicator at numerous choral competitions in Slovenia and abroad, and has given many seminars and lectures in choral conducting around the world. Working with the most renowned Slovenian choirs he has won many first prizes and special prizes and awards at competitions in Slovenia and abroad, and has recorded several records.

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 competition is based on one-stage performance.

The choirs compete in two categories:

Category A: mixed choirs (at least 16 singers)

Category B: men's or women's choirs (at least 12 singers)

Obligatory parts of choirs' programmes are:

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

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

Duration of choir programmes is limited within the range of 15 minutes (minimum) to 20 minutes (maximum).

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

SCORING PROCEDURE

Performances will be adjudicated by an International jury comprising from five to eight 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.

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.

Based on the final choir ranking scale, the first place will be awarded the Golden Abbess Čika's Cross, the second place will be awarded the Silver Abbess Čika's Cross, and the third place will be awarded the Bronze Abbess Čika's Cross. If only one or two choirs meet the requirements for the first prize, the Jury will decide which of the Abbess Čika's Crosses will be awarded. 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.

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 HRK 20,000, with a 10-minute programme of their own choice.

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:

Christian Balandras (France)

Davor Bobić (Croatia)

Damijan Močnik (Slovenia)

Zapro Zaprov (Macedonia)

Croatian conductor **Jasenka Ostojić** graduated in conducting from the Music Academy in Zagreb in the class of Prof. Pavle Dešpalj, with whom she also completed her specialisation as *Lovro & Lilly Matačić Fund* scholarship recipient. She is full professor at the Zagreb Music Academy, where she directs the Choir and the Chamber Choir of the Music Academy, with whom she has realised exceptional operatic and vocal-instrumental projects acclaimed by domestic and international critics. She has collaborated with some of the most renowned contemporary artists (M. Horvat, V. Gergiev, R. Muti, etc.). As a choir and orchestra conductor she has won tens of national and international awards, among which two European *Grands Prix*. She has widely appeared in concerts in Croatia and abroad (Great Britain, France, Belgium, Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, and the United States of America). She has conducted first performances of works by numerous composers (A. Marković, N. Njirić, P. Gotovac, J. Magdić, T. Uhlík, I. Josipović, D. Bobić, D. Bukvić, S. Drakulić, M. Tarbuk, A. Knešaurek, I. J. Skender, V. Čop, B. Vlahek, and others), for which performances she was awarded special awards on several occasions. She specialised in vocal training of young singers with the Vienna Boys' Choir (Austria). She is the conductor of Zagreb Boys' Choir, whose soloists have regularly participated in productions of national opera and concert houses. In 2006, she founded *Collegium pro arte* Croatian society, within which the renowned Cappella *Zinka* and Cappella *Odak* choirs work. She has been member of expert juries at orchestra, choir and conducting competitions in Croatia and abroad. She has given lectures and has held seminars and professional training courses; she has been a visiting lecturer at universities in the United States, Poland, Austria and Slovenia. She is the artistic director of the *World Choir Festival on Musicals* in Thessaloniki (Greece).

Conductor **Christian Balandras** studied singing, choral conducting and musicology in Lyon and Paris with leading French pedagogues: Philippe Caillard, César Geoffroy and Jacques Chailley. From 1971 to 2006 he taught music and conducting in Tours. He founded and conducted the Tours University Orchestra. From 1971 to 1983 he was the conductor of the *Grand Theatre* Choir in the same town. From 1994 to 2010 he was director of the *Florilège Vocal de Tours* Festival, which includes a competition. He has

been adjudicator at many choir competitions in Greece, Bulgaria, Spain, Belgium, Hungary, Slovenia, Russia, and elsewhere. He is president and artistic director of *Chœurs Lauréats* Festival in Vaison-la-Romaine, which invites the best world choirs every year. J. M. Fuzeau has published his compilation and selection of choral works. Christian Balandras has received the *Palmes Académiques* Award for his contribution to music pedagogy.

Croatian composer **Davor Bobić** graduated in composition, music theory and classical accordion from the *Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky* State Conservatory in Kiev, Ukraine. After returning to Croatia, at Varaždin Music School he started and realised the opening of a unique composition class for primary and secondary music education. In 1996, he won the Ivo Vuljević award. Two years later, in 1998, he won the Stjepan Šulek Award and the Varaždin County Award. In 1997 he was decorated with the *Hrvatski Pleter* Order, and in 1999 with the Order of *Danica hrvatska* with the image of Marko Marulić. In 1999 he was appointed the director of Varaždin Concert Office. In 2003 he became an assistant professor, and in 2008 associate professor of the Osijek Arts Academy. Since 2014 he has been full professor of the Arts Academy of the *J.J. Strossmayer* University in Osijek. He was the head of the Music Art Department of the Academy from 2005 to 2009, and he has also been the head of Music Pedagogy Department. In 2008 he received another award – the *Boris Papandopulo* Award by the Croatian Composers' Society. In May 2009 he was appointed the Vice-Dean for Art and Science at the Osijek Arts Academy. Since 2012 he has been teaching at graduate and postgraduate study programmes of the Cultural Studies Department of the Osijek University and has been member of the Publishing Committee of the Varaždin branch of the Croatian Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has written more than 140 works, ranging from piano miniatures to great vocal-symphonic compositions. In October 2006 he became director of Varaždin Baroque Evenings national festival. In 2010 he was awarded *Marul Award* at *Marulić Days Festival*. In 2014 he won the *Seal of the City of Osijek* award. In 2016 he received the *Emil Cossetto Plaque* and the City of Varaždin Award. Last year he received the Charter of the Kingdom of Spain.

Slovenian conductor **Damijan Močnik** graduated from the Music Academy in Ljubljana, in the class of Dane Škerl, and has specialised abroad, particularly in the field of conducting (among others, he also worked with Eric Ericson). Since 1993 he has worked as professor, conductor and artistic director of musical activities of the St Stanislaus Institute in Ljubljana. He has been regularly conducting since 1986 and has been receiving awards for his work, mostly with the Women's Choir *Andrej Vavken*, Academic Choir *Franc Prešern* and Chamber Choir *Megaron*. The last choir won the first prize at *Naša pesen* Competition in Maribor in 2014. With the Youth Choir of the St Stanislaus Institute Močnik won two awards in two categories and *the Grand Prix* at the Canadian *Kathaumixw* Festival. The same success was repeated with *Megaron* Chamber Choir at *Vratislavia Sacra* Festival in Wrocław, Poland. He was founder and artistic director of the Slovenian Children's Choir. He has been member of artistic councils and adjudicator at numerous choral events in Slovenia and abroad, and he regularly gives lectures at professional symposia. For his activities and professional work he received the following awards: *Prešeren Award*, *Gallus Award* and the Award of the Republic of Slovenia. His compositions are mostly dedicated to choral music. Močnik has been winner of numerous Slovenian and international conducting competitions. In 2006, he was composer-in-residence of the Bavarian Marktoberdorf Music Academy. As a composer, he has

been on tours world-wide. Damijan Močnik's works are among the most widely performed works by contemporary Slovenian composers. His music was recorded on a number of CDs: Carus published his *Verbum supernum prodiens* in 2003; Astrum published his *Adventus Domini nostri Jesu Christi* in 2009; Slovenian Philharmonic published the album *Oratorium nativitatis* in 2016; and in 2017 Carus published *et LUX perpetua*, a selection of his works performed by St Jacob's Chamber Choir from Stockholm, directed by their conductor Gary Graden.

Macedonian conductor **Zapro Zapro** is a professor at the *St Kliment Ohridski* Faculty of Pedagogy in Skopje. Since his student days he has conducted all kinds of choirs and orchestras. For three decades he has been continuously working with the children's and girls' choir *Razvigorce*. Up to now he has won 111 awards, of which 53 have been international. From those awards one should single out the first prizes in Celje (Slovenia) in 1977, 1979 and 1983; Debrecen (Hungary) in 1984; Arnhem (the Netherlands) in 1987; Ankara (Turkey) in 1996 and 1998; Nerpelt (Belgium) in 1996 and 1998; Skopje (Macedonia) in 2002; Rhodes (Greece) in 2004, and so on. In 1998 he won the special award in Niš (Serbia) for the best interpretation of a contemporary composition. He won the *Georgi Bozikov* Award for the most successful concert of the Macedonian Music Days in 1989 and the 11th October Award for special merit in Macedonian culture and art.

He has conducted at more than 2,500 concerts around the world. In 1995 he founded a choral studio *Rustico* in Skopje. He is conductor and president of the Studio which includes the children's and girls' choir *Razvigorce*, the women's choir *Rustico* and the children's choir *Izvorce*. Zapro composes and arranges choral pieces for children and adults, and his pieces make part of repertoires throughout the world. He also holds numerous seminars. Besides music, he is also a painter; he has held 20 standalone exhibitions and has painted more than 700 paintings in various techniques.

PARTICIPANTS

Glasis Chamber Choir (Markovci, Slovenia)

Dangė Women's Choir (Klaipėda, Lithuania)

Academic Choir of VSB - Technical University of Ostrava

(Ostrava, Czech Republic)

Louisville University *Cardinal Singers* (Louisville, United States)

Zoranić Croatian Choral Society (Zadar, Croatia)

Christophorus Kantorei (Altensteig, Germany)

Stockholm University Mixed Choir (Stockholm, Sweden)

Schola Cantorum Mixed Vocal Ensemble (Split, Croatia)

Palma Academic Choir of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Zagreb

(Zagreb, Croatia)

Mater Libertatis Vocal Ensemble (Zagreb, Croatia)

Josip Štolcer Slavenski Choir (Čakovec, Croatia)

Samoborke Vocal Ensemble (Samobor, Croatia)

Mixed Choir of the Arts Academy in Split (Split, Croatia)

Schola Cantorum Women's Vocal Ensemble (Split, Croatia)



Glasis Chamber Choir

(Markovci, Slovenia)

Ernest Kokot, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Jacobus Gallus (1550 – 1591)

Pater noster, qui es in coelis

Urmak Sisask (1960)

Benedictio

Traditional, arranged by Slavko Šuklar (1952)

Zrešlo je žito

Josef Rheinberger (1839 – 1901)

Abendlied

Traditional, arranged by Ambrož Čopi (1973)

Dajte novici na kolač

Glasis Chamber Choir has been active within the *Markovski Zvon* Cultural-Artistic Society from Markovci, Slovenia, since 2013. It comprises 24 singers, who enthusiastically perform pieces from all style periods, both in competitions and concerts. Striving to refine each of their performances to a desired level, the choir also aims to create a pleasant and positive atmosphere and to establish links and friendships between all the members. In its first season the Choir successfully performed gospel music and later focused on choral competitions, where it has achieved noted results: the First Prize and Golden Medal on competitions in Czech Republic and Slovakia (2015 and 2016) and Silver Medal on a competition in Germany (2017).

Ernest Kokot graduated in choral conducting in the class of Jože Fürst. Already during his studies he actively conducted a number of choral ensembles. From 2005 to 2012 he was the conductor of *Ptuj* Men's Chamber Choir, with which he has achieved exceptional results on competitions in Slovenia and Europe. He regularly participates in seminars held by the leading European choral conductors. Since October 2013, he has been the leader of the *Glasis* Chamber Choir, being also one of its founders.



Dangė Women's Choir
(Klaipėda, Lithuania)
Judita Kiaulakytė, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Vaclovas Augustinas (1959)

Anoj pusėj Dunojėlio

Nijolė Sinkevičiūtė (1956)

Skrido bitė

Vytautas Miškinis (1954)

Exultate Deo

Giovanni Croce (1557 – 1609)

Cantate Domino

Jonas Tamulionis (1949)

Jūra

Dangė Women's Choir was founded within the Žvejų rūmai cultural centre in the Lithuanian town of Klaipėda in 2013. Apart from rehearsals, where they work with their conductor and artistic director Judita Kiaulakytė, the Choir members enjoy their time spent together in the town, but also on the road and on tour. *Dangė* is a choir that participates in a whole range of cultural events in its community, but also throughout Lithuania and Europe. The Choir has a broad repertoire, ranging from Renaissance to contemporary classical music, and includes Lithuanian folk music. In 2015, the Choir won the first prize at the International Passion Music Competition in Szczecin (Poland) and the second prize in the category of sacral music at the *Praga Cantat* Festival in Czech Republic. In 2016, the Choir won the silver award in the category of sacral music at the *Mundus Cantat* Festival in Sopot, Poland, the golden award in the category of sacral music and in the category of worldly music at *Canta al mar* Festival in Barcelona, Spain. Last year, the Choir received the *Golden Bird* award for the best Lithuanian choir and conductor.

Judita Kiaulakytė was educated at the Academy for Music and Theatre, in the Department of Choral Conducting, where she graduated in 1978. She has taught at *Stasys Šimkus* Conservatory in Klaipėda, and since 1986 she has been teaching in the Choral Conducting Department of the Faculty of Arts, University of Klaipėda. She was the artistic director of the National Singing and Dancing Ensemble *Žilvinas* from 1998 to 2013. *Žilvinas* Women's Vocal Group is one of the most successful and most decorated groups in Lithuania. Among others, it received the *Golden Bird* Award for the Best National Ensemble and Conductor. Under her direction, in 2004 *Žilvinas* published the record *Klaipėda Metamorphoses*, and in 2007 the record *We Are from Klaipėda region*. Judita Kiaulakytė was artistic director of Klaipėda University Women's Choir from 2007 to 2012 and has participated with that ensemble at numerous national and international competitions. Since 2013 she has been artistic director and conductor of *Dangė Women's Choir*.



Academic Choir of VSB - Technical University of Ostrava

(Ostrava, Czech Republic)

Adam Sedlický, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Orlando di Lasso (c. 1532 – 1594)

Matona, mia cara

Thomas Morley (1557 – 1602)

April is in my Mistress' face

Antonín Dvořák (1841 – 1904)

V přírodě: Napadly písňě

Traditional, arranged by Fabian Obispo (1947)

Soleram

Knut Nystedt (1915 – 2014)

Gloria from Missa Brevis

Ivan Hrušovský (1927 – 2001)

Ked' ja pójdem

Vic Nees (1936 – 2013)

Haec est praeclarum vas

Bruno Regnier (1965)

Gnome from Bestiaire Fantastique

Academic Choir of the Faculty of Mining and Geology of the Technical University in Ostrava is a mixed choir that gathers students of the Ostrava University. It was founded in 2001, and since 2007 it has been active under its present name. Adam Sedlický has been directing the Choir since 2015. The Choir won numerous awards: the First Prize at the *Praga Cantat* competition (Czech Republic, 2011) and at the *Jihlava Choral Art Festival* (Czech Republic; 2011, 2013, and 2016), the First Prize at the *Ohrid Choral Festival* (Macedonia, 2012), the Second Prize and the Special Award for the performance of a folk song at the Choral Festival of Preveza (Greece, 2014), the First Prize at the Banská Bystrica Academic Festival (Slovakia, 2015 and 2017), the First Prize and the Special Award for a given composition at the *Laudate Dominum* Competition (Lithuania, 2015) and the Third Prize at the International May Choir Competition 'Prof. Georgi Dimitrov' in Varna (Bulgaria, 2017). At the 2017 Banská Bystrica Academic Festival the Choir was proclaimed the absolute winner.

Up to now, the Choir has produced four records. Besides Czech Republic, it has performed in Spain, Belgium, Hungary, Argentina, Macedonia, Romania, Poland, Greece, Slovakia and other European countries. Academic Choir of the Faculty of Mining and Geology of the Technical University in Ostrava often participates at music festivals and performs oratorios by J.S. Bach, A. Dvořák,

P. Eben, L. Janaček, and others. In 2012, the Choir performed *Light Mass*, a jazz Mass by the contemporary Lithuanian composer Vytautas Miškins.

Adam Sedlický graduated in piano (in the class of Prof. Darina Švárna) and conducting (in the class of Prof. Štefan Sedlický) from Žilina Conservatory (Slovakia). In 2016 he obtained his Master's degree in orchestral conducting from the Performing Arts Academy in Bratislava (in the class of Prof. Jaroslav Kyzlink). For one semester he studied at Krakow Music Academy (Poland). He has attended master classes with the Polish conductor Gabriel Chmura and the British conductor Colin Metters. He is currently a doctoral student in conducting at Banská Bystrica Arts Academy (Slovakia). From 2012 to 2015 he was the conductor-in-chief of the ensemble *Moravskoslezská Sinfonietta* (Czech Republic) and conductor of the *Májovák* Symphony Orchestra (Czech Republic), and since 2014 he has participated in numerous projects of the Ostrava University. During the 2015/2016 concert season he worked in the operetta music ensemble of the Ostrava National Theatre, and since 2017 he has been employed as the Opera conductor of the same house. Since 2015 he has been the chief conductor of the Bratislava Chamber Opera ensemble. He is equally dedicated to both orchestral music and choral conducting. Since 2015 he has been the conductor of the Academic Choir of the Technical University in Ostrava, with whom he has won numerous awards.



Louisville University Cardinal Singers

(Louisville, Kentucky, United States)

Kent Hatteberg, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)

Richte mich, Gott

Claudio Monteverdi (1567 – 1643)

Sanctus from *In illo tempore* Mass

Ko Matsushita (1962)

O lux beata Trinitas

Johannes Brahms (1833 – 1897)

Fünf Gesänge: Nachtwache I

Jakov Gotovac (1895 – 1982)

Smiješno čudo (Funny Miracle)

Traditional, arranged by Moses Hogan (1957 – 2003)

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord

The *Cardinal Singers* Choir was founded in 1970 within the Louisville University (U.S.A.). It fulfils its mission on national and international levels by performing at festivals, competitions, symposia and workshops. Among their performances, one should single out those at the International Choral Festival and Convention in Xi'an (China) in 2017, at the 13th Chinese International Choral Festival in Beijing in 2016, at the International Choral Festival in Taipei (Taiwan) in 2010 and 2015, in Singapore in 2015, in Hôì An (Vietnam) in 2013, at the *Harmonie* Festival in Germany in 2005, 2011 and 2017, and many others. The Choir has won a number of international awards (first prize for choral music at the World Choral Championship in South Korea in 2009; at the Choral Competition in Tolosa, Spain, in 2006; at the International Choir Competition in Bremen, Germany, in 2004; at the *Johannes Brahms* Competition in Wernigerode, Germany, in 2003). Among other performances, the Choir was a guest of the international conference *The Voices of the Baltic* in Tallinn, Estonia, in 2007, and the so-called seminar choir at the International Seminar of Choral Conductors in Marktoberdorf (Germany) in 2005.

Kent Hatteberg is Director of Choral Activities at the University of Louisville (Kentucky, U.S.). He graduated in piano and voice from the University of Dubuque (Iowa, U.S.) and later obtained his master's and doctoral degrees in choral conducting from the University of Iowa, in the class of Don V. Moses. He was a Fulbright scholar in 1990, when he studied the works of Felix Mendelssohn and studied conducting and choral-orchestral literature in Berlin (Germany) with Uwe Gronostay. He conducted the world premiere of Mendelssohn's *Gloria* in 1997. He taught at the *Sam Houston* State University in Texas and in the *Solon Junior Senior High* School in Iowa. He has been a guest conductor, adjudicator and lecturer worldwide, especially in China, the Philippines, Hungary, Austria, Korea, Spain, and throughout the United States. He founded the semi-professional Louisville Chamber Choir. Internationally, he first appeared in Amsterdam as a guest conductor with the *Nederlands Kamerkoor* in 1992. He serves as Chorus Master of the Louisville Orchestra and conducts the annual performances of Händel's *Messiah* with the Chamber Choir and Louisville Orchestra. He is co-director of the Kentucky Ambassadors of Music, a programme that affords students from across the state of Kentucky the opportunity to perform and tour in Europe. He has received numerous awards for his conducting and research work.



Zoranić Croatian Choral Society

(Zadar, Croatia)

Tomislav Košta, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Hans Leo Hassler (1562 – 1612)

In te, Domine, speravi

Antun Dolički (1935)

Višeslavova krstionica (*Baptismal Font of Prince Višeslav*)

Anton Bruckner (1824 – 1896)

Locus iste

Igor Kuljerić (1938 – 2006)

Galiotova pesan (*Song of a Galley-Slave*)

Zoranić Croatian Choral Society is a mixed choir entirely based on enthusiast work. It was founded as an independent society in 1908, when the choral section detached from the *Hrvatski Sokol* Society. In its rich history, *Zoranić* was active through various vocal and instrumental ensembles, but with time it has focused exclusively on vocal expression. The society occupies an invaluable position in musical and cultural life of Zadar and its wider region; due to its rich and successful activities, the society has become a part of Croatian cultural history. For its achievements, the Society was awarded by the City of Zadar, the Zadar County, and the Croatian Cultural Association. Throughout its active past, *Zoranić* recorded numerous successful performances, as well as awards from various competitions in the country and abroad. In 1995, at a competition in the German city of Zwickau, the Choir led by Mo. Antun Dolički won the silver plaque and the special award for the best performance of a 20th-century composition – *Zora puca*, by Igor Kuljerić. The Choir has also been awarded at other competitions. *Zoranić* has regularly participated at Croatian choir competitions (in Zadar, Rijeka, Zagreb, Novi Vinodolski, and Novigrad Istarski), at foreign competitions (Vienna, Budapest, Veszprem, Bratislava), as well as on *Cro Patria* Spiritual Music Days in Split. The Choir has had a lot of success at international competitions (in Herceg Novi, Montenegro, it has won the bronze plaque and at the first International Choir Competition *Istria Cantat* in Pula, the golden plaque). In collaboration with Croatian communities and Catholic missions the choir often performs abroad (San Marino, Berlin, Dublin, Brussels, Paris, London, Tivat, Ljubljana, and Vienna). This year the Choir celebrates its 110th anniversary, which makes it one of the oldest amateur choirs in Croatia. In its age-long history many conductors led the Choir;

however, Antun Dolički led the choir the longest. After twenty-seven years, maestro Dolički was substituted by Jurica Šoša in 2006. Since 2016, the Choir has been directed by Dr Tomislav Košta.

Tomislav Košta was born in Zadar in 1981, where he completed his primary and secondary musical education in *Blagoje Bersa* Music School. He graduated in 2005 from *Albe Vidaković* Church Music Institute at the University of Zagreb and received his degree of Professor of Music. In the same year he enrolled in the postgraduate programme of music pedagogy at Ljubljana Music Academy, where he received his doctorate in 2012. Since 2005 he has taught several music courses at the Department of Teachers' and Preschool Teachers' Education of the University of Zadar. During and after his studies he has regularly been involved in pedagogical and artistic work. Since 2004 he has been artistic director of several men's and women's Dalmatian *klapa* choirs, with whom he received a number of prizes and awards at competitions and festivals. From 2008 to 2016 he conducted the Wind Ensemble of Zadar City Orchestra. He has been artistic director of the International Choir Competition in Zadar since 2014; since 2015 he has also directed the Academic Choir of the University of Zadar and since September 2016 he has been the conductor of Zoranić. He has been member of the Zadar County Cultural Committee in two terms.



Christophorus-Kantorei

(Altensteig, Germany)

Michael Nonnenmann, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Zdeněk Lukáš (1928 – 2007)

Dies Irae

Hans Leo Hassler (1564 – 1612)

Ach weh des Leiden

Arne Mellnäs (1933 – 2002)

Bossa Buffa

Adalbert Marković (1928 – 2010)

Gloria Deo

Ray Murray Schafer (1933)

Chant to Make the Magic Work

Traditional, arranged by Rolf Lukowsky (1926)

Als wir jüngst in Regensburg waren

Altensteig, a town situated in the northern part of Black Forest, is known not only as a picturesque medieval town, but also for its internationally renowned choir *Christophorus-Kantorei*, which has been active continuously for the last fifty-five years. That is the choir of the Christophorus Music High School and it consists of girls and boys from 15 to 19 years of age. Students are prepared for participation in the Choir since their earliest age, thanks to numerous activities of the children's choir. In the moment of joining the Choir, young singers have already had a significant singing experience; besides the joint choral rehearsals, their singing technique is worked on individually, too. *Christophorus-Kantorei* Choir annually gives from 30 to 40 concerts in Germany and on European and overseas tours. It fosters partnerships with several choirs in Germany and abroad. The Choir's repertoire comprises sacral and worldly *a cappella* pieces, particularly contemporary choral compositions. The Choir has produced a number of records and have recorded for radio and television.

Michael Nonnenmann graduated in conducting from Mannheim-Heidelberg University for Music and Performing Arts and in Evangelical Theology from the University of Heidelberg. He is one of directors of Christophorus Gymnasium. He has been conducting *Christophorus-Kantorei* Choir since 1993. He has also been member of numerous committees and juries in choral competitions, festivals and educational programmes. He has developed a successful model of choral education that has become the basis for the national educational system. In addition, he has also developed a teaching concept for choral leaders. Michael Nonnenmann received a *Deutscher Musikrat* scholarship and the Award for the contribution to the culture of Altensteig. *Christophorus-Kantorei* Choir has won many awards in the 25 years of his leadership.



Stockholm University Mixed Choir

(Stockholm, Sweden)

Malin Strömdahl-Sherman, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Knut Håkanson (1887 – 1929)

Brusala

Gabriel Wilczkowski (1980)

Hur kan jag säga

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525/26 – 1594)

Sicut Cervus

Jaakko Mäntyjärvi (1963)

Double, double, toil and trouble

Ivan pl. Zajc (1832 – 1914)

Ave Maria

Jake Runestad (1986)

Nyon, nyon

Stockholm University Choir mostly performs compositions by Swedish composers, but at the same time explores and works on music composed by other European and world music artists. Through singing and choral music the Choir members want to gain broad musical experience and achieve high results. The Choir was founded in 1994 under the name Stockholm University Choir, Voices of Frescati, through collaboration with the Stockholm Royal College of Music and with the support of the University of Stockholm. Since 2006 the Choir has become less dependent on the University and has changed its name into Stockholm University Choir. During its years, the Choir has won numerous awards and prizes. The Choir has appeared at every graduate promotion at the University and has performed for Nobel Prize laureates, for crown princess Victoria and Al Gore.

Malin Strömdahl-Sherman graduated in conducting and vocal pedagogy from the Royal College of Music in Stockholm and University of Augusta in the United States. At the so-called *senior recital*, she conducted the Swedish Radio Choir. Presently she works as a teacher of conducting and singing in Stockholm's Rudbeck High School; she also directs several choirs and practises singing. She has been artistic director and conductor of the Stockholm University Choir since autumn 2016.



Schola Cantorum Mixed Vocal Ensemble

(Split, Croatia)

Sara Dodig Baučić, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Josip Vrhovski (1902 – 1983)

Naricalka (Lamentation Song)

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525 /26 – 1594)

Alma Redemptoris Mater

Ken Steven (1993)

Angele Dei

Soloist: Iva Ivković Ivanišević

Mato Leščan (1936 – 1991)

Zdrava Devica

Luc Jacobs (1956)

Hosanna to Son of David

Schola Cantorum Split exists both as a mixed and women's vocal ensemble; it was created on the incentive of a group of students of the University of Split Arts Academy. It was founded in June 2006 under the artistic direction of Blaženko Juračić, M.A. *Schola* has collaborated with the *Splithesis Ensemble*, it has appeared at the Christian Culture Days (from 2010 to 2015), and at the *Papandopolijana* Festival (in 2014 and 2015). The Ensemble has premiered a number of works by Croatian composers. It has held guest performances in Slovenia, Germany and Austria, and in 2017 it appeared for the first time in the *Vatroslav Lisinski* Concert Hall. *Schola Cantorum* won two golden and two silver awards at the *Cro Patria* International Festival (2014), two golden awards at the *Aurora Cantat* International Choir Festival (2015), and three golden and one silver award at the *Musica Sacra* International Choir Competition in Bratislava, Slovakia (2015). Since October 2012 *Schola Cantorum Split* is artistically directed and conducted by Sara Dodig Baučić, M.A.

Sara Dodig Baučić received her degrees of Master of Music Theory in 2010 from the Arts Academy in Split, and Master of Choral Conducting in 2017 from Arts University in Utrecht (the Netherlands), in the class of Mo. Robert Vermuelen. She received the Rector's Award in 2009 and two Dean's Awards, in 2009 and 2010. Presently she is a doctoral student at the University of Split postgraduate studies and her mentor is Professor Mirjana Sirišćević. She attended master classes in conducting with many conductors in Croatia and abroad (Rob Vermeulen, Ivan Repušić, Sigvards Klava, Simon Carrington, Johannes Prinz, Maria Goundorina, Brady Allred, and others). She is member of the jury at the *Klapa Choir Festival* in Perast, Montenegro. She has also won a number of conductor awards at competitions (*Aurora cantat*, Karlovac 2015; *Musica sacra*, Bratislava 2015). She has attended many scientific and professional conferences in music theory and (ethno)musicology. She has published a number of professional and research papers. Since 2012 she has been leading the *Schola Cantorum* Choir Split. She works as an assistant in the Music Theory Department and Music Pedagogy Department of the Arts Academy in Split.



Palma Academic Choir of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Zagreb

(Zagreb, Croatia)

Franjo Klinar, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Tomás Luis de Victoria (c. 1548 – 1611)

O magnum mysterium

Francis Poulenc (1899 – 1963)

Salve Regina

Franjo Dugan (1874 – 1948)

Molitva (Prayer)

Olivier Messiaen (1908 – 1992)

O sacrum convivium

Palma Academic Choir of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Zagreb was founded at the end of World War II with an aim to musically enrich the liturgy in the Basilica, which is its primary function today. The Choir cherishes a rich repertoire of spiritual music, ranging from the Gregorian chant to the works of contemporary composers, and it especially fosters the Croatian vocal heritage. *Palma* is a mixed choir and at the moment comprises forty-some members. Apart from its regular activities tied to the liturgy, *Palma* gives evening concerts in churches and concert venues in the country and abroad, and has won awards in national and international competitions: the first prize and golden plaque at the choir competitions in Zagreb, Split, Ohrid, Prague, Lviv, Rome and Saint Quentin. *Palma* won the first prize and golden plaque in category A of the National Choir Competition in May 2014. In November of the same year, it successfully participated at the International Choir Competition *Varsovia Cantat* in Warsaw, Poland. In 2016, the Choir participated at the choir and vocal ensemble competition – the Zagreb Music Festival – and won the Silver Prize. In its most recent history, *Palma* gave guest concerts in Sarajevo, Opatija and Metković, and it also gave a number of all-evening concerts in its home Basilica. From its performances one should single out the 2017 Croatian premiere of César Franck's *Messe à trois voix*, Op. 12, accompanied by organ, cello and harp.

Franjo Klinar was born in Zagreb in 1991. He graduated in Music Theory from the Zagreb Music Academy in 2014, in the class of Prof. Ante Knešaurek, and in Composing in 2017, in the class of Prof. Berislav Šipuš. During his studies he has been member of several Zagreb-based choirs: *Palma*, *Cappella Odak*, and *Ivan Filipović* Chamber Choir. From 2011 to 2013 he was an assistant to conductors Ivan Josip Skender and Goran Jerković in *Palma* Academic Choir of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus; from 2011 to 2014 he was an assistant to conductor Jasenka Ostojić in *Cappella Odak* Choir. Since September 2015 he has been the choir leader of *Palma* Academic Choir of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. With the Choir he appeared in Osijek, Đakovo, Sarajevo, Opatija and Metković, in addition to a number of all-evening concerts in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, many concert Masses and participation in the choir and vocal ensembles competition at the 2016 Zagreb Music Festival.



Mater Libertatis Vocal Ensemble

(Zagreb, Croatia)

Anita Kaić Poslek, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Hildegard von Bingen (1098 – 1179)

O virtus sapientiae

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525 – 1594)

Sicut Cervus

Maurice Duruflé (1902 – 1986)

Ubi caritas

Anđelko Klobučar (1931 – 2016)

Divici Mariji

Javier Busto (1949)

Ave Maria

Josip Vrhovski (1902 – 1983)

Lepa Kata

Mater Libertatis Vocal Ensemble was founded in 2004 to foster and revive the most ancient singing of the Roman Church – the Gregorian. Apart from the Gregorian chants, the Ensemble performs songs in *štokavian* and *kajkavian* dialects of Croatian from old Croatian manuscript collections, such as the *Citharae octochordae* and the *Pauline Brothers' Songbook*. With these performances the Ensemble strives to popularise and preserve Croatian sacral music heritage. In addition, the Ensemble's repertoire encompasses works of composers from Renaissance to the contemporary musical expression. The repertoire's diversity brings about an interesting and fresh intertwining of medieval and contemporary musical elements, thus providing the Ensemble's performances with etherealness, sweetness, passion and temperament. The Ensemble has been named after the Sanctuary of the Saint Mother of Liberty, located at *Lake Jarun* in Zagreb. The name of the sanctuary was taken from an invocation in the 16th-century *Trsat Litanies*. The Ensemble occasionally contributes to the celebration of the Liturgy in the Sanctuary. It has performed around homeland (Senj, Osijek, Đakovo, Mičevac, Marija Bistrica, Zadar, Brezovica, Rijeka, Rovinj, Delnice and Zagreb). The Ensemble has also performed abroad: in Ljubljana, under the auspices of the Croatian Catholic Mission and the Croatian Embassy in Ljubljana; in Rome, together with *Baščina* Choir from Zagreb; at the International Choir Competition *Azzamo Decimo* in 2009; and in the international project *Ein Deutsches Requiem* in Burglengfeld, Germany.

Anita Kaić Poslek, organist, music pedagogue and choral conductor, graduated in church music from the Regensburg University for Catholic Church Music and Music Pedagogy (Germany). She graduated in the class of Kunibert Schäfer and Graham Buckland (conducting), Gerhard Siegl (organ and improvisation), and Rudolf Fischer (Gregorian chant). She also graduated in organ from the

Zagreb Music Academy in the class of Prof. Ljerka Očić. She has attended master classes in organ improvisation and interpretation with Mario Penzar, Anđelko Klobučar, Jürgen Essl, Pieter van Dijk and Barbara Dennerlein. She appears in concerts as organist, rehearsal and choral conductor in Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Austria and Sweden. She is the organist of the Mother of Liberty Sanctuary in Zagreb. She is also director and founder of the *Mater Libertatis* Vocal Ensemble from Zagreb, specialised in Gregorian chants. Since the autumn of 2005, she has been artistic associate of the *Baščina* Choir of the Friends of Glagolitic Society, first as conductor and later as organist. She teaches organ and piano at the Karlovac Music School.



Josip Štolcer Slavenski Choir

(Čakovec, Croatia)

Senka Bašek-Šamec, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Pierre Passereau (1509 – 1547)

Il est bel et bon

Antonín Dvořák (1841 – 1893)

Goin' Home

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893)

Svyati Bozhe

Vladimir Berdović (1906 – 1980)

Lindó

Lajos Bárdos (1899 – 1986)

Libera me

Branko Starc (1954)

Iphafonia

Josip Štolcer Slavenski Choir was founded in Čakovec in 1975 and in 1982 it was named after one of the most eminent of Croatian composers, a native of Čakovec. More than 500 amateur singers have been members of the choir so far. The choir has received six Golden Plaques and four Silver Plaques of the Croatian Cultural Association at competitions in Rijeka, Novi Vinodolski and Novigrad Istarski. The Choir won the First Prize at the 44th Croatian Choirs Meeting in Novigrad, in 2011, and at the 49th Croatian Choirs Meeting in Rovinj, in 2016. In 2006, 2008 and 2009 it was awarded the Best Choir Award at the Croatian Choirs Meeting. The Choir has also won four Golden Plaques and eight Silver Plaques at the Choir Competition in Zagreb. At international competitions the choir has won nine golden diplomas, ten silver, and three bronze diplomas, as well as three Silver Olympic medals at the Choir Olympics in Bremen and Graz. In addition, next to those, the choir has also won five special awards for the best performance of a particular composition. Until now, the choir has won 21 golden, 23 silver, four bronze, and seven special professional awards. Since 2005, the choir has been successfully led by Senka Bašek-Šamec, the conductor and artistic director of the choir.

Conductor Senka Bašek-Šamec was born in Prelog in 1968. She completed her music elementary school in Čakovec, after which she enrolled in the Music High School in Varaždin. She continued her musical education at the *Gnjesinih* State Institute of Music and Pedagogy in Moscow (later Russian National Academy), where she graduated in accordion in 1993 and obtained her Master of Art degree. Since 1992 she has been working in the Fine Arts Elementary School in Čakovec, firstly as the accordion teacher and

presently as the Headmaster. Since 1994 she has been an associate lecturer of the Teacher Education College in the same town. She is the vice-president of the Association of Cultural-Artistic Societies of Međimurje County and the president of the Association's Committee for choirs and small vocal groups. In 1995, she joined the Choir as a rehearsaler and in 1999 she was appointed the leader of its women's vocal group. In 2005, she became the conductor and artistic director of the Choir. In 2008 she completed her training for choral leaders at the Vocal Academy of the Croatian Association of Choral Leaders, in the class of Prof. Branko Starc, and obtained the degree of Maestro.



Samoborke Vocal Ensemble

(Samobor, Croatia)

Dražen Kurilovčan, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Charles François Gounod (1818 – 1893)

De pacem Domine

Javier Busto (1949)

Salve Regina

Tomás Luis de Victoria (c. 1548 – 1611)

Duo seraphim clamabant

Radovan Gobec (1909 – 1995)

Ne ouri, ne sejaj

Emil Cossetto (1918 – 2006)

Two St George's Day folk-songs: *Lepi Juro / Došel je, došel*

Samoborke Vocal Ensemble was founded in 1982, on the incentive of Željko Bradić, as a separate section of the *Ferdo Livadić Tambura Society*. Željko Bradić was the artistic leader of the Ensemble in its first 20-some years of existence. This is one of the few women's ensembles who perform classical, folk, and popular music. Under the professional leadership of Bojan Pogrmilović, the Ensemble recorded its first standalone world music CD – *The African Mass* – in 2005. Their second CD – *L'jepo pjeva za lugom djevojka* – was recorded in 2009 and it contained Croatian folk music. Next to numerous competitions and guest performances in Austria, Switzerland, Italy, France, Belgium, Hungary, Germany and Canada, the Ensemble's greatest success was winning the Golden Plaque in the category of folk singing at the 2009 International Competition in Prague, where it was awarded the highest number of points and was the total winner in the category. After Bojan Pogrmilović left in 2011, the Ensemble was temporarily led by Miroslav Hriberski, until at the end of the year the leadership was taken by Dražen Kurilovčan. In May 2016, the Ensemble participated for the first time at the 10th International Choir Competition in Zadar, where total 18 choirs competed. The Ensemble won the 5th prize, for which the members are very proud. The Ensemble accompanies *Ferdo Livadić Tambura Society* in significant performances and events in their hometown. The Town of Samobor has been the topic of several records the Ensemble has recorded with orchestras and soloists. Furthermore, the Ensemble has participated in numerous radio and TV shows, thus proudly promoting its hometown and its homeland.

Dražen Kurilovčan was born in Zagreb in 1969, where he graduated from the Music Academy. Since 1991 he has been a dancer and singer of the LADO Ensemble, where he has also served as choir leader since 1998 and as musical director-conductor since 2008.

In 2003, he received the *Porin* Award in the category of the best album of spiritual music for *Raspelo* (Eng. *Crucifix*), an album of Lenten songs from north-western Croatia performed by LADO Ensemble, and in 2013 for the album *O, Isuse daj mi suze* (Lenten songs of Slavonia, Baranja and Srijem). He is music director and associate of a number of amateur folklore groups and choirs (e.g. *Lipe* Vocal Ensemble, *Samoborke* Vocal Ensemble). Since high school days he has been intensely researching folklore in the field, especially in the area of Velika Gorica, Turopolje, Posavina, Banovina, and Pounje. He has been profoundly involved in the social and spiritual life of his native region. He is an expert associate of the Croatian Cultural Association in the field of folk singing. He has led a number of seminars and workshops in Croatian traditional singing for the Association of Croatian Conductors and for the Education and Teacher Training Agency. He is the organist of the Parish of the Annunciation in Velika Gorica.



Mixed Choir of the Arts Academy in Split

(Split, Croatia)

Vlado Sunko, conductor

PROGRAMME:

Vlado Sunko (1954)

Cum invocarem

Lodovico Grossi da Viadana (1564 – 1645)

Exultate justi

Javier Busto (1949)

O magnum mysterium

Todor Skalovski (1909 – 2003)

Macedonian humoresque

Mixed Choir of the Arts Academy in Split is the direct successor of the Choir of Music Education Students. Since 1992, the Choir has been directed by pedagogue and composer Vlado Sunko, a full professor of the Arts Academy in Split. Under his guidance, at *Cro Patria* Spiritual Music Festival the Choir has won five golden, seven silver and two bronze *Cathedral* awards, three awards of the audience and four awards of the Croatian Association of Composers. The director himself has been awarded on multiple occasions (four golden, three silver and one bronze *Canticum novum* awards). Professor Sunko often lets talented students conduct the Choir. In 2011, the Choir participated at the 11th *Golden Fairy* International Choir Festival in Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and received a special award for the best performance of a contemporary composition, for the piece *Majka* (Mother). In 2013, the Opera of the Croatian National Theatre Split and the Choir of the Arts Academy in Split were awarded the prestigious *Milka Trnina* Award for their joint performance of Symphony No. 9 in D minor by Ludwig van Beethoven. In 2016, at the *Adria Cantat* International Choir Competition in Šibenik, the Choir won two first awards – in national and foreign folk music categories.

Vlado Sunko was born in Split in 1954. He is a pedagogue, conductor and composer. He works as a full professor of the Music Art Department at the Arts Academy in Split. In 2000 and 2013 he was awarded the Award of the City of Split for his successful creative oeuvre. As a composer, he received numerous prizes and awards at competitions and festivals. In 2013, he was decorated with the Order of *Danica hrvatska* with the image of Marko Marulić. From his more complex pieces, one should single out the cantata *Zlato Gospine milosti*, the symphonic poem *In memoriam*, *Concert for mandolin and orchestra*, *Rapsodia rustica* for chamber ensemble, and *Missa* for soloists, men's choir and orchestra. He has continuously given seminars in Croatia (Pula, Šibenik, Rovinj, Zagreb, Dubrovnik, Split) and abroad (Chile, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina). His pieces for mandolin orchestras are regularly performed at international festivals of mandolin music (Italy, Germany, Spain, Czech Republic, Hungary and France). He has been adjudicator at numerous competitions. He is a regular member of the Croatian Composers' Society.



Schola Cantorum Women's Vocal Ensemble

(Split, Croatia)

Sara Dodig Baučić, conductor

PROGRAMME:

An Italian Chant

Alta Trinità beata

Orlando di Lasso (1532 – 1594)

Cor meum

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)

Hebe deine Augen auf

Maurice Duruflé (1902 – 1986)

Tota pulchra es

Vlado Sunko (1954)

Zdravo, Marijo (Hail Mary)

Gregorian chant, arranged by Blaženko Juračić

Salve Mater

Soloist: Iva Ivković Ivanišević

Choir and conductor biographies on page 26

FORMER LAUREATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHOIR COMPETITION IN 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 Composers' Society 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

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

Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross

CANTORES SANCTI MARCI

Ivan Repušić, conductor

Zagreb, Croatia

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

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

2005

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross

CANTORES SANCTI MARCI

Tomislav Fačini, conductor

Zagreb, Croatia

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

Abbess Čika's Silver Cross

HANSABANKA KORIS

Artūrs Ancāns, conductor

Rīga, Latvia

Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross

DUBROVNIK CHAMBER CHOIR

Frano Krasovac, conductor

Dubrovnik, Croatia

2007

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross

IPAVSKA CULTURAL SOCIETY CHAMBER CHOIR

Matjaž Šček, conductor

Vipava, Slovenia

The Choir was awarded the special Charter of the Croatian Composers' Society 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

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

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 SLAVENSKI
CHOIR ČAKOVEC**
Senka Bašek-Šamec, conductor
Čakovec, Croatia

Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross
STOŽENKE CHOIR
Marta Movrin, conductor
Ljubljana, Slovenia

2014

Grand Prix of the City of Zadar was not awarded.

MIXED CHOIRS

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross

GRGAR CHAMBER CHOIR

Andrej Filipič, conductor

Nova Gorica, Slovenia

Abbess Čika's Silver Cross

POSTOJNA MIXED CHOIR

Mirko Ferlan, conductor

Postojna, Slovenia

Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross

JOSIP ŠTOLCER SLAVENSKI CHOIR ČAKOVEC

Senka Bašek-Šamec, conductor

Čakovec, Croatia

CONDURA CROATICA MIXED CHOIR

Ivo Nižić, conductor

Zadar, Croatia

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

2016

Grand Prix of the City of Zadar

STOCKHOLM MUSIC GYMNASIUM CHOIR

Bengt Ollén, conductor

Stockholm, Sweden

MIXED CHOIRS

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross

STOCKHOLM MUSIC GYMNASIUM CHOIR

Bengt Ollén, conductor

Stockholm, Sweden

Abbess Čika's Silver Cross

PA SAULEI MIXED CHOIR

Jānis Ozols, conductor

Rīga, Latvia

Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross

PÄRNU CHAMBER CHOIR

Elo Keskäla, conductor

Pärnu, Estonia

WOMEN'S CHOIRS

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross

STOCKHOLM MUSIC GYMNASIUM CHOIR

Bengt Ollén, conductor

Stockholm, Sweden

Abbess Čika's Silver Cross

SAKCINSKI VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Nada Peček, conductor

Ivanec, Croatia

Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross

MARA VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Frida Johansson, conductor

Gothenburg, Sweden

MEN'S CHOIRS

Abbess Čika's Golden Cross
was not awarded

Abbess Čika's Silver Cross

STOCKHOLM MUSIC GYMNASIUM MEN'S CHOIR

Bengt Ollén, conductor
Stockholm, Sweden

Abbess Čika's Bronze Cross

WARSAW SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS CHOIR

Tomasz Hynek, conductor
Warsaw, Poland

SAKCINSKI VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Nada Peček, conductor
Ivanec, Croatia

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