



VI. International Choir Festival, 26 - 29 April 2012, Bratislava, Slovakia

International jury

Chairman of the jury:

Doc. Mgr. Jan Maria Dobrodinský / Czech Republic

Beginning his French horn studies at the School of Music in Prague, Jan Maria Dobrodinský obtained a degree in Choir Singing and Conducting at the University School of Music in Bratislava and in Music Science and Sociology at the Faculty of Arts, Comenius University. Between 1954 and 1977 he served as a principal choir conductor in the Slovak Philharmonic Choir but left this position for political reasons. From 1978 to 1982 Jan Maria Dobrodinský was the principal conductor at the Czechoslovak Radio Choir in Prague and from 1982 to 1988 the principal conductor of the Central Czech Symphonic Orchestra.



J.M.Dobrodinský's guest conducting engagements included professional and symphonic orchestra in the Czech Republic, Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Russia and Turkey. In addition, Jan Maria Dobrodinský taught at the School of Music in Bratislava, habilitated at the University School of Music in 1991. Since 1994 he has lectured at the Pedagogical Faculty, Charles University in Prague. He also is a published author of numerous professional articles, studies and academic books on choir music and conducting. After November 1989 Jan Maria Dobrodinský established the Association of Conductors, chaired the Association of Music Artists and Scientists, between 1992 and 1996 served as a Czech culture minister advisor. His awards include but not limited to the Slovak culture ministry award in 1996, Bedrich Smetana prize in 1998. In 2001 he became honorary principal choir conductor of the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra.

Doc. Mgr. Art. Ondrej Šaray / Slovakia

Ondrej Šaray studied orchestral conducting with Zdeněk Bilek at the Conservatory in Bratislava. He also studied with Ladislav Slovák at the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in Bratislava. Since 1983 he has worked as the conductor of the Bratislava Children's Choir. In 1987 he established the the Youth Choir Echo and in 1992 the Amadeus Chor Bratislava.

Ondrej Šaray has won many significant domestic and international awards with these choirs. As a conductor, he has performed throughout Europe, Canada, Africa, the USA and he also cooperated with the noted orchestras of Slovakia (Philharmonic Orchestra, State Philharmonic Orchestra Košice, State Chamber Orchestra Žilina).

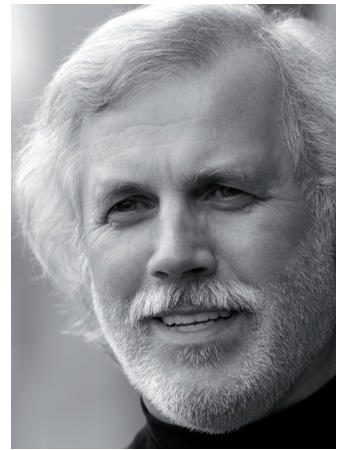


He and his choirs appear regularly in vocal-instrumental compositions with the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra, Slovak Chamber Orchestra of Bohdan Warchal, Capella Istropolitana and Musica Aeterna. Ondrej Šaray has also made recordings for Slovak Radio, Slovak Television and BBC London. Besides conducting, he teaches at the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in Bratislava.



Prof. Czesław Freund / Poland

The Artistic Director and the conductor of the Chamber Choir of The Karol Szymanowski Music Academy in Katowice is Prof. Czesław Freund - a co-organiser of the ensemble, at present the Head of Composition, Interpretation, Education and Jazz Department in Music Academy in Katowice. In 1996-2006 he was also a conductor of the Academic Choir of the Silesian Technology University. The ensemble was very active at home and abroad and achieved many awards such Gold Medal and Special Prize at the 2nd International Choir Competition In canto sul Garda in Italy (1997), the 1st Prize in the category of student choirs at the National Choir Competition Legnica Cantat (1997), the 2nd Prize at the International Choir Festival Kathaumixw in Canada (1998), the 1st Prize in the category of amateur secular choirs at the International Orthodox Church Music Festival in Hajnówka (1998, 2001), Silver Medals at the Choir Olympics (Austria, 2000, South Korea, 2002, Germany, 2004). He is a member of the Committee as well as the Jury of the Orthodox Church Music Festival in Hajnówka, Artistic Director of the Choral Autumn Festival in Rybnik.



He has been a juror in a number of competitions and festivals at home and abroad, including the International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music with Petr Eben's Prize in Prague. He is a reviewer in the procedure of registration and conferment for a doctoral degree. Since 2004 he has been Professor of Arts.

Prof. Nina Groshikova / Russia

Nina Grigoryevna Groshikova - Professor, Honoured Artist of Russia. In 1952 she entered the Sverdlovsk State Gorky University, the department of history, where she was an accompanist of the University choir under the direction of V.B. Serebrovsky. When she studied at the 5th course of the University she joined the music teachers' training college which she graduated with honors. In 1959 she was a choirmaster and an accompanist of the University choir which participated in the VII World Youth Festival in Vienna (Austria). The choir won the gold medal.

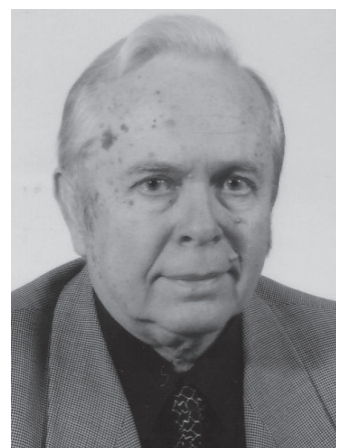


After the graduation of the University she entered the Urals Mussorgsky State Conservatoire. Her teacher was G.P. Rogozhnikova. From 1962 till 1976 she was a choirmaster of the Sverdlovsk Kirov Opera Theatre. Since 1969 she has been teaching the choral conducting and the international choral literature at the Urals Mussorgsky State Conservatoire. She leads the choir of the correspondence department of the conducting and choral faculty.

In the 70s she led the University choir. She had been the head of the conducting and choral faculty for 14 years. From 2007 till 2008 she was a head of the Veteran choir, which got the Grand Prix at the Festival of Veteran choirs in Yekaterinburg.

Prof. PaedDr. Jiří Kolář / Czech Republic

Prof. PaedDr. Jiří Kolář, born 1932, graduate of the Pedagogical Faculty of the Charles University and Pedagogical University in Prague. 1964 – 2001 pedagogue at the Pedagogical Faculty of the Charles University in Prague (choral conducting and education of hearing). In 1967 Mr. Kolář founded the female choir "Iuventus paedagogica" and until 1999 he received 10 laureate prizes in prestige European choir competitions and many other awards. Jiří Kolář is the honourable resident of the Czech Choirs Association, the president of the Union of Choir Conductors in the Association of Musical Artists and Scientists, he sets on advisory committees for choral singing and on juries at national and international competitions at home and abroad.





Prof. Hellmuth Drewes / Austria

He has been a choirmaster since the age of 17. He started his career as founder and for many years as conductor of Singkreis Porcia Spittal, an international well known ensemble. In 1964 he was the founder of the International Choir Competition in Spittal an der Drau and has been working as its art director since then. In this competition choirs from all over the world meet there in the marvellous atmosphere of the Castle of Porcia.. H. Drewes takes part in many international choral events and he is also a juror in many choir competitions. His “Carinthian Mass” and many other compositions are sung by a lot of choirs in Austria and abroad. For 20 years he was the cultural deputy of the town of Spittal an der Drau and from 1983 to 97 he was its mayor. In 1999 he was awarded the title “Professor” by the Austrian Federal President.



Dr. Milan Kolena / Slovak Republic, Art Director of the festival

Conductor and Art Director of the Apollo choir. At the Zilina Conservatory he studied piano, singing and choir conducting. After graduating with a degree in Choral Conducting at the University of Musical Arts (VSMU) in Bratislava under the tutelage of Prof. Peter Hradil, he continued his studies in sacred music at VSMU. He also continued his studies of Gregorian Chant with Prof. J. Kohlhaufel at the University for Music and Darstellende Kunst in Vienna where he is the author of the first Slovak professional publication on Gregorian chant: “Súčasný smery v interpretácii gregoriánskeho choralu” (Current Directions in Interpretation of Gregorian Chant).



Milan Kolena was an assistant with the Chlapčenský zbor choir (boys choir) in Bratislava and was conductor of the Spevácky zbor bratislavských učiteľov (Bratislava Teachers Choir). In addition, he currently serves as conductor of Choir Apollo and Gregorian Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis. Milan Kolena teaches conducting and Gregorian chant at University of Art and Music in Bratislava.

Since 1998 Milan Kolena has been the Art Director of the International Sacred Music Choir Festival Námestovské hudobné slavnosti, Musica Sacra in Bratislava, Slovakia Cantat, Festival of Advent and Christmas Music in Bratislava. He is active as Jury member at national and international choral competitions in Czech rep, Poland, Austria, Italy, Slovakia. He has performed workshops and seminars about vocal polyphony, Gregorian chant and Slovak contemporary music.

With choir Apollo he won various prizes at international competitions. the choir interprets extensive pieces by outstanding Slovak composer Pavol Krska, including Stabat Mater, Rekviem, Te Deum, Missa Solemnis for solo, choir and organ.