

4th International Youth

Music Festival



6 - 9 July 2012 Bratislava

International jury

Federico Bardazzi, Italy - chairman of the jury

Federico Bardazzi studied the cello in Siena and Paris. He continued his studies on chamber music, composition, Gregorian chant as well as basso continuo, viola da gamba and choir conducting, orchestral direction.

Bardazzi, with the Ensemble San Felice, the vocal and instrumental group whose repertoire is mainly medieval to contemporary sacred music, has concentrated particularly on music by Bach, conducting the B minor Mass, the Six German Motets, the Johannes Passion, the Brandenburg Concertos and numerous Cantatas. He also devotes himself to 17th century music, and has presented rarely performed music by Marco da Gagliano, Frescobaldi, Carissimi, Buxtehude, Jeronimo de Carrion and François Couperin in numerous festivals in Italy and abroad. Amongst the most successful performances by Bardazzi is a personal version of the "Magnificat", sponsored by the European Union. „El cant de la Sibilla“, a program of medieval Catalan music presented at the Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto, „Nigra sum sed formosa“, cantigas de Santa Maria and "Quem queritis" the medieval liturgical drama based on Florentine codices were equally successful. In September 2005 he was invited to hold a concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, for the Oxford University Press Early Music Weekend. This included a meeting with the public at the Purcell Room, coordinated by Tess Knighton and with Marcel Pérès director of the Ensemble Organum. He has also presented the world premieres of contemporary works.



Federico Bardazzi is the founder and artistic director of the Accademia San Felice that not only holds numerous yearly courses in its Music School, but also organises the Musica Sacra dal Mondo week, the International Festival of Youth Orchestras and In-canto Gregoriano, international meetings in Florence on the re-appraisal of early liturgical music, from both a scientific and interpretative point of view.

Recordings by the Ensemble San Felice directed by Federico Bardazzi include the Six German Motets by Johann Sebastian Bach, the first world recording of the Messa sopra l'aria di Fiorenza by Girolamo Frescobaldi (Bongiovanni), the Cantigas de Santa Maria di Alfonso X "Nigra sum sed Formosa" (Bongiovanni), the medieval Florentine liturgical drama "Quem Queritis?" (Tactus), which they performed on numerous tours in Italy and abroad.

Federico Bardazzi was professor of chamber music for strings and Baroque music at the Vincenzo Bellini Conservatory in Palermo, and now holds the same post at the Luca Marenzio Conservatory in Brescia. This has led to regular and fruitful collaboration with the Ensemble Barocco Marenzio in Brescia and the Antiche Armonie choir in Bergamo, directed by Giovanni Duci. He is Director of Maggio Fiorentino Formazione and member of the International Committee of the AISCGr (International Association for Gregorian Chant)

Leonardo Sagliocca, Italy

Leonardo Sagliocca, Italian young bass-baritone, born in Florence, began his singing studies in the School of Music of Fiesole under Elio Lippi, Donatella Debolini and Gianni Fabbrini. At the age of 23 he was engaged by Italian baritone Rolando Panerai for the operas „Il Barbiere di Siviglia“ by Gioachino Rossini, „La Traviata“ by Giuseppe Verdi and „Gianni Schicchi“ by Giacomo Puccini. Leonardo Sagliocca won the 1998 edition of international competition „William Walton - the actor-singer“, sponsored by The Prince of Wales, Charles, which gave him the chance to improve his acting and singing talents with world famous artists like James Lockhart, Graziella Sciutti, Jonathan Papp (Royal Academy of Music, London), Corradina Caporello (Juillard School, New York) and perform the opera „Gianni Schicchi“ of Giacomo Puccini in front of the Prince. He sang in the Dome of Genova with the Orchestra of Teatro Carlo Felice; took the role of Mustafa in the Opera „L'Italiana in Algeri“ of G. Rossini in Lima, Peru; sang world premieres of works by eminent composers such as Ennio Morricone, author of many unforgettable soundtracks of famous movies. In 2005 Leonardo Sagliocca was invited by the South Bank Centre at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London for the season of the London Philharmonic Orchestra.



He has also performed many recitals with piano players, small vocal groups, small orchestras and big orchestras in cities like Barcelona, Madrid, Munchen, Frankfurt, Koln, Kassel, Szczecin, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt, Zurich, Lugano, in United States (Washington DC), New Zealand, Australia and regularly in Japan (Tokyo, Fukuoka, Kagoshima, Kumamoto, Niigata). He is permanent member of high level ensembles like the „Ensemble San Felice“ of Florence, Italy and the „Nuova Cappella di Palazzo“ of Lucca, Italy and the „Cappella Musicale di Santo Stefano“ of Prato, Italy

Doc. Elena Šarayová-Kováčová, Slovakia

Elena Šarayová-Kováčová studied piano, composition and conducting at Bratislava Music Conservatory. Later she continued her conducting studies at University of Performing Arts (VŠMU) in Bratislava to become the first female professional conductor in Slovakia.

In addition to Female Chamber Orchestra she has been leading also the Bratislava Children Choir (since 1967) and between 1971 and 1986 she was the conductor and art director of Slovak Teacher Female Choir OZVENA.

With these music ensembles she has performed at many stages in almost all European countries as well as in Japan, Canada, USA and also in African continent. Her concert activities frequently alternate with methodical work as jury member at various competitions, teacher work at manifold choir workshops and conductors' trainings.

She carries out the function of university pedagogist at the Composition and Conducting Department of the Dance and Music Faculty at University of Performing Arts in Bratislava.



Sándor Zoltán, Hungary

ZOLTÁN SÁNDOR graduated as piano teacher in Miskolc and as choir master at the Liszt Ferenc University of Music in Budapest and perfected his knowledge by attending the master course by Eric Ericson. In 2004 he was awarded a DLA degree.

Currently he is professor of the Bartók Béla Music Institute of the University of Miskolc. In addition to the Bartók Kórus of Miskolc, he conducts the Women's Choir of the Bartók Béla Music Institute of the University of Miskolc, the Teachers' Choir of Szerencs, and the Hassler Ensemble. With his choirs he has been awarded prizes in significant international competitions in Germany, Hungary, Italy and Switzerland.



John Damsma, Netherlands

John Damsma studied at the North Netherlands Conservatory. He graduated as a cellist and received his master degree in orchestral conducting.

He worked as conductor of the choir and symphony orchestra of the University of Groningen and the Frisian Chamber Orchestra. Also he taught choral conducting.

He was founder and artistic director of the Netherlands renowned vocal group ,Tight Bars‘ and women‘s choir ,Mrs. Johnson‘.

Actually he is working as conductor, choir-coach and arranger of close harmony and vocal jazz.

John Damsma is the national jury chairman of the Netherlands Choir Festival.

He is also regularly invited as a jury member at national and international music festivals.



Erika Budai, Belgium

Erika BUDAI was born in TIENEN (Belgium) of Hungarian parents, originally from BUDAPEST. She received her first musical training at the Academy of Music in Tienen, where her classes included solfège and harmonics under Ludo Hulshagen, violin under Yvonne Dispa and piano under Thérèse Wagemans. At the age of 18, she received for her examination for piano the Golden City Medal of Tienen and the Silver State Medal of Belgium.

She began her music studies at the Lemmens Institute in LEUVEN. Here she studied piano under Levente KENDE. She also enjoyed the singing class under Dina Grossberger, as well as traversal flute under Carl Lenski. She received First Price of solfège under Lode Dieltiens.

She joined SABAM, the Belgian society of authors, as composer and author in 1986. Since 1990 she has studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music in BRUSSELS, where she received First Prizes in Harmonics, Music Theory and Music History Pedagogy, as well as harmonics under Marcel De Jonghe, Electronic Music under Eric Feremans and Film Music Composition under Walther Christian ROTHE, film music-composer in HOLLYWOOD.

Erika BUDAI won First Prize in the „Music Competition for Young Composers“ in BRUSSELS in 1992 and 1993. She pursued further studies in counterpoint and fugue under Ludo CLAESEN and Kurt BIKKEMBERGS, receiving additional training in composition from Piet SWERTS.

With a scholarship from the Alfred Töpfer Stiftung (HAMBURG, Germany), Erika BUDAI attended master classes in composition in DARMSTADT, Germany, in 1996. These classes were conducted by Karl-Heinz STOCKHAUSEN and Wolfgang RIHM, among others.

As a composer, Erika BUDAI has received commissions for a number of compositions, including works for the Belgian Radio and Television Choir under the direction of Vic NEES and Johan DUIJCK. She currently has some 130 compositions to her name, mostly choral and chamber music pieces.

As a co-operator of the Antwerp Concert-Association „Crescendo“, Erika BUDAI works since 1999 as a choir-conductor in Berlin (GERMANY) and Pontmain (FRANCE).

Since 1998, Erika BUDAI has served as a jury member for the International Youth Festival in NEERPELT, Belgium, as well as for other regional composition and choir competitions.

Erika BUDAI teaches harmonics and music composition at the Conservatory of LEUVEN.



Alain Charron, France

After studies of alto, piano and harmony at the Conservatory of Poitiers, Alain Charron studies orchestra conducting at the Schola Cantorum in Paris, where he was unanimously awarded a prize for the direction of the orchestra.

He perfects at the Orchestra of the Ile-de-France as assistant conductor, and at the Opera of Paris and at the Orchestra of Paris as trainee choirmaster.

In this context he collaborates with prestigious conductors such as Zubin Metha, Seigi Ozama, Giulini etc.

Throughout his eclectic career, Alain Charron had the possibility of working with numerous choirs and orchestras, as guest conductor or resident conductor: “Jeune Philharmonie de Paris”, the Choir of New College Oxford, the orchestra “Les Archets de l’Indre”, the symphony orchestras of Voronej, Nijni Novgorod, Saratov (Russia), the symphony orchestra of the “Eurochestries” in Charente, the symphony orchestra of La Paz (Bolivia) and the chamber orchestra of Budapest ...

Alain Charron also shows a deep interest in the musical transmission. For many years he was head of the school of music at Chauray in Deux-Sèvres, moreover he created the Choir and the Orchestra of the High Schools of Nantes and the Choir and Orchestra of the High Schools of Business of Paris (HEC, ESPC, ESSEC), with whom he has regularly produced a repertoire of principally oratorio.

In 2008, he founded the Academy of Music of Deux-Sèvres whose Chamber Choir « Alcantoriane » he conducts and with whom he gives concerts in France and Europe.

He takes part as a member of the jury of the international competition of choirs at St Petersburg.

He recently conducted several concerts in Ukraine and is regularly invited to conduct the Chinese Radio Television Choir in Mongolia. Each year he tours in China. The critics have often praised his clarity, his precision and his talent.



Dr. Milan Kolena, Slovakia

At the Zilina Conservatory he studied piano, singing and choir conducting. After graduating with a degree in Choral Conducting at VŠMU in Bratislava he continued his studies of Gregorian Chant at the University for Music in Vienna.

He is the author of the first Slovak professional publication on Gregorian chant „Current Directions in Interpretation of Gregorian Chant“.

Milan Kolena has been the assistant with the Bratislava Boys Choir and conductor of the Bratislava Teachers Choir. In addition, he currently conducts Gregorian chant schola Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis and choir Apollo. He teaches choir conducting and Gregorian chant at VŠMU.

Since 1998 Milan Kolena has been the Art Director of the Sacred Music Choir Festival in Námestovo, Sacred Music Festival MUSICA SACRA BRATISLAVA, International Choir and Folksong Festival SLOVAKIA CANTAT, International Youth Music Festival, Festival of Advent and Christmas Music and Gregorian Chant Festival in Bratislava.

He is active as Jury member at international choral competitions. 2004-2006 he recorded for Slovak national library with his Schola gregoriana bratislavensis 3 CD of Bratislava antifons.

