



# XVI. INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC

XVI. MEDZINÁRODNÝ FESTIVAL  
ADVENTNEJ A VIANOČNEJ HUDBY

7 - 10 December 2023, Bratislava, Slovakia



## PROGRAM

[www.choral-music.sk](http://www.choral-music.sk)



[www.facebook.com/bratislavamusicagency](https://www.facebook.com/bratislavamusicagency)



[www.instagram.com/bratislava\\_music\\_agency/](https://www.instagram.com/bratislava_music_agency/)



BRATISLAVA  
MUSIC AGENCY



## **XVI. INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC**

**XVI. MEDZINÁRODNÝ FESTIVAL  
ADVENTNEJ A VIANOČNEJ HUDBY**

**7 - 10 December 2023, Bratislava, Slovakia**

### **ZÁŠTITU NAD FESTIVALOM PRIJALI / UNDER THE AUSPICES OF:**

Assoc. prof. Milan Kolena, ArtD.

Umelecký riaditeľ festivalu / Art Director of the festival

### **MEDZINÁRODNÁ POROTA / INTERNATIONAL JURY:**

Prof. Blanka Juhaňáková, ArtD. - chairwoman of the jury

Prof. Benedykt Błoński /Poland/

Prof. Elżbieta Wtorkowska /Poland/

PhDr. Milan Motl, Ph.D. /Czech Republic/

### **SPOLUORGANIZÁTORI FESTIVALU / FESTIVAL CO-ORGANIZERS:**

Bratislavské kultúrne a informačné stredisko

Hlavné mesto SR Bratislava

Bratislava Staré Mesto

Spevácky zbor Apollo

Únia speváckych zborov Slovenska

### **HLAVNÝ ORGANIZÁTOR / GENERAL ORGANIZER OF THE FESTIVAL:**

Bratislava Music Agency

### **FOTOGRAF / PHOTOGRAPHER:**

Vladimír Kuric





## **Milí priatelia,**

Vitajte v Bratislave!

Som veľmi rád, že vás môžem privítať na Medzinárodnom Festivale Adventnej a Vianočnej hudby 2023. Teší ma a som nesmeriене vďačný, že sa konečne môžeme opäť stretávať a zdieľať naše nadšenie pre zborový spev. Tento rok sa na Medzinárodný Festival Adventnej a Vianočnej hudby zúčastní 18 zborov z 8 krajín, teda viac než 500 spevákov. Zbory sa predstavia v 10 súťažných kategóriách. Tento festival je najväčším podujatím svojho druhu na Slovensku, a preto predstavuje pre slovenský hudobný život výnimočnú udalosť. Počas predchádzajúcich pätnástich ročníkov sa na festivale vystriedalo vyše sto speváckych zborov, viac než tisíc spevákov, čo svedčí o neustálom progrése a záujme festivalu vo svete.

Verím, že aj tento ročník festivalu nadviaže a bude ďalej rozvíjať základnú myšlienku festivalu „hudba a umenie ľudí spája“, a zároveň verím, že nepôjde len o frázu, ale že spoločne budeme môcť prežiť skutočné zjednotenie do jednej veľkej svetovej zborovej rodiny, nadviazať nové priateľstvá medzi zbormi a krajinami.

Bratislava otvára speváckym zborom počas festivalu svoje najkrajšie priestory na zborové koncerty a vystúpenia a pozýva všetkých spoločne prežiť festivalový program plný krásnej hudby. Verím, že z Bratislavy budete aj vy odchádzať plní nadšenia a pekných zážitkov a že v budúcnosti sa k nám radi vrátite. To vám zo srdca prajem.

*Doc. Milan Kolena, umelecký riaditeľ Medzinárodný Festival Adventnej a Vianočnej hudby 2023*

## **Dear friends,**

Welcome to Bratislava!

I am very happy to welcome you to the International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music 2023. It brings me great joy and gratitude to come together once again and share our love for choral singing. This year, International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music 2023 will host over 500 singers within 18 choirs from 8 countries, who will showcase 10 competition performances. As the largest event of its kind in Slovakia, it is a unique opportunity for the country's choral and orchestral life. With over 100 choirs and 1 000 musicians attending the previous eight editions, the festival has gained worldwide interest.

I am confident that this year's edition will continue to embody the festival's core ethos of "music and art connect people." I believe that this sentiment will not merely be a cliché, but we will genuinely form new friendships between ensembles and countries.

Bratislava opens its best music venues for choir and orchestra performances. You are invited to enjoy the festival programme full of beautiful music together. I have every confidence that your visit to Bratislava will leave you with countless unforgettable experiences and cherished memories. I truly hope that you will feel compelled to return to this remarkable city in the future, and I send this wish from the depths of my heart!

*Assoc. prof. Milan Kolena, Artist Director of International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music 2023*

# PROGRAM FESTIVALU

## 7.12.2023 ŠTVRTOK / THURSDAY

### 19:00 OTVÁRACÍ KONCERT FESTIVALU / OPENING CONCERT

Dětský pěvecký sbor CARO Raškovice /CZ/, Tartu Karlova Children's Choir /EE/, Voices of Singapore Ladies Choir /SG/, Choir of Medical University of Lodz /PL/, Helsingin Laulu /FI/, Children Choir „Pomerania Cantat“ /PL/, Choir „Canzona“ of University of Technology in Koszalin /PL/, Poznański chór Polihymnia /PL/, Ensemble Vocale Cantica Nova /IT/, Lusatia consort /CZ/

*Jezuitský kostol / Jesuit church, Františkánske námestie*

## 8.12.2023 PIATOK / FRIDAY

### 15:30 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

Lusatia consort /CZ/, Choir of Medical University of Lodz /PL/, Helsingin Laulu /FI/, Children Choir „Pomerania Cantat“ /PL/, Voices of Singapore Ladies Choir /SG/, Poznański chór Polihymnia /PL/, Tartu Karlova Children's Choir /EE/

*Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Music Hall, Farská 4*

### 18:00 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

Loreto/CBS Kilkenny Ireland /IE/, Smíšený pěvecký sbor ARTEP /CZ/, Dětský pěvecký sbor CARO Raškovice /CZ/, Choir „Canzona“ of University of Technology in Koszalin /PL/, Lost Harmony /SK/, Ensemble Vocale Cantica Nova /IT/, Vachův sbor moravských učitelek /CZ/

*Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Music Hall, Farská 4*

## 9.12.2023 SOBOTA / SATURDAY

### SÚŤAŽNÁ ČASŤ FESTIVALU / FESTIVAL COMPETITION

*Zrkadlová sieň Primaciálneho paláca / Mirror Hall of the Primate's Palace*

**Kategória A2: Detské spevácke zbory do 16 rokov**

**Category A2: Children's choirs up to 16 years**

9:00 Tartu Karlova Children's Choir /EE/

9:15 Children Choir „Pomerania Cantat“ /PL/

9:30 Dětský pěvecký sbor CARO Raškovice /CZ/

**Kategória H2: Sakrálna hudba s inštrumentálnym sprievodom**

**Category H2: Musica Sacra with instrumental accompaniment**

9:45 Tartu Karlova Children's Choir /EE/

**Kategória E2: Komorné zbory dospelé (9 - 24 spevákov)**

**Category E2: Adult chamber choirs (9 - 24 singers)**

10:00 Ensemble Vocale Cantica Nova /IT/

**Kategória H1: Sakrálna hudba a cappella**

**Category H1: Musica Sacra a cappella**

10:15 Voices of Singapore Ladies Choir /SG/

# FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

## **Kategória F1: Ľudová pieseň a cappella**

### **Category F1: Folksong a cappella**

10:30 Ensemble Vocale Cantica Nova /IT/

## **Kategória D2: Ženské spevácke zbory**

### **Category D2: Female adult choirs**

10:45 Vachův sbor moravských učitelek /CZ/

11:00 Voices of Singapore Ladies Choir /SG/

## **Kategória G: Spiritual, gospel, pop, jazz**

### **Category G: Spiritual, gospel, pop, jazz**

11:15 Ensemble Vocale Cantica Nova /IT/

## **Kategória D3: Zmiešané zbory dospelých**

### **Category D3: Adult choirs**

13:00 Choir of Medical University of Lodz /PL/

13:18 Helsingin Laulu /FI/

13:36 Choir „Canzona“ of University of Technology in Koszalin /PL/

13:58 OZ Cantabile /SK/

## **Kategória C1: Mládežnícke zbory do 21 rokov**

### **Category C1: Youth choirs up to 21 years**

14:12 Loreto/CBS Kilkenny Ireland /IE/

14:30 Smlíšený pěvecký sbor ARTEP /CZ/

## **Kategória J: Súčasná zborová hudba**

### **Category J: Contemporary choir music**

14:48 Lost Harmony /SK/

15:06 Ondrášek Czech Youth Choir /CZ/

## **15:45 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT**

Lusatia consort /CZ/, Lost Harmony /SK/, Poznański chór Polihymnia /PL/, OZ Cantabile /SK/, Helsingin Laulu /FI/, Loreto/CBS Kilkenny Ireland /IE/, Ondrášek Czech Youth Choir /CZ/

## **Zrkadlová sieň Primaciálneho paláca, Primaciálne námestie**

### **Mirror Hall of the Primate's Palace, Primate's square**

**18:45 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT A VYHLÁSENIE VÝSLEDKOV SÚŤAŽE** FESTIVAL CONCERT A COMPETITION RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT

Spievajú zúčastnene zbory na festivale / Participating choirs perform at the concert

## **Jezuitský kostol / Jesuit church, Františkánske námestie**

## **10.12.2023 SOBOTA / SATURDAY**

11:00 Svätá omša / Holy Mass

Vachův sbor moravských učitelek /CZ/

## **Jezuitský kostol / Jesuit church, Františkánske námestie**



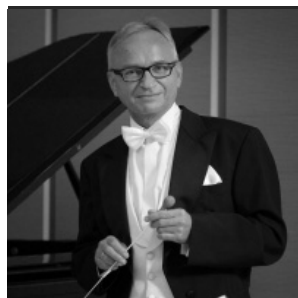
**Prof. Blanka Juhaňáková, ArtD. /Slovakia/  
*chairwoman of the jury***

Pianist and choirmaster, Blanka Juhaňáková graduated from Janáček Academy of Musical Arts in Brno. In the years 1991-2001 she was the choirmaster of the Slovak Philharmonic Choir. She participated in the Boris Godunov project at the Salzburg Festival and in Japan, together with Claudio Abbado and prepared the Slovak Philharmonic Choir for the opera Rienzi by Wagner, with Zubin Mehta in Vienna State Opera House. She is a regular member and chairwoman of professional juries at choir festivals and competitions both home and abroad. In the years 2005 - 2014 she was the leading choirmaster of the Slovak Philharmonic Choir. The most interesting cooperation during this period were those with the most famous conductors like Pierre Boulez, Alain Lombard, Pinchas Steinberg, Ralf Weikert, Peter Eötvös, Christoph Campestrini, Marc Minkowsky, Pedro Halffter, Franz Welser-Möst, Bertrand de Billy etc.

In April 2005 she made her successful debut in the Rudolfinum in Prague with the Prague Philharmonic Choir and with the Symphony Orchestra of the Czech Radio in Verdi's Requiem. In November 2005 she was awarded the Fric Kafenda price by the Music Fund for outstanding interpretations home and abroad. In 2006 she appeared as a visiting choirmaster in the Slovak National Opera for the first time preparing operas: Puccini's Turandot, Leoncavallo's Comedianti, Mascagni's Cavalleria rusticana and Gounoud's Faust and Margarete. Among the interesting projects of 2007 was the staging of Boris Godunov in Vienna State Opera House with Daniele Gatti and Sebastian Weigl conducting. With much success she prepared Rachmaninoff's All-Night Vigil (Op. 37, Vespers) in Bratislava, Nitra, Paris, Palermo, Brno, Olomouc and in Prague. In 2012 she got the professor's degree and was awarded a highly acclaimed 'Crystal Wing Prize' for the outstanding successes as a conductor and choirmaster on the international scene in 2011. Besides working on the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, since 2014 she has been working at the Department of Composition, Conducting and Opera direction at Janáček Academy of Musical Arts in Brno.

**Prof. Benedykt Błoński /Poland/  
*member of the jury***

Benedykt Błoński graduate of the Fryderyk Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw. Currently, he is working with the choir of the University of Warmia and Mazury. Since 2009, he has led the Choir CANTORES VARMIESENSES for Warmia and Mazury Philharmonic. For his artistic and teaching activities he has been honoured with numerous prestigious Awards such as the Gold Cross of Merit, individual awards of the 1st degree of the Rector of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, and many others. His achievements include recording of 13 CDs.



Benedykt Błoński has also conducted hundreds of concerts in Poland and abroad (e.g. Greece, Ireland, United Kingdom, Belgium, France, the Vatican, Italy, Spain, Germany, Russia, Mexico, Argentina), performing Polish and foreign music, including premiere performances. He has held positions in artistic councils and juries of numerous choral competitions and festivals, both domestic and international. Benedykt Błoński has been an artistic director of international choral workshops "Eurochor 2001", the artistic director of the Polish - German Choral Academy "In terra pax", the artistic director of the F. Nowowiejski International Choir Festival. He is a member of the International Choir Olympic Council. He lectures at the Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz and the National Centre for Culture in Warsaw. Professor Błoński currently holds a position of the Dean in the Faculty of Arts of the University of Warmia and Mazury.

**Prof. Elżbieta Wtorkowska /Poland/  
*member of the jury***

Elżbieta Wtorkowska is a Professor of Music. She serves as a professor at the Feliks Nowowiejski Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz and J. Grodek State High Vocational School in Sanok as well as a lecturer at the Postgraduate Choimaster Programme and Postgraduate Voice Production and Training Programme at the Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz. She is also a vocal consultant of the chorus of „Opera Nova” in Bydgoszcz. Since 1992, she is a lecturer at the Studies for Conductors of Polonia Choirs in Koszalin and is a member of Artistic Council of the Society „Wspólnota Polska”. Since 2002, she is a conductor of the „Ojczyzna” („Motherland”). She gives lectures and master classes at voice and choral workshops, at learning courses for conductors of Polish choirs in Belarus (1996-2009), Ukraine (1998-2009), Lithuania (2003-2009), Czech Republic (1999-2001, 2007 and 2008), the United States of America (2006 and 2007) and Great Britain (2008). During 2008, she lectured and ran choral workshops in Sydney, Australia in 2009 in Biggar (Scotland) and in Campeche, Mexico(2012). Since 1981, in Murowana Goślina (Poland), prof.Wtorkowska leads „Canzona” Girls’ Choir, since 2001 Female Choir „Canzona-Absolwent” („Canzona-Graduate”), she also serves as artistic support for Boys Choir „Canzona” and Chamber Choir „Canzona”. With „Canzona” choirs she gave concerts in Germany, Switzerland, Italy, the Netherlands, Greece, Sweden, Russia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Lithuania, Finland, Austria, England, Spain and Ukraine. She is the initiator and the director of the International Choral Festival of Rev. Edmund Szymański in Murowana Goślina (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012,2013, 2014). She guests as a lecturer at numerous seminars for vocalists, speech therapists, teachers and choir conductors, in Poland and abroad. She teaches vocal workshops for both amateur and professional choirs, children, youth and university choirs, boys, female, male and mixed choirs all over Poland.





**PhDr. Milan Motl, Ph.D. /Czech Republic/  
*member of the jury***

PhDr. Milan Motl, Ph.D. (\*1977) is one of the most prominent choirmasters of youth choirs. He is a graduate of the University of Hradec Králové in the field of music education, history and solo singing. He studied choir conducting as part of choir management and extended his skills in orchestra conducting in Prague in Jiří Portych. He accomplished his doctoral studies at the University of Ostrava and in Charles University in Prague. He gained his first choirmaster experience in the Bonifantes Boys' Choir Pardubice (1999-2003). Since 2002 he has been the artistic director of KOS Mixed Choir and KOKOS Chamber Choir associated to the Pedagogical School in Litomyšl. Under his leadership, KOS won a number of gold medals at national as well as international competitions and festivals.



During his career Milan Motl was awarded several special jury awards for his choirmaster's work (e.g., for performing a compulsory composition, dramaturgy, conducting performance). The Union of Czech Choirs (UČPS) praised him with the National Award Choirmaster Junior (2012) for extraordinary choirmaster achievements. KOS choir won the National Award The Choir of the Year (2018). The City of Litomyšl awarded Milan Motl the City Council Plaque for his merits to community in the field of education and culture (2013). Milan Motl is also active in singing and music events organization. He has been an artistic director of the international choral Festival of Songs Olomouc (since 2023). He works as a voice consultant and music director. He is a chairman of the Association of Music Teachers, a member of the UČPS Music Commission and of NIPOS-ARTAMA Prague Professional Council for youth choir singing. He is repeatedly invited to the juries of solo and choir singing competitions and as a lecturer of choirmaster courses and choral workshops in our country and abroad.

### **Assoc. Prof. Milan Kolena, ArtD. /Slovakia/**

Milan Kolena is a conductor, artistic director of Bratislava Music Festivals, Associate Professor of choral conducting and Gregorian Chant at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava and the president of the Slovak Choral Association. With his choir Apollo and Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis Milan Kolena visited many prestigious choral competitions. In 2014 he gave lectures at three American universities: Illinois Wesleyan University School, University of Missouri School of Music, Colorado State University with the topic: The Question of the Interpretation of Latin texts in Sacred Choral Music.



Milan Kolena teaches choir conducting and Gregorian chant at VŠMU. 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, Slovakia. During 2004-2006 together with Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis recorded 3 CDs of Bratislava antiphons for Slovak National Library. He frequently works as a member of the jury at various international choral and orchestral competitions in Slovakia, Europe and Asia. He was awarded the best conductor special prize of the „Singing World“ choral competition in St. Petersburg, Russia in 2015. In the same year he held choral workshops in China and Hong Kong. He is a member of the International Council of the World Choir Games and Vice President World Youth and Children Choral Artists' Association.

# Childrens choir “Pomerania Cantat” /PL/

**Conductor: Mr. Radosław Wilkiewicz**

The Children`s Choir “Pomerania Cantat” of the Children`s Choral Academy in Koszalin was established in September 2017. The conductors are Radosław Wilkiewicz, professor of Art Academy in Szczecin and Kamila Figielska. The choir repertoire includes, among others: polyphonic children`s, folk, patriotic and sacred songs, as well as gospel and popular music. In addition to singing a cappella the choir also performs vocal and instrumental forms as part of the International Organ Festival in Koszalin, performing with the symphony orchestra of the Koszalin Philharmonic. The team also has competition achievements: • Silver Diploma and Cup of the President of the Polish Association of Choirs and Orchestras at the Provincial Review of Choirs and Chamber Ensembles in Szczecin (2019). • Grand Prix, Golden Band, Award for the Best Conductor in the 1st National Children`s Choir Competition “Filii Melodiis” in Połczyn Zdrój (2019). Additionally, as a host choir, it performs the Inaugural Concerts of the Baltic Sea Choir Competition “Pomerania Cantat” Koszalin-Słupsk.

Radosław Wilkiewicz (born 1970) habilitated doctor of music arts; professor at the Faculty of Music Education at the Art Academy in Szczecin. Polish conductor, singer and educator. Since 1994 assistant and doctor of art in Music Academy in Bydgoszcz and since October 2014, professor at the Faculty of Music Education at the Art Academy in Szczecin. With choirs he has won many awards and distinctions in Poland and Europe. Currently conductor of the Choir “Canzona” of University of Technology in Koszalin and Choir “Pomerania Cantat” Child Choral Academy in Koszalin, which he is the founder (from 2017). Since 2011 he has worked as chorus master and conductor with the Koszalin Philharmonic Orchestra, among others, during following editions of the International Organ Festival in Koszalin. Since 2015 the artistic director of the Baltic Choir Competition “Pomerania Cantat” Koszalin-Słupsk. Since 2017 the President of the Association “Pomerania Cantat”.



## **Competition programme**

**Kategória A2: Detské spevácke zbory do 16 rokov**

**Category A2: Children`s choirs up to 16 years**

1. Zygmunt Noskowski – Kolędnicy (The Carolers)
2. Andris Kontauts – Chase me through the forest
3. Mary Linn Lightfoot - Dona nobis pacem
4. Segey Pleshak – Odleciały żurawie (The cranes have flown away)
5. Ilze Arne – Viva la musica



# Choir of Medical University of Lodz /PL/

## Conductor: Mrs. Anna Domańska

The Choir of the Medical University of Lodz, founded in 2005, is led by Professor Anna Domańska. Comprised of students, employees, and graduates of the university, the choir shares a deep passion for music and performs various genres, including classical and contemporary music. They actively engage in charity campaigns and participate in cultural events within Łódź. The choir is a regular presence at important university ceremonies and New Year's concerts. Their dynamic approach and collaboration with orchestras have allowed them to perform classical masterpieces. They embrace new challenges, such as virtual performances. With a rich and ever-expanding repertoire, the choir excels in national and international competitions and festivals. They've had the privilege of performing in various countries worldwide, showcasing their talent to diverse audiences.

Anna Domańska, a highly accomplished conductor and Ph.D., founded the Choir of the Medical University of Lodz in 2005. She holds the title of habilitated Doctor of Musical Arts in conducting and serves as a professor and director of the Department of Choral Conducting at the Grazyna and Kiejstut Bacewicz Academy of Music in Lodz. Throughout her illustrious choirmaster career, she has conducted numerous concerts in Europe and North America, achieving multiple prestigious awards with various choral ensembles. For 21 years, she directed the Choir of the Academy of Music in Lodz. Anna Domańska's expertise extends beyond the conductor's podium. She is a vice-president of the Department of Arts at the Lodz Scientific Society and has collaborated with the International Choral Festival in Ochsenhausen, Germany, for two decades. She also represents the Artistic Council of the Polish Nationwide Choral Festival CANTIO LODZIENSIS and serves as a juror for nationwide and international conducting and choral competitions.



### Competition programme

#### **Kategoria D3: Zmieszane zbory dospelých**

#### **Category D3: Adult choirs**

1. Indodana - Michael Barrett and Ralf Shmitt (traditional African song)
2. Dostoyno yest - Piotr Jańczak (Contemporary composer)
3. Angels Carol - John Rutter (1945 - )
4. Don't stop me know - Mark A. Brymer (contemporary)



# Choir Canzona of University of Technology in Koszalin /PL/

## Conductor: Mr. Radosław Wilkiewicz

The Choir of the Koszalin University of Technology "Canzona" was established in January 2017, continuing the artistic activities and choral traditions of two groups: the Choir of the Koszalin University of Technology, founded in 1993 and the "Canzona" Choir of the 105 Cultural Center in Koszalin, existing since 1999. The conductor is Radosław Wilkiewicz, professor at the Academy of Art in Szczecin. The members of the choir are students and graduates of the Koszalin University of Technology, representing various environments and professions. The repertoire of the group includes pieces ranging from early to contemporary music of a religious, secular and folk character, as well as negro spiritual, gospel, capoeira, jazz standards and popular music. Choir regularly cooperates with the Koszalin Philharmonic and the International Organ Festival in Koszalin, performing many vocal and instrumental works. It received a lot of awards in choir competitions in Poland and Europe.

Radosław Wilkiewicz (born 1970) habilitated doctor of music arts; professor at the Faculty of Music Education at the Art Academy in Szczecin. Polish conductor, singer and educator. Since 1994 assistant and doctor of art in Music Academy in Bydgoszcz and since October 2014, professor at the Faculty of Music Education at the Art Academy in Szczecin. With choirs he has won many awards and distinctions in Poland and Europe. Currently conductor of the Choir "Canzona" of University of Technology in Koszalin and Choir "Pomerania Cantat" Child Choral Academy in Koszalin, which he is the founder (from 2017). Since 2011 he has worked as chorus master and conductor with the Koszalin Philharmonic Orchestra, among others, during following editions of the International Organ Festival in Koszalin. Since 2015 the artistic director of the Baltic Choir Competition "Pomerania Cantat" Koszalin-Słupsk. Since 2017 the President of the Association "Pomerania Cantat".



### Competition programme

#### **Kategória D3: Zmiešané zbory dospelých**

#### **Category D3: Adult choirs**

1. Antoni Szaliński – Krzak dzikiej róży (The bush of the wild rose)
2. Ola Gjeilo – Northern lights
3. Lajos Bardos – Libera me
4. Andrzej Koszewski – Magnificat





# Dětský pěvecký sbor CARO Raškovice /CZ/

**Conductor: Mrs. Anna Kajzarová**

The youth choir CARO was founded at the elementary School in Raškovice in September 2013. Raškovice is a charming village near Lysá mountain. The choir has been led by Mgr. Anna Kajzarová, who has also been in charge of two choirs, CARO and Bel Canto, in Třinec. There are 68 children in 2 sections of the choir, ranging in age from 7 to 16. The choir boasts a wide-ranging repertoire, featuring not only classical composers but also songs from contemporary popular authors. Traditional Silesian and Lachian songs and spirituals also hold a significant place in the choir's portfolio. Over the years, the choir has participated in over 160 concerts and competitions, not only in the Czech Republic but also in Poland and Slovakia. The choir has garnered several prestigious awards, such as the 2nd place at the Christmas International Choir Festival in Prague, the 3rd place at the International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music in Bratislava, and another 2nd place at the Christmas International Choir Festival in Prague. One of the choir's most notable achievements is securing the 1st place at the Prague Advent and Christmas Choral Festival, along with the Petr Eben's Prize in December 2022.

Mgr. Anna Kajzarová was educated at Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, graduating in 1983 under the guidance of Doc. PhDr. Tibor Sedlický. She has worked as a teacher at elementary schools and music schools. In 1996, she founded Caro, a children's school choir, and the youth choir Bel Canto in Třinec. She collaborated with dulcimer music, orchestras, opera, and popular music singers, as well as with Český rozhlas, recording four CDs. Unfortunately, the activities of both choirs came to an end due to the closure of the school. Since 2013, Mrs. Kajzarová has been working at the elementary school in Raškovice, where she founded the school choir called CARO Raškovice. She was recognized for her outstanding work with young singers at the Prague Advent and Christmas Choral Festival and awarded the Petr Eben's Prize.



## **Competition programme**

**Kategória A2: Detské spevácke zbory do 16 rokov**

**Category A2: Children's choirs up to 16 years**

1. Moravské národní písně, sebral František Sušil - koleda z Lichnova
2. Jan Sündermann - Cyklus Na koledě, 1. část Hej, Kubo
3. Petr Eben - Cyklus Zelená se snítka, Veselá sanice
4. Julius Dixon, Beverly Ross - Lollipop
5. Spirituál, Úprava: F. Nedvěd, Český text: D. Vančura - Virgin Mary Had a Baby Born, Bim bam
6. South African Traditional - Ipharadisi

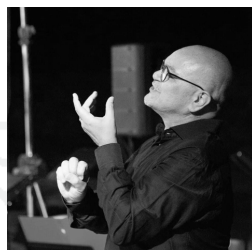


# Ensemble Vocale Cantica Nova /IT/

**Conductor: Mr. Francesco Saverio Messina**

The vocal ensemble "CANTICA NOVA" originated in Milazzo in 1990. The ensemble has primarily focused on studying and performing music by Renaissance composers. They have also developed a diverse repertoire encompassing contemporary, pop, international folk music, gospels, and spirituals from the black American tradition. Additionally, "CANTICA NOVA" is the creator and organizer of the International Choral Festival "InCanto Mediterraneo," which has been held biennially since 2009 in Milazzo, Sicily, Italy. The ensemble has garnered numerous international recognitions and awards in Spain, Italy, and the Republic of Macedonia.

Francesco Saverio Messina serves as the conductor, founder, and director of the Vocal Ensemble Cantica Nova since 1989. Francesco regularly performs concerts on a regional and national level, participates in national and international festivals and competitions. He is also the creator and artistic director of the International Choral Festival & Competition InCanto Mediterraneo. Additionally, he is a choir master and holds a degree in Sociology. He has attended master's courses in choral conducting with instructors such as Bordignon, Graden, Popescu, Bressan, Acciai, Thomas, and Pfaff.



## **Competition programme**

**Kategória E2: Komorné zbory dospelé (9 - 24 spevákov)**

**Category E2: Adult chamber choirs (9 - 24 singers)**

1. Roland de Lassus - Matona mia cara
2. Bruno Bettinelli - Già mi trovai di maggio
3. Morten Lauridsen - Se per havervi, oime
4. Stephen Schwartz, arr. John Leavitt - When you believe

**Kategória F1: Ľudová pieseň a cappella**

**Category F1: Folksong a cappella**

1. elab. Giuseppe Mazzaglia - Sicilian folksong - Si maritau Rosa anonimo
2. elab. Giuseppe Mignemi - Sicilian folksong - E vui durmiti ancora Formisano-Cali
3. elab. Enrico Buondonno - Neapolitan folksong - Torna a Surriento Ernesto De Curtis
4. elab. Ennio Porrino - Sardinian folksong - Canzone a ballo anonimo

**Kategória G: Spiritual, gospel, pop, jazz**

**Category G: Spiritual, gospel, pop, jazz**

1. Margaret Doureaux - spiritual - Clean heart
2. Harold Arlen, arr. Mark Hayes - pop music - Over the rainbow
3. Lars Jansson, arr. Gunnar Eriksson - jazz music - To the mothers in Brazil (Salve Regina)



# Helsingin Laulu /FI/

## Conductor: Mrs. Hanna Remes

Helsingin Laulu is an enthusiastic mixed choir comprising approximately 40 members. Established in 1951, it has been under Hanna Remes's direction since 1998. The choir's diverse repertoire spans classical choral music, traditional songs, experimental compositions, lively rhythm music, and songs in Helsinki's slang. Their aim is to facilitate the musical and vocal development of their singers. Over the years, Helsingin Laulu has achieved success in numerous national and international choir competitions.

Hanna Remes, originally from Kemi, Finland, earned her doctorate in music from the DocMus unit of the Sibelius Academy of Music at the University of Arts Helsinki in the spring of 2021. She also holds a degree in music education from the Central Finland Conservatory. Hanna Remes conducts four Finnish choirs: Helsingin Laulu, Kilven Kuoro, the Chamber Choir SonorEnsemble, and the Association Choir FluoCanto. In addition to her choral work, Hanna Remes serves as a diocesan secretary at the Diocese of Helsinki Cathedral and is the artistic director of the Mixed Choir Association.



### Competition programme

#### **Kategória D3: Zmiešané zbory dospelých**

#### **Category D3: Adult choirs**

1. Heino Kaski, Arr: Sæde Bartling - Mökit nukkuu lumiset
2. Toivo Kuula – Rukous
3. Selim Palmgren, Arr: Sæde Bartling - Neitsyt Maarian poika (Op.103)
4. Finnish folk song, Arr: Merja Rajala - Jouluaatto on nyt herttainen



# Lost Harmony /SK/

**Conductor: Mr. Gregor Zubek**

Lost Harmony is a women's chamber ensemble established in March of this year. It comprises women who are studying singing and others who are not. The ensemble was formed by the conductor after meeting and getting acquainted with women during his studies in Banská Bystrica. Despite its short existence, the ensemble has performed at several major concerts, including the 2023 International Voce Magna Festival in Žilina, where it achieved recognition among the groups classified at the Silver Level. The founder and conductor, Gregor Zubek, pursued piano studies at the Ján Levoslav Bella Conservatory in Banská Bystrica under the guidance of Associate Professor Dr. Jana Škvarková. Currently, he is enrolled at the Academy of Art in the same city, working towards becoming a conductor of chamber music under the supervision of Dr. Štefan Sedlický. The piano accompaniment is provided by Mgr. art. Peter Dekrét.

## **Competition programme**

**Kategória J: Súčasná zborová hudba**

**Category J: Contemporary choir music**

1. Pavol Béreš - Žalm 59, verš č. 3 a 4
2. Tatjana Marst - Con sordino
3. Lead Belly - Bring me little water, Sylvie
4. Bob Chilcott - Gloria (A little jazz mass)



# Loreto/CBS Kilkenny Ireland /IE/

## Conductor: Mrs. Lorraine Maher (Loreto) and Mrs. Mandy Dowling (CBS)

Although separate secondary schools in Kilkenny, Ireland, both choirs regularly perform together for school musicals, choir competitions and events. Loreto are delighted to continue their tradition of competing in the Bratislava International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music. This year, the CBS Kilkenny boys will be embarking on this journey of a lifetime with them. This is their biggest venture together and both schools are looking forward to singing and competing as a joint SATB choir. Both choirs scooped the first place prize at the Wesley Choir Competition in Dublin Ireland last year. This is one of the most prestigious school choir competitions in Ireland. Their dedication to rehearsals is admirable especially for their young age. We hope you enjoy their performances. We look forward to hearing the other wonderful choirs taking part. This is an excellent opportunity for many of our students involved. We hope the trip will prove to be a lifelong learning experience where friends for life will be made. We are immensely proud of what they have achieved to continue the strong music traditions of both schools.



The conductors for this collaborative project are Lorraine Maher from Loreto and Mandy Dowling from CBS. They are joined by Mary Butler as the accompanist for their choirs. Lorraine Maher serves as the choir director at Loreto Secondary School in Kilkenny, where she conducts a variety of choirs spanning the ages of 13 to 18. In addition to choirs, she also oversees a large school orchestra and takes pride in all her musical ensembles. Lorraine is excited about the collaboration with Mandy and CBS Kilkenny, as both schools have a deep-rooted musical tradition. Competing together abroad has been a long-standing aspiration that has finally come to fruition.

Mandy Dowling is the director of the CBS Senior Choir in Kilkenny and also leads the music department at CBS Kilkenny. Under her guidance, many students participate in the various choirs, traditional bands, and ensembles offered by the school. Both schools previously joined forces to stage vibrant performances of "Footloose" in 2021 and "Legally Blonde" in 2022, fostering numerous fruitful friendships. The CBS boys eagerly anticipate performing alongside the talented Loreto ladies to share the joy of choral music with all.



### Competition programme

#### **Kategória C1: Mládežnícke zbory do 21 rokov**

#### **Category C1: Youth choirs up to 21 years**

1. Steal Away - arranged by Greg Gilpin
2. Mary Did You Know - arranged by Jack Schrader
3. Ding a Ding a Ding - arranged by Greg Gilpin
4. O Holy Night - arranged by Mac Huff
5. Mo Ghille Mear - arranged by Desmond Earley





## Lusatia consort /CZ/

**Conductor: Mr. Štěpán Přenosil**

**Non-competing choir**

The Youth Vocal-Instrumental Ensemble Lusatia Consort was established at the Elementary Art School in Cvikov in 1996, initially as a flute ensemble. However, in the new millennium, its members joined forces with singers and musicians playing various musical instruments, including some historical ones such as violins, guitars, bagpipes, drums, accordion, clarinet, and cornamuse. During their travels, the ensemble has visited 13 European countries. In 2013, the group received the first prize at an international youth festival in Neerpelt, Belgium. In 2015, they became laureates of the Czech Radio competition "Concerto Bohemia," and in 2016, they received the Radio Kujawsko-Pomorskie Prize in Bydgoszcz, Poland. They have also established their own international multi-genre festival called BARABANFEST. The ensemble performs music from various eras, including the repertoire of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque, as well as ethnic (folk) and film music.

Štěpán Přenosil, a teacher at the Elementary Art School in Cvikov, has been leading the ensemble since its inception. He is also actively involved in the medieval band Řemdi, which has been active since 1989.



# Mixed Chori Apollo /SK/

**Conductor: Mr. Milan Kolena**

**Non-competing choir**

Choir Apollo was established in 1995 and in a short time achieved notoriety in Slovakia and abroad. The choir often gives performances at prestigious local and international events. Apollo has toured Italy (Citta' di Nuoro, Rome, Fano, Loreto, Olbia) and other countries - Poznan, Poland; Banja Luka, Bosna Hercegovina; Szeged, Miskolc, Hungary; Munich, Germany; Prague, Olomouc, Brno and Pardubice, Czech Republic; Vienna, Austria as well as in many Slovak towns. The choir's repertoire focuses on current sacred Slovak works; the choir interprets extensive pieces by outstanding Slovak composer Pavol Krška, including Stabat Mater; Rekviem; Te Deum; Missa Solemnis. The Apollo repertoire also includes sacred choruses from the Gregorian Chant period, as well as Renaissance and Romantic period selections; spirituals, folksongs and carols in choir arrangements.



Choir Apollo has recorded a CD of Anton Bruckner works – Moteta in 2003 and made a recording of Pavol Krška's Rekviem for two choirs, sola and organ in 2012. The choir regularly sings at Holy Masses in Jesuit and other churches in Bratislava and gives charity concerts for children oncology hospital in Bratislava. It performs concerts also with University of Performing Arts soloists or in cooperation with other Slovak or foreign choirs. The choir Apollo is also coorganizer of international choir festivals in Bratislava that are held annually throughout the year.



# Ondrášek Czech Youth Choir /CZ/

**Conductor: Mr. Josef Zajíček**

Ondrášek, a Czech youth choir from Nový Jičín ART SCHOOL CHOIR, has achieved remarkable success in its 55-year history. It has garnered numerous prizes in international competitions and festivals, collaborating with top national artists, composers, and orchestras. Their repertoire is incredibly diverse, encompassing a wide range of musical styles from the Renaissance to contemporary choir trends. Some of their recent significant awards include their first-place win at the Serenade! Choral Festival in Washington, DC, in June 2014. In December 2015, Ondrášek earned the Grand Prix, the award for the best and most successful children's choir at the CANTATE DOMINO festival in Kaunas, Lithuania. Notably, they received the Grand Prix at an International festival in Bratislava, Slovakia, in December 2016, and two gold medals in Callela, Spain, in September 2022. The piano accompaniment is provided by Mr. Tomáš Vrána

Born in 1961 in Nový Jičín, Czechoslovakia, Josef Zajíček has had a noteworthy career in music. He started as a soloist in the Nový Jičín children's choir, Ondrášek, from 1969 to 1974. In 1988, he established the singing department at the Elementary Art School in Nový Jičín. Since 1992, he has been the Choirmaster and Art Director of Ondrášek, the choir of Nový Jičín Elementary Art School. He also taught aesthetics and founded the student choir Puellae et Pueri at the Grammar School in Nový Jičín between 2005 and 2012. From 2012 onwards, he has been a teacher of music education and the choirmaster for the DATIO girls' choir at the St Agnes of Bohemia Secondary School of Pedagogy in Odry. His expertise extends to the NIPOS ARTAMA Prague expert board for child choirs, where he plays an active role in expert juries, contributing significantly to the world of music education and choral performance.

## **Competition programme**

**Kategória J: Súčasná zborová hudba**

**Category J: Contemporary choir music**

1. Michael Trotta - Omnia vincit amor
2. Ola Gjeilo - Ubi caritas
3. Victor C. Johnson - Agnus Dei
4. Petr Eben - Učiň mne pane nástrojem
5. Gyöngyösi Levente - Gloria Kajoniensis



# OZ Cantibile /SK/

## Conductor: Mrs. Veronika Pavlovičová

Choir Cantabile was founded in 1975 in Nove Mesto nad Vahom. Since 1985 the choir is led by Mrs. Veronika Pavlovicova. During its lifetime the choir has given in many performances in Slovakia as well as abroad, e.g. in Serbia. They were awarded many prizes at national and international festivals among all they value the most the Gold Band at the national competition in Komarno. They were awarded by Brass Band at International Folklore Festival 2015 in Bratislava and also at International Festival of Christmas and Advent music in Bratislava in 2016. In 2019 Choir Cantabile was awarded by Brass Band again at International Festival "Slovakia Folk 2019" in Bratislava. The repertoire of Cantabile choir comprises classical compositions, sacred music and also folksongs arranged for choirs.

Veronika Pavlovičová (born 1947) received her early musical education at ZUŠ Nové Mesto nad Váhom. Influenced by the rich folkloric heritage of Moravské Slovácko, she developed a passion for music. She sang in various choirs, including the Catholic church choir, where her love for sacred and classical music grew. Between 1968 and 1971, she was a member of the "Javorina" choir and later taught piano at ZUŠ. Veronika also contributed to the Vzduchotechnika company's choir, where she led the female voices. After the departure of Dr. Jozef Vakoš as conductor, she took over the choir's leadership. For over 38 years, Veronika Pavlovičová has conducted the choir, making a significant impact on their musical journey.



### Competition programme

#### **Kategória D3: Zmiešané zbory dospelých**

#### **Category D3: Adult choirs**

1. Karol WURM - Otvorte večné brány
2. Upr. Ondrej Betko -  
EMMANUEL
3. W. A. Mozart - Ave verum
4. Ivan Zajc - Ave Maria
5. Fr. Prášil - Vstávajte pastieri
6. Josef Krček - Ľulajže Jezuniu
7. J. Fr. Wade - Adeste Fideles





# Poznański Chór Polihymnia /PL/

**Conductor: Mr. Tomasz Dziecioł**

**Non-competing choir**

The Poznań Choir Polihymnia was founded in 1983. The ensemble brought together people of different backgrounds and professions, who shared their passion for music and singing. The choir's repertory comprises almost 300 pieces from periods ranging from medieval to contemporary. For 30 years the choir's artistic management rested in the hands of professor Janusz Dziecioł, later taken over by professor Tomasz Dziecioł, who is the present conductor of the choir. Our signature characteristic is sensitivity to sound color, which paves the way for our musical explorations and the selection of pieces. The choir will be accompanied by Kamil Wicenciaka as their pianist.





# Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis /SK/

**Conductor: Mr. Milan Kolena**

**Non-competing choir**

Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis was founded in 2002. Its activities and goals focus on semiologic interpretation of Gregorian chant according to the oldest semiologic sources from 9.-11. cent. and on presenting Gregorian chants originated in Slovak 13.-15. cent. liturgic tradition. Among schola's important activities has been CD recording of three Bratislava antiphonaries from the end of 15. century, which was a part of UNESCO project World's memory in Slovak Republic. The Medieval Slovak manuscripts were thus for the first time presented to the cultural and professional audiences both home



and abroad. One of the schola's concert highlights has been the participation in Gregorian chant festival in Florence (2008) where the schola presented with success also chants from the Bratislava antiphonary. The art director and founder of the schola is Dr. Milan Kolena.

Milan Kolena is conductor, artistic director of Bratislava Music Festivals, teacher of choral conducting and Gregorian Chant at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava and the president of Slovak Choral Association. With his choir Apollo and Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis Milan Kolena visited many prestigious choral competitions all over the Europe. During 2004-2006 together with Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis recorded 3 CDs of Bratislava antiphons for Slovak National Library. In 2014 he gave lectures at three American universities: Illinois Wesleyan University School, University of Missouri School of Music, Colorado State University, topic: The Question of the



# Smíšený pěvecký sbor ARTEP /CZ/

## Conductor: Ms. Petra Rašíková

The mixed choir named ARTEP from the Grammar School and Business Academy in Orlová was established in January 2001. The ensemble regularly participates in both national and international choir festivals. The choir's history includes many successful performances in concerts and choir festivals in the Czech Republic, but also in Poland, Switzerland, Mexico, Italy, Latvia, Slovakia and Macedonia, where the choir is frequently awarded.

The conductor and art director of the choir is Ms. Petra Rašíková. Mr. Aleš Bína is also an important figure who is in charge of piano accompaniment. Ms Monika Kříštková works with the choir from September 2022 as a vocal coach.

In 2005, Ms. Petra Rašíková graduated from the Faculty of Education at the University of Ostrava, specializing in Music Education and Choirmaster at the 3rd level of education under the guidance of Professor Lumír Pivovarský. She honed her choir conducting skills through training at the Choir studio Permoník, Ostrava University Choir, and Ostrava teachers' choir. Since 2001, she has served as the artistic director and choirmaster of the mixed student choir Artep, affiliated with the Grammar School and Business Academy in Orlová. From September 2013, she has held the role of choirmaster and artistic director for the mixed choir Chorus Ostrava. Additionally, she currently teaches solo and choir singing at the Art School of V. Petrželky in Ostrava-Hrabůvka.



### **Competition programme**

#### **Kategória C1: Mládežnícke zbory do 21 rokov**

#### **Category C1: Youth choirs up to 21 years**

1. Audrey Snyder - Ubi caritas
2. Ernani Aguiar - Psalm 150
3. Alexandre Desplat - My Love Is Always Here
4. John Leavitt - Sanctus



# Tartu Karlova Children's Choir /ES/

## Conductor: Mrs. Vilve Maide

Founded in 1980, the Tartu Karlova Children's Choir is a dedicated group of young girls aged 11 to 13. Since 2012, the choir has been under the capable leadership of Vilve Maide as the conductor, with Imbi Goldman serving as the choirmaster. Their commitment to music has made them a prominent fixture in the Estonian music landscape. The choir's enchanting voices have been featured in recordings on Estonian Radio and Estonian Television, and they've graced the stages of various musical events, including Song Festivals in Tartu and throughout Estonia, as well as South-Estonian singing days.

Notably, the Children's Choir has ventured into the realm of choir competitions, where their talent has shone brightly. Their impressive list of achievements includes a golden medal at the 1993 "Tampere Sävel" choir competition, two silver medals in the 1997 edition of the same competition, and the first place in an international competition of Christmas carols in 2002, where they also secured the second place for Ave-Maria Sild's Christmas carol "Jõuluootus." In 2003, they achieved the 2nd place at the international choir competition "Tallinn 2003." Their accomplishments continued with a 1st place in the 2006 Estonian national competition of children's choirs in Türi and the 2nd place in the 2007 international choir competitions "Silver Bells" in Daugavpils and "Musica Sacra" in Bratislava. Their talents also extended to the final competition of the European Broadcasting Union in Wupperthal, Germany, where they secured the 2nd place. In 2016, they showcased their remarkable abilities once more, finishing in 3rd place at an international choir competition in Kaunas, Lithuania.



### Competition programme

#### **Kategória A2: Detské spevácke zbory do 16 rokov**

#### **Category A2: Children's choirs up to 16 years**

1. Olav Ehala & Leelo Tungal - Jõuluangel
2. Jozsef Karai - In dulci jubilo
3. Giulio Caccini & Gwyn Arch - Ave Maria

#### **Kategória H2: Sakrálna hudba s inštrumentálnym sprievodom**

#### **Category H2: Musica Sacra with instrumental accompaniment**

1. Mari Amor - Salve Regina
2. Cyrillus Kreek / vaimulik rahvaviis Ridala - Nüüd hingvad inimesed
3. Charles Gounod - Gloria

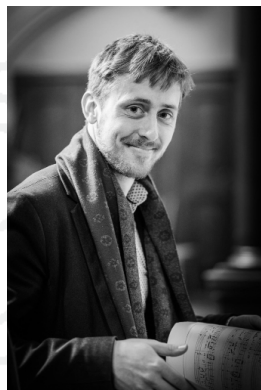


# Vachuv sbor moravských učitelek /CZ/

## Conductor: Mr. Patrik Buchta

Celebrating its 110th anniversary, the Vach's Choir of Moravian Teachers maintains a strong cultural presence in Brno and its surroundings. The choir has been led by prominent conductors over the years, including its founder, Professor Ferdinand Vach, and others like Břetislav Bakala and Zbyněk Mrkos. They collaborate with the Czech-Slovenian Society to organize regular festivals with Slovenian choirs, with the 9th edition in 2023 hosted by VSMU. In 2018, at the Mundi Cantant international choir competition in Olomouc, the choir received a silver medal in the adult choir category and a golden medal for their interpretation of sacred music. Since autumn 2018, MgA. Patrik Buchta has been the choir's conductor, aiming to diversify the repertoire with works by lesser-known Czech and Slovak composers. Under his direction, the choir achieved a golden medal at the Mundi Cantant 2023 competition in the adult equal-voice choirs category.

Patrik Buchta graduated from Biskupské gymnasium v Brně in 2017 and is currently completing his master's degree at JAMU in Brno. Concurrently, he is pursuing organ studies at Brno's conservatory. In his professional career, he has worked with various choirs, including the mixed choir Ensemble versus, the Church choir in Šlapanice, and Schola Brněnské Mládeže. He has also collaborated with ensembles like Vox iuvenalis, Choirestra, and the mixed choir JAMU, and has participated in conducting masterclasses led by both Czech and foreign choirmasters such as Andrea Brown, Václav Luks, Jaroslav Brych, Miriam Němcová, and Josef Surovík. In addition to his work as a choirmaster, he serves as a liturgical organist at the Church of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary and the Church of Saints John the Evangelist and John the Baptist in Brno.



### Competition programme

#### **Kategória D2: Ženské spevácke zbory**

#### **Category D2: Female adult choirs**

1. Antonio Vivaldi - Gloria
2. anonym (16. stoloť) - In natali Domini
3. Lajos Bárdos - Ave maris stella
4. Petr Eben - Narodil se Kristus Pán (Tři české koledy)
5. John Leavitt - Sanctus (Missa festiva)



# Voices of Singapore Ladies Choir /SI/

## Conductor: Mr. Darius Lim

Formally founded in 2014 as VOCO Singapore Ladies Choir by Artistic Director Darius Lim, the choir is the first independent all-female choral ensemble in Singapore. Consisting of semi-professional singers, musicians, educators and passionate amateurs, the choir joined VOS Choral Society at its inception in 2019 and was since renamed VOS Ladies Choir (VSL). Their primary goal is to empower women in Singapore, with a mission to present a diverse range of choral music to a worldwide audience.

In June 2016, the choir embarked on their inaugural international European tour, performing in Amsterdam, Krakow, London, Great Rissington, and Cardiff. During the tour, the choir was awarded the 2nd Prize in the Chamber Choir category of the 2016 Cracovia Cantans International Choir Competition in Krakow, Poland. More recently, the choir received the Gold award at the 2021 World Choir Festival.

Darius Lim (Dr.) is a Singaporean Conductor-Composer renowned for his visionary approach to choral music. As the Founder and Artistic Director of Voices of Singapore, Darius has transformed the Singaporean choral music landscape, blending lyrical, dramatic, instrumental, and theatrical elements into his compositions and performances. He is recognized worldwide as an advocate for choral music, inspiring, engaging, educating, and entertaining audiences globally. In 2023, Darius was the commissioned composer of the World Symposium on Choral Music in Istanbul, the Composer-in-Residence for National Concerts at Carnegie Hall, and the set piece composer for the European Piano & Choral Olympics. Darius holds several positions in the local and global music scene, including CEO of The Voice Company, Council Member in the Asia Pacific Choral Council, Board Chairman of the World Alliance of Children's Choirs, and Board Member of the International Federation for Choral Music. Darius's impact on the music industry has not gone unnoticed, and in 2021 he was invited by TEDx to present "The Voices of Singapore – Strengthening a Nation Through Choral Singing".

### **Competition programme**

#### **Kategória H1: Sakrálna hudba a cappella**

##### **Category H1: Musica Sacra a cappella**

1. David Hamilton - O Vos Omnes
2. Giovanni Croce - Cantate Domino
3. Eriks Esenvalds - Lux Aeterna
4. Lorenz Maierhofer - Musica Aeterna

#### **Kategória D2: Ženské spevácke zbory**

##### **Category D2: Female adult choirs**

1. Cesar Carrillo - Ave Maria
2. arr. Darius Lim - Dayung Sampan
3. Randall Stroope - Revelation





# KALENDÁR PODUJATÍ / MUSIC FESTIVAL CALENDAR

Zbory a orchestre 2024 - 2025 / Choirs and orchestras 2024 - 2025  
Bratislava, Slovakia

## **BRATISLAVA SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Bratislava, Slovakia; 24th - 27th March 2024

Bratislava, Slovakia; 20th - 23rd March 2025

## **SLOVAKIA CANTAT**

**International Festival of Choirs and Orchestras**

Bratislava, Slovakia; 25th - 28th April 2024

Bratislava, Slovakia; 24th - 27th April 2025

## **BRATISLAVA CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL**

**International Festival of Choirs and Orchestras**

Bratislava. Slovakia; 13th - 16th June 2024

Bratislava. Slovakia; 12th - 15th June 2025

## **INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL I**

**Competition Festival for Children & Youth Choirs, Orchestras and Bands**

Bratislava, Slovakia; 2nd - 5th July 2024

Bratislava. Slovakia; 1st - 4th July 2025

## **BRATISLAVA CANTAT I**

**International festival of choirs and orchestras**

Bratislava, Slovakia; 22nd - 25th July 2024

Bratislava. Slovakia; 28th - 31st July 2025

## **INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL II**

**Competition Festival for Children & Youth Choirs, Orchestras and Bands**

Bratislava, Slovakia; 22nd - 25th July 2024

Bratislava. Slovakia; 28th - 31st July 2025

## **BRATISLAVA CANTAT II**

**International festival of choirs and orchestras**

Bratislava, Slovakia; 10th - 13th October 2024

Bratislava. Slovakia; 9th - 12th October 2025

## **INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC**

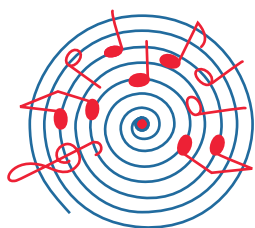
Bratislava, Slovakia; 5th - 8th December 2024

Bratislava. Slovakia; 4th - 7th December 2025





# We are celebrating 18 years!



BRATISLAVA  
MUSIC AGENCY

Since 2005 we hosted:  
more than 1100 choirs and orchestras  
more than 40 000 musicians  
more than 50 countries





# XVI. INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC

## XVI. MEDZINÁRODNÝ FESTIVAL ADVENTNEJ A VIANOČNEJ HUDBY

7 - 10 December 2023, Bratislava, Slovakia

### 7.12.2023 ŠTVRTOK | THURSDAY

#### 19:00 OTVÁRAČI KONCERT FESTIVALU / OPENING CONCERT

Dětský pěvecký sbor CARO Raškovice /CZ/, Tartu Karlova Children's Choir /EE/, Voices of Singapore Ladies Choir /SG/, Choir of Medical University of Lodz /PL/, Helsingin Laulu /FI/, Children Choir „Pomerania Cantat“ /PL/, Choir „Canzona“ of University of Technology in Koszalin /PL/, Poznański chór Polihymnia /PL/, Ensemble Vocale Cantica Nova /IT/, Lusatia consort /CZ/

*Jezuitský kostol / Jesuit church, Františkánske námestie*

### 8.12.2023 PIATOK | FRIDAY

#### 15:30 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

Lusatia consort /CZ/, Choir of Medical University of Lodz /PL/, Helsingin Laulu /FI/, Children Choir „Pomerania Cantat“ /PL/, Voices of Singapore Ladies Choir /SG/, Poznański chór Polihymnia /PL/, Tartu Karlova Children's Choir /EE/

*Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Music Hall, Farská 4*

#### 18:00 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

Loreto/CBS Kilkenny Ireland /IE/, Smlíšený pěvecký sbor ARTEP /CZ/, Dětský pěvecký sbor CARO Raškovice /CZ/, Choir „Canzona“ of University of Technology in Koszalin /PL/, Lost Harmony /SK/, Ensemble Vocale Cantica Nova /IT/, Vachův sbor moravských učitelů /CZ/

*Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Music Hall, Farská 4*

### 9.12.2023 SOBOTA | SATURDAY

#### SÚŤAŽ SPEVÁCKYCH ZBOROV / CHORAL COMPETITION

*Zrkadlová sieň Primaciálneho paláca, Primaciálne námestie  
Mirror Hall of the Primate's Palace, Primatial square*

#### Kategória A2: Detské spevácke zbory do 16 rokov

#### Category A2: Children's choirs up to 16 years

9:00 Tartu Karlova Children's Choir /EE/

9:15 Children Choir „Pomerania Cantat“ /PL/

9:30 Dětský pěvecký sbor CARO Raškovice /CZ/

#### Kategória H2: Sakrálna hudba s inštrumentálnym sprievodom

#### Category H2: Musica Sacra with instrumental accompaniment

9:45 Tartu Karlova Children's Choir /EE/

#### Kategória E2: Komorné zbory dospelé (9 - 24 spevákov)

#### Category E2: Adult chamber choirs (9 - 24 singers)

10:00 Ensemble Vocale Cantica Nova /IT/

#### Kategória H1: Sakrálna hudba a cappella

#### Category H1: Musica Sacra a cappella

10:15 Voices of Singapore Ladies Choir /SG/

#### Kategória F1: Ľudová pieseň a cappella

#### Category F1: Folksong a cappella

10:30 Ensemble Vocale Cantica Nova /IT/

#### Kategória D2: Ženské spevácke zbory

#### Category D2: Female adult choirs

10:45 Vachův sbor moravských učitelů /CZ/

11:00 Voices of Singapore Ladies Choir /SG/

#### Kategória G: Spiritual, gospel, pop, jazz

#### Category G: Spiritual, gospel, pop, jazz

11:15 Ensemble Vocale Cantica Nova /IT/

#### Kategória D3: Zmiešané zbory dospelých

#### Category D3: Adult choirs

13:00 Choir of Medical University of Lodz /PL/

13:18 Helsingin Laulu /FI/

13:36 Choir „Canzona“ of University of Technology in Koszalin /PL/

13:58 OZ Cantabile /SK/

#### Kategória C1: Mládežnícke zbory do 21 rokov

#### Category C1: Youth choirs up to 21 years

14:12 Loreto/CBS Kilkenny Ireland /IE/

14:30 Smlíšený pěvecký sbor ARTEP /CZ/

#### Kategória J: Súčasná zborová hudba

#### Category J: Contemporary choir music

14:48 Lost Harmony /SK/

15:06 Ondrášek Czech Youth Choir /CZ/

#### 15:45 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

Lusatia consort /CZ/, Lost Harmony /SK/, Poznański chór Polihymnia /PL/, OZ Cantabile /SK/, Helsingin Laulu /FI/, Loreto/CBS Kilkenny Ireland /IE/, Ondrášek Czech Youth Choir /CZ/

*Zrkadlová sieň Primaciálneho paláca, Primaciálne námestie  
Mirror Hall of the Primate's Palace, Primatial square*

#### 18:45 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT A VYHLÁSENIE VÝSLEDKOV SÚŤAŽE

#### FESTIVAL CONCERT A COMPETITION RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT

Spievajú zúčastnené zbory na festivale / Participating choirs perform at the concert

*Jezuitský kostol / Jesuit church, Františkánske námestie*

### 10.12.2023 NEDEĽA | SUNDAY

11:00 Svätá omša / Holy Mass

Vachův sbor moravských učitelů /CZ/

*Jezuitský kostol / Jesuit church, Františkánske námestie*

Na všetky podujatia vstup voľný / Free entrance to all concerts  
Zmena programu vyhradená / Programme is subject to change

Spoluorganizátori festivalu:

Hlavné mesto SR Bratislava  
Bratislavské kultúrne a informačné stredisko  
Únia speváckych zborov Slovenska  
Spevácky zbor Apollo



BRATISLAVA  
MUSIC AGENCY