



PROGRAM

12. Medzinárodný hudobný festival
12th International Music Festival

8 - 11 October 2026
Bratislava, Slovakia



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BRATISLAVA
MUSIC AGENCY



ZÁŠTITU NAD FESTIVALOM PRIJALI / UNDER THE AUSPICES OF:

Matúš Vallo

Primátor hlavného mesta Bratislava / Mayor of the Capital City, Bratislava

MEDZINÁRODNÁ POROTA / INTERNATIONAL JURY:

Prof. Izabella Zielecka-Panek /Poland/ - *chair of the jury*

Assoc. prof. Ondrej Šaray /Slovakia/

Assoc. prof. Milan Kolena /Slovakia/

SPOLUORGANIZÁTORI FESTIVALU / FESTIVAL CO-ORGANIZERS:

Bratislavské kultúrne a informačné stredisko

Hlavné mesto SR Bratislava

Bratislava Staré Mesto

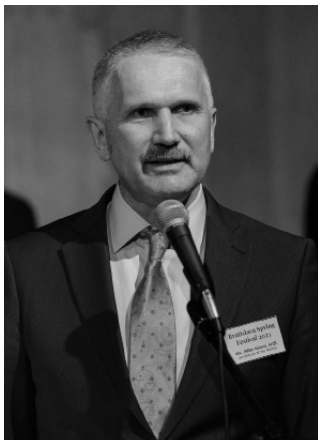
Spevácky zbor Apollo

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 Bratislava Cantat II. 2026. Teší ma a som nesmierne vďačný, že sa môžeme stretávať a zdieľať naše nadšenie pre zborový spev a orchestrálnu hudbu. Tento festival je najväčším podujatím svojho druhu na Slovensku, a preto predstavuje pre slovenský hudobný život výnimočnú udalosť. Počas predchádzajúcich ročníkov sa na festivale vystriedalo vyše sto speváckych zborov a orchestrov, viac než tisíc hudobníkov, čo svedčí o neustálom prograse 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 hudobné 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 Bratislava Cantat II. 2026

Dear friends,

Welcome to Bratislava!

I am very happy to welcome you to the Bratislava Cantat II. 2026. It brings me great joy and gratitude to come together once again and share our love for choral singing. 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 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 Bratislava Cantat II. 2026

PROGRAM FESTIVALU

8.10.2026 ŠTVRTOK / THURSDAY

19:00 OTVÁRACÍ KONCERT / OPENING CONCERT

Kuřátka /CZ/, Dívčí komorní sbor Petrklíč /CZ/, Páni z Kalicha /CZ/, Armonia /CZ/, MVS Nešpula /HR/, Musica al Cuore /SK/, Women's vocal group of the Cultural and Artistic Association „Veseli Međimurci“ /HR/, Academic Choir of the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice /PL/

Jezuitský kostol/ Jesuits Church, Františkánske námestie/ Franciscan square

9.10.2026 PIATOK / FRIDAY

17:00 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

Utenos meno mokyklos instrumentinis ansamblis /LT/, Kamerinis ansamblis (sax and piano) /LT/, Kamerinis ansamblis (clarinet and piano) /LT/, Kuřátka /CZ/, Dívčí komorní sbor Petrklíč /CZ/, MVS Nešpula /HR/, Páni z Kalicha /CZ/

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

19:00 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

Women's vocal group of the Cultural and Artistic Association „Veseli Međimurci“ / HR/, Armonia /CZ/, Academic Choir of the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice /PL/, Musica al Cuore /SK/

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

10.10.2026 SOBOTA / SATURDAY

SŮŤAŽNÁ ČASŤ FESTIVALU / FESTIVAL COMPETITION

Zrkadlová sieň Primaciálneho paláca

Mirror Hall of the Primate's Palace

Detské spevácke zbory do 12 rokov | Children's choirs up to 12 years

9:00 Kuřátka /CZ/

Komorné zbory dospelých | Chamber choirs

9:20 MVS Nešpula /HR/

9:40 Dívčí komorní sbor Petrklíč /CZ/

Ludová pieseň a cappella | Folksong a cappella

10:00 MVS Nešpula /HR/

10:15 Women's vocal group of the Cultural and Artistic Association „Veseli Međimurci“ /HR/

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Ľudová pieseň s inštrumentálnym sprievodom | Folksong with instrumental accompaniment

10:30 Armonia /CZ/

Zmiešané spevácke zbory dospelých | Mixed adult choirs

10:45 Academic Choir of the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice /PL/

11:00 Armonia /CZ/

11:20 Musica al Cuore /SK/

Sakrálna hudba a cappella | Musica Sacra a cappella

11:40 Academic Choir of the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice /PL/

Mužské spevácke zbory dospelých | Male adult choirs

12:00 Páni z Kalicha /CZ/

Detské orchestre do 16 rokov | Children's orchestras up to 16 years

14:00 Utenos meno mokyklos instrumentinis ansamblis /LT/

14:30 Kamerinis ansamblis (clarinet and piano) /LT/

14:45 Kamerinis ansamblis (sax and piano) /LT/

15:00 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

Utenos meno mokyklos instrumentinis ansamblis /LT/, Kamerinis ansamblis (clarinet and piano) /LT/, Armonia /CZ/, Kamerinis ansamblis (sax and piano) /LT/, Páni z Kalicha /CZ/, Musica al Cuore /SK/, Dívčí komorní sbor Petrklíč /CZ/, MVS Nešpula /HR/, Kuřátka /CZ/

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

19:00 ZÁVEREČNÝ KONCERT ZBOROV A VYHLÁSENIE VÝSLEDKOV SÚŤAŽE | FINAL CHOIR CONCERT AND COMPETITION RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT

Jezuitský kostol/ Jesuits Church, Františkánske námestie/ Franciscan square

11.10.2026 NEDEĽA / SUNDAY

Odchod medzinárodných speváckych zborov a orchestrov

Departure of international choirs and orchestras

**Prof. Izabella Zielecka-Panek /Poland/
*chair of the jury***



PROF. DR HAB. IZABELLA ZIELECKA - PANEK - choirmaster, professor of musical arts in the field of conducting, academic teacher at the Music Institute of the University of Silesia in Katowice, as well as a recreation instructor specializing in „horse riding” and an Arabian horse breeder. Long-time conductor of the Choir of the University of Silesia „Harmonia” Since 1999, she has also been the founder and conductor of the Silesian Chamber Choir Ad libitum. Both „Ad Libitum” and „Harmonia” Izabella Zielecka-Panek won about 70 prestigious awards (gold medals and diplomas, special prizes, Grand Prix awards) at competitions in Poland and abroad (Festa Musicale Olomouc, Svatky Songs Zd’ar In The Czech Republic, Montreux Choral Festival In Switzerland, World Choral Festival Grand Prix In Pattaya, Thailand, Busan Choral Festival In South Korea, International Competition For The Gold Solca Badge In Lithuania, At Andrea O. Veneracion International Choral Festival - Manila/ The Philippines, Appreciated many times for

her interpretations, selection of repertoire and fruitful work on young voices, names include Andrea Bocelli, Roberto Alagna, Aleksandra Kurzak. Her achievements include 16 CDs recorded with choirs, 1000 concerts, during which she performed over 1000 choral pieces, and 50 oratorio and cantata pieces. Director and originator of The Józef Świder International Festival of Music in Cieszyn/Poland. President of the Music Without Borders Foundation. Izabella Zielecka-Panek also runs agrotourism „Kasztanka” in Bełżnica, where they coach horse-riding and breed horses.

**Assoc. Prof. Ondrej Šaray, ArtD. /Slovakia/
*member of the jury***



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 Youth Choir Echo and in 1992 the Amadeus Choir 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.

**Assoc. Prof. Milan Kolena, ArtD. /Slovakia/
*member of the jury***

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. 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.



Účinkujúce súbory Participating Ensembles

Conductor: Tomasz Giedwiłło

The Academic Choir of the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice was established in 1945 and has since developed a diverse repertoire encompassing early and contemporary music, folk arrangements, and major works for choir, soloists, and orchestra. Since 1980, the Choir has also organised the Czesław Freund Choral Festival in Gliwice. Among its most significant recent achievements are Gold Diplomas in the Adult Mixed Choirs and Sacred Music categories at the Leonardo da Vinci International Choral Festival in Florence, Italy, in 2022, where the ensemble also received a special mention for the best performance of a work by a contemporary composer, the award for best conductor, and the Grand Prix for best choir. In 2025, the Choir earned Gold Diplomas and podium places at the 14th International Cançó Mediterrània Festival and the Pau Casals Competition in Lloret de Mar, Spain. That same year, it received the City of Gliwice Award in the field of culture in recognition of its lifetime achievements and contribution to the promotion of choral music, as well as an Award of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage marking the 80th anniversary of its activity. Over the years, the Choir has collaborated with distinguished ensembles and institutions, including the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, the AUKSO Chamber Orchestra, and the "A" Theatre. Its discography includes several albums, among them *Missa Nova*, a jazz composition by M. Maliszczak, and Józef Skrzek's *Non omnis moriar*, released in 2025.



Tomasz Giedwiłło is a conductor, teacher, pianist and singer with broad stylistic interests. He graduated from the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice in 2003, specialising in Composition, Theory and Music Education, and was awarded a scholarship by the Minister of Culture and Art. He further developed his conducting skills at international courses at the Z. Kodály Institute in Kecskemét, the International Symposium on Choral Music in Gdańsk, where he conducted the Polish Chamber Choir "Schola Cantorum Gedanensis", and a course for choral conductors in Ghent. Since 2023, he has lectured in the Department of Choral Studies, teaching conducting and leading the Academy of Music Chamber Choir. His repertoire with the ensemble includes Rheinberger's *Stabat Mater*, Duruflé's *Requiem* and Poniatowski's *Mass in F major*. He has also prepared the choir for a performance of Mahler's *Symphony of a Thousand*.

Competition programme

Kategória: Sakrálna hudba a cappella

Category: Musica Sacra a cappella

1. P. Gonczarow - *Krestu Twojemu* (Хресту Твоєму)
2. Craig Courtney - *Ukrainian Alleluia*
3. Lajos Bárdos - *Libera me*
4. Péter Louis van Dijk - *Chariots*

Kategória: Zmiešané spevácke zbory dospelých

Category: Mixed adult choirs

1. Józef Świder - *Modlitwa do Bogarodzicy*
2. Rosephanye Powell - *The Word Was God*
3. Karol Szymanowski - *Panie muzykancie, prosim zagrać walca*
4. Marcin Wawruk - *Leć głosie po rosie*
5. Stanisław Wiechowicz - *Pragną Ocki*



Conductors: Alena Vimrová & Dorota Babuljaková

Armonia is a mixed choir founded in 2013 at the Music School ZUŠ Rokycany. The choir has a rich concert history, performing at numerous events organized by the city and region, and participating in choral competitions both at home and abroad. The choir performed in Michigan (USA) and Raahe (Finland), competed and brought some gold medals from Riva del Garda (Italy), Jihlava (Czechia), Rome (Italy), Budapest (Hungary) and Barcelona (Spain).



In 2020, the choir was awarded a diploma by the City of Rokycany for its “outstanding contribution to culture.” In October 2025, the choir participated in the national competition of mixed choirs, Choralia Mikulov, held in Mikulov, Czech Republic, where it received the diploma for the overall winner of the entire competition.



Armonia is led by conductors **Alena Vimrová and Dorota Babuljaková**, and is accompanied on the piano by Dana Šeblová. Mgr. Alena Vimrová is the principal conductor of the Armonia Choir and a dedicated music educator with decades of experience in choral singing.

She has led Armonia to numerous prestigious competitions and festivals across the Czech Republic, Europe, and the United States, earning top awards along the way.

Her lifelong passion for choral music, shaped by her work with distinguished Czech composer Zdeněk Lukáš, is reflected in Armonia's diverse repertoire.

For her outstanding contribution to music education and choral culture, she has received several honours, including the Zpěvem k srdci medal.

Competition programme

Kategória: Zmiešané spevácke zbory dospelých

Category: Mixed adult choirs

1. Bob Chilcott - A Little Jazz Mass: Gloria
2. Jacobus Gallus - Ecce quomodo moritur
3. Zdeněk Lukáš - Hadroplet

Kategória: Ľudová pieseň s inštrumentálnym sprievodom

Category: Folksong with instrumental accompaniment

1. Antonín Dvořák, arr. Leoš Janáček - Zelenaj se, zelenaj
2. Lidová, arr. Miroslav Košler - Za tou naší storoličkou
3. Lidová, arr. Zdeněk Lukáš - Na horách
4. Lidová, arr. Zdeněk Lukáš - Za naším huménkem
5. Lidová, arr. Ivan Hrušovský - Išeu Macek



Dívčí komorní sbor Petrklíč /CZ/

Conductor: Milena Kejhová

The Petrklíč Choir is based at SZUŠ Prague 5 and was founded in 1999. Over the years, many singers have been part of the choir. It has participated in international festivals in Neerpelt, Rome, Riva del Garda, and Barcelona, as well as in competitions and festivals in the Czech Republic, including Svátky písní in Olomouc, Mozart's Prague, and Prague Christmas. The choir is made up of girls aged 13 and above. Due to the students' school commitments, the choir will be performing at this year's Bratislava Cantat festival with a smaller chamber ensemble.



Milena Kejhová graduated from the Prague Conservatory, where she studied accordion performance. She began her career as an accordion teacher at an elementary art school in Prague, with her students achieving numerous awards at international competitions. In 1992, she founded her own private elementary art school, where she continues to teach accordion and share her passion for music. She also conducts three choirs, which have received many awards at both national and international competitions.

Competition programme

Kategória: Komorné zbory dospelých

Category: Chamber choirs

1. Antonín Dvořák - Skromná
2. Antonín Dvořák - Prsten
3. Emil Hradecký - Jatelinka drobná
4. Emily Crocker - Benedictus a Hosanna
5. Slovácká lidová - Pres zelené žitečko
6. Jindřich Feld - Týnom, tánom
7. Sally K. Albrecht - Cantate Domino

Kamerinis ansamblis (clarinet and piano) /LT/

Conductor / mentor: Evaldas Beinoravičius

Rūta and **Goda** are a piano and clarinet duo from Lithuania who only started making music together a year ago. Although they have not been playing together for long, during this time they have already taken part in numerous concerts, festivals, and competitions. They have won prizes on several occasions, and these achievements motivate them to continue improving. They devote a lot of time to rehearsals and strive to achieve better results each time. The girls prepare various concert programmes, which they perform on stage for audiences. They rehearse both together and individually, at the music school and at home. Each rehearsal is an opportunity for them to learn something new and to become more in tune with each other musically. When performing together, they strive not only to play the piece well but also to convey its mood, emotion, and their love for music. It is important for them to listen to and trust each other and to create a beautiful, harmonious sound. Together, they aim to grow as musicians and give their very best every time they step onto the stage.

Competition programme

Kategória: Detské orchestre do 16 rokov

Category: Children's orchestras up to 16 years

1. August Mayer - Tarantella
2. Fernande Decruck - Cantilène
3. Christoph Willibald Gluck - Mélodie



Kamerinis ansamblis (sax and piano) /LT/

Conductor / mentor: Evaldas Beinoravičius

A saxophone and piano duo from Lithuania, **Ignas** and **Elija**, was formed a year and a half ago. In a relatively short time, they have already gained a great deal of musical experience by participating in various competitions, festivals, and concerts. We are happy that their efforts have been recognised, and that they have won prizes on several occasions. They prepare responsibly for each performance, devoting a lot of attention to rehearsals and the interpretation of each piece. When performing together, they strive to develop their own unique sound and convey to the audience what they feel through music. The combination of saxophone and piano allows them to explore different musical characters and moods. They rehearse both together at the music school and individually at home, with each of them putting a great deal of effort into the final result. Together, they are learning not only to perform the pieces better, but also to listen to and understand each other while making music. Every competition or concert gives them new experience and an opportunity to improve even further. We are proud of what they have already achieved, but they do not want to stop – they continue to seek new stages, challenges, and beautiful musical experiences.

Competition programme

Kategória: Detské orchestre do 16 rokov

Category: Children's orchestras up to 16 years

1. Alber Braju - Carousel
2. Franz Schubert - Ave Maria
3. Jerry Herman - Hello, Dolly!



Conductor: Milena Kejhová

The Kuřátka Children's Choir is based at SZUŠ Prague 5 and consists of approximately 37 children between the ages of 7 and 13. The choir rehearses once a week, and many of its members also play musical instruments. Over the years, the choir has taken part in numerous concerts, competitions, and international festivals, including the Svátky písní festival in Olomouc, Prague Christmas, and Zahrada písní. The choir has also achieved notable success at the international Bratislava Cantat festival, where it has twice received a Gold Award.



Milena Kejhová graduated from the Prague Conservatory, where she studied accordion performance. She began her career as an accordion teacher at an elementary art school in Prague, with her students achieving numerous awards at international competitions. In 1992, she founded her own private elementary art school, where she continues to teach accordion and share her passion for music. She also conducts three choirs, which have received many awards at both national and international competitions.

Competition programme

Kategória: Detské spevácke zbory do 12 rokov

Category: Children's choirs up to 12 years

1. Josef Říha - Zamotaná písnička
2. Jiří Těm - Počasí mně nevadí
3. Jan Vičar - Kam pluje lodička z papíru
4. Petr Eben - Trumpeta
5. Lidová - Muzikanti co děláte
6. Petr Eben - Kutálení - Honička
7. František Fiala - Ovečky
8. Herb Mahelona - E Nana Kakou I Na Manu (Podívej se na ptáky na obloze)

Musica al Cuore /SK/

Conductors: Iva Harmanovská & Anastasiia Lukaschcuk

Musica al Cuore is an international mixed choir based in Bratislava-Lamač, active since 2023. It brings together singers of different nationalities, generations and musical backgrounds, united by a passion for choral music and artistic development. Founded by Petra Mitašíková of Comenius University Bratislava, the choir collaborates with music educators Iva Harmanovská, Anastasiia Lukaschcuk, Ladislav Šipeky and Nadiia Danchuk. Combining artistic ambition with an open international community, Musica al Cuore sees choral singing as a space for musical growth, cultural exchange and shared enjoyment. Its diverse repertoire includes sacred and secular works by Slovak and international composers, folk arrangements, spirituals, jazz, musical theatre, film and popular music, with particular emphasis on vocal technique and stylistic and linguistic diversity. The choir performs regularly in Bratislava and beyond, appearing at concerts, cultural events, international festivals and competitions, while also collaborating with other choirs, orchestras, conductors and musicians. At Bratislava Cantat II. 2026, Musica al Cuore presents a programme reflecting its artistic direction, ranging from sacred and Slovak music to folk-inspired compositions, jazz and classical works by international composers.



Mgr. Iva Harmanovská studied Cultural Management and German Language at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and has extensive experience in music, dance and singing. She has performed with distinguished Slovak ensembles, including Lúčnica, and represented Slovakia internationally, also working as a performer and choreographer with the Limbora Artistic Ensemble in New York. She is currently Artistic Director of the Musica al Cuore Choir, where she works as a conductor, music educator and movement choreographer.

Mgr. Anastasiia Lukaschcuk graduated in Choral Conducting from the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava in 2024 and has collaborated with the Musica al Cuore Choir since then. She contributes to the choir's musical preparation, rehearsals, concerts and festival performances, and in 2025 conducted the ensemble at several concerts. Alongside her work with Artistic Director Iva Harmanovská, she teaches piano at an elementary art school in Bratislava.



Competition programme

Kategória: Zmiešané spevácke zbory dospelých

Category: Mixed adult choirs

1. John Leavitt - Kyrie
2. John Leavitt - Sanctus
3. Piotr Jańczak - Kyrie
4. Bob Chilcott - Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

Conductor: Tatjana Merkl

The mixed vocal ensemble Nešpula was founded in Pula, Croatia, in 2006 and performs Istrian folk songs, Dalmatian klapa, gospel, Renaissance polyphony, and arrangements of popular music. The ensemble regularly represents Pula, Istria, and Croatia at international competitions and festivals across Europe. Its major achievements include Gold Diplomas in Prague (2007 and 2015), Zagreb (2010 and 2017), Bratislava (2012), Rome (2018), Lloret de Mar (2019), Rovinj (2023), and Pazin (2024), as well as numerous Silver Diplomas. In 2015, Nešpula also received a special jury award for its interpretation of Croatian folklore in Prague, while in 2019 it won first place and a Gold Trophy in Istanbul. The ensemble has also performed at the prestigious festival in Varna, Bulgaria, recorded the original song Probudi me in 2017, and continues to combine Croatian musical traditions with contemporary vocal repertoire.



Tatjana Merkl is a music pedagogue, conductor and composer from Pula, with 28 years of conducting and teaching experience. She is the founder and conductor of the mixed choir Cantus PoPuli and the vocal ensemble Nešpula, and has led several other choirs and klapa ensembles in Istria. Her compositions draw on the traditional Istrian musical scale, and in 2021 and 2023 she received First and Second Prizes from the Croatian Composers' Society. Merkl has received five conducting awards at international choral festivals in Croatia, the Czech Republic and Italy, and regularly serves on juries at national and international choir and vocal competitions. Her distinctions include the honorary title Maestra Mentor (2016), the Istriana Award (2016) for outstanding achievement in music, and a Special Award from the European Association of Folklore Festivals in Paris (2023) for her contribution to international cultural relations and musical traditions.



Competition programme

Kategória: Ľudová pieseň a cappella

Category: Folksong a cappella

1. Krešimir Magdić, Vladimir Nazor (lyrics) (Croatian folk song) - Galiotova pesan
2. Rajmir Kraljević, Joško Čaleta (Croatian folk song) - Rusulica
3. Philip Koutev (Bulgarian folk song) - Dragana i Slavey

Kategória: Komorné zbory dospelých

Category: Chamber choirs

1. Ola Gjeilo - Ubi Caritas
2. Michael Abels, arr. Tatjana Merkl - Anthem from "Us"
3. Branko Starc - Plaudite Manibus

Páni z Kalicha /CZ/

Conductor: Václav Hanč

Páni z Kalicha is men's chamber choir from Litoměřice, North Bohemia. The choir was formed in 2020 and it originated from the boys' choir Páni kluci, which has represented not only Litoměřice, but also the whole Czech Republic for many years.

Last year, the choir successfully participated in the international music festival Alta Pusteria in Italy and is participating in the choir competition in Bratislava for the second time. Páni z Kalicha interpret compositions from vocal polyphony to multi-channel adaptations of contemporary songs.

Jakub Hanč plays the piano. The choirmaster and the artistic director is Václav Hanč. The founder of the choir is Klub přátel chlapeckého sboru Páni kluci, z. s.



Václav Hanč is the founder and conductor of the male chamber choir Páni z Kalicha. He also conducts the boys' choir Páni Kluci, an ensemble with a tradition spanning more than 30 years. He has performed with his choirs across Europe and as far afield as South Africa, winning numerous awards along the way. He has participated in the World Choir Games. He serves as the principal of an elementary school with an extended music curriculum.

Competition programme

Kategória: Mužské spevácke zbory dospelých

Category: Male adult choirs

1. Gregorian - Regina coeli
2. Thomas Tallis - If ye love me
3. Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy - Beati mortui
4. Leoš Janáček - Klekání
5. Paul Simon - The Sound of Silence
6. Lidová, arr. Václav Trojan - Zazpívej slavičku

Conductor: Evaldas Beinoravičius

The Utena Art School Orchestra (Lithuania) brings together students who share a love for music. The orchestra is conducted by **Evaldas Beinoravičius**. The orchestra rehearses once a week during the school year, preparing a variety of concert programmes. It performs regularly in Utena, other Lithuanian cities and abroad.



Although the ensemble has performed on its school stage for many years, it began appearing outside the school about three years ago. Since then, it has participated in various projects and concerts, gaining new performance experience.

The orchestra is a friendly and supportive ensemble where students enjoy making music, communicating and working together towards the best possible results. Its members also spend time together beyond rehearsals, creating an environment where everyone feels comfortable, enjoys making music and has opportunities to grow.

Competition programme

Kategória: Detské orchestre do 16 rokov

Category: Children's orchestras up to 16 years

1. Johann Strauss II - The Blue Danube
2. Johannes Brahms - Hungarian Dance No. 5
3. Josef Strauss - Feuerfest Polka, Op. 269
4. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Andante from Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major, K. 467
5. Algimantas Balčiūnas - Grasiukas

Conductor: Tibor Bün



The Cultural and Artistic Association Veseli Međimurci from Čakovec was founded in 1949, while its Women's Vocal Ensemble was established in 2009. The ensemble is dedicated to preserving and performing the traditional vocal heritage of Međimurje, as well as folk songs from other regions of Croatia. Over the years, the ensemble has received numerous Gold and Silver Awards at regional and national choral and folklore competitions, reflecting its high artistic standards and continued success. In collaboration with the Međimurje County Tamburitza Orchestra and the Varaždin Tamburitza Orchestra, the ensemble regularly presents annual concert productions, including its traditional Christmas programme, Christmas Across Croatia, which celebrates the rich musical heritage of the country's diverse regions. Today, Veseli Međimurci is a well-established presence on the Croatian folklore scene and a frequent guest at festivals and cultural events in Croatia and abroad. In 2021, the ensemble released its debut album, *El me čuješ grličica* ("Can You Hear Me, Little Turtledove"),

featuring traditional songs from Međimurje, Hrvatsko Zagorje, Podravina, Moslavina, Baranja and Slavonia. Since January 2024, the ensemble has been under the artistic direction of Tibor Bün.

Tibor Bün was born in Varaždin, Croatia, where he began his musical education. He graduated from the Faculty of Organization and Informatics and later completed formal qualifications in pedagogy and educational psychology. He currently holds the professional rank of Educational Advisor. For more than three decades, he has dedicated his career to music education and the preservation of Croatia's rich tamburitza heritage. As a conductor and instructor of tamburitza orchestras, he has inspired generations of young musicians through his educational and artistic work. Since 2012, he has been a regular collaborator with the Croatian Heritage Foundation, serving as Head of the Tamburitza School at the Summer and Winter Schools of Croatian Folklore, where he works with participants from Croatia and Croatian communities around the world. Since January 2024, he has also served as Artistic Director of the Women's Vocal Ensemble Veseli Međimurci.



Competition programme

Kategória: Ludová pieseň a cappella

Category: Folksong a cappella

1. Traditional Croatian folk song (Dalmatia), arr. Dinko Fio - Dobra večer ružo moja
2. Traditional Croatian folk song (Međimurje), arr. Tomislav Cvrtila - Mura, Mura
3. Traditional Croatian folk song (Moslavina), arr. Dražen Kurilovčan - Zaspo Janko
4. Traditional Croatian folk song (Međimurje), arr. Tomislav Cvrtila - Marica se po Čakovcu šetala
5. Traditional Croatian folk song (Međimurje), arr. Marijan Makar - Pesen o pet pijanijih bab

List of Ensembles

Academic Choir of the Silesian University of
Technology in Gliwice /PL/

Armonia /CZ/

Dívčí komorní sbor Petrklíč /CZ/

Kamerinis ansamblis (clarinet and piano) /LT/

Kamerinis ansamblis (sax and piano) /LT/

Kuřátka /CZ/

Musica al Cuore /SK/

MVS Nešpula /HR/

Páni z Kalicha /CZ/

Utenos meno mokyklos instrumentinis
ansamblis /LT/

Women's Vocal Group of the Cultural and
Artistic Association „Veseli Međimurci“ /HR/

Welcome to Bratislava!



Bratislava is a beautiful city full of culture that is gradually being discovered by visitors from all over the world. It also has the reputation of the city of music, offering its visitors and citizens rich and colourful music events throughout the year. We are happy that you have come to the Slovak capital to live a wonderful music experience too. Welcome and have a good time!

St. Martin's Cathedral

This Gothic cathedral constructed in the 14th century served as coronation place of Hungarian kings from 1563 to 1830 .

Primate's Palace

The monumental Renaissance palace rebuilt in Classicist style used to be the seat of Cardinal Jozef Batthyányi. The palace's function is symbolized by a black cardinal's hat that can be seen on the top of the roof. In the past, the palace witnessed many crucial moments in the country's history, e.g. signing of the „Peace of Bratislava“ after Napoleon's victory at the Battle of Austerlitz. Today it houses a precious collection of paintings and tapestries with ancient Greek motives that were discovered by chance during the palace's reconstruction.



Jesuit Church

The church was built in 1638 in neo-renaissance style and is one of the biggest Bratislava churches. Its simple exterior decoration contrasts to the beautifully ornated interior. The two side naves are adorned with beautiful baroque altars from the 18th century. The main altar with monumental pillars comes from the 19th century. One of the church's highlights is a unique rococo pulpit from 1753 made of unusual combination of wood, lead and gold. The church has a very good acoustics and is often a venue of classic and sacred music concerts.



Main square

The history of the square dates back to the early Medieval period when there used to be a market and the place of citizens' meetings and trials. The Old Town Hall with Gothic interiors and baroque steeple today houses the city museum and often hosts concerts of classic, jazz or folk music in the courtyard. The square's main highlight is the fountain with the statue of the famous knight Roland who, as the legends say, used to dwell in Bratislava for a long time.



KALENDÁR PODUJATÍ / MUSIC FESTIVAL CALENDAR

Zbory a orchestre 2027 - 2028 / Choirs and orchestras 2027 - 2028
Bratislava, Slovakia

BRATISLAVA SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL

Bratislava, Slovakia; 11th - 14th March 2027

Bratislava, Slovakia; 16th - 19th March 2028

SLOVAKIA CANTAT

International Festival of Choirs and Orchestras

Bratislava, Slovakia; 22nd - 25th April 2027

Bratislava, Slovakia; 20th - 23rd April 2028

BRATISLAVA CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

International Festival of Choirs and Orchestras

Bratislava, Slovakia; 10th - 13th June 2027

Bratislava, Slovakia; 8th - 11th June 2028

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL I

Competition Festival for Children & Youth Choirs, Orchestras and Bands

Bratislava, Slovakia; 29th June- 2nd July 2027

Bratislava, Slovakia; 4th - 7th July 2028

BRATISLAVA CANTAT I

International festival of choirs and orchestras

Bratislava, Slovakia; 26th - 29th July 2027

Bratislava, Slovakia; 17th - 20th July 2028

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL II

Competition Festival for Children & Youth Choirs, Orchestras and Bands

Bratislava, Slovakia; 26th - 29th July 2027

Bratislava, Slovakia; 17th - 20th July 2028

BRATISLAVA CANTAT II

International festival of choirs and orchestras

Bratislava, Slovakia; 7th - 10th October 2027

Bratislava, Slovakia; 12th - 15th October 2028

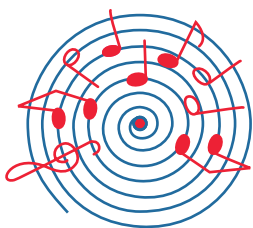
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Bratislava, Slovakia; 2nd - 5th December 2027

Bratislava, Slovakia; 7th - 10th December 2028



We are celebrating 21 years!



BRATISLAVA
MUSIC AGENCY

Since 2005 we hosted:
more than 1300 choirs and orchestras
more than 42 500 musicians
more than 50 countries



BRATISLAVA CANTAT II. 2026

12. Medzinárodný hudobný festival

12th International Music Festival

8th - 11th October, 2026

Bratislava, Slovakia



Festival sa koná pod záštitou primátora hlavného mesta Bratislavy Matúša Vallo.
The festival is held under the auspices of the Mayor of Bratislava, Matúš Vallo.

ŠTVRTOK | THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER, 2026

19:00 Otvárací koncert | Opening Concert

Kuťátka /CZ/, Divčí komorní sbor Petrklíč /CZ/, Páni z Kalicha /CZ/, Armonia /CZ/, MVS Nešpula /HR/, Musica al Cuore /SK/, Women's vocal group of the Cultural and Artistic Association „Veseli Međimurci“ /HR/, Academic Choir of the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice /PL/

Jezuitský kostol / Jesuit church, Franciscan square

PIATOK | FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER, 2026

17:00 Festivalový koncert | Festival Concert

Utenos meno mokyklos instrumentinis ansamblis /LT/, Kamerinis ansamblis (sax and piano) /LT/, Kamerinis ansamblis (clarinet and piano) /LT/, Kuťátka /CZ/, Divčí komorní sbor Petrklíč /CZ/, MVS Nešpula /HR/, Páni z Kalicha /CZ/

Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Hall, Farská 4

19:00 Festivalový koncert | Festival Concert

Women's vocal group of the Cultural and Artistic Association „Veseli Međimurci“ /HR/, Armonia /CZ/, Academic Choir of the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice /PL/, Musica al Cuore /SK/

Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Hall, Farská 4

SOBOTA | SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 2026

Súťažná časť festivalu | Festival competition

Zrkadlová sieň / Mirror Hall of the Primate's Palace

Detské spevácke zbory do 12 rokov | Children's choirs up to 12 years

9:00 Kuťátka /CZ/

Komorné zbory dospelých | Chamber choirs

9:20 MVS Nešpula /HR/

9:40 Divčí komorní sbor Petrklíč /CZ/

Ľudová pieseň a cappella | Folksong a cappella

10:00 MVS Nešpula /HR/

10:15 Women's vocal group of the Cultural and Artistic Association „Veseli Međimurci“ /HR/

Ľudová pieseň s instrumentálnym sprievodom | Folksong with instrumental accompaniment

10:30 Armonia /CZ/

Zmiešané spevácke zbory dospelých | Mixed adult choirs

10:45 Academic Choir of the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice /PL/

11:00 Armonia /CZ/

11:20 Musica al Cuore /SK/

Sakrálna hudba a cappella | Musica Sacra a cappella

11:40 Academic Choir of the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice /PL/

Mužské spevácke zbory dospelých | Male adult choirs

12:00 Páni z Kalicha /CZ/

Detské orchestre do 16 rokov | Children's orchestras up to 16 years

14:00 Utenos meno mokyklos instrumentinis ansamblis /LT/

14:30 Kamerinis ansamblis (clarinet and piano) /LT/

14:45 Kamerinis ansamblis (sax and piano) /LT/

15:00 Festivalový koncert | Festival Concert

Utenos meno mokyklos instrumentinis ansamblis /LT/, Kamerinis ansamblis (clarinet and piano) /LT/, Armonia /CZ/, Kamerinis ansamblis (sax and piano) /LT/, Páni z Kalicha /CZ/, Musica al Cuore /SK/, Divčí komorní sbor Petrklíč /CZ/, MVS Nešpula /HR/, Kuťátka /CZ/

Zrkadlová sieň / Mirror Hall of the Primate's Palace

19:00 Záverečný koncert zborov a vyhlásenie výsledkov súťaže | Final choir concert and competition results announcement

Jezuitský kostol, Františkánske námestie / Jesuits Church, Franciscan square

NEDEĽA | SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2026

Odchod medzinárodných speváckych zborov a orchestrov
Departure of international choirs and orchestras

Na všetky podujatia vstup bezplatný / Free entrance to all festival activities Zmena programu vyhradená / Programme subject to change

Partnerom podujatia je BKIS

Spoluorganizátori festivalu:
Hlavné mesto SR Bratislava
Bratislavské kultúrne a informačné stredisko
Spevácky zbor Apollo



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