

PROGRAM

25. - 28. 4. 2024
Bratislava, Slovakia



XVI. Medzinárodný zborový festival 16th International Choir Festival

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BRATISLAVA
MUSIC AGENCY

Slovakia Cantat

XVI. Medzinárodný zborový festival 16th International Choir Festival

25. – 28. 4. 2024, Bratislava, Slovakia

Hlavný organizátor / Organiser:

BRATISLAVA MUSIC AGENCY

Umelecký riaditeľ / Festival Art Director:

Assoc. Prof. Milan Kolena, ArtD.

Medzinárodná porota / International jury:

Prof. Dariusz Dyczewski /PL/
predseda poroty / chairman of the jury
Prof. Enrico Miaroma /IT/
Assoc. Prof. Ondrej Šaray, ArtD. /SK/
Assoc. Prof. Milan Kolena, ArtD. /SK/

Spoluorganizátori / Co-organizers:

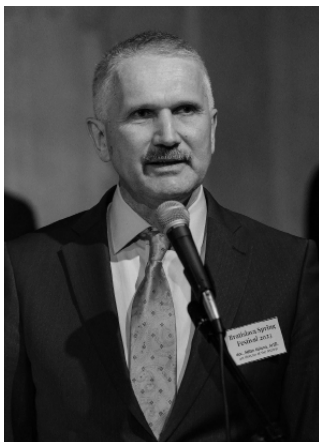
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Spevácky zbor Apollo

Mediálni partneri / Media:

Kam do mesta
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Fotograf / Photographer:

Vladimír Kuric



Milí priatelia zborového spevu,

Vitajte v srdci zborového spevu, v Bratislave!

Som veľmi rád, že vás môžem privítať na XVI. Medzinárodnom zborovom festivale SLOVAKIA CANTAT 2024. Teší ma a som nesmeriene vďačný, že sa konečne môžeme opäť stretávať a zdieľať naše nadšenie pre zborový spev. Tento rok sa na Slovakia Cantat 2024 zúčastní 12 zborov zo 7 krajín, teda vyše 400 spevákov z našich susedných krajín. Zbory sa predstavia v 8 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 tristo speváckych zborov, viac než päťtisíc spevákov, čo svedčí o neustálom prograse a záujme o festival Slovakia Cantat vo svete.

Verím, že aj 16. 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 zborní 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 medzinárodného festivalu Slovakia Cantat 2024

Dear friends of choral music,

Welcome to Bratislava, the heart of choral singing!

I am very happy to welcome you to the 16th International Choral Festival SLOVAKIA CANTAT 2024. I am very enthusiastic and extremely grateful that we can meet again and share our passion. It brings me great enthusiasm and gratitude to come together once again and share our love for choral singing. This year, Slovakia Cantat 2024 will host 12 choirs from 7 countries, more than 400 singers, who will showcase 8 competition performances. As the largest event of its kind in Slovakia, it is a unique opportunity for the country's choral life. With over 300 choirs and 5000 singers attending the previous fifteen editions, the festival has gained worldwide interest and progress.

I am confident that the 16th 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 choirs and countries.

Bratislava opens for the festival choirs its best music venues for choir concerts and 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, Art Director of the International Choir Festival Slovakia Cantat 2024

PROGRAM FESTIVALU

25.4.2024 ŠTVRTOK - THURSDAY

19:00 Otvárací koncert festivalu / Opening concert

Malý Kajetán /CZ/, Mladinski pevski zbor OŠ n. h. Maksa Pečarja Ljubljana /SL/, The Vivid Voices /AT/, Ad Libitum /NO/, Robert College Singers /TR/, A Scalpella /SE/

Jezuitský kostol / Jesuits Church

Františkánske námestie/ Franciscan square

26.4.2024 PIATOK - FRIDAY

17:00 Festivalový koncert / Festival concert

Mladinski pevski zbor OŠ n. h. Maksa Pečarja Ljubljana /SL/, Malý Kajetán /CZ/, The Vivid Voices /AT/, Bystroušek /CZ/, Robert College Singers /TR/

Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Music Hall, Farská 4

19:00 Festivalový koncert / Festival concert

Children's choir Mladika /SL/, Adijamus /CZ/, Men's Choir Kapele /SL/, Ad Libitum /NO/, A Scalpella /SE/

Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Music Hall, Farská 4

27.4.2024 SOBOTA - SATURDAY

Súťaž speváckych zborov / Choral competition

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

Kategória A3: Detské spevácke zbory do 12 rokov

Category A3: Children's choirs up to 12 years

13:00 Malý Kajetán /CZ/

13:15 Children's choir Mladika /SL/

13:45 Bystroušek /CZ/

Kategória A4: Detské spevácke zbory do 16 rokov

Category A4: Children's choirs up to 16 years

14:05 Mladinski pevski zbor OŠ n. h. Maksa Pečarja Ljubljana /SL/

Kategória D3: Zmiešané zbory dospelých

Category D3: Adult Choir

14:20 A Scalpella /SE/

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Kategória D1: Mužské zbory
Category D1: Adult choirs - men

14:38 Men's Choir Kapele /SL/

Kategória C2: Mládežnícke zbory do 21 rokov (SATB)
Category C2: Youth choirs up to 21 yrs (SATB)

14:56 Adijamus /CZ/

Kategória H1: Sakrálna hudba a capepella
Category H1: Musica Sacra a cappella

15:14 A Scalpella /SE/

15:32 Ad Libitum / NO/

Kategória C2: Mládežnícke zbory do 21 rokov (SA)
Category C2: Youth choirs up to 21 yrs (SA)

15:50 The Vivid Voices /AT/

Kategória F1: Ľudová pieseň a cappella
Category F1: Folksong a cappella

16:08 Robert College Singers /TR/

16:26 A scalpella / SE/

19:00 Festivalový koncert a vyhlásenie výsledkov súťaže / Festival concert and competition results announcement

Mladinski pevski zbor OŠ n. h. Maksa Pečarja Ljubljana /SL/, Malý Kajetán / CZ/, The Vivid Voices /AT/, Bystroušek /CZ/, Robert College Singers /TR/, Children's choir Mladika /SL/, Adijamus /CZ/, Men's Choir Kapele /SL/, Ad Libitum / NO/, A Scalpella /SE/

**Jezuitský kostol / Jesuits Church
Františkánske námestie/ Franciscan square**

28.4.2024 NEDEĽA - SUNDAY

Odchod medzinárodných speváckych zborov

Departure of international choirs

MEDZINÁRODNÁ POROTA / INTERNATIONAL JURY



**Prof. Dariusz Dyczewski /Poland/
*chairman of the jury***

Prof. Dariusz Dyczewski, chairman of the Jury, boasts a rich musical background. Appointed as methodology adviser by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage for Poland from 2014 to 2017, he also served as President of the Polish Choir Society and Orchestras during the same period. Recognized for his dedication, he was awarded the prestigious title of professor of music of art by the President of Poland on November 3rd, 2011. Since 2010, he has influenced aspiring artists as a consultant at the Centre of Artistic Education in Warsaw. In 2006, he excelled as the artistic director of the International Festival of Choir Songs in Międzyzdroje. Additionally, he led private Primary and Secondary Music Schools in Szczecin and chaired the Polish Association of Choir and Orchestra in Szczecin since 2003. His academic journey includes roles at the Music Academy in Poznań-Szczecin branch, where he served as Dean of the Education of Music Department. Beyond administrative roles, he founded the Children's Choir "Don-Diri-Don" and the Boys' Choir "Pueri Cantores," impacting musical talent from the grassroots level. Prof. Dyczewski's global influence extends through participation in festivals and concerts worldwide. He collaborates with prestigious institutions and is committed to education, offering classes



**Prof. Enrico Miaroma /Italy/
*member of the jury***

Enrico Miaroma, a versatile musician, holds degrees in piano, choral music, choir conducting, music education, and composition. Trained under renowned mentors like Franco Donatoni and Salvatore Sciarrino, he received scholarships as the best Italian student from institutions like the Accademia Chigiana in Siena and the Romanini Foundation in Brescia. With over 800 concerts across Europe and Asia, Enrico has achieved numerous victories in national and international choral competitions, alongside having his compositions performed by leading choirs worldwide. He has contributed significantly to the choral community, serving as a former Board Advisor of IFCM-International Federation for Choral Music and as Artistic Director of prestigious events such as In.. Canto Sul Garda and Riva del Garda International Choral Competition. Enrico is also dedicated to nurturing young talent, directing the Garda Trentino Children's Choir and Gruppo Vocale Garda Trentino since 2001 and teaching at the Conservatory of Trento and Riva del Garda, shaping the next generation of musicians.

MEDZINÁRODNÁ POROTA / INTERNATIONAL JURY

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

Ondrej Šaray studied orchestral conducting with Zdeněk Bílek 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.



UMELECKÝ RIADITEĽ FESTIVALU /ART DIRECTOR OF THE FESTIVAL

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. 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.



Adijamus Choir /CZ/

Conductor: Mrs. Jana Adamusová

The Adijamus Choir was founded at Vilém Petrželka Elementary School of Art 13 years ago, and since then, it has performed many concerts and participated in various competitions.

For its greatest success, the choir considers participation in the Slovakia Cantat 2018 international festival of choral singing in Bratislava, where in a tough competition of the top choirs in Europe, it won the 2nd place.

The choir currently has 40 members with an average age of 14. They come from musical and non-musical departments of the art school mentioned above. Many choir members do not even have singing training, but at the same time they are excellent instrumentalists or artists.

The Adijamus choir regularly performs in concerts organized by the art school, but also on other occasions in Ostrava and the nearby region. Two years ago, the choir performed in the Christmas program with the pop singer Martin Chodúr. In a similar way, the Adijamus choir collaborates with another pop singer Petr Bende.

Choir members thoroughly prepare for all their activities at regular school rehearsals and also at weekend sessions in the Beskydy Mountains.

The repertoire of the choir is diverse. It contains compositions from the period of renaissance to modern contemporary authors, there is also place for folk songs, traditional and lesser-known carols, gospels, and pop music.

The founder and choirmaster is Mgr. Jana Adamusová, voice advisor Marie Kovalová, choir accompanist Mgr. Jana Neubauerová, and the choir assistant MgA. Michaela Hejrová.



Mgr. Jana Adamusová leads Adijamus choir from its very beginning in 2010. She graduated at Faculty of Arts, University of Ostrava. She has been teaching at the Vilém Petrželka Music School in Ostrava -



Competition programme

Kategória C2: Mládežnícke zbory do 21 rokov (SATB)

Category C2: Youth choirs up to 21 years (SATB)

1. Tomáš Luis De Victoria - Jezu Dulcis Memoria
2. Ludová pieseň - Šly panenky silnicí (arr. Jaroslav Krček)
3. John Leavitt - Festival Sanctus
4. Robert T. Gibson - Pulse
5. B. a S. Andersons, B. Ulvaeus - ABBA Gold (arr. Jack Zaino)

Ad Libitum /NO/

Conductor: Mrs. Svetlana Krstic Aksnes

The mixed choir Ad Libitum (a Latin phrase for "as you desire") from Trondheim, Norway, was founded in 1987. As a community of ambitious amateur singers, we seek to reach out to our audience with a varied repertoire performed by heart.

Among our international achievements are "Sing'n'joy Franz Schubert Choir Competition" in Vienna 2014, the choir won two 1st prizes in the Category A1 Mixed Choir and the Category S Sacred Choral Music.

In 2016 Ad Libitum participated in "Canta al Mar" in Calella (Spain) with a GOLD III Diploma and 3rd place in Category A1 Mixed choir.

In autumn 2018 we performed "Misa a Buenos Aires", together with about 100 participants, This is a Latin mass cast in tango musical form, conducted by the Argentine composer Martin Palmeri himself.

Steve Dobrogosz, an American composer, songwriter and jazz pianist has exclusively written a wonderful music piece/work for Ad Libitum called TIME. We have performed this piece under various occasions. This includes texts from William Shakespeare that deals with age and how getting old affects us.



In July 2019 the choir participated at the 7th International Anton Bruckner Choir Competition and Festival and got the Gold diploma in both categories, mixed choir and Category Sacred Choral Music. Later that year we participated in the Norwegian competition for Choirs. The choir's repertoire spans from larger works like "Misa a Buenos Aires", down to pop tunes, folk tunes, church hymns - ad lib.

Our conductor since 2022, Svetlana Krstic Aksnes, is educated choir conductor at the University of Arts in Belgrade in Serbia, the faculty of Music, with a master's degree in conducting as well as a specialization in choir/choral conducting. She has a great commitment and heart for choirs and singing. Svetlana has worked with music, conducting and singing since 1997. Among other things, she is the founder of the chamber choir Vox Slavicum in Belgrade. When she moved to Trondheim in 2015, she was the conductor of two choirs and worked as a music teacher in her home country. In Trøndelag, she has led the Hauka Men's Choir and the Hauka Dekorom (women's choir) and the Balkan Ensemble, in addition to working as a piano teacher.



Competition programme

Kategória H1: Sakrálna hudba a capeplla
Category H1: Musica Sacra a cappella

1. Ola Gjeilo - Det hev ei rose sprunge
2. Claudio Monteverdi - Cantate Domino
3. Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina - Sicut Cervus
4. Eric Whitacre - Lux Aurumque

A Scalpella /SE/

Conductor: Mr. Rasmus Krigström

A Scalpella is a student choir at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, founded in 1973, so we just turned 50 years last year! We love to sing repertoire from all kinds of genres. Apart from concerts at home and ceremonies at Karolinska Institutet, we love to travel, and we love choir competitions. In 2019 we finished second place in Kaunas Cantat, in Lithuania, and in 2022 we won the Cantarode International Choral Competition in Holland! If you find us at a restaurant together you can be sure to hear most of our repertoire, again, cheers!

Choir's conductor, Rasmus Krigström, was born 1986 in Stockholm, Sweden. Attended Adolf Fredriks School of Music and the Stockholm Music Gymnasium. Attended Berklee College of Music in Boston, drumming performance program. In 2012 he became world champion in barbershop quartet singing with his quartet Ringmasters. Rasmus writes arrangements and composes music for groups all over the world. He is, apart from directing A Scalpella, also the current director of Zero8 and Northern Stars, co-director Pearls of the Sound from Helsingborg, and sings around fifty shows per year with Ringmasters, all while finishing his studies at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm."

Competition programme

Kategória D3: Zmiešané zbory dospelých **Category D3: Adult Choir**

1. Carlo Gesualdo - Tenebrae Responsories: Una Hora
2. Mia Makaroff - Armottoman osa
3. György Orban - Daemon Irreplit Callidus
4. Francis Poulenc - Sept Chanson No. 1 - La Blanche Neige
5. Francis Poulenc - Sept Chanson No. 2 - A Peine Defigurée

6. Benjamin Britten - Advance Democracy

Kategória H1: Sakrálna hudba a capepella **Category H1: Musica Sacra a cappella**

1. Alfred Schnittke - Three Sacred Hymns, second movement (Gospodi)
2. Arvo Pärt - Nunc dimittis
3. Edward Elgar - (Nimrod) Lux Aeterna
4. Arvo Pärt - Bogoroditse Djevo

Kategória F1: Ľudová pieseň a cappella **Category F1: Folksong a cappella**

1. Trad. from Dalarna (Sweden) - Hurra, här komma de gossar (arr. Gunnar Hahn)
2. Trad. from Sweden - Kristallen den fina (arr. Gunnar Eriksson)
3. Vaclovas Augustinas - Based on traditional song from Lithuania
Tykus Tykus
4. Traditional: Country Dances from USA
- (arr. Ward Swingle)



Bystroušek /CZ/

Conductor: Mrs. Eva Kalousková

In 2016, the children's choir Bystroušek was founded in Brno as part of Ars Brunensis, a mixed choir with a long tradition. It currently consists of two departments, the younger choir Fousek and the older choir Bystroušek. The choir is led by MgA. Eva Kalousková, who has long experience in conducting the children's choir. Her working method is based on natural emotion, vocal colour, declamation and rhythmic playfulness.

The goal of Bystroušek Children's Choir is to encourage children, who have longed to explore music with their own voices, to grow into naturally musical people who do not see the increasing difficulty of the sung pieces as a goal, but as a way to discover the beauty of the world of music and also a way to awaken all their senses.

After finishing high school, the choir's conductor Eva Kalousková graduated from the Janáček Academy of Performing Arts in Brno in choral conducting under the guidance of doc. Josef Pančík. Between 2004 and 2012 she was the choirmaster of the children's choir MIBIDIZO and its preparatory departments. She performed many concerts with the choirs and participated in international choir competitions, always with the highest award, including the award for her conducting performance at the international competition in Garda, Italy. From 2007 to 2012 she was an assistant conductor of Ars Brunensis Choir.



As a choirmaster and singer, she has collaborated and continues to collaborate with a number of choirs in the Czech Republic. Since 2016, she has been the choirmaster of the children's choir Bystroušek and its preparatory department Fousek.



Competition programme

Kategória A3: Detské spevácke zbory do 12 rokov

Category A3: Children's choirs up to 12 years

1. Jolana Seidlová - Jarní kánon
2. Ľudová pieseň zo Slezska - U sušeda dobra voda (arr. M. Raichl/E. Kalousková)
3. Přemysl Kočí - Kampak se ztratil můj strýček?
4. Malajská ľudová pieseň - Wau Bulan (arr. Tracy Wong)
5. Herb Mahelona - E Nana Kakou I Na Manu
6. Ľudová pieseň zo Zambie - Bonse Aba (arr. F. Štěrbač)

Children's choir Mladika /SL/

Conductor: Mrs. Jasna Drobne

Children's choir Mladika has been active under the guidance of Jasna Drobne for twenty-six years.

Every year the choir performs at school concerts and other festivals in our country Slovenia.

Last school year, they participated in a regional competition for the first time and achieved a gold award and a special prize for the best performance of a Slovenian folk song. The choir consists of 40 children, aged from 8 to 12 years old.

The choir's conductor, Jasna Drobne, was born in 1972 in Maribor. After successfully finishing the secondary music education-course piano and musical theory - she continued her studies and graduated from the Music Academy in Ljubljana in 1997.

Since 1998 she holds a permanent position at Mladika Primary school in Ptuj, where she teaches Music and choral singing. She enriches her knowledge regularly by attending various choral courses and seminars, where she also performs in the role of a lecturer.



She received a lot of different awards with her choirs (gold medals in regional competitions, gold medals in national competitions and 1ST prizes, gold and silver medals in international competitions in Olomouc, Bratislava, Neerpelt, Celje, Pula, Rijeka, Tuzla...).



Competition programme

Kategória A3: Detské spevácke zbory do 12 rokov

Category A3: Children's choirs up to 12 years

1. Tadeja Vulc - Sedem lisičic
2. Radovan Gobec - Geslo - Zapojmo pesem
3. Slovenian folk song - Stara mati (arr. Črt Sojar Voglar)
4. Enrica Balasso - Grajski strah (Il fantasma del castello)

Malý Kajetán /CZ/

Conductor: Mrs. Zuzana Kuncová and Mrs. Adéla Skočilová

Malý Kajetán stands as the senior preparatory choir within Kajetán, the children's choir of the Josef Kajetán Tyl Theatre. Here, children from 3rd to 6th grade immerse themselves in the joy of singing, building upon their fundamental skills through enjoyable vocal exercises, rhythm practice, and expressive melodies. Rehearsals, held twice a week in a joyful and familial setting, aim to instill a profound love for choral singing and music among the children.

Malý Kajetán performs in standalone concerts, engages in musical projects in Pilsen and the surrounding areas, and some members have already participated in opera productions at the Josef Kajetán Tyl Theatre. Over the past 2 years, Malý Kajetán has consistently achieved gold

awards in the regional rounds of Primachori, earning a well-deserved place in the national competition held in Holešov. The choir is led by Zuzana Kuncová and Adéla Skočilová, accompanied on the piano by Klára Kaiserová.

Competition programme

Kategória A3: Detské spevácke zbory do 12 rokov

Category A3: Children's choirs up to 12 years

1. Malajská ľudová pieseň - Wau Bulan (arr. Tracy Wong)
2. Slovenská ľudová pieseň - Tancovala a neznala (arr. Mária Jašurďová)
3. Mary Lynn Lightfoot - Et In Terra Pax
4. Tobin Stokes- Koosen



Men's Choir Kapele /SL/

Conductor: Mrs. Katja Bogovič

One of the oldest choirs in Slovenia, Men's Choir Kapele, has been operating continuously since 1920. After the founder Anton Radanovič, 13 choirmasters have followed at the head of the choir, with each arrival of a new choirmaster, the quality rose. The singers have been led by Katja Bogovič since 2021. The choir constantly improves its work, and continuously demonstrates its quality at various competitions. It is a regular representative at regional singing revues, where it has repeatedly won the transitional cup for the most interesting choir, as well as at regional competitions of adult singing groups from Dolenjska, Bela krajina and Posavje regions. In 2023, they performed there for the fourth time, and were awarded a gold plaque. The Choir's repertoire includes a rich range of music literature - from Slovenian folk songs to sacred and secular compositions as well as pop music literature. They showcase their rich repertoire in numerous performances with the desire to spread their great enthusiasm for singing to the audience.



Choir's conductor, Katja Bogovič, graduated with honours in musicology at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. During her studies, she upgraded her knowledge of solo singing with prof. Mihaela Komočar Gorše and prof. Barbara Nagode and has

been member of a mixed choir (conductor Sebastjan Vrhovnik) and a chamber choir (conductor Marko Vatovec) of the Academy of Music in Ljubljana. She is currently conducting Men's choir Kapele and the Academic Choir of the Veterinary Faculty in Ljubljana while also being an artistic leader and mezzosoprano in Vocal group Aria. She is a recipient of awards at regional and international competitions for performing competition programs and individual compositions. At the Slovenian regional choir competition in 2023 she was recognized as a young promising conductor. Being a cultural enthusiast also transfers to her profession as she works in the programme office of one of the most important festivals in Slovenia and Europe, Festival Ljubljana.

Competition programme

Kategória D1: Mužské zbory

Category D1: Adult choirs - men

1. Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy - Beatu Mortui (Raz 14, 13)
2. Walter Lo Nigro - Canzona (arr. France Prešeren)
3. Moses Hogan, Peter Eklund - The battle of Jericho
4. Slovenian folk song - Jaz bi rad cigajnar



Mladinski pevski zbor OŠ n. h. Maksa Pečarja Ljubljana /SL/

Conductor: Mr. Mitja Vaupotič

The youth choir at Maks Pečar Primary School, comprising children aged 10 to 15, enthusiastically participates in singing and musical creativity as part of the school's extracurricular activities. Despite differing levels of musical knowledge, their shared passion shines through. The choir regularly performs at local cultural events and collaborates biannually with the school's children's choir for broader audiences. With a commendable track record, they have consistently excelled at regional and national choir competitions, earning prestigious awards such as the best youth choir in the Slovenian regional competition of 2017. On the Slovenian regional competition in 2017, the choir received, among other awards, also the award for the best youth choir. In 2018, it performed on the concert entitled Traveling Music (Potujoča muzika), which is a national project held every two years. There only the best and selected youth choirs of Slovenia can perform. Also other experts have noticed the quality of the work and thus the choir performed twice on a choirmaster seminar as an exemplary choir. This is the second time the choir is part of the International Youth Music Festival in Bratislava and it is bound to be a great experience for us also this time.



Under the guidance of Mitja Vaupotič, a dedicated music teacher and conductor, the choir's excellence has been recognized by experts and showcased at prestigious events. Mitja, a graduate of the Department of Music at the University

of Maribor, has a profound passion for choir music, evident in his commitment to nurturing young singers' enthusiasm. Since 2008 he has been teaching music at the Maks Pečar Primary School in Ljubljana and at the same time working as a conductor of the school's three choirs. Additionally, his contributions extend beyond choir singing, including theatrical productions and folk song concerts. Mitja's musical prowess and leadership were also evident during his tenure with the Academic Folklore Group A Student, where he was honored with the Silver Marolt Badge for his outstanding contributions.

Competition programme

Kategória A4: Detské spevácke zbory do 16 rokov

Category A4: Children's choirs up to 16 years

1. Slovenian folk song - Tribučko kolo (arr. Katja Gruber)
2. Marij Kogoj - Zvončki
3. Eric Whitacre - The Seal Lullaby
4. Vijay Singh - Johnny Said, "No!"



Robert College Singers /TR/

Conductor: Koray Demirkapı

RC Singers is polyphonic mixed high school choir of Robert College, located in Istanbul, Turkey. The choir was founded in 2012 by Koray Demirkapı, who is the music teacher and choir conductor at Robert College. Our main goal is to expand the polyphonic choir culture in our school, city, and country. Our repertoire is a mixture of ethnic songs from all around Anatolia and worldly known western classics. RC Singers has been giving concerts at several different events in Istanbul and have competed in international competitions and festivals like Verona, Bad Ischl, Bratislava, Budapest, Ohrid, and Prague.



RC Singers was awarded many cups and prizes including the “The Most Interesting Native Performance” special prize at Young Prague 2014. RC Singers perform their regular end-of-the-year concerts in May, which is accepted as one of the most popular events in the school.

Koray Demirkapı was born in Edirne/ Turkey on 1975. He started taking piano, guitar and harmony lessons when he was a child and started singing in the school choirs. While he was studying music in university, choir music has become a passion for him. During the university period, he started conducting children choirs and had become

one of the soloists of his university choir, which was chosen as the best choir of the year in Turkey. After university he continued his career as a music teacher and choir conductor. He established RC Singers, which is the polyphonic choir of his current school, Robert College. He is also conducting amateur university polyphonic choirs besides his teaching career.

Competition programme

Kategória F1: Ľudová pieseň a cappella

Category F1: Folksong a cappella

1. Turkish Folk Song - Sarı Gelin (arr. Haluk Polat)
2. Cenan Akın, Yunus Emre - Ben Seni Bulmuş İken
3. Turkish Folk Song - Divane Aşık (arr. Hakan Bağcı)
4. Turkish Folk Song - Kızılıcıklar (arr. Hakan Önsöz)
5. Turkish Folk Song - Suda Balık Oyunuyor (arr. Erdal Tuğcular)



The Vivid Voices /AT/

Conductor: Mrs. Ariana Pullano

The Vivid Voices is an invitation only choir from SHOWTIME, the Vienna's English Theatre's School of Performing Arts. Since 2011, the artistic and musical director, Ariana Pullano, has worked with a specially selected group of young singers to further develop their individual voices and create beautiful and exciting choral performances. The Vivid Voices showcase a variety of musical styles from classic to modern day rock, pop and musical theatre. Over the past twelve years, the choir has performed at a variety of venues throughout Vienna including the Burgtheater and the MuTh and at International Festivals in neighbouring countries.

Whether they are entertaining at a neighbourhood festival or singing at a formal concert, the Vivid Voices always aim to deliver a show that has something for everyone. Choir's conductor, Ariana Pullano, grew-up in the Washington, D.C area. She received her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance at the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. and her Master of Music in Opera Performance at the University of South Carolina. Throughout her studies and since, she has performed in numerous theater productions, worked with Opera Carolina, and in 2007 she was the State winner of the Metropolitan Opera Competition.



Since her move to Vienna, Austria in 2007, Ariana has concentrated on teaching and conducting. As the artistic and musical director of Showtime, Vienna's English Theatre's School for Performing Arts, she has arranged and

conducted a variety of musicals and choral concerts including The Wiz, One, Alice in Wonderland, Beauty and the Beast, West Side Story, Footloose, Grease, Life, You're a Good Man Charlie Brown, Annie and Sister Act and established several choirs, including The Vivid Voices. As musical director of Vienna's English Theatre's young professional company, Young V.E.T, her credits include Spring Awakening, You're a Good Man Charlie Brown, Blood Brothers, Into the Woods, Rent, Dogfight and Next to Normal.

Competition programme

Kategória C2: Mládežnícke zbory do 21 rokov (SA)

Category C2: Youth choirs up to 21 yrs (SA)

1. Arthur Freed and Nacio Herb Brown - Singin' in the Rain (arr. Hayes)
2. Scottish Folk Song - Skye Boat (arr. Paul Langford)
3. Cuban Folk Song - Yenyere Guam (arr. Theresa Pritchard)
4. Robert T. Gibson - Dance!



Mixed choir Apollo /SK/

Conductor: Mr. Milan Kolena
Non-competing ensemble

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; Rekvie; 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 Rekvie 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.



Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis /SK/

Conductor: Mr. Milan Kolena
Non-competing ensemble

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 antiphony. 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 Interpretation of Latin texts in Sacred Choral Music. He frequently works as a member of the jury at many international choral and orchestral competitions in Slovakia, Europe and Asia.



PRAVIDLÁ SÚŤAŽE / COMPETITION RULES

Časový limit jednotlivých vystúpení je 15 minút pre zbory a 20 minút pre orchestre.

Diplomy

Súťažiaci zbory a orchestre budú podľa počtu získaných bodov zaradené do jednotlivých pásem:

Zlaté pásmo	90,00-100 bodov
Strieborné pásmo	75,00-89,99 bodov
Bronzové pásmo	60,00-74,99 bodov
Diplom za účasť	do 59,99 bodov
Grand Prix	- podľa rozhodnutia poroty a pri minimálnom počte získaných bodov 97.

Nesúťažné súbory získajú diplom za účasť na festivale.

Ceny

Pre všetky zúčastnené zbory a orchestre budú pripravené diplomy s označením pásma, ktoré spevácky zbor získal.

Na návrh poroty môžu byť udelené ďalšie ceny súťaže, a to za najlepšie výkony (dramaturgia programu, hlasová kultúra, dirigentský výkon a pod.) Výsledky poroty sú konečné a nedá sa proti nim odvolať.

The time limit of competition performances is 15 minutes for choirs and 20 minutes for orchestras.

Diplomas

Competing choir will be placed in following bands according to number of aquired points:

Golden band	90.00-100 points
Silver band	75.00-89.99 points
Bronze band	60.00-74.99 points
Participation certificate	up to 59.99 points
Grand Prix	according to the jury's decision and with minimally 97 points.

Non-competing ensembles will be awarded Diploma for participation in the festival.

Prizes

Each choir and orchestra will receive a diploma with the certification of the band awarded by the jury.

The jury may award other prizes of the festival for the best performances from the point of view of e.g. dramaturgy, voice culture, conducting performance etc. The jury's decisions are final, no appeals may be made.

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 2024 - 2025 / Choirs and orchestras 2024 - 2025
Bratislava, Slovakia

BRATISLAVA SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL

Bratislava, Slovakia; 20th - 23rd March 2025

SLOVAKIA CANTAT

International Festival of Choirs and Orchestras

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; 21st - 24th July 2025

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL II

Competition Festival for Children & Youth Choirs, Orchestras and Bands

Bratislava, Slovakia; 22nd - 25th July 2024

Bratislava. Slovakia; 21st - 24th July 2025

BRATISLAVA CANTAT II

International festival of choirs and orchestras

Bratislava, Slovakia; 10th - 13th October 2024

Bratislava. Slovakia; 9th - 12th October 2025

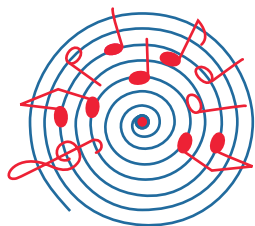
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Bratislava, Slovakia; 5th - 8th December 2024

Bratislava. Slovakia; 4th - 7th December 2025



We are celebrating 19 years!



BRATISLAVA
MUSIC AGENCY

Since 2005 we hosted:
more than 1000 choirs and orchestras
more than 35 000 musicians
more than 50 countries





SLOVAKIA CANTAT 2024

XVI. Medzinárodný zborový festival 16th International Choir Festival

25. - 28. 4. 2024, Bratislava, Slovakia

25.4.2024 | ŠTVRTOK - THURSDAY

19:00 OTVÁRACÍ KONCERT FESTIVALU / OPENING CONCERT

Malý Kajetán /CZ/, Mladinskí pevní zbor OŠ n. h. Maksa Pečarja Ljubljana /SL/, The Vivid Voices /AT/, Ad Libitum /NO/, Robert College Singers /TR/, A Scalpella /SE/

*Jezuitský kostol / Jesuits Church
Františkánske námestie / Franciscan square*

26.4.2024 | PIATOK - FRIDAY

17:00 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

Mladinskí pevní zbor OŠ n. h. Maksa Pečarja Ljubljana /SL/, Malý Kajetán /CZ/, The Vivid Voices /AT/, Bystroušek /CZ/, Robert College Singers /TR/
*Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Music Hall,
Farská 4*

19:00 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

Children's choir Mladika /SL/, Adijamus /CZ/, Men's Choir Kapele /SL/, Ad Libitum /NO/, A Scalpella /SE/
*Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Music Hall,
Farská 4*

27.4.2024 | SOBOTA - SATURDAY

SÚŤAŽ SPEVÁCKYCH ZBOROV / CHORAL COMPETITION

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

Katégória A3: Detské spevácke zbory do 12 rokov
Category A3: Children's choirs up to 12 years

13:00 Malý Kajetán / CZ/

13:15 Children's choir Mladika /SL/

13:45 Bystroušek /CZ/

Katégória A4: Detské spevácke zbory do 16 rokov
Category A4: Children's choirs up to 16 years

14:05 Mladinskí pevní zbor OŠ n. h. Maksa Pečarja Ljubljana /SL/

Katégória D3: Zmiešané zbory dospelých

Category D3: Adult Choir

14:20 A Scalpella /SE/

Katégória D1: Mužské zbory

Category D1: Adult choirs - men

14:38 Men's Choir Kapele /SL/

Katégória C2: Mládežnícke zbory do 21 rokov (SATB)
Category C2: Youth choirs up to 21 yrs (SATB)

14:56 Adijamus /CZ/

Katégória H1: Sakrálna hudba a capella

Category H1: Musica Sacra a cappella

15:14 A Scalpella /SE/

15:32 Ad Libitum /NO/

Katégória C2: Mládežnícke zbory do 21 rokov (SA)

Category C2: Youth choirs up to 21 yrs (SA)

15:50 The Vivid Voices /AT/

Katégória F1: Ľudová pieseň a capella

Category F1: Folksong a cappella

16:08 Robert College Singers /TR/

16:26 A scalpella /SE/

19:00 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT A VYHLÁSENIE VÝSLEDKOV
SÚŤAŽE / FESTIVAL CONCERT AND COMPETITION RESULTS
ANNOUNCEMENT

Mladinskí pevní zbor OŠ n. h. Maksa Pečarja Ljubljana /SL/, Malý Kajetán /CZ/, The Vivid Voices /AT/, Bystroušek /CZ/, Robert College Singers /TR/, Children's choir Mladika /SL/, Pěvecký sbor Adijamus /CZ/, Men's Choir Kapele /SL/, Ad Libitum /NO/, A Scalpella /SE/

*Jezuitský kostol / Jesuits Church
Františkánske námestie / Franciscan square*

28.4.2024 | NEDEĽA - SUNDAY

Departure of international choirs

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

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



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