

Bratislava cantat II. 2024



PROGRAM

10. Medzinárodný zborový festival
10th International Choir Festival

10 - 13 October 2024
Bratislava, Slovakia



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BRATISLAVA
MUSIC AGENCY



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:

Assoc. prof. Jakub Zicha /Czechia/ - chairman 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

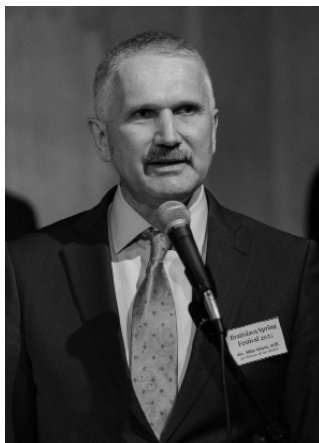
Únia speváckych zborov Slovenska

HLAVNÝ ORGANIZÁTOR / GENERAL ORGANIZER OF THE FESTIVAL:

Bratislava Music Agency

FOTOGRAF / PHOTOGRAPHER:

Vladimír Kuric



Milí priatelia,

Vítajte v Bratislave!

Som veľmi rád, že vás môžem privítať na Bratislava Cantat II. 2024. Teší ma a som nesmeriене vďačný, že sa konečne môžeme opäť stretávať a zdieľať naše nadšenie pre zborový spev. Tento rok sa na Bratislava Cantat II. zúčastní 12 zborov z 6 krajín, teda viac než 300 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 deviatich 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 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 Bratislava Cantat II. 2024

Dear friends,

Welcome to Bratislava!

I am very happy to welcome you to the Bratislava Cantat II. 2024. It brings me great joy and gratitude to come together once again and share our love for choral singing. This year, Bratislava Cantat II. will host over 300 singers within 12 choirs from 6 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 ninth 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. 2024

PROGRAM FESTIVALU

10.10.2024 ŠTVRTOK / THURSDAY

19:00 OTVÁRACÍ KONCERT FESTIVALU / OPENING CONCERT

SLAVÍČCI /CZ/, Spevácky zbor Apollo SK/, Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis /SK/, Vox Animae /CH/, Riga Orthodox Chamber Choir BLAGOVEST / LV/, Cantare Chamber Choir /HU/, Komorni zbor Kulturno umetniškega društva Šmartno na Pohorju /SL/

Jezuitský kostol / Jesuit church, Františkánske námestie

11.10.2024 PIATOK / FRIDAY

17:00 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

Komorni zbor Kulturno umetniškega društva Šmartno na Pohorju /SL/, Vox Animae CH/, Riga Orthodox Chamber Choir BLAGOVEST / LV/, Cantare Chamber Choir /HU/, SLAVÍČCI /CZ/

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

19:00 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

MePZ Cantemus/ SL/, Ogrė's cultural center mixed choir "Grıva" /LV/, KataPult Chamber Choir/ HU/, Ženský spevácky zbor Vocals /SK/, Hassler Vocal Ensemble /HU/

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

12.10.2024 SOBOTA / SATURDAY

SÚŤAŽNÁ ČASŤ FESTIVALU / FESTIVAL COMPETITION

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

Kategória D3: Zmiešané zbory dospelých

Category D3: Mixed adult choirs

9:00 Ogrė's cultural center mixed choir "Grıva" / LV/

9:15 Vox Animae /CH/

9:30 Riga Orthodox Chamber Choir BLAGOVEST / LV/

Kategória J: Súčasná zborová hudba

Category J: Contemporary choir music

9:45 Vox Animae /CH/

Kategória L: Byzantská sakrálna hudba

Category L: Orthodox Church Music

10:00 Riga Orthodox Chamber Choir BLAGOVEST /LV/

Kategória D2: Ženské spevácke zbory

Category D2: Female adult choirs

10:15 Ženský spevácky zbor Vocals /SK/

Kategória F1: Ľudová pieseň a cappella

Category F1: Folksong a cappella

10:30 Ogrė's cultural center mixed choir "Grıva" / LV/

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

10:45 Ženský spevácky zbor Vocals /SK/

11:00 MePZ Cantemus / SL/

Kategória A2: Detské spevácke zbory do 16 rokov

Category A2: Children's choirs up to 16 years

11:45 SLAVÍČCI /CZ/

Kategória H2: Sakrálna hudba s inštrumentálnym sprievodom

Category H2: Musica Sacra with instrumental accompaniment

12:00 Cantare Chamber Choir/HU/

Kategória F1: Ľudová pieseň s inštrumentálnym sprievodom

Category F1: Folksong with instrumental accompaniment

12:15 SLAVÍČCI /CZ/

Kategória H1: Sakrálna hudba a cappella

Category H1: Musica Sacra a cappella

12:30 Hassler Vocal Ensemble /HU/

12:45 Vox Animae /CH/

Kategória E2: Komorné zbory (9 - 24 spevákov)

Category E2: Chamber choirs (9 - 24 singers)

13:00 KataPult Chamber Choir / HU/

13:15 Komorni zbor Kulturno umetniškega društva Šmartno na Pohorju /SL/

13:30 Hassler Vocal Ensemble /HU/

Kategória D3: Zmiešané zbory dospelých

Category D3: Mixed adult choirs

13:45 Cantare Chamber Choir /HU/

14:15 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

Vox Animae /CH/, Hassler Vocal Ensemble /HU/, KataPult Chamber Choir / HU/, Ženský spevácky zbor Vocals /SK/, Ogrė's cultural center mixed choir "Grıva" /LV/, Komorni zbor Kulturno umetniškega društva Šmartno na Pohorju /SL/, MePZ Cantemus / SL/

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

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

Jezuitský kostol / Jesuit church, Františkánske námestie

13.10.2024 NEDEĽA / SUNDAY

Odchod medzinárodných speváckych zborov/ Departure of international choirs

**Assoc. Prof. Jakub Zicha /Czechia/
chairman of the jury**



Jakub Zicha (*1974) graduated from the Prague Conservatory in viola (K. Špelina) and conducting (M. Němcová, H. Farkač, J. Kasal and M. Košler). As a member of various chamber groups, he has made many recordings for different record labels (Deutsche Grammophon, Supraphon, etc.). He is the founder and artistic director of the Prague Church Soloists, a group specializing in pre-classical music. Since September 1999 he has been the main choirmaster and artistic director of Charles University Choir Prague, from 2011-2019 he was the choirmaster of the Prague Philharmonic Choir (the leading Czech professional choir).

Now (since 2019) he has been the Conductor and Principal Chorus Master of the Opera Choir of the Theatre in Pilsen (West Bohemia). Jakub Zicha is a regular member of juries of international choral competitions in the Czech Republic and abroad (Germany, Austria, Slovakia). He is the artistic

director of the Praga Cantat Festival, which he took over from his teacher, Professor Miroslav Košler. Since September 2001 he has been teaching at the Prague Conservatory.

In 2018 he received the title „Musikdirektor FDB“, awarded by the Federation of German Choirmasters, and in 2019 the Ferdinand Vach Award, awarded by the Union of Czech Choirs.

**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.

**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.



Cantare Chamber Choir /HU/

Conductor: Mrs. Maria Józsa-Kalocsai

The Cantare Chamber Choir of Gyöngyös was formed in 2018. Today, the enthusiastic team of about 30 members consists mostly of amateur singers who have studied music. Their goals include enjoying making music together and serious professional development in terms of vocal technique and choir style. Since its formation, the choir has placed a strong emphasis on the development of vocal production and breathing techniques. Their repertoire includes works by Hungarian, English, American, Slovenian,



Norwegian, and Basque composers, primarily from the 21st century, but they also enjoy performing pieces from the Renaissance and Baroque periods. In November 2022, in Budapest, at the 9th Kodály Zoltán Hungarian Choir Competition, they won a Gold diploma in the "B" category for Mixed Chords. Then, in 2023, at the 18th Budapest International Choir Competition, they won a Gold diploma in the "Mixed Chords" category and a Silver diploma in the "Musica Sacra" category.

Maria Jozsa-Kalocsai began her musical studies as a pianist, but soon the family heritage determined her musical goals and path. She completed her choral conducting studies at the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Budapest, where she received her diploma in 2005. After that, she returned to the small town of Gyöngyös in the Mátra region and became intensely involved in the work of the amateur City Mixed Choir, which has been led by her mother and has been operating for 47 years. In 2018, she founded the Cantare Chamber Choir, which has now grown to nearly 30 members, from among the choir members and new enthusiastic young singers. She considers the cultivation of Renaissance and contemporary choral music, serious vocal training, and the application of breathing techniques based on the German-originated *terlusollogy* in choral singing to be important. She has conducted extensive studies in the latter area with opera singer Magda Nádor, and actively uses this knowledge in choral work.

Competition programme

Kategória D3: Zmiešané zbory dospelých

Category D3: Mixed adult choirs

1. Thomas Louis da Victoria - Ave Maria a 8
2. Eric Whitacre - Water Night
3. Peter Anglea - Jubilate Deo

Kategória H2: Sakrálna hudba s inštrumentálnym sprievodom

Category H2: Musica Sacra with instrumental accompaniment

1. Thomas Tallis - Salvator Mundi
2. Bob Chilcott - God so love the world
3. Kim Arnesen - The Lamb
4. Dietrich Buxtehude - Membra Jesu Nostri – detail – Choral movement (Ad ubera portabimini)



Hassler Vocal Ensemble /HU/

Conductor: Mr. Zoltán Sándor



The HASSLER ENSEMBLE was founded by the choirmaster Zoltan Sandor with the participation of students and young intellectuals in Miskolc in 1984. Since then it has played an important role in the music life of the town, and has regularly performed in events of the Philharmonic Society, music programmes of the Hungarian Radio, concert tours, competitions and festivals abroad. It initiated the International Chamber Choir Festival held annually in Miskolc. Its repertoire ranges from works by Renaissance masters to pieces by contemporary composers.

Zoltán Sándor graduated as piano teacher in Miskolc and as choir master at the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Budapest and perfected his knowledge by attending the master course by Eric Ericson. In 2004 he was awarded a DLA degree and in 2012 obtained his habilitation. Currently he is a professor of the Bartók Béla Music Institute of the University of Miskolc. In addition to the Bartók Choir of Miskolc, he conducts the Female Choir and the Mixed Choir of the University of Miskolc, the Hegyalja Teachers' Choir in Szerencs, the Chamber Choir of the House of Culture in Sárospatak and the Hassler Ensemble in Miskolc. With his choirs he has been awarded prizes in significant international competitions in Belgium, Hungary, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and Slovakia. He is regularly involved in the work of the juries of international choir competitions.

Competition programme

Kategória H1: Sakrális hudba a cappella

Category H1: Musica Sacra a cappella

1. Alessandro Scarlatti - Exultate Deo
2. Rihards Dubra - O Crux ave
3. Deák Bárdos Györg - Eli, eli
4. Ola Gjeilo - Ubi caritas et amo
5. Karl Jenkins - Exultate, jubilate

Kategória E2: Komorné zborny (9 - 24 spevákov)

Category E2: Chamber choirs (9 - 24 singers)

1. Kodály Zoltán - Békesség-óhajtás
2. Bruno Bettinelli - Tre espressioni madrigalistiche (1. Già mi trovai di maggio)
3. Antonin Dvorak - V Prirode op. 63. (3. Zitné pole, 4. Vibebla bríza belicka)
4. Mykola Leontovych - Shchedryk
5. Kristiaan van Ingelgem – Jacob Arcadelt - Ave Maria



KataPult Chamber Choir /HU/

Conductor: Mrs. Kata Ihász

KataPult Chamber Choir was formed in 2008 by Kata Ihász. The members are young amateurs from Budaörs, Hungary. The choir frequently performs at choral festivals in Budapest and the surrounding cities. They also attend international festivals, such as Europa Cantat in Hungary (2015) and 'Dance and Music in the Alps' Austria (2022). Besides that, they organize their own concert series twice a year in their hometown to popularize vocal music. They enjoy singing renaissance madrigals, classical and contemporary music but one can find folk, gospel and pop covers in their repertory. They collaborate with bands coming from other genres with pleasure: for example with the contemporary big band Nart Orchestra (HU), or the popular raggae-dancehall band Irie Maffia (HU).



Kata Ihász is the conductor and founder of KataPult Chamber Choir. She studied music teaching and conducting at Loránd Eötvös Science University's Music Department under the mentoring of Zsuzsánna Mindszenty. After finishing her studies, she founded the KataPult Chamber Choir in her hometown, Budaörs. Besides that, she started teaching music in the surrounding primary schools. Her goal is to give community experience through musical activities - either at schools or at a choral concert. She's also active in her hometown's wind orchestra as a flute player, and in the last few years as a conductor as well.

Competition programme

Kategória E2: Komorné zborny (9 - 24 spevákov)

Category E2: Chamber choirs (9 - 24 singers)

1. Lassus - Mon coeur se recommande à vous
2. Certon - Je ne l'ose dire
3. Bárdos Lajos - Csillagvirág
4. Harold Arlen/arr., Russ Robinson - Over the Rainbow
5. Petar Liondev (trad./arr) - Kaval Sviri



Conductor: Mrs. Nastja Pančič Čurin



Chamber choir KUD Šmartno na Pohorju is active since the year 2010. It currently has 23 members. Our artistic director Nastja Pančič Čurin takes care, that we surprise our listeners with an intriguing repertoire and we ourselves provide a youthful playfulness, so it is never dull in our company. Among our own traditional concerts, we also perform at local and municipal events, as well as take part in regional, national and international competitions. We have also participated at an international choir festival "Majske muzičke svečanosti" in Bjeljina (BiH), where we won four golden awards.

Nastja Pančič Čurin was born on December 22, 1981 in Ptuj. She completed her education at the University of Maribor; Faculty of Pedagogy - received education Professor of music. She sang in renowned choirs: Carmina Slovenica, the vocal group Canticum, and she is still an active member of the vocal group Vivere. As a choir director, she tried out for the first time with the Women's Choir Slov. Konjice, which she successfully led from 2007 to 2018. In 2015, she took over as the choir director of the Chamber Choir KUD Šmartno na Pohorje, which she still leads today.

Competition programme

Kategória E2: Komorné zbory (9 - 24 spevákov)

Category E2: Chamber choirs (9 - 24 singers)

1. Andrej Makor - Lahko noč, otroci (Marko Margon)
2. Carlo Gesualdo - Io tacero
3. Tadeja Vulc - Ob bistrem potoku je mlin
4. Samo Volk -Ta na solbici

MePZ Cantemus /SL/

Conductor: Mrs. Uršula Jašovec

The mixed choir Cantemus from Kamnik has been active for 46 years and consistently impresses audiences with its performances at numerous concerts, singing competitions, and tours. The choir also regularly and enthusiastically organizes or participates in charity concerts for families in need from the local area. Over its years of activity, the choir has won several awards at competitions both at home and abroad. Cantemus has released a CD titled Most (The Bridge) and has been recorded multiple times by domestic and international radio stations. The current lineup of twenty-five singers, led by conductor Uršula Jašovec, eagerly looks forward to new musical experiences and is excited about future performances and successes.

Uršula Jašovec is a Slovenian composer, music pedagogue, conductor, organist, pianist, and singer. She primarily composes music for children, voice, chamber ensembles, and chamber orchestras, with a current focus on writing for children's choirs and music for children's music stories and ballet. Her work has been performed at prestigious events such as World Music Days, KotorArt Festival, Aix-en-Provence Festival, Impuls Festival, Inédits d'orgue, RTV Slovenija, Naša pesem in Maribor, Vokal Total Graz, Europa Cantat, and in various countries including Croatia, France, the UK, Austria, Germany, Serbia, Canada, Montenegro, Ukraine, Italy, and Texas. Since 2018, she has been a member of the Slovenian Composers Society and is currently a teacher at the Music Conservatory in Ljubljana.



Competition programme

Katégoria F1: Ľudová pieseň a cappella

Category F1: Folksong a cappella

1. Luka Kramolc - Prelepa je selška dolina
2. Hilarij Lavrenčič - Petelinček je zapievu
3. Tomaž Habe - Dve let in pol
4. Samo Vremšak - Marko skače
5. Ubald Vrabec - Bratci veseli vsi



Ogre's cultural center mixed choir "Grīva" /LV/

Conductor: Mrs. Evita Konuša

Ogre county Culture Centre mixed choir "Grīva" was established in 1990. For 19 years, since 2006, it is led by conductor Evita Konuša who is currently assisted by the choirmaster Aivars Igaunis. In the choir "Grīva" 40 people of different ages and professions are united by love to music and synergy.

The choir's repertoire is varied in forms, genres, and styles- alongside the brightest pieces of Latvian cultural heritage, you will always find new works made by Latvian and foreign composers, lesser-known arrangements of folk songs, compositions by domestic and foreign classics from different centuries. Choir actively participates in various projects and concerts in Ogre as well as all around Latvia and has given concerts in Lithuania, Estonia, Norway, Germany, Austria, Georgia, Croatia, USA and Canada. Since the choir was established it has been a part of all (seven) Latvian Song and Dance Festivals Although it is going to be the first international competition experience for choir "Grīva", everyone, individually and collectively, feels ready for this challenge.



Evita Konuša graduated from the choir conducting department of Jāzeps Vītols Academy of Music of Latvia obtaining a bachelor's degree in choral conducting in 2005. Since 2006 conducts the mixed choir "Grīva" and since 2009 mixed choir "Cesis Castle choir". For more than 15 years Evita Konuša works as a choir class teacher at music schools in Ogre, Lielvārde and leads the children' choir "Lielvārde". Evita Konuša has received the best conductor award in several international choir competitions.

For the mixed choir "Grīva" Evita is a sensitive, but at the same time demanding conductor, with relentless work ethic and inspiration for new achievements, one who is able to select the most suitable repertoire to reach the hearts of domestic and foreign choral music lovers and to prove the choir's abilities and capabilities.

Competition programme

Kategória D3: Zmiešané zbory dospelých

Category D3: Mixed adult choirs

1. Pēteris Plakidis - Vasaras vidus dziesmiņa
2. Knut Nystedt - Peace I leave with you
3. Laura Jēkabsons - Rasa

Kategória F1: Ļudová píseň a cappella

Category F1: Folksong a cappella

1. Alfrēds Kalniņš - Dziedot dzimu
2. Jēkabs Graubiņš - Alutiņš, bāleliņš
3. Irīna Mihailovska - Uguns rituāls
4. Jānis Ozols - Deviņi dēli



Riga Orthodox Chamber Choir „BLAGOVEST“ /LV/

Conductor: Mr. Aleksandrs Brandavs



Riga Orthodox Chamber Choir "Blagovest" (Latvia) was founded in 1990 with an aim to popularize forgotten treasures of Orthodox sacred music, which makes the most part of the choir's repertoire. The choir has wide range of interests: from monophonic neumatic chants, called 'znamenniy raspev', to polyphonic choir concertos and compositions of contemporary composers. Masterpieces of secular music, classics of Latvian choral music, folk songs are included in the choir's repertoire, as well. Sacred music performed by "Blagovest" moves and inspires listeners not only in Latvia, but all around the world. Under the leadership of its founder and artistic director Aleksandrs Brandavs the choir has received numerous awards and titles of various international

choral competitions, including the title of Champion of the European Choir Games (2017), the Grand Prix of Nations in Riga, Latvia and Colombo, Sri Lanka (2017) in the category "musica sacra a cappella", awards at the City of Derry International Choir Festival in Derry, Northern Ireland (2018) and Competition of Choral Singing in Spittal an der Drau, Austria (2019), the 1st place in the choral competition "Hajnowka's Orthodox Church Music Days", Poland (2020). In 2023, choir participated at the XXVII Nationwide Latvian Song and Dance Festival. "Blagovest" has recorded seven CDs and a vinyl record, and realized number of inspiring cooperation projects with well-known composers, choirs, and singers both in Latvia and abroad, capturing more than 30 years of persistent work and excellent skill, combining at a high level of professionalism the best traditions of Latvian choral singing and the bright and heartfelt technique of performing Orthodox music.

The founder and leader of the choir Aleksandrs Brandavs (b.1970), MA, has graduated from the Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music, Department of Choir Conducting and serves as Regent (Precentor) at the Pārdaugava Holy Trinity Church in Riga. He has also served as Jury Member at various international sacred choral music competitions.



Competition programme

Kategória D3: Zmiešané zbory dospelých

Category D3: Mixed adult choirs

1. Giovanni Pierluigi Da Palestrina - Sicut Cervus
2. Georgy Sviridov - Strekotunya Beloboka
3. Latvian Folksong arranged by Imants Ramiņš - Pūt, vējiņi! (Blow Ye Wind!)
4. Selga Mence - Kalējs kala debesis (Blacksmith Forges In The Sky)

Kategória L: Byzantská sakrálna hudba

Category L: Orthodox Church Music

1. Alexander Arkhangelsky - Pomishlyayu Den' Strashniy (I Think Upon The Fearful Day)
2. Alfred Schnittke - Concerto for Choir, Part II
3. Arvo Pärt - Alleluia-Tropus

Conductor: Mrs. Alice Stavělová



The Children's Choir of the Klapkova Elementary School of Arts in Prague is an ensemble with more than a thirty-year tradition. Currently, around 200 children participate, divided into five sections according to age and skill level. The youngest members are 5 years old, and the oldest are 18. In addition to singing, most of them also play musical instruments. The choir, known as "Slavíčci," has sung at some of the most beautiful places in Prague, such as the Rudolfinum, the Spanish Hall of Prague Castle, the Martinů Hall in the Liechtenstein Palace, and the Church of St. Simon and Jude. A lovely tradition has been their Easter concerts held in collaboration with the Castle Guard Band in the Military Church at Hradčany, as

well as their participation in concerts of the Czech Philharmonic for parents and children. Among their recent achievements are two gold diplomas from a competition in Salzburg in 2023. The "Slavíčci" also performed in Bratislava in 2012. All sections of the choir are led by its founder, Alice Stavělová, with Magda Šírková as the accompanist.

Alice Stavělová's first encounter with choral singing took place in the children's choir Campanella in Olomouc. She studied oboe performance at the Conservatory in Prague and later at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts (JAMU) in Brno. While still a student, she founded a choir at the Folk School of Art in Prague 8 (now the Elementary School of Arts), which she continues to lead to this day. In addition to choral singing, she also teaches preparatory music education and music theory. She was awarded the František Lýsek Prize in 2014.

Competition programme

Kategória A2: Detské spevácke zbory do 16 rokov

Category A2: Children's choirs up to 16 years

1. Henri Purcell - Jásej, trubko
2. Robert Schumann - Die Capelle
3. Georg Fridrich Händel, úprava Vladislav Souček - Hallelujah
4. Gideon Klein - Bachuri Le'an Tisa
5. Zoltán Kodály -Tancnóta

Kategória F1: Ľudová pieseň s inštrumentálnym sprievodom

Category F1: Folksong with istrumental accompaniment

1. Otmar Mácha - Moravské lidové písně, části: Maryjánek, Šohajova mama
2. Zdeněk Lukáš - Věneček
3. Petr Eben - Vlaštovička lítá
4. Bohuslav Martinů - Vynášení smrti



Conductor: Mr. Bernard Guye



Founded in June 2006, the Vox Animae vocal ensemble brings together 26 singers from the Neuchâtel region to perform an a cappella repertoire that is rarely performed in Switzerland. Their favorites range from the Renaissance to the present day, with an emphasis on double choir and 8-voice songs.

In 2007, Vox Animae won first prize at the USC choral competition in Solothurn. In 2011, the ensemble also won first prize at the Fribourg competition, and in 2014, Vox Animae excelled at the Zwickau international competition (Germany), winning two

gold diplomas. In July 2016, the ensemble won a silver medal at the International Choral Festival of Preveza (Greece) and the prestigious Special Prize for the best program. In addition to many concerts in Switzerland, the ensemble also earned two gold diplomas at the Kalamata Festival (Greece) in 2019.

Born on July 15, 1961, Bernard Guye began studying piano at the age of six. His involvement in choral music includes directing the Madrigal du Landeron from 1991 to 2000, during which time he won several prizes. He also directed the Aurore du Landeron men's choir from 1998 to 2006. In 2006, he founded the Octonote octet and the vocal ensemble Vox Animae. Additionally, he has been directing Acapel'hom (a men's choir) and the Choeur du Van for 15 years. From 1998 to 2013, Bernard Guye chaired the SCCN Cantonal Music Committee and was the artistic director of the Neuchâtel International Choral Festival (FCIN) for its final four editions, from 2008 to 2014. Since 2000, he has been regularly called upon as a jury member for giron, regional, and cantonal singing festivals, including the international festival in St. Petersburg (Russia) in 2011, and the Swiss Federal Festival in Meiringen in 2015.

Competition programme

Kategória D3: Zmiešané zbory dospelých

Category D3: Mixed adult choirs

1. Charles Villiers Stanford - Heraclitus
2. Stachel Melchior Frank - Todt, Wo ist dein
3. Robert Lucas de Pearsall - Sir Patrick Spens
4. Michael John Trotta - Ad te clamamus

Kategória J: Súčasná zborová hudba

Category J: Contemporary choir music

1. Christ Artley - O Magnum Mysterium
2. Erik Bosio - Never more will the wind
3. Michael John Trotta - Dies Irae

Kategória H1: Sakrálna hudba a cappella

Category H1: Musica Sacra a cappella

1. Josef Gabriel Rheinberger - Kyrie (Mass in E-flat Major)
2. Thomas Tomkins - O Sing unto the Lord a new song
3. Albert Becker - Bleibe, Abend will es warden



Ženský spevácky zbor Vocals /SK/

Conductor: Mrs. Bronislava Fecková



Women's Choir VOCALS of the Park of Culture and Recreation in Prešov, Slovakia, was established in 2010. Today it has up to 26 female members who sing under the leading of Bronislava Fecková. The repertoire of the choir consists of sacred music of Renaissance and Baroque period, folk songs of Slovak and Czech authors and pop songs in an arrangement of British and American composers. The choir regularly organizes Christmas and annual concerts. It has sung in several Slovak and Czech towns. The members of Vocals participate in the local, national and international contests in choral singing in Prešov, Košice, Banská Bystrica, Bratislava Cantat II 2018,

Prague (Czech Republic) and Rzeszow (Poland), Sanktpeterburg 2019 (Russia) in which has obtained gold and silver awards. The choir gave a concert in Porec (Croatia), in Prague (Czech Republic) 2022. At 2023 our choir had successful concerts in Budapest (Hungary) and once again in Prague. At the Ave Verum Baden – Vien festival 2024, the choir received a bronze award.

Bronislava Fecková is a graduate of the Pedagogical faculty in Nitra, the Department of Music education and Russian language and literature (1987 - 1992). After graduation, she worked at the Primary art school in Sabinov and Košice as a teacher of music theory and playing the piano. In 2003 she successfully passed rigorosum exams and awarded the title PaedDr. From 1994 Mrs. Fecková teaches at a Primary school in Ľubotice, where supports and develops the talents of the musically gifted children. From 2010 she conducts the Female choir VOCALS in Prešov and regularly participates in courses for conductors organised by the National Educational Centre in Bratislava.

Competition programme

Kategória D2: Ženské spevácke zbory

Category D2: Female adult choirs

1. Piotr Janczák - Dd profundis clamavi
2. Erika Budai - Non nobis domine
3. Ola Gjelo - Ave generosa
4. Peter Špilák - Ara more pašal ma

Kategória F1: Ľudová pieseň a cappella

Category F1: Folksong a cappella

1. Jana Kmiťová - Nebanova by
2. Štefan Klimo - Trávnice
3. Peter Špilák - A ja také dzivočka

KALENDÁR PODUJATÍ / MUSIC FESTIVAL CALENDAR

Zbory a orchestre 2025 - 2026 / Choirs and orchestras 2025 - 2026
Bratislava, Slovakia

BRATISLAVA SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL

Bratislava, Slovakia; 20th - 23rd March 2025

Bratislava, Slovakia; 19th - 22nd March 2026

SLOVAKIA CANTAT

International Festival of Choirs and Orchestras

Bratislava, Slovakia; 24th - 27th April 2025

Bratislava, Slovakia; 23rd - 26th April 2026

BRATISLAVA CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

International Festival of Choirs and Orchestras

Bratislava. Slovakia; 12th - 15th June 2025

Bratislava. Slovakia; 11th - 14th June 2026

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL I

Competition Festival for Children & Youth Choirs, Orchestras and Bands

Bratislava. Slovakia; 1st - 4th July 2025

Bratislava, Slovakia; 30th June- 3rd July 2026

BRATISLAVA CANTAT I

International festival of choirs and orchestras

Bratislava. Slovakia; 21st - 24th July 2025

Bratislava, Slovakia; 20th - 23rd July 2026

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL II

Competition Festival for Children & Youth Choirs, Orchestras and Bands

Bratislava. Slovakia; 21st - 24th July 2025

Bratislava, Slovakia; 20th - 23rd July 2026

BRATISLAVA CANTAT II

International festival of choirs and orchestras

Bratislava. Slovakia; 9th - 12th October 2025

Bratislava, Slovakia; 8th - 11th October 2026

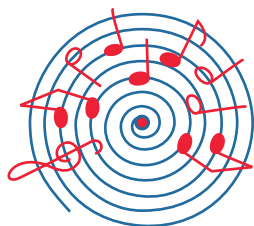
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Bratislava. Slovakia; 4th - 7th December 2025

Bratislava, Slovakia; 3rd - 6th December 2026



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BRATISLAVA CANTAT II. 2024

10. Medzinárodný zborový festival

10th International Choir Festival

10th - 13th October, 2024

Bratislava, Slovakia



ŠTVRTOK | THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER, 2024

19:00 Otvárací koncert | Opening Concert

SLAVIČCI / CZ, Spevácky zbor Apollo / SK, Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis / SK, Vox Animae / CH, Riga Orthodox Chamber Choir BLAGOVEST / LV, Cantare Chamber Choir / HU, Komorní zbor kulturno umetniškega društva Šmartno na Pohorju / SL

Jezuitský kostol / Jesuit church, Franciscan square

PIATOK | FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER, 2024

17:00 Festivalový koncert | Festival Concert

Komorní zbor kulturno umetniškega društva Šmartno na Pohorju / SL, Vox Animae / CH, Riga Orthodox Chamber Choir BLAGOVEST / LV, Cantare Chamber Choir / HU, SLAVIČCI / CZ

Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Hall, Farská 4

19:00 Festivalový koncert | Festival Concert

MePZ Cantemus / SL, KataPult Chamber Choir / HU, Ogre's cultural center mixed choir "Gríva" / LV, Ženský spevácky zbor Vocals / SK, Hassler Vocal Ensemble / HU

Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Hall, Farská 4

SOBOTA | SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 2024

9:00 Súťaž speváckych zborov | Choir Competition

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

Zmiešané zbory dospelých / Mixed adult choirs

9:00 Ogre's cultural center mixed choir "Gríva" / LV /

9:15 Vox Animae / CH /

9:30 Riga Orthodox Chamber Choir BLAGOVEST / LV /

Súčasná zborová hudba / Contemporary choir music

9:45 Vox Animae / CH /

Byzantská sakrálna hudba / Orthodox Church Music

10:00 Riga Orthodox Chamber Choir BLAGOVEST / LV /

Ženské spevácke zbory / Female adult choirs

10:15 Ženský spevácky zbor Vocals / SK /

Ľudová pieseň a cappella / Folksong a cappella

10:30 Ogre's cultural center mixed choir "Gríva" / LV /

10:45 Ženský spevácky zbor Vocals / SK /

11:00 MePZ Cantemus / SL /

Detские певческие zbory do 16 rokov / Children's choirs

up to 16 years

11:45 SLAVIČCI / CZ /

Sakrálna hudba s inštrumentálnym sprievodom / Musica Sacra with instrumental accompaniment

12:00 Cantare Chamber Choir / HU /

Ľudová pieseň s inštrumentálnym sprievodom / Folksong with instrumental accompaniment

12:15 SLAVIČCI / CZ /

Sakrálna hudba a cappella / Musica Sacra a cappella

12:30 Hassler Vocal Ensemble / HU /

12:45 Vox Animae / CH /

Komorné zbory 9 - 24 spevákov / Chamber choirs 9 - 24 singers

13:00 KataPult Chamber Choir / HU /

13:15 Komorní zbor kulturno umetniškega društva Šmartno na Pohorju / SL /

13:30 Hassler Vocal Ensemble / HU /

Zmiešané zbory dospelých / Mixed adult choirs

13:45 Cantare Chamber Choir / HU /

14:15 Festivalový koncert | Festival Concert

Vox Animae / CH, Hassler Vocal Ensemble / HU, KataPult Chamber Choir / HU, Ženský spevácky zbor Vocals / SK, Ogre's cultural center mixed choir "Gríva" / LV, Komorní zbor kulturno umetniškega društva Šmartno na Pohorju / SL, MePZ Cantemus / SL

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

19:00 Festivalový koncert a vyhlásenie výsledkov súťaže | Festival Concert and Competition Results Announcement

Jezuitský kostol / Jesuit church, Franciscan square

NEDEĽA | SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER 2024

Odchod zahraničných speváckych zborov / Departure of the international choirs

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

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



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