



XVII. INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC

XVII. MEDZINÁRODNÝ FESTIVAL
ADVENTNEJ A VIANOČNEJ HUDBY

5 - 8 December 2024, Bratislava, Slovakia



PROGRAM

www.choral-music.sk



www.facebook.com/bratislavamusicagency



www.instagram.com/bratislava_music_agency/



BRATISLAVA
MUSIC AGENCY





XVII. INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC

XVII. MEDZINÁRODNÝ FESTIVAL ADVENTNEJ A VIANOČNEJ HUDBY

5 - 8 December 2024, Bratislava, Slovakia

Hlavný organizátor / Organiser:

BRATISLAVA MUSIC AGENCY

Umelecký riaditeľ / Festival Art Director:

Assoc. Prof. Milan Kolena, ArtD.

Medzinárodná porota / International jury:

Prof. Blanka Juhaňáková, ArtD. /SK/
predsedkyňa poroty / chairwoman of the jury

Prof. Benedykt Błoński /PL/

PhDr. Milan Motl, Ph.D. /CZ/

Mgr. art. Kaie Tanner /EE/

Assoc. Prof. Milan Kolena, ArtD. /SK/

Spoluorganizátori / Co-organizers:

Hlavné mesto SR Bratislava

Bratislavské kultúrne a informačné stredisko

Bratislava - Staré Mesto

Spevácky zbor Apollo

Mediálni partneri / Media:

Kam do mesta

Citylife.sk

Fotograf/ Photographer:

Vladimír Kuric

PROGRAM FESTIVALU / FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

ŠTVRTOK / THURSDAY 5.12.2024

19:00 OTVÁRACÍ KONCERT FESTIVALU / OPENING CONCERT

Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis /SK/, Spevácky zbor Apollo /SK/, Krumlovští pištki /CZ/, Boys Choir Kalev /EE/, Male choir Tallinna Ülikooli Meeskoor/EE/, Lusatia consort /CZ/, Bratislava spieva gospel /SK/
Jezuitský kostol / Jesuit church, Františkánske námestie

PIATOK / FRIDAY 6.12.2024

15:30 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

Orchestra I Giovani Accademici /IT/, Boys Choir Kalev /EE/, Arietta /SK/, Male choir Tallinna Ülikooli Meeskoor /EE/, Lusatia consort /CZ/

Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Music Hall, Farská 4

17:30 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

Krumlovští pištki /CZ/, Happy Dreams /UA/, Dívčí pěvecký sbor SPgŠ Kroměříž /CZ/, Kodály Zoltán Gimnázium Énekkar /SK/, Ženský komorný spevácky zbor Úsmev /SK/

Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Music Hall, Farská 4

20:00 VYSTÚPENIA NA VIANOČNÝCH TRHOCH / PERFORMANCES AT CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Spevácky zbor Apollo /SK/

Vianočné pódium, Františkánske námestie

SOBOTA / SATURDAY 7.12.2024

SÚŤAŽ SPEVÁCKYCH ZBOROV A ORCHESTROV

COMPETITION OF CHOIRS AND ORCHESTRAS

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

Kategória O1: Orchestre

Category O1: Orchestras

9:30 Orchestra I Giovani Accademici /IT/

Kategória H2: Sakrálna hudba s inštrum. sprievodom

Category H2: Musica Sacra with instrum. accompaniment

10:00 Dívčí pěvecký sbor SPgŠ Kroměříž /CZ/

10:15 Lusatia consort /CZ/

Kategória C1: Mládežnícke zbory do 21 rokov (SA)

Category C1: Youth choirs up to 21 years (SA)

10:30 Dívčí pěvecký sbor SPgŠ Kroměříž /CZ/

Kategória B2: Chlapčenské zbory (SATB)

Category B2: Boys' choirs (SATB)

10:45 Boys Choir Kalev /EE/

Kategória X: Nesúťažné zbory

Category X: Non-competing choirs

11:00 Krumlovští pištcí /CZ/

Kategória D1: Mužské spevácke zbory

Category D1: Male adult choirs

11:15 Male choir Tallinna Ülikooli Meeskoor /EE/

Kategória D2: Ženské spevácke zbory

Category D2: Female adult choirs

11:30 Ženský komorný spevácky zbor Úsmev /SK/

Kategória C1: Mládežnícke zbory do 21 rokov (SATB)

Category C1: Youth choirs up to 21

11:45 SONG/CZ/

12:30 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

**Orchestra I Giovani Accademici /IT/, Kodály Zoltán Gimnázium Énekkar /SK/,
Ženský komorný spevácky zbor Úsmev /SK/, SONG /CZ/**

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

VYSTÚPENIA NA VIANOČNÝCH TRHOCH / PERFORMANCES AT CHRISTMAS MARKETS

**14.00 Krumlovští pištcí /CZ/, Dívčí pěvecký sbor SPgŠ Kroměříž /CZ/, Boys Choir
Kalev /EE/**

15:00 Lusatia consort /CZ/, SONG /CZ/, Kodály Zoltán Gimnázium Énekkar /SK/

**16:00 Ženský komorný spevácky zbor Úsmev /SK/, Male choir Tallinna Ülikooli
Meeskoor /EE/**

Vianočné pódium, Františkánske námestie

16:45 VÝHLÁSENIE VÝSLEDKOV SÚŤAŽE/COMPETITION RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT

Vianočné pódium, Františkánske námestie

16:45 KONCERT NA VIANOČNOM PÓDIU/CONCERT AT THE CHRISTMAS MARKETS

**Krumlovští pištcí /CZ/, Kodály Zoltán Gimnázium Énekkar /SK/, Ženský komorný
spevácky zbor Úsmev /SK/, Lusatia consort/CZ/**

Hviezdoslavovo námestie / Hviezdoslavovo square

NEDEĽA / SUNDAY 8.12.2024

Odchod zahraničných speváckych zborov /Departure of the international choirs

MEDZINÁRODNÁ POROTA / INTERNATIONAL JURY

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

Pianist and choirmaster, **Blanka Juhaňáková** graduated from Bratislava Conservatory and Janáček Academy of Musical Art in Brno. She lectures conducting at the Conservatory and the Academy of Musical Art in Bratislava. Since 1989 she has been leading the mixed choir Cantus and 1991-2001 she was choirmaster of the Slovak Phil-harmonic Choir, with whom she prepared several notable projects. She participated in the Boris Godunov project at the Salzburg Festival and in Japan, together with Claudio Abbado and prepared the Slovak Philharmonic Choir for the opera Rienzi by Wagner, with Zubin Mehta. In 1994 she initiated the establishment of the professional male vocal ensemble, Octet Singers, with whom she has recorded three CDs. In 2000 she became the Chairwoman of the Commission for Choir singing in Slovakia for the National Education Centre. She is a regular member and chairman of professional juries at choir festivals and competitions both home and abroad. Since 2002 she has been a member of the Commission for Concert Artists for the Music Fund and since 2003 a member of the Artistic and Scientific Council of the Musical and Dance Faculty of Academy of Musical Art in Bratislava. As a conductor and chamber musician she regularly performs in Slovakia and abroad (Belgium, France, Greece, Japan, South Korea, Luxembourg, Germany, Spain, Austria, Switzerland and the USA). In April 2005 she made her succesfull debut in the Rudolfinum in Prague with the Prague Philharmonic Choir and with the Symphony Orchestra of the Czech Radio in Verdi`s Requiem with the conductor Ondrej Lenárd.



MEDZINÁRODNÁ POROTA / INTERNATIONAL JURY

Prof. Benedykt Błoński /Poland/

Benedykt Błoński graduate of the Fryderyk Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw. Currently, he is working with the choir of the University of Warmia and Mazury. Since 2009, he has led the Choir CANTORES VARIENSES for Warmia and Mazury Philharmonic. For his artistic and teaching activities he has been honoured with numerous prestigious Awards such as the Gold Cross of Merit, individual awards of the 1st degree of the Rector of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, and many others. His achievements include recording of 13 CDs. Benedykt Błoński has also conducted hundreds of concerts in Poland and abroad (e.g Greece, Ireland, United Kingdom, Belgium, France, the Vatican, Italy, Spain, Germany, Russia, Mexico,



Argentina), performing Polish and foreign music, including premiere performances. He has held positions in artistic councils and juries of numerous choral competitions and festivals, both domestic and international. Benedykt Błoński has been an artistic director of international choral workshops “Eurochor 2001”, the artistic director of the Polish - German Choral Academy “In terra pax”, the artistic director of the F. Nowowiejski International Choir Festival. He is a member of the International Choir Olympic Council. He lectures at the Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz and the National Centre for Culture in Warsaw. Professor Błoński currently holds a position of the Dean in the Faculty of Arts of the University of Warmia and Mazury.

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

PhDr. Milan Motl, Ph.D. (*1977) is one of the most prominent choirmasters of youth choirs. He is a graduate of the University of Hradec Králové in the field of music education, history and solo singing. He studied choir conducting as part of choir management and extended his skills in orchestra conducting in Prague in Jiří Portych. He accomplished his doctoral studies at the University of Ostrava and in Charles University in Prague. He gained his first choirmaster experience in the Bonifantes Boys' Choir Pardubice (1999-2003). Since 2002 he has been the artistic director of KOS Mixed Choir and KOKOS Chamber Choir associated to the Pedagogical School in Litomyšl. Under his leadership, KOS won a number of gold medals at national as well as international competitions and festivals. During his career Milan Motl was awarded several special jury awards for his choirmaster's work (e.g., for performing a compulsory composition, dramaturgy, conducting performance). The Union of Czech Choirs (UČPS) praised him with the National Award Choirmaster Junior (2012) for extraordinary choirmaster achievements. KOS choir won the National Award The Choir of the Year (2018). The City of Litomyšl awarded Milan Motl the City Council Plaque for his merits to community in the



field of education and culture (2013). Milan Motl is also active in singing and music events organization. He has been an artistic director of the international choral Festival of Songs Olomouc (since 2023). He works as a voice consultant and music director. He is a chairman of the Association of Music Teachers, a member of the UČPS Music Commission and of NIPOS-ARTAMA Prague Professional Council for youth choir singing. He is repeatedly invited to the juries of solo and choir singing competitions and as a lecturer of choirmaster courses and choral workshops in our country and abroad.

MEDZINÁRODNÁ POROTA / INTERNATIONAL JURY

Mgr. art Kaie Tanner /Estonia/

Kaie Tanner (b 1975) graduated from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre with BA in choral conducting and MA in cultural management. She is working as general secretary of the Estonian Choral Association, and conducts the preparatory-, young children's-, children's- and girls' choirs of the Estonian Radio. Kaie is a board member of the Estonian Choral Association and International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM), and president of Choral Festival Network. Since 2001 she has organised several Estonian and international choral festivals, competitions and singing weeks both in Estonia and abroad. Kaie Tanner has conducted children's choirs in several Estonian Song Celebrations, Church Song Festivals and Estonian Mixed Choirs Festivals, conducted workshops and made presentations at numerous Estonian and international festivals and conferences, published articles in Estonian and international magazines and newspapers, worked in juries of international choir festivals (Bejing, Neerpelt, Hong Kong, Kaunas, Jurmala) etc.



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. 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. In 2018 he received the first place with his Apollo choir at “Moscow Sounds” Festival in Folk Music category and a Grand Prix for Sacred Music category.



PRAVIDLÁ SÚŤAŽE / COMPETITION RULES

Časový limit jednotlivých vystúpení je 15 minút pre zbory a 20 minút pre orchestre. Program môže pozostávať z adventnej, vianočnej, svetskej alebo duchovnej hudby a cappella alebo s inštrumentálnym doprovodom (klavír bude k dispozícii).

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. The program can consist of Advent, Christmas, secular or sacred music either a cappella or with instrumental accompaniment (a piano will be available).

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.

BOYS CHOIR KALEV /ESTONIA/

Conductors: Indrek Vijard & Kuldar Schüts

Founded in 1993 by Hirvo Surva, a member of the society's management board, the choir unites the most talented singers from boys' choirs across various regions of Estonia. Currently, the choir consists of 48 singers between the ages of 9 and 22. For the past 12 years, Indrek Vijard has served as the chief conductor, with Kuldar Schüts as conductor and Alla Eenmaa as administrator.

Among the choir's recent achievements are the Grand Prix at the "Songs on the Neva" competition in 2017, a silver diploma at the "Krakovia Cantat" competition in 2019, and third place at the Tallinn International Choral Competition in 2019. The choir also performed as part of the Estonian 100 celebrations, presenting Pärt Uusberg's new work, "Estonian Atmospheres."



Indrek Vijard graduated from Tallinn Music High School in 1983 and the Tallinn State Conservatory in 1990. Since 1995, he has been the director of Nõmme Music School and has conducted several choirs, including the EMLS Boys' Choir Kalev and the Tallinn University Male Choir. He has received multiple awards, including second place in the 2015 International Male Choir Competition, a silver diploma in the 2017 International Choral Competition in St. Petersburg, and a Grand Prix in the international competition for children's and youth choirs in St. Petersburg. He became the chairman of the Estonian Men's Song Society in 2019 and has been recognized with the Order of Merit of Tallinn University in 2016 and the Order of the Presidential White Star IV class in 2021.

Kuldar Schüts earned his Master's degree magna cum laude in conducting from Ants Üleoja's class at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre in 2012. He has sung with professional choirs like Vox Clamantis, the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, and Studio Vocale, and participated in many musical projects. Currently, he is the main conductor of the Engineers' Men's Choir and leads Kalev boys' choir, male choir Homme, Swedbank mixed choir, and Kalamaja Mixed Choir. He is also a staff singer and choir master for the Estonian National Male Choir and has held leadership roles in the Estonian Chamber Choirs' Society, Association of Estonian Choral Conductors, and Estonian Choral Association's musical council.



Competition programme

Category B2: Boys' choirs (SATB)

1. Cyrillus Kreek - My Heart (Mu süda ärka üles)
2. Anton Bruckner - Locus Iste
3. Daniele Carnevali - Missa Pro Pace: Kyrie, Sanctus

BRATISLAVA SPIEVA GOSPEL /SLOVAKIA/

Conductors: Mark Chase
Non-competing choir

Bratislava spieva gospel (BSG) is a unique project that unites people from Bratislava and its surroundings in an open community choir. Each year, a new choir of over 200 members forms to rehearse, over nine autumn weeks, a program for three unforgettable Advent concerts in the Slovak Radio Concert Hall. The choir welcomes participants of all ages, without auditions or sheet music. This low-barrer, volunteer-led project aims to bring together amateur singers who seek community, vocal and personal growth, and the joy of singing together.



Our repertoire spans a diverse mix of musical genres. Alongside traditional American gospel tunes, we incorporate elements of jazz, rap, oriental music, and classic Christmas songs.

Bratislava spieva gospel operates under the musical direction of American conductor, composer, and singer **Mark Chase** and his wife, **Amy**. The two met in 1986, brought together by their love of music while singing in the University of Chicago choir loft. During a choir tour of Europe one summer, they both felt a pull to return someday. After earning their music degrees, they dedicated themselves to leading choirs for over 20 years and have lived in Slovakia since 2012. Their work has led to sold-out concerts, captivating performances by both the choir and musicians, a strong public following, and growing media coverage.



DÍVČÍ PĚVECKÝ SBOR SPgŠ KROMĚŘÍŽ /CZECHIA/

Conductors: Jiří Jablunka

The choir was founded in 1966 by Vlastimil Válek. Since 1983, they spent thirty years under the direction of choirmaster Jan Štěpánek, during which they became one of the top student ensembles both nationally and internationally. For the past twelve years, the choir has been led by Jiří Jablunka, with Eva Kočařová as their accompanist. The choir is composed of approximately 90 girls aged 15 to 19. Their preparation includes regular rehearsals twice a week and additional camps. They are an award-winning ensemble, frequently participating in international competitions both in the Czech Republic and abroad, and they play an active role in the cultural life of the Kroměříž and Zlín regions.



Competition programme

Category: H2 Musica Sacra with instrum. accompaniment

1. Emily Crocker - Gloria Alleluia
2. Josu Elberdin - Salve Regina
3. Ruppert Lang - Cantate Domino
4. John Leavitt - Hodie!

Category C1: Youth choirs up to 21 years (SA)

1. Eugen Suchoň - Bodaj by vás čerti vzali
2. Jan Facilis Boleslavský - Když jsi v štěstí
3. Zdeněk Lukáš - Věneček
4. Mykola Dmitrovič Leontovič - Ščedryk
5. Bohuslav Martinů - Vynášení smrti (from the ballet Špalíček)
6. Mária Jašurďová - Tancovala a neznala



KODÁLY ZOLTÁN GIMNÁZIUM ÉNEKKAR /SLOVAKIA/

Conductor: Sára Kempeská
Non-competing choir

The choir of Zoltán Kodály Secondary Grammar School has a rich history and plays a central role in the school's cultural life, upholding Hungarian choral traditions. Originally founded and directed by Csaba Balogh, the choir gained recognition both domestically and internationally. After a period of inactivity, the choir was revived in 1981 under the guidance of conductor Mónika Józsa, who led it until 1994. Nearly 30 years later, Sára Kempeski—a former student of the school—stepped in to lead the choir while still a secondary student herself. With her youthful energy and enthusiasm, she has since brought new life to the group, which she now conducts as a student at VŠMU. The choir's rehearsals, inspired by Kodály's legacy, offer students not only the joy of music but also a deep connection to Hungarian cultural heritage.



Sára Kempeski is a young conductor whose passion for music was nurtured from childhood, viewing it as a legacy from her father. After graduating from secondary school, she was accepted into the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava (VŠMU), where she now studies choral conducting. Sára has led her high school choir for three years and also works with children's and adult choirs. For her, it's important that each choir member finds comfort and peace in music. When conducting, she experiences moments where the world seems to quiet down, free from deadlines, responsibilities, and modern technology. Her goal with the Kodály choir is to support music education, which she feels has been undervalued in her country. She believes that music teaches us many things and compares choir singing to the work of bees in a hive—small yet indispensable, with a profound impact on the world.



KRUMLOVŠTÍ PIŠTICI /CZECHIA/

Conductor: Renata Pyšíková

Non-competing choir



The Children and Youth Recorder Ensemble from southern Czech Republic, known as the **Krumlov Pipers**, regularly participates in historical festivals across Europe. They perform in costumed parades, jousts, and competitions. Playing from memory, their repertoire includes around 70 pieces, primarily from the 16th to 19th centuries. Dressed in historical costumes, their performances incorporate dance and singing, adding an enriching element to each event. The Krumlov Pipers are always open to new opportunities to perform and collaborate with other ensembles.



LUSATIA CONSORT /CZECHIA/

Conductors: Štěpán Přenosil

The youth vocal-instrumental ensemble **Lusatia Consort** was founded at the Cvikov Music School (ZUŠ Cvikov) in 1996, initially as a flute ensemble. However, in the new millennium, its members expanded to include singers and players of other musical instruments, often even historical ones (such as violin, guitar, bagpipes, drum, accordion, bassinet, and cornamuse).

The members have visited 15 European countries on their travels. In 2013, the group won 1st prize at an international youth festival in Neerpelt, Belgium, and in 2015, they became laureates of the Czech Radio „Concerto Bohemia“ competition, followed by the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Radio Award in Bydgoszcz, Poland, in 2016. They founded their own international multi-genre festival, BARABANFEST.



The ensemble performs a variety of musical styles, from medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque repertoire to ethnic (folk) and film music.

Štěpán Přenosil, a teacher at ZUŠ Cvikov, has led the ensemble since its founding. He also actively performs with the medieval band Řemdiň, which has been active since 1989.

Competition programme

Category: H2 Musica Sacra with instrum. accompaniment

1. Byzantský chorál - Kyrie eleison
2. Moravská koleda (arr. Štěpán Přenosil) - Co se této noci stalo
3. Irská koleda - Don Oichi
4. Chorvatská koleda (arr. Anđelko Klobučar) - Veselmo se
5. Ruská koleda (arr. Štěpán Přenosil) - Rožděstvo Christovo
6. Moravská koleda (arr. Štěpán Přenosil) - Den přelavný
7. Jan Ámos Komenský - Soudce všeho světa

MALE CHOIR TALLINNA ÜLIKOOLI MEESKOOR /ESTONIA/

Conductor: Indrek Vijard & Ka Bo Chan



The Male Choir of Tallinn University was founded in 1999 as the successor to the former Male Choir of Tallinn Pedagogical Institute, which was originally established in 1955. The choir's formation in 1999 was driven by conductors who sought to bring change to Estonian male choir singing and visited secondary schools to find new talent. Following the establishment of Tallinn University in 2005, the choir adopted its current name, the Male Choir of Tallinn University. In spring 2024, the choir will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Despite being relatively young, the

choir has achieved notable success, including first place at the National Leevi Madetoja Male Choir Song Competition in Finland in 2005 (category B), a gold medal at the 38th Festival of Songs in Olomouc, Czech Republic, in 2010 (category sacred and clerical music), second place at the International Male Voice Choral Festival in Cornwall, UK, in 2015, second place at Krakow Cantat in 2019, and third place at the Madetoja Male Choir Competition in Finland in 2021.



Indrek Vijard graduated from Tallinn Music High School in 1983 and the Tallinn State Conservatory in 1990. Since 1995, he has been the director of Nõmme Music School and has conducted several choirs, including the EMLS Boys' Choir Kalev and the Tallinn University Male Choir. He has received multiple awards, including second place in the 2015 International Male Choir Competition, a silver diploma in the 2017 International Choral Competition in St. Petersburg, and a Grand Prix in the international competition for children's and youth choirs in St. Petersburg. He became the chairman of the Estonian Men's Song Society in 2019 and has been recognized with the Order of Merit of Tallinn

University in 2016 and the Order of the Presidential White Star IV class in 2021.

Ka Bo Chan is a freelance countertenor, vocal pedagogue, music teacher, choir master, and conductor. He studied in Estonia under Hirvo Surva and Merike Toro and took voice lessons from Leelo Talvik at Georg Ots Music School. He earned his bachelor's degree cum laude from the Estonia-America Academy of Business and his master's from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre in vocal performance. He has conducted several choirs, including Chamber Choir "Solare" and Rakvere Mixed Choir. Currently, he is the choirmaster-conductor of the Tallinn University Male Choir and works with choirs at Tallinn Ühisgümnaasium and Tallinn Free Waldorf School.



Competition programme Category D1: Male adult choirs

1. Rein Rannap - Prayer: Father (Isa)
2. Cyrillus Kreek - Two Boys (Kaks meie küla poissi)
3. Anton Bruckner - Der Abendhimmel
4. Pärt Uusberg - Heaven and Earth (Nad Vaatavad üksteise otsa)
5. Traditional folk song, arr. Bartolomew - Shenandoah

ORCHESTRA I GIOVANI ACCADEMICI /ITALY/

Conductor: Paolo Angelucci

Founded in 2011, the **Orchestra I GIOVANI ACCADEMICI** serves as an orchestral training and production laboratory for young musicians aged 12 to 20. It has performed concerts in Belgium, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. The orchestra is the winner of the Grand Prix of the CHORUS INSIDE Competition in Chieti. In 2017, it won the Gold Medal at the BOHEMIAN YOUNG MUSIC FESTIVAL in Prague. In 2022, it earned the Gold Medal at the YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL in Bratislava. In 2024, it won first prize and was recognized as the best orchestra at the prestigious international competition LASZLO SPEZZAFERRI in Verona. Additionally, in 2024, the orchestra achieved an overall score of 100/100 at the Anxanum Award in Lanciano (Ch) and won the national competition ORTONA CITTA' D'ARTE - LIONS CLUB in Ortona (Ch), receiving the special prizes Fedele Fenaroli and F. P. Tosti.



From an early age, **Paolo Angelucci** began studying the violin under the guidance of his grandfather, Maestro N. Valentinetti. He later continued his studies in Italy and Switzerland, graduating cum laude in 2001, 2007, and 2011 with degrees in Music Disciplines (Interpretative-Compositional in Violin and Chamber Music) from the Faculty of Teramo, and in 2009 in Instrumental Didactics. A winner of numerous national and international competitions, he has performed as both a soloist and conductor with national and international orchestras. He has toured Hungary, Switzerland, France, Spain, Russia, Lithuania, Belgium, the Czech Republic, and Germany. He has conducted the Classic Ensemble F. Fenaroli, the Oost String Orchestra, and the EMF Youth Symphony Orchestra. Currently, he serves as the artistic

director of the APS Tosti Symphony Orchestra and the SEASON OF CONCERTS of the F.P. Tosti in Ortona.

Competition programme

Category O1: Orchestras

1. R. Galliano - Tango pour Claude
2. R. Sakamoto - Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence
3. J. de Haan - Oregon

SONG /CZECHIA/

Conductor: Helena Kaločová

The Song Choir has been active at Masaryk High School in Vsetín for 29 years. They hold regular concerts in Vsetín and perform in other towns and cities across the country. They have sung in partner towns, including Vrborac, Bytom, Mödling, and Stará Lubovňa, and have toured internationally in Italy, Germany, Croatia, Greece, Slovakia, Austria, and Latvia. They have also competed in international competitions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia. The Song Choir has achieved top rankings in the Chrám i tvrz, Opava Cantat, Song Festival Olomouc, and Gymnasia Cantant Brno competitions, as well as participated in the prestigious FSU in Jihlava and the Czech-German Music Week in Coburg. The preparatory choir, Gaudeamus, collaborates with Song at the school, while the graduate choir, Hekal, participates in most of their concerts. Together, the choirs of Masaryk Gymnasium have recorded and released a total of nine CDs, three programs for the radio stations Český rozhlas and Proglas, and eight video clips. Since the choirs' founding, they have been conducted by PaedDr. Helena Kaločová.



Helena Kaločová grew up in a musical family. Her mother, Ludmila Adamcová, led the Radost children's choir at Rybníky Elementary School in Vsetín for 30 years, a choir that all three of her daughters participated in. Helena graduated from the Faculty of Education in Ostrava, majoring in Czech Language and Music. She studied conducting under Prof. Lumír Pivovarský, worked at the Vsetín Music School for nine years, and has been teaching at Masaryk High School in Vsetín since 1995, where she leads the Gaudeamus, Song, and Hekal choirs. Helena actively participates in choir competitions and organizes concerts and performances. She is a member of the Czech Republic Choirmasters Club and has received two significant awards: in 2012, she was honored by the Zlín Region for her educational contributions to youth, and in 2015, she was recognized by the town of Vsetín for her impactful work.

Competition programme

Category C1: Youth choirs up to 21 years (SATB)

1. Emil Hradecký - Florebat olim studium
2. Folk song/Lidová, arr. Miroslav Raichl, Jakub Pikla - Ty bysterský zvony
3. Lydia Adams - Micma'q Honour Song
4. Folk song/Lidová, arr. Zuzana Vlčinská - Prindi, Janku, k nám

ŽENSKÝ KOMORNÝ SPEVÁCKY ZBOR ÚSMEV /SLOVAKIA/

Conductor: Daniela Januchová

The female chamber choir *Usmev* was formed in 2016 from former members of the children's and girls' choir *Usmev* in Prievidza. The choir meets regularly for rehearsals and performs in Slovakia and various European countries, including the Czech Republic, Netherlands, Italy, and Greece. Notable achievements include winning the gold prize and the title of absolute winner at the Slovak national choir competition 'Viva il canto' in 2017, 2019, and 2021, as well as receiving gold diplomas in the Equal Voices Choirs and Folk Songs categories at the Rimini International Choir Competition in 2019. Additionally, *Usmev* earned first prize in the Female Choirs category at the International Choir Festival 'Music & Sea' 2024 in Paralia, Greece. The choir's repertoire encompasses sacred and secular music from Baroque to contemporary pieces, with a special emphasis on choral arrangements of traditional folk songs. *Usmev* consists of 23 active members, including conductors Anezka Balušinská and Daniela Januchová.



Daniela Januchová was born in 1975. She started playing the piano at the age of 6 and began singing in the children's choir „Úsmev“ in Prievidza at the age of 10. She was also a member of the girls' choir „Úsmev,“ the mixed choir „Rozkvet,“ and other vocal groups and choirs in Prievidza, Bratislava, and Žilina. After graduating from Comenius University in Bratislava, where she studied musicology, she worked as a teacher of music history and theory at the conservatory and the university in Žilina. Currently, she works as a music teacher at an elementary school and as the conductor of the women's choir „Úsmev.“

Competition programme

Category C1: Youth choirs up to 21 years (SATB)

1. Tomas Luis De Victoria - Aestimatus sum
2. Ambrož Čopi - Alleluia. Laudate Dominum, omnes gentes
3. Ivan Hrušovský - Iŕeu Macek
4. Mária Jašurďová - Iŕli hudci horou
5. Laura Jekabsone - Dindaru dandaru

APOLLO /SLOVAKIA/

Conductor: Milan Kolena

Non-competing choir

Choir Apollo was established in 1995 and in a short time the choir made considerable strides, achieving notoriety in Slovakia and receiving many awards at festivals and international competitions e.g. in Prague (1998), Český Krumlov (2002), Olomouc (2005). The choir often gives performances at prestigious local and international events. Apollo has toured Italy and other countries performing concerts at festivals in Citta' di Nuoro, Rome, Fano, Loreto, Olbia; Poznan, Poland; Banja Luka, Bosna Hercegovina; Szeged, Miskolc, Hungary; Munich, Germany; Prague, Olomouc, Brno and Pardubice, Czech Republic; Vienna, Austria as well as in many Slovak towns. The choir's repertoire focuses on current sacred Slovak works; the choir interprets extensive pieces by outstanding Slovak composer Pavol Krška, including Stabat Mater; Rekviem; Te Deum for solo, choir and organ; Missa Solemnis for organ, sola and mixed choir. The Apollo repertoire also includes sacred choruses from the Gregorian Chant period, as well as Renaissance and Romantic period selections; spirituals, folksongs and carols in choir arrangements. Choir Apollo has recorded a CD of Anton Bruckner works - Moteta in 2003 and made a recording of Pavol Krška's Rekviem for two choirs, sola and organ in 2012. The choir regularly sings at Holy Masses in Jesuit and other churches in Bratislava and gives charity concerts for children oncology hospital in Bratislava. It performs concerts also with University of Performing Arts soloists or in cooperation with other Slovak or foreign choirs.



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.



SCHOLA GREGORIANA BRATISLAVENSIS /SLOVAKIA/

Conductor: Milan Kolena
Non-competing choir

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



manuscripts were thus for the first time presented to the cultural and professional audiences both home and abroad. One of the schola's concert highlights has been the participation in Gregorian chant festival in Florence (2008) where the schola presented with success also chants from the Bratislava antiphonary. The art director and founder of the schola is Dr. Milan Kolena.

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



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

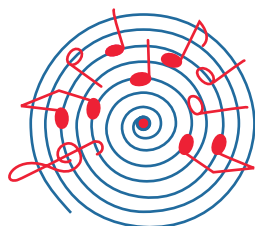
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Bratislava. Slovakia; 4th - 7th December 2025

Bratislava, Slovakia; 3rd - 6th December 2026



We are celebrating 19 years!



BRATISLAVA
MUSIC AGENCY

Since 2005 we hosted:
more than 1200 choirs and orchestras
more than 40 000 musicians
more than 50 countries





XVII. INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC

XVII. MEDZINÁRODNÝ FESTIVAL
ADVENTNEJ A VIANOČNEJ HUDBY

| 5 - 8 December 2024, Bratislava, Slovakia |

5.12.2024 ŠTVRTOK | THURSDAY

19:00 OTVÁRACÍ KONCERT FESTIVALU / OPENING CONCERT

Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis /SK/, Spevácky zbor Apollo /SK/, Krumlovští pištlci /CZ/, Boys Choir Kalev /EE/, Male choir Tallinna Ülikooli Meeskoor /EE/, Lusatia consort /CZ/, Bratislava spieva gospel /SK/ *Jezuitský kostol / Jesuit church, Františkánske námestie*

6.12.2024 PIATOK | FRIDAY

15:30 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

Orchestra I Giovani Accademici /IT/, Boys Choir Kalev /EE/, Arietta /SK/, Male choir Tallinna Ülikooli Meeskoor /EE/, Lusatia consort /CZ/

Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Music Hall, Farská 4

17:30 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

Krumlovští pištlci /CZ/, Happy Dreams /UA/, Dívčí pěvecký sbor SPgŠ Kroměříž /CZ/, Kodály Zoltán Gimnázium Énekhar /SK/, Ženský komorný spevácky zbor Úsmev /SK/

Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Music Hall, Farská 4

20:00 VYSTÚPENIA NA VIANOČNÝCH TRHOCH /

PERFORMANCES AT CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Spevácky zbor Apollo /SK/

Vianočné pódium, Františkánske námestie

7.12.2024 SOBOTA | SATURDAY

SÚŤAŽ SPEVÁCKYCH ZBOROV A ORCHESTROV COMPETITION OF CHOIRS AND ORCHESTRAS

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

Katégória O1: Orchestre

Category O1: Orchestras

9:30 Orchestra I Giovani Accademici /IT/

Katégória H2: Sakrálna hudba s inštrum. sprievodom

Category: H2 Musica Sacra with instrum.

accompaniment

10:00 Dívčí pěvecký sbor SPgŠ Kroměříž /CZ/

10:15 Lusatia consort /CZ/

Katégória C1: Mládežnícke zbory do 21 rokov (SA)

Category C1: Youth choirs up to 21 years (SA)

10:30 Dívčí pěvecký sbor SPgŠ Kroměříž /CZ/

Katégória B2: Chlapčenské zbory (SATB)

Category B2: Boys'choirs (SATB)

10:45 Boys Choir Kalev /EE/

Katégória X: Nesúťažné zbory

Category X: Non-competing choirs

11:00 Krumlovští pištlci /CZ/

Katégória D1: Mužské spevácke zbory

Category D1: Male adult choirs

11:15 Male choir Tallinna Ülikooli Meeskoor /EE/

Katégória D2: Ženské spevácke zbory

Category D2: Female adult choirs

11:30 Ženský komorný spevácky zbor Úsmev /SK/

Katégória C1: Mládežnícke zbory do 21 rokov (SATB)

Category C1: Youth choirs up to 21 years (SATB)

11:45 SONG /CZ/

12:30 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT / FESTIVAL CONCERT

Orchestra I Giovani Accademici /IT/, Kodály Zoltán Gimnázium Énekhar /SK/, Ženský komorný spevácky zbor Úsmev /SK/, SONG /CZ/

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

VYSTÚPENIA NA VIANOČNÝCH TRHOCH / PERFORMANCES AT CHRISTMAS MARKETS

14:00 Krumlovští pištlci /CZ/, Dívčí pěvecký sbor SPgŠ Kroměříž /CZ/, Boys Choir Kalev /EE/

15:00 Lusatia consort /CZ/, SONG /CZ/, Kodály Zoltán Gimnázium Énekhar /SK/

16:00 Ženský komorný spevácky zbor Úsmev /SK/, Male choir Tallinna Ülikooli Meeskoor /EE/

Vianočné pódium, Františkánske námestie

16:30 VYHLÁSENIE VÝSLEDKOV SÚŤAŽE / COMPETITION

RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT

Vianočné pódium, Františkánske námestie

16:30 KONCERT NA VIANOČNOM PÓDIU / CONCERT AT THE CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Krumlovští pištlci /CZ/, Kodály Zoltán Gimnázium Énekhar /SK/, Ženský komorný spevácky zbor Úsmev /SK/, Lusatia consort /CZ/

Hviezdoslavovo námestie / Hviezdoslavovo square

8.12.2024 NEDEĽA | SUNDAY

*Odchod zahraničných speváckych zborov a orchestrov
Departure of the international choirs and orchestras*

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

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



BRATISLAVA
MUSIC AGENCY