



# PROGRAM

---

Medzinárodný zborový festival  
International Choir Festival

---

June 11 - 14, 2026

Bratislava, Slovakia

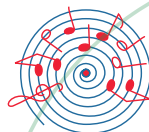
[www.choral-music.sk](http://www.choral-music.sk)



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



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



BRATISLAVA  
MUSIC AGENCY



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

**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/  
*predsedníčka poroty / chairwoman of the jury*  
Prof. Jevgenijs Ustinskovs /LV/  
Assoc. Prof. Milan Kolena, ArtD. /SK/

**Spoluorganizátori / Co-organizers:**

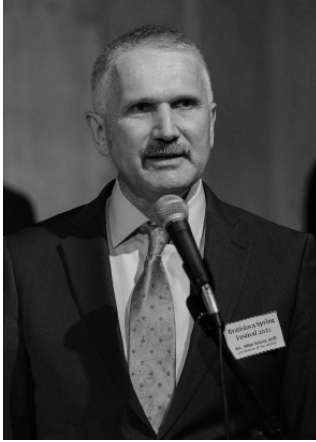
Bratislavské kultúrne a informačné stredisko  
Hlavné mesto SR Bratislava  
Spevácky zbor Apollo

**Mediálni partneri / Media:**

Kam do mesta  
Citylife.sk

**Fotograf/ Photographer:**

Vladimír Kuric



## **Milí priatelia hudby,**

Vitajte v Bratislave - v srdci zborového umenia!

S veľkou radosťou vás vítam na Medzinárodnom hudobnom festivale speváckych zborov 2026. Teší ma, že sa opäť stretávame, aby sme spolu oslávili krásu a silu hudby, ktorá nás spája naprieč kultúrami a hranicami.

Tento rok sa festivalu zúčastní 17 zborov z 5 krajín - viac než 250 hudobníkov, ktorí sa predstavia v 8 súťažných kategóriách.

Verím, že aj tento ročník bude pokračovaním a ďalším rozvojom hlavnej myšlienky festivalu: „hudba a umenie ľudí spája“. Zároveň verím, že nepôjde len o frázu, ale že spoločne budeme môcť prežiť skutočné zjednotenie do jednej veľkej svetovej zborovej rodiny, kde vzniknú nové priateľstvá medzi zborní aj národmi.

Bratislava počas festivalu otvára svoje najkrajšie koncertné priestory a pozýva všetkých prežiť nezabudnuteľné chvíle plné hudby. Verím, že si z Bratislavy odnesiete krásne spomienky, nové inšpirácie a že sa k nám v budúcnosti radi vrátite.

To vám zo srdca prajem,

*Doc. Milan Kolena, umelecký riaditeľ Medzinárodného zborového festivalu 2026*

## **Dear friends of music,**

Welcome to Bratislava - the heart of choral music!

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Bratislava Choir Festival 2026. With joy and gratitude, we come together to celebrate our shared love for music - a powerful force that transcends borders and unites us all.

This year, the festival welcomes 17 choirs from 5 countries, who will present their artistry in 8 competition categories.

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 choirs and countries.

Bratislava opens its finest concert halls and venues to all participating ensembles, and warmly invites you to enjoy a festival program filled with beautiful performances. I truly hope that your time in our city will be filled with unforgettable moments, meaningful encounters, and lasting inspiration - and that Bratislava will remain a place you'll be eager to return to in the future.

From the bottom of my heart, I wish you a wonderful festival experience.

*Doc. Milan Kolena, Art Director of Bratislava Choir Festival 2026*

## PROGRAM FESTIVALU

### 11.6.2026 | ŠTVRTOK - THURSDAY

Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis /SK/, Spevácky zbor Apollo /SK/, Musica al Cuore /SK/, Mravenečci Ferdové /CZ/, Dětský sbor Chorea pueri ustensis /CZ/, Female Choir Vaput /FI/, be:one /DE/

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

### 12.6.2026 | PIATOK - FRIDAY

**17:00 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT - FESTIVAL CONCERT**

Detský spevácky zbor Albrechtík /SK/, Dětský sbor Chorea pueri ustensis /CZ/, Mravenečci Ferdové /CZ/, Mladší Campanella Olomouc /CZ/

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

**18:15 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT - FESTIVAL CONCERT**

Kantilénka /CZ/, Hejnał Mazańcowice /PL/, Veravoce /PL/, be:one /DE/

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

**19:30 FESTIVALOVÝ KONCERT - FESTIVAL CONCERT**

GYMUM /CZ/, Female Choir Vaput /FI/, ALIS CZ ECAV Bratislava- Staré Mesto /SK/

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

### 13.6.2026 | SOBOTA - SATURDAY

**SÚŤAŽ SPEVÁCKYCH ZBOROV | CHORAL COMPETITION**

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

**Kategória: Detské spevácke zbory do 8 rokov**

**Category: Children's choirs up to 8 years**

12:30 Mravenečci Ferdové /CZ/

**Kategória: Detské spevácke zbory do 12 rokov**

**Category: Children's choirs up to 12 years**

12:45 Detský spevácky zbor Albrechtík /SK/

13:00 Dětský sbor Chorea pueri ustensis /CZ/

13:15 Mladší Campanella Olomouc /CZ/

13:30 Kantilénka /CZ/

## FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

**Kategória: Mládežnícke zbory do 21 rokov (SATB)**

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

13:45 GYMUM /CZ/

**Kategória: Komorné zbory 9 - 24 spevákov**

**Category: Chamber choirs 9 - 24 singers**

14:05 Veravoce /PL/

**Kategória: Spirituál, Gospel, Pop, Jazz**

**Category: Spiritual, Gospel, Pop, Jazz**

14:20 be:one /DE/

**Kategória: Sakrálna hudba a capella**

**Category: Musica Sacra a cappella**

14:40 Hejnat Mazańcowice /PL/

**Kategória: Ženské spevácke zbory**

**Category: Female adult choirs**

15:00 Pěvecký sbor Mladost /CZ/

**Kategória: Zmiešané zbory dospelých (SATB)**

**Category: Mixed adult choirs (SATB)**

15:15 Súbor CZ ECAV Bratislava- Staré Mesto /SK/

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

be:one /DE/, Female Choir Vaput /FI/, Hejnat Mazańcowice /PL/,  
Veravoce /PL/, GYMUM /CZ/, Pěvecký sbor Mladost /CZ/

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

**19:00 ZÁVEREČNÝ KONCERT A VYHLÁSENIE VÝSLEDKOV SÚŤAŽE / FINAL  
CONCERT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPETITION RESULTS**

Detský spevácky zbor Albrechtík /SK/, Dětský sbor Chorea pueri  
ustensis /CZ/, Mravenečci Ferdové /CZ/, Kantilénka /CZ/, Mladší Campanella  
Olomouc /CZ/, GYMUM /CZ/, Hejnat Mazańcowice /PL/, Pěvecký sbor  
Mladost /CZ/, Female Choir Vaput /FI/, be:one /DE/, Veravoce /PL/

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

**14.6.2026 | NEDEĽA - SUNDAY**

*Odchod medzinárodných speváckych zborov  
Departure of international choirs*

## MEDZINÁRODNÁ POROTA / INTERNATIONAL JURY

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

Pianist and choirmaster, **Blanka Juhaňáková** graduated from Janáček Academy of Musical Arts in Brno. In the years 1991-2001 she was the choirmaster of the Slovak Philharmonic Choir. She participated in the Boris Godunov project at the Salzburg Festival and in Japan, together with Claudio Abbado and prepared the Slovak Philharmonic Choir for the opera Rienzi by Wagner, with Zubin Mehta in Vienna State Opera House. She is a regular member and chairwoman of professional juries at choir festivals and competitions both home and abroad. In the years 2005 - 2014 she was the leading choirmaster of the Slovak Philharmonic Choir. The most interesting cooperation during this period were those with the most famous conductors like Pierre Boulez, Alain Lombard, Pinchas Steinberg, Ralf Weikert, Peter Eötvös, Christoph Campestrini, Marc Minkowsky, Pedro Halffter, Franz Welser-Möst, Bertrand de Billy etc. In November 2005 she was awarded the Fric Kafenda price by the Music Fund for outstanding interpretations home and abroad. In 2012 she got the professor's degree and was awarded a highly acclaimed 'Crystal Wing Prize' for the outstanding successes as a conductor and choirmaster on the international scene in 2011. Besides working on the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, since 2014 she has been working at the Department of Composition, Conducting and Opera direction at Janáček Academy of Musical Arts in Brno.



### **Prof. Jevgenijs Ustinskovs / Latvia /**



**Dr. Eugeny Ustinskov (Jevgenijs Ustinskovs)** - Head of the Choral department of the Daugavpils Music College, conductor, composer, music director in Daugavpils Theatre. Graduated by Latvian Academy of Music and Daugavpils University, he is a leader of six choirs and vocal ensembles and has performances in Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Estonia, Russia, Poland, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Austria, Hungary, Macedonia, Spain, Great Britain. Dr. Ustinskovs is an

Artistic director in International Music Contests: Sacred music festival "Silver bells", International Competition of Young conductors, International Competition for Young singers of Christmas songs, International Contest for Young singers of Folk songs and others. He is a member of jury in International music contest in Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Poland, Kazakhstan and Italy.

## UMELECKÝ RIADITEĽ FESTIVALU / ART DIRECTOR OF THE FESTIVAL

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



Assoc. prof. Milan Kolena is one of Europe's most dynamic choral conductors and educators. As artistic director of major international festivals in Bratislava, he brings together over 1,500 performers annually through seven festivals that unite musicians from around the world in powerful harmony. At the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, he mentors future conductors with a passion for choral conducting and Gregorian chant. With his ensembles – the Apollo Choir and Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis – he's won top prizes and wowed audiences across Europe, Russia, South Africa, and Asia. His workshops and masterclasses, from the U.S. to China, are known for their energy, depth, and inspiration. In 2015, he was named Best Conductor at the Singing World Festival in St. Petersburg. As a jury member at the World Choir Games and competitions worldwide, he champions artistic excellence and youth talent. His Apollo Choir has captured Grand Prix titles in Moscow (2018), Barcelona (2023), and Greece (2024). He also serves as Vice President of the World Youth and Children Choral Artists' Association and Member of the INTERKULTUR World Choir Council. Dr. Kolena believes in the power of music to connect hearts, cross borders, and change the world – one voice at a time.

## be:one /DE/

Conductor: Vera Zweiniger & Manuel Haase

**be:one** is a youth choir from Berlin made up of around 40 talented singers aged 14 to 18 who share a passion for popular choral music of the 20th and 21st centuries. Based at the music-focused Georg-Friedrich-Händel-Gymnasium in Berlin Friedrichshain, the ensemble brings together young musicians from diverse musical backgrounds, from classical choir singing to band and orchestra performance. Since its founding in 2015 under the direction of Vera Zweiniger and Manuel Haase, **be:one** has developed a distinctive artistic profile with a repertoire ranging from pop, rock, jazz, and film music to international folk songs. Known for its energetic stage presence and creative performances, the choir has appeared at renowned venues and festivals, including the Berlin Philharmonic Chamber Music Hall and international choir competitions across Europe. Alongside live performances, **be:one** places a strong focus on professional audio and video productions. The choir has received numerous awards, including several Gold Diplomas and category wins in international competitions in Prague, Toruń, Krakow, and Rome. In January 2026, **be:one** celebrated its 10th anniversary with two sold-out concerts at Berlin's historic Delphi Theater.

**Vera Zweiniger** was born in Berlin and studied music, history education, and choral conducting at Humboldt University of Berlin and the Hanns Eisler Academy of Music. She later specialized in pop and jazz choral conducting at the Federal Academy for Cultural Education in Wolfenbüttel. She



has long worked as choir director and music teacher at the Georg-Friedrich-Händel-Gymnasium, leading several children's and youth choirs. In 2015, she founded the youth pop choir **be:one**. She also teaches choral conducting seminars, leads pop choir workshops, and regularly serves on juries at national and international choir competitions.



**Manuel Haase** studied music and music education, with piano as his main artistic subject, at the University of Potsdam. He also completed the "Contact Program in Popular Music" at the Hamburg University of Music and Theater and sang with the state youth jazz choir "Young Voices." As a pianist and keyboardist, he has performed with national and international artists.



He has also worked as a songwriter and producer for publishers including Universal Publishing and Budde Music, and is active as a freelance FOH engineer and sound technician.

### Competition programme

**Spirituál, Gospel, Pop, Jazz**

**Spiritual, Gospel, Pop, Jazz**

1. Rajaton, Mia Makaroff - You Can't Stop Me! | The Token Story
2. Karat, Norbert Kaiser, Ulrich Swillms, arr. Oliver Gies - Schwanenkönig
3. Sting, J. Ralph, G. M. Sumner, arr. Christopher Miltenberger - The Empty Chair
4. BTS, Jenna Andrews, Stephen Kirk, Sebastian Garcia, Robert Grimaldi, Ron Perry, Alex Bilowitz, Kim Nam-Joon, arr. Alan Billingsley - Butter

## Dětský sbor Chorea pueri ustensis /CZ/

Conductor: Veronika Tomsová

The choir *Chorea pueri ustensis* was founded in 2009 and is attended by children from the second grade of primary school who meet once a week. Our choir is open to children who enjoy singing, and there are no auditions. The main choir also has a preparatory group attended by children from the age of 3, who perform together with the older children at concerts. The choir performs at regular events organized by the city of Ústí nad Labem. Traditional events include spring and Christmas concerts. Every year, we attend choir camps and music workshops, which are also open to children who are not members of the choir. For several years, we have taken part in competitions such as Litoměřická notička, Zahrada písní, and Hrajeme s Orffem. Among major festivals, we have participated in Svatky písní in Olomouc, where the children brought home a silver medal. This is our first time attending an international festival, and we are already looking forward to the new experiences that await us at joint events and competitions.

**Veronika Tomsová** is the founder and choirmaster of the choir *Chorea pueri ustensis*, which she has led since its establishment. Her musical journey began in a children's choir that she attended from the age of three until twenty, where she gained her first musical education and

lifelong passion for choral singing. She has further developed her skills and knowledge through regular participation in choir seminars and workshops. Veronika began leading choirs at the age of eighteen, and her greatest goal is to inspire children's love for music and help them discover the joy of singing together.



### Competition programme

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

1. Jolana Saidlová - Jarní kánon
2. Přemysl Kočí - Kampak se ztratil můj strýček?
3. Lidová - Čekala jsem, nespala jsem
4. Greg Gilpin - Whisper
5. Reiner Lischka, arr. Juge Čásanová, Werner Lindemann (lyrics) - Hodinářský krámek
6. Tracy Wong - Wau Bulan



## Detský spevácky zbor Albrechtík /SK/

Conductor: Nikola Ecker Illéš

The Children Choir Albrechtík was established in September of the 2025/2026 school year as a new addition to the Elementary Art School of Ján Albrecht at Topolčianska street in Bratislava (city part Petržalka). Since its early days it has aspired to become a promising choir for the youth, focusing on nourishing vocal culture, intonation stability, musicality and the joy of making music together. Its first concert was a part of the school Christmas programme at the Zichy palace where it was accompanied by the school string orchestra. It was the very first time that its young members experienced standing on a grand stage. Soon after, Albrechtík took part in the biggest school project - "The Golden Gate of Songs" - where it belonged to the most crucial musical ensembles. Despite its short existence (with its current 21 singers), Albrechtík is laying its own firm musical foundation and systematic work towards longterm choir tradition.

Albrechtík is conducted by **Nikola Ecker Illéš**, DiS.art., who graduated from the Church Conservatory in Bratislava in opera singing. She took her first musical steps at the age of seven as a member of the children choir Cannens under the conductor Gabriel Rovňák and continued there for many years also as a soloist. This brought on a lot of useful stage and concert experience, including co-operation with an orchestra. She honed her skill by continuous and active participation in many choir projects and ensembles - chamber, women or church choirs.. She stood at the beginnings of the women chamber choir Les Sirènes and is still active there



as the only constant singer since the start.

She has been educating children as a soloist teacher and as a vocal coach. She was an assistant conductor in the choirs Cannens and Sirénčatá. She can draw inspiration from her rich concert and interpretational experience.

Conducting Albrechtík came as a new artistic period and challenge - despite not having studied conducting, her prolific choir and teaching experience, paired up with artistic sensitivity enables her to pass it all onto her young singers, hoping to create a high-level, inspiring choir environment.

### Competition programme

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

1. Belo Félix - Voláme vás
2. Mária Jašurďová - Malá hviezda
3. Ľudová - Kolo kolo mlynské
4. Peter Hochel- Frajer môj lístoček
5. Peter Hochel- Ej , povedal mi milý
6. Peter Hochel - Oči oči, čierne oči
7. Mária Jašurďová - Piráti
8. Mária Jašurďová- Dlhý nos



## Female Choir Vaput /FI/

**Conductor: Ulla Kotamäki**  
non-competing choir

**Vaput** is an amateur women's choir based in the City of Jyväskylä in Central Finland. The choir has been officially founded in 1910 which makes it one of the oldest female choirs in Finland. During the history of the choir Vaput has promoted Finnish choir music by singing, commissioning and publishing it. The choir has been successful in choir competitions. It has also been chosen as the Female Choir of the Year in Finland in 1985, 2000 ja 2010. At the moment there are 37 singers in Vaput.

The conductor of Vaput, **Ms Ulla Kotamäki**, is a professional music educator who studied at the University of Applied Sciences of Jyväskylä. She graduated in 2000 with French horn as her major instrument. She has worked with Vaput since 1998. In



addition to conducting several choirs she teaches music and French horn in the Ala-Keitele Music Institute



## GYMUM /CZ/

Conductor: Natalia Chirilenco

**SBOR GYMUM** Pavel Křížkovský Grammar School is a private secondary school that has been offering a general educational program enhanced by music, fine arts, and drama since 1993. Choral singing is a mandatory part of the music curriculum, where students are guided toward mutual harmony and cooperation. Other goals include gaining experience and achieving success within the choir community. Naturally, the core purpose of the choir remains the shared joy of collective artistic creation.

**Natalia Chirilenco**, a graduate of the Academy of Musical Arts in Kishinev, has been the conductor of women's choir Gloria Brunensis since 2014 and since 2019, also of the Sbor GYMUM choir.



### Competition programme

**Mládežnícké zbory do 21 rokov (SATB)**  
**Youth choirs up to 21 years (SATB)**

1. Eric Whitacre - Glow
2. Zdeněk Lukáš - Na horách
3. Orbán György - O Mistressse Mine
4. Josef Vila (arr. Jan Ocetek) - Sanctus
5. arr. Adrian Pop - Vine hulpe di la munte



## Hejnat Mazańcowice /PL/

**Conductor:** Krzysztof Przemyk

Founded in 1946, the choir **Hejnat Mazańcowice** has built a rich musical tradition through a diverse repertoire spanning many eras and styles – from Renaissance music to contemporary compositions, including sacred, secular, patriotic, and folk songs. In recent years, the choir has achieved significant international success, earning 1st place and a special award for the best performance of a Renaissance piece at the Festival of Choirs in Ohrid, North Macedonia (2022), a Silver Diploma at the 42nd International Choral Festival in Preveza, Greece (2024), and Golden Diplomas at both the 26th International Festival



of Sacral Choir Creation in Námestovo, Slovakia (2025) and the Prof. Józef Świder 10th International Festival of Music in Cieszyn, Poland (2025).

**Krzysztof Przemyk** is a graduate of the Institute of Liturgical Studies at the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Kraków, as well as the Faculty of Church History with a specialization in music at the same university. He also completed Postgraduate Choirmaster Studies at the Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz. A respected



conductor and organizer of festivals and music reviews, he serves as the head of the branch of the Municipal Cultural Center in Mazańcowice. He actively collaborates with numerous choral festivals across Poland and Europe.

### Competition programme

**Sakrálna hudba a capella**  
**Musica Sacra a cappella**

1. Lodovico da Viadana - Exsultate Justi
2. Carl Gottlieb Reissiger - Veni Sancte Spiritus
3. Józef Świder - Pieśń
4. Marek Raczyński - Laudate Dominum
5. Andrzej Koszewski - Magnificat

## Kantilénka /SK/

Conductor: Michal Jančík

**Kantilénka** - Senior Preparatory Division is part of Kantiléna, a selective children's and youth choir based at the Brno Philharmonic. With a 70-year history and an impressive international track record, Kantiléna is one of the Czech Republic's most distinguished children's choral ensembles. Its preparatory divisions serve as the artistic nursery for future concert choir members, maintaining the same high standards that define the ensemble as a whole. The division is led by Michal Jančík, Artistic Director of Kantiléna, whose career has been shaped by a long-standing dedication to working with younger singers - a commitment reflected in the division's growing record of success at domestic and international competitions alike.



**Michal Jančík** studied musicology at Masaryk University and choral conducting at JAMU under Lubomír Mátl. He has devoted his conducting career primarily to children's and youth choirs. Since 2011 he has been a key figure in Kantiléna, the children's and youth choir of the Brno Philharmonic, where he served as director of both the preparatory division Kantilénka



and the concert choir, and currently holds the position of Artistic Director. Under his leadership, the ensembles have earned remarkable results at home and abroad, including gold medals at the Choir Olympics in Magdeburg (2015), Riga (2017) and Lisbon (2022). With the preparatory division Kantilénka, he won the gold tier at the Zahrada písní competition and received its award for outstanding conducting, and achieved 4th place at the prestigious international Llangollen Eisteddfod in Wales. He also founded the mixed choir Magna Diesis in Velké Meziříčí, and led the choir Perličky to victory at the festival in Malgrat de Mar, Catalonia, where he was additionally named Best Conductor. He serves regularly as a jury member at choral competitions and collaborates with Czech Television, contributing actively to the wider choral music community.

### Competition programme

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

1. František Fiala - Splašený flašinet
2. Petr Eben - V kolaji voda
3. Jan Smolka - Turecký med
4. Ctirad Kohoutek - Kvačice
5. Ilja Hurník - Dívča, dívča
6. Benjamin Britten - The Ship of Rio
7. Zdeněk Pololáník - Do usínání

## Mladší Campanella Olomouc /CZ/

Conductor: Anna Králová

**Mladší Campanella** is a children's choir composed of singers aged 8 to 12. During rehearsals, children learn multi-part songs and compositions of various styles and characters while developing their vocal, rhythmic, and intonation skills. The choir regularly performs at Campanella's spring, autumn, and Christmas concerts and takes part in festivals, competitions, educational concerts, and a traditional summer camp. The ensemble has collaborated with the Chamber String Orchestra, Moravia Quintet, and the Haná Symphony Orchestra. The choir has received numerous awards at regional and national competitions, including Gold Awards at the National Festival Zahrada písní in Prague (2023), the National Competition of Art School Choirs in Litomyšl (2023), and the Regional Children's Choir Festival in Uničov (2025), as well as advancement to the national showcase Choralia Magna (2024). It also regularly participates in the Zlatá lyra festival in Šumperk and choir exchange programs.

**Anna Králová** was born in Prostějov, where she developed a love for music, singing, and folklore. She studied piano and solo singing at the Vladimír Ambros Elementary School of Arts and later Czech Language and Music Education at Palacký University Olomouc, followed by further teaching qualifications at Masaryk University. Since her university years, she has led preparatory groups of the Campanella Children's Choir in Olomouc, achieving success at regional and national competitions. She has also directed the Girls' Choir in Přerov, the Orlice Men's Choir in Prostějov, and since 2015 the women's choir Nota Bene Prostějov. As a singer, she performs with the Baroque ensemble Vox Humana.



### Competition programme

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

1. Jolana Saidlová - Jarní kánon
2. Česká lidová, arr. J. Vaca - Prší, prší
3. Česká lidová, arr. Milan Uherek - Široký, hluboký
4. Hanácká lidová, arr. Jan Poláček - Pásla děvečka páva
5. Jan Slimáček - Modré zvonky
6. Mark Burrows - Earworm
7. Japanese traditional, arr. Victor C. Johnson - Murasame
8. Hank Beebe - Hatsa



## Mravenečci Ferdové /CZ/

Conductor: Veronika Tomsová

The group **Mravenečci Ferdové** was founded in 2015 as a preparatory section of the choir *Chorea pueri ustensis*. It is attended by children aged 3 to 9. Young singers learn the basics of singing, proper breathing, and are introduced to music and rhythm. Children from the preparatory choir perform together with *Chorea* at regular concerts and events. They have sung at concerts for Mother's Day, Christmas tree lighting ceremonies, Christmas and charity concerts, and at regular welcoming ceremonies for newborn citizens. They have also participated several times in national competitions such as *Zahrada písní* and *Litoměřická notička*, where they received bronze, silver, and gold awards. The children also attend choir camps and music workshops together with the older members. This is our first time attending an international festival, and we are already



looking forward to new experiences at joint events and competitions.

**Veronika Tomsová** is the founder and choirmaster of the choir *Chorea pueri ustensis*, which she has led since its establishment. Her musical journey began

in a children's choir that she attended from the age of three until twenty, where she gained her first musical education and lifelong passion for choral singing. She has further developed her skills and knowledge through regular participation in choir seminars and workshops. Veronika began leading choirs at the age of eighteen, and her greatest goal is to inspire children's love for music and help them discover the joy of singing together.



### Competition programme

#### **Detské spevácke zbory do 8 rokov Children's choirs up to 8 years**

1. Jan Vičar, Jiří Žáček (lyrics) - Máte doma velrybu
2. Emil Hradecký, Jiří Balík (lyrics) - Cvrček houslista
3. Ivana Loudová, Václav Fischer (lyrics) - Vosa a bodlák
4. Josef Robert Lehnert, František Kábele (lyrics) - Číhaná
5. Lidová - Modrají se pomněnečky
6. Zdeněk Tölg - Devatero pohádek (Nejmenší pohádka, Veselá pohádka, Popletená pohádka, Královská pohádka)
7. Emil Hradecký, Jiří Žáček (lyrics) - Říkadla (Co je to, Myší říkadlo, Říkadlo pro lidoopy)
8. Eduard Douša - Kosí ráno z cyklu Zvěrozpěvy

## Musica al Cuore /SK/

Conductor: Anastasia Lukashchuk  
non-competing choir

The International Choir **Musica al Cuore** has been active in the Bratislava-Lamač district since 2023 and brings together singers of various nationalities and musical backgrounds. Its members include both experienced choral singers and enthusiastic newcomers who have found in the ensemble a space for artistic growth and a shared passion for music.

The choir's repertoire spans sacred and secular works by Slovak and international composers, with a focus on stylistic diversity and the interpretation of pieces in their original languages. Despite its relatively short history, Musica al Cuore has already made its mark on the Slovak cultural scene, performing in sacred venues, open-air concerts on Bratislava's

squares, and various thematically focused musical events.

The ensemble originated from a singing school founded by Petra Mitašiková in cooperation with Ukrainian singer and teacher Mila Medvedovska in Lamač. Since 2024, the choir has been working closely with Ukrainian conductor, pianist, and singer Natalia Goncharenko from Kharkiv, under whose leadership it participates in this festival.

Musica al Cuore is more than just a vocal ensemble – it is a community that brings together people from different cultures, where music becomes a universal language of understanding.



## Pěvecký sbor Mladost /CZ/

Conductor: David Šmíd

The Mladost Choir, based in Brno, will celebrate the 70th anniversary this autumn. The choir was established in 1956 by a prominent figure of the Czech choral scene, PhDr. Jaroslav Dostalík, originally as a children's choir. In the 1990s its activities were revived as a mixed choir under the artistic direction of its founder; however, since 2010 it has performed as an all-female ensemble. The Mladost Choir regularly organizes a number of thematic and charity concerts, thereby continuing to develop the rich tradition of choral singing in Brno.

In 2022 the choir was taken over by conductor **David Šmíd**, a cellist and a student of orchestral conducting at the Janáček Academy of Performing Arts in Brno (JAMU). This February he became the absolute winner of the conducting competition organized by the Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra.



### Competition programme

#### Ženské spevácke zbory Female adult choirs

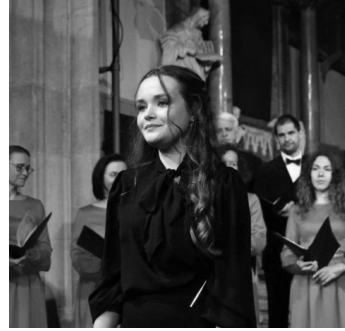
1. Zdeněk Lukáš - Hejdum dá
2. Xabier Sarasola - Pater noster
3. Jiří Churáček - Odešlý milý
4. Josef Mysliveček - Notturmo I.
5. Alexander Moyzes - Trávnice
6. Arr. Jan Málek - Ta zlukovská náves



## Spevokol ALIS - CZ ECAV BA Staré Mesto /SK/

**Conductor: Yelyzaveta Yanko**  
non-competing choir

**ALIS Choir** was founded in 2023 on the initiative of Pastor Erika Sokola from the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession (ECAV) in Slovakia, Bratislava - Staré Mesto. This 20-member female choir is conducted by Yelyzaveta Yanko, a native of Ukraine and a fifth-year student of choir conducting at the Composition and Conducting Department at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. The name ALIS comes from the Latin word “ala, alae” (wing, wings). When read in reverse, it forms the word “sila” (strength in Slovak). Its repertoire consists mainly of sacred songs, performed in both classical and modern renditions, in three- or four-part choral harmonies. ALIS Choir sings at church services and choral gatherings organized by



ECAV. In 2024, the choir was awarded a silver plaque award at the competition of Slovak Evangelical choirs in the Western District of ECAV.



## Súbor CZ ECAV Bratislava- Staré Mesto /SK/

**Conductor:** Yelyzaveta Yanko

A mixed vocal ensemble has been active in the Evangelical Church congregation of Bratislava - Staré Mesto since 2025, where it complements the work of the female choir ALIS. Its repertoire focuses primarily on sacred music. The ensemble performs during worship services and concerts in its home congregation, takes part in choir gatherings organized by the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia (ECAV), and appears at various other events. In April 2026, it received the Gold Band at the Festival of Church Song – a competitive review of choirs from the ECAV Western District held in Nitra.

The ensemble is led by **Yelyzaveta Yanko**, originally from Ukraine, who currently works in Bratislava as the conductor of the Evangelical women's choir ALIS and



the children's choir Arietta. In 2025, she completed her studies at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, earning a Master of Arts degree in the study



program Music Performance and Creation, specializing in choral conducting. As a conductor, she has collaborated with the Slovak Philharmonic within the Junior Cycle project and is actively engaged in artistic and pedagogical work in the field of choral singing.

### Competition programme

**Zmiešané zbory dospelých (SATB)**  
**Mixed adult choirs (SATB)**

1. Mikuláš Schneider- Trnavský- Otče náš
2. Gyorgy Deák-Bárdos - Eli, Eli!
3. Piotr Jańczak - De profundis clamavi
4. James E. Moore Jr. - An Irish Blessing

## Veravoce /PL/

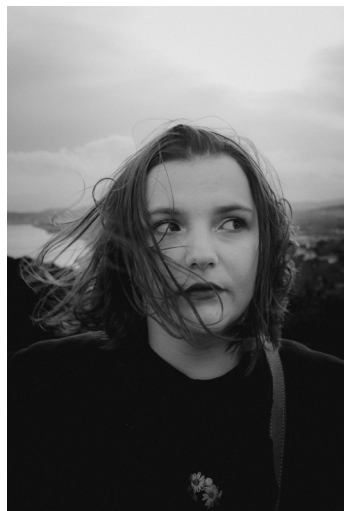
**Conductor: Magdalena Przemyk**

Founded in 2023, **Veravoce** is a choir composed of graduates and students of the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice. Despite its young history, the ensemble has already achieved notable success on the international choral scene, winning a Gold Diploma at the 42nd International Choral Festival in Preveza, Greece (2024), a Gold Diploma at the 19th Choral Festival “Gaude Cantem” in Bielsko-Biała, Poland (2024), as well as Gold Diplomas at the Music Festival in Námestovo, Slovakia (2025) and the Prof.



Józef Świder 10th International Festival of Music in Cieszyn, Poland (2025).

The choir is conducted by **Magdalena Przemyk**, a student of choral conducting and opera singing at the Academy of Music in Katowice. In addition to her artistic activity, she is also the founder and director



of the musicians' charity initiative Tony dobroci (“Tons of Goodness”).

### Competition programme

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

1. Mikotaj Gomółka - Serce mi każe śpiewać
2. Józef Świder - Pieśń
3. Francis Poulenc - O Magnum Mysterium
4. Marcin Wawruk - Leć głosie po rosie

## Schola Gregoriana Bratislavenensis /SK/

**Conductor: Milan Kolena**

**Non-competing choirs**

**Schola Gregoriana Bratislavenensis** 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** studied piano, singing, and choir conducting at the Žilina Conservatory

and later graduated in choral conducting from the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava under Prof. Peter Hradil. He continued his studies in sacred music and Gregorian chant in Bratislava and Vienna, and is the author of the first Slovak professional publication on Gregorian chant interpretation. He collaborates internationally in the field of Gregorian chant and has served as conductor of several choirs, including Schola Gregoriana Bratislavenensis. He teaches choir conducting and Gregorian chant at VŠMU and has been artistic director of several international sacred music festivals since 1998. Since 2013, he has served as president of the Slovak Choral Association. He is also active as a jury member, lecturer, and workshop leader in choral music, vocal polyphony, and Gregorian chant, and has given guest lectures at universities in the United States.



## Spevácky zbor Apollo /SK/

**Conductor: Milan Kolena**

**Non-competing choirs**

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



**Milan Kolena** studied piano, singing, and choir conducting at the Žilina Conservatory and later graduated in choral conducting from the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava under Prof. Peter Hradil. He continued his studies in sacred music and Gregorian chant in Bratislava and Vienna, and is the author of the first Slovak professional publication on Gregorian chant interpretation. He collaborates internationally in the field of Gregorian chant and has served as conductor of several choirs, including Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis. He teaches choir conducting and Gregorian chant at VŠMU and has been artistic director of several international sacred music festivals since 1998. Since 2013, he has served as president of the Slovak Choral Association. He is also active as a jury member, lecturer, and workshop leader in choral music, vocal polyphony, and Gregorian chant, and has given guest lectures at universities in the United States.

## 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.



## Ensembles

be:one /DE/

Dětský sbor Chorea pueri ustensis /CZ/

Detský spevácky zbor Albrechtík /SK/

Female Choir Vaput /FI/

GYMUM /CZ/

Hejnał Mazańcowice /PL/

Kantilénka /SK/

Mladší Campanella Olomouc /CZ/

Puellae cantantes /CZ/

Mravenečci Ferdové /CZ/

Musica al Cuore /SK/

Pěvecký sbor Mladost /SK/

Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis /SK/

Spevácky zbor Apollo /SK/

Spevokol ALIS - CZ ECAV BA Staré Mesto /SK/

Súbor CZ ECAV Bratislava- Staré Mesto /SK/

Veravoce /PL/

## KALENDÁR PODUJATÍ / MUSIC FESTIVAL CALENDAR

Zbory a orchestre 2026 - 2027 / Choirs and orchestras 2026 - 2027

Bratislava, Slovakia

### **BRATISLAVA SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Bratislava, Slovakia; 19th - 22nd March 2026

Bratislava, Slovakia; 18th - 21st March 2027

### **SLOVAKIA CANTAT**

**International Festival of Choirs and Orchestras**

Bratislava, Slovakia; 23rd - 26th April 2026

Bratislava, Slovakia; 22nd - 25th April 2027

### **BRATISLAVA CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL**

**International Festival of Choirs and Orchestras**

Bratislava, Slovakia; 11th - 14th June 2026

Bratislava, Slovakia; 10th - 13th June 2027

### **BRATISLAVA SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**International festival of choirs and orchestras**

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

Bratislava, Slovakia; 7th July- 10th July 2027

### **INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL I**

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

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

Bratislava, Slovakia; 7th July- 10th July 2027

### **BRATISLAVA CANTAT I**

**International festival of choirs and orchestras**

Bratislava, Slovakia; 20th - 23rd July 2026

Bratislava, Slovakia; 18th - 21st July 2027

### **INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL II**

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

Bratislava, Slovakia; 20th - 23rd July 2026

Bratislava, Slovakia; 18th - 21st July 2027

### **BRATISLAVA CANTAT II**

**International festival of choirs and orchestras**

Bratislava, Slovakia; 8th - 11th October 2026

Bratislava, Slovakia; 7th - 10th October 2027

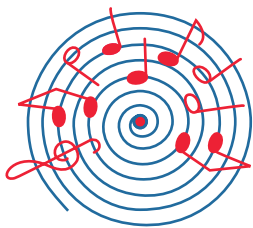
### **INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC**

Bratislava, Slovakia; 3rd - 6th December 2026

Bratislava, Slovakia; 2nd - 5th December 2027



# We are celebrating 21 years!



BRATISLAVA  
MUSIC AGENCY

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





# BRATISLAVA CHOIR FESTIVAL 2026

Medzinárodný festival pre spevácke zbory  
International Festival for Choirs

June 11 - 14, 2026, Bratislava, Slovakia

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

## 11.6.2026 | ŠTVRTOK - THURSDAY

### 19:00 Otvárací koncert festivalu / Opening concert

Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis /SK/, Spevácky zbor Apollo /SK/, Musica al Cuore /SK/, Mraveneční Ferdové /CZ/, Dětský sbor Chorea pueri ustensis /CZ/, Female Choir Vaput /FI/, be:one /DE/

Jezuitský kostol / Jesuits Church, Františkánske námestie Franciscan square

## 12.6.2026 | PIATOK - FRIDAY

### 17:00 Festivalový koncert / Festival concert

Detský spevácky zbor Albrechtík /SK/, Dětský sbor Chorea pueri ustensis /CZ/, Mraveneční Ferdové /CZ/, Mladší Campanella Olomouc /CZ/

Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Music Hall Farská 4

### 18:15 Festivalový koncert / Festival concert

Kantilénka /CZ/, Hejnał Mazańcowice /PL/, Veravoce /PL/, be:one /DE/

Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Music Hall Farská 4

### 19:30 Festivalový koncert / Festival concert

GYMUM /CZ/, Female Choir Vaput /FI/, ALIS CZ ECAV Bratislava- Staré Mesto /SK/

Hudobná sieň Klarisky / Klarisky Music Hall Farská 4

## 13.6.2026 | SOBOTA - SATURDAY

### Súťaž speváckych zborov | Choral Competition

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

Kategória: Detské spevácke zbory do 8 rokov  
Category: Children's choirs up to 8 years

### 12:30 Mraveneční Ferdové /CZ/

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

### 12:45 Detský spevácky zbor Albrechtík /SK/

13:00 Dětský sbor Chorea pueri ustensis /CZ/

### 13:15 Mladší Campanella Olomouc /CZ/

### 13:30 Kantilénka /CZ/

Kategória: Mládežnícke zbory do 21 rokov (SATB)

Category: Youth choirs up to 21 years (SATB)

### 13:45 GYMUM /CZ/

Kategória: Komorné zbory 9 - 24 spevákov  
Category: Chamber choirs 9 - 24 singers

### 14:05 Veravoce /PL/

Kategória: Spirituál, Gospel, Pop, Jazz  
Category: Spiritual, Gospel, Pop, Jazz

### 14:20 be:one /DE/

Kategória: Sakrálna hudba a capella  
Category: Musica Sacra a cappella

### 14:40 Hejnał Mazańcowice /PL/

Kategória: Ženské spevácke zbory  
Category: Female adult choirs

### 15:00 Pěvecký sbor Mladost /CZ/

Kategória: Zmiešané zbory dospelých (SATB)  
Category: Mixed adult choirs (SATB)

### 15:15 Súbor CZ ECAV Bratislava- Staré Mesto /SK/

### 15:30 Festivalový koncert / Festival concert

be:one /DE/, Female Choir Vaput /FI/, Hejnał Mazańcowice /PL/, Veravoce /PL/, GYMUM /CZ/, Pěvecký sbor Mladost /CZ/

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

### 19:00 Záverečný koncert a vyhlásenie výsledkov súťaže / Final Concert and Announcement of Competition Results

Detský spevácky zbor Albrechtík /SK/, Dětský sbor Chorea pueri ustensis /CZ/, Mraveneční Ferdové /CZ/, Kantilénka /CZ/, Mladší Campanella Olomouc /CZ/, GYMUM /CZ/, Hejnał Mazańcowice /PL/, Pěvecký sbor Mladost /CZ/, Female Choir Vaput /FI/, be:one /DE/, Veravoce /PL/

Jezuitský kostol / Jesuits Church, Františkánske námestie Franciscan square

## 14.6.2026 | NEDELA - SUNDAY

Odchod medzinárodných speváckych zborov / Departure of international choirs

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

#### Partnerom podujatia je BKIS

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



BRATISLAVA  
MUSIC AGENCY