



**ОХРИДСКИ
ХОРСКИ
ФЕСТИВАЛ
2019**

OHRID CHOIR FESTIVAL

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OHRID CHOIR FESTIVAL 2019 MACEDONIA

23 AUGUST
Friday

Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church

SACRED MUSIC CONCERT

- 10.00 **Szent László Choir of Oradea Cathedral** *Romania*
- 10.10 **Vor Frelasers Kantori** *Denmark*
- 10.20 **Farkas Ferenc Ensemble** *Hungary*
- 10.30 **Schola Cantorum Bialostociensis** *Poland*
- 10.40 **Choir of Collegium Medicum** *Poland*
- 10.50 **Lodz University of Technology Academic Choir** *Poland*
- 11.00 **Fantasia Children's Choir** *Романија Romania*
- 11.10 **Saint Naum Chamber Choir** *Унгарија Hungary*
- 11.20 **Ankara Gelisim Mixed Choir** *Турција Turkey*

Diamond Hall at Hotel Inex Olgica

FIRST COMPETITION CONCERT

- 16.30 **Children's Church Choir Branko** *Serbia*
- 16.45 **Fantasia Children's Choir** *Romania*
- 17.00 **Girls Choir of the Secondary Music School Živorad Grbić** *Serbia*
- 17.15 **Schola Cantorum Bialostociensis** *Poland*

SECOND COMPETITION CONCERT

- 18.00 **Adam Mickiewicz University Academic Choir** *Poland*
- 18.15 **Dokuz Eylül University Choir** *Turkey*
- 18.30 **Béla Bartók Female Choir** *Hungary*
- 18.45 **Kanytlena** *Poland*

THIRD COMPETITION CONCERT

- 19.30 **Adnan Menderes University Polyphonic Choir** *Turkey*
- 19.45 **Choir of Collegium Medicum** *Poland*
- 20.00 **Bogazici Youth Choir** *Turkey*
- 20.15 **Kodály Zoltán Youth Mixed Choir** *Hungary*

24 AUGUST
Saturday

Diamond Hall at Hotel Inex Olgica

FOLK AND POP CONCERT

- 10.00 **Saint Naum Chamber Choir** *Hungary*
- 10.10 **Mixed Choir Ioan Dumitru Chirescu** *Romania*
- 10.20 **Bogazici Youth Choir** *Turkey*
- 10.30 **Kodály Zoltán Youth Mixed Choir** *Hungary*
- 10.40 **Ankara Gelisim Mixed Choir** *Turkey*
- 10.50 **Margi** *Serbia*
- 11.00 **PoliPop** *Turkey*
- 11.10 **Adam Mickiewicz University Academic Choir** *Poland*
- 11.20 **Lodz University of Technology Academic Choir** *Poland*

FOURTH COMPETITION CONCERT

- 16.30 **Saint Naum Chamber Choir** *Hungary*
- 16.45 **Chamber Choir Emanuil** *Serbia*
- 17.00 **Chamber Choir Lavrint** *Serbia*
- 17.15 **Vor Frelasers Kantori** *Denmark*

FIFTH COMPETITION CONCERT

- 18.00 **Mixed Choir Ioan Dumitru Chirescu** *Romania*
- 18.15 **Choir of the University of Environmental and Life Sciences in Wrocław** *Poland*
- 18.30 **Tobay İzmir** *Turkey*
- 18.45 **Farkas Ferenc Ensemble** *Hungary*

SIXTH COMPETITION CONCERT

- 19.30 **The Jan Szyrocki Memorial Choir of West Pomeranian University of Technology of Szczecin** *Poland*
- 19.45 **Lodz University of Technology Academic Choir** *Poland*
- 20.00 **Veszprem City Choir** *Hungary*
- 20.15 **Cultural and Artistic Association Naša Lipa Tuhelj** *Croatia*

26 AUGUST
Monday

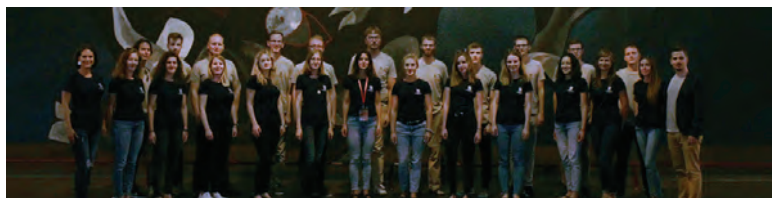
Diamond Hall at Hotel Inex Olgica

10.00 COMPETITION FINALE

PAGE	CATEGORY	CHOIR	COMPETITION	SACRED	FOLK	POP	PLACE	COUNTRY
4	B	Adam Mickiewicz University Academic Choir	2			•	Poznań	Poland
5	B	Adnan Menderes University Polyphonic Choir	3				Aydin	Turkey
6	C	Ankara Gelisim Mixed Choir		•	•		Ankara	Turkey
7	B	Béla Bartók Female Choir	2				Szeged	Hungary
8	B	Boğaziçi Youth Choir	3		•		Istanbul	Turkey
9	A	Children's Church Choir Branko	1				Leskovac	Serbia
10	B	Choir of Collegium Medicum UMK	3	•			Bydgoszcz	Poland
11	B	Dokuz Eylül University Choir	2				İzmir	Turkey
12	C	Chamber Choir Emanuil	4				Valjevo	Serbia
13	A	Fantasia Children's Choir	1	•			Vaslui	Romania
14	C	Farkas Ferenc Ensemble	5	•			Nagykanizsa	Hungary
15	C	Mixed Choir Ioan Dumitru Chirescu	5		•		Cernavoda	Romania
16	C	The Jan Szyrocki Memorial Choir	6				Szczecin	Poland
17	B	Kantylena	2				Lublin	Poland
18	B	Kodály Zoltán Youth Mixed Choir	3		•		Debrecen	Hungary
19	C	Chamber Choir Lavirint	4				Zajecar	Serbia
20	C	Lodz University of Technology Academic Choir	6	•		•	Lodz	Poland
21	C	Margi			•		Ćuprija	Serbia
22	C	Cultural and Artistic Association Naša Lipa Tuhelj	6				Tuhelj	Croatia
23	C	PoliPop				•	Istanbul	Turkey
24	B	Schola Cantorum Bialostociensis	1	•			Bialystok	Poland
25	C	Szent László Choir of Oradea Cathedral		•			Oradea	Romania
26	C	Saint Naum Chamber Choir	4	•	•		Miskolc	Hungary
27	C	Tobav İzmir	5				İzmir	Turkey
28	C	Veszprem City Choir	6				Veszprem	Hungary
29	C	Vor Frelsers Kantori	4	•			Copenhagen	Denmark
30	C	Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences	5				Wroclaw	Poland
31	B	Girls Choir of the Secondary Music School Živorad Grbić	1				Valjevo	Serbia

PARTICIPANTS AND REPERTOIRE

The information in this brochure was provided by the choirs themselves and the publisher is not responsible for its accuracy.



Adam Mickiewicz University Academic Choir Poznań, Poland

Beata Bielska
conductor

Paweł Serafin
conductor assistant
solo vocal

Agnieszka Nawrot, Wiola Butler
solo vocals

The Adam Mickiewicz University Academic Choir has been continuing the choral tradition of the Wielkopolska region for almost 60 years. The choir was founded in 1966 in Poznań, the city with a long history, connecting modern art with traditional Polish choral music. Thanks to music theaters and festivals, Poznań gained the reputation as “the city of choirs”. The choir is composed of like-minded people from different backgrounds, sharing their true passion, high abilities and honest readiness to sing.

AMU choir was conducted by the exceptional Jacek Sykulski, the well-known Polish composer, arranger and conductor. Since autumn 2011 the conductor is Beata Bielska, a long-standing assistant of Sykulski and graduate of the Choir Music and Conducting Department of Academy of Music in Poznań. During the numerous concerts conducted by Beata Bielska, the choir has exhibited the full range of possibilities of the perfect instrument – the human voice. The group performed in almost all European countries as well as the USA, Ecuador, Vietnam, Canada, Bolivia, China, Japan and Taiwan. They also performed together with famous artists such as: Plácido Domingo, Aleksandra Kurzak and Andrea Bocelli.

The Academic Choir’s performances withhold the rich Polish tradition of choir singing. The main artistic goal that the conductor and all the singers would like to convey is to bring joy to people through their common passion for singing. Music from heart to heart!

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Ayug Ti Amianan	Fidel G. Calalang, jr.
	Siyaniem	Tomislav Zografski
	Popurri hits '80s	arr. Joaquín Martínez Dávila
	William Tell Overture	Gioacchino Rossini arr. Jule Eschliman
POP	Dancing Queen	arr. Deke Sharon
	Popurri hits '80s	arr. Joaquín Martínez Dávila



Adnan Menderes University Polyphonic Choir Aydin, Turkey

Evin Erden Topoğlu
conductor

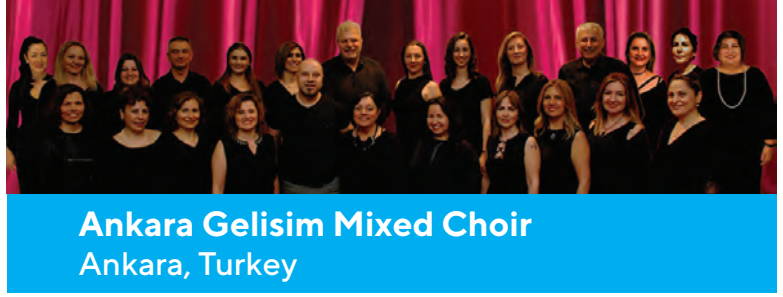
Ali Mahsuni Seven
baglama

The members of Adnan Menderes University Polyphonic Choir are students of the Music Department at Adnan Menderes University School of Education. The choir was formed in October 2018 and gave its first performance at an international art workshop in April 2019. The choir performed two additional concerts in May 2019 and has been preparing open-air concerts and flash mob presentations for the next season.

Since 2018 Evin Erden Topoğlu is the assistant professor at the Music Department at Adnan Menderes University School of Education. Prior to joining the Adnan Menderes University Faculty, she completed her Doctor in Musical Arts degree at Yaşar University Social Sciences Institute. She also holds both Master's and Bachelor diplomas from Dokuz Eylül University. She studied cello with Prof. Alexander Rudin and Prof. Ümit İşgörür; and she studied chamber music with Ruşen Güneş. She has attended masterclasses presented by Jiri Barta, Şölen Dikener and Peter Bruns.

Aydın is a city in Turkey's Aegean Region. Tralles (as Aydın was known in the ancient times) is known as the city of Seikilos, the composer whose Epitaph is the first survived complete musical composition with lyrics in the world. Herodotus, the renowned historian, describes it as the land with "the most beautiful skies we know on earth". The modern day city has a rich culture including world famous folk dance Zeybek and many historical and natural wonders such as Aphrodisias and Kuşadası.

COMPETITION	TITLE	COMPOSER
	Ubi Caritas	Ola Gjeilo
	Uyan Ey Gözlerim (Wake Up My Eyes)	Albert Bobowski arr. H. Hürkan Şahin
	Let Me Ask You, oh Donke	Tomislav Zografski
	Kerimoğlu Zeybeği	arr. Aykut Önder Sarıçiftçi
	Chan Chan	Compay Segundo arr. Jorge A. Martinez



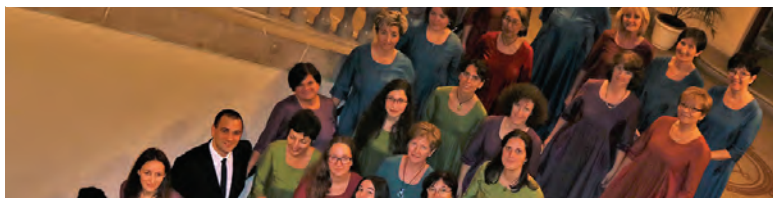
Ankara Gelisim Mixed Choir

Ankara, Turkey

Zafer Gokcer
conductor

Ankara Gelisim Mixed Choir was founded by the Turkish conductor Zafer Gökçer in 2016. Gökçer studied piano and correpetition at the Ankara State Conservatory of Hacettepe University where he attended to the lectures of Assoc.Prof.Dr. Banu Perk, Prof.Dr. Ayşe Savaşır, Walter Strauss, Antonio Pirolli, Tatiana Pikayzen, Assoc.Prof.Dr. Turgay Erdener, Prof.Dr. İlhan Baran, Prof.Dr. İstemihan Taviloğlu, Assoc.Prof.Dr. Özkan Dizmen, Prof.Dr. Muzaffer Arkan and Alain Bouglen. He worked as a staff lecturer in different Universities and since then has taken part in many professional and amateur concerts. His passion led him to establish a Choir for non-professional adults. In time, the Choir continued to grow in musical integrity as new members joined. Promoting and improving musical abilities of non-professionals and using their abilities to develop and maintain public's appreciation of choral music has been the choir's main objective. They have been performing nationwide and abroad for music festivals, schools, charity organizations and many memoriatum organizations for well-known Turkish singers and perform classical and popular music as well as adaptations of Turkish folk music and completely original songs. All adaptations and original compositions are composed by the choir conductor Zafer Gökçer. The Choir is from Ankara, the capital of Turkey and the eternal resting place of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the Father of all Turks.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
SACRED	Gloria	Franz Joseph Haydn
	Panis Angelicus	Claudio Casciolini
	Tebe Poem	Dobri Hristov
	Ave Maria	Franz Schubert
FOLK	Sevdamin Türküsü (The song of my love)	Zafer Gokcer
	Ah Bir Ataş Ver (Give me a lighter)	Anonymous
	Ben Giderim Batum'a (I will go to Batumi)	Anonymous
	Uzun İnce bir Yoldayım (I am on a long and narrow road)	Asik Veysel



Béla Bartók Female Choir

Szeged, Hungary

Dávid Valkai
conductor

Milán Dinya
piano accompaniment

The Bartók Choir was founded in 1967. During its long history the choir was led by many successful and famous conductors such as Pál Kardos, Éva Rozgonyi and Péter Ordasi. The choir has wide repertoire but the highest priority is given to classical Hungarian composers including Béla Bartók, Zoltán Kodály and Lajos Bárdos. Contemporary Hungarian music is also high on their agenda, with several pieces dedicated to the choir or its leaders. The choir has won many awards: First place (female) in Debrecen, 2008 at the 23rd Béla Bartók International Choral Competition. First place (female) in Prague, 2009 at the Petr Eben Competition at the Advent Choir Festival. Special prize for the highest score and Special Conductors' Prize to Éva Rozgonyi in Poeldijk, 2010 at the TONEN 2000 Choral Competition.

Dávid Valkai has been leading the ensemble since 2018. He was born in Kecskemét, Hungary in 1990. He graduated from the University of Debrecen Faculty of Music in 2015. His major study subjects were conducting, solfeggio and music theory. He also studied liturgical music. During the university years he took part in the competition of conductors three times where he won a special award and the third place. Since graduating he has been working as a teacher in Kodály Music School of Kecskemét.

Szeged is the third largest city of Hungary and regional centre of the Southern Great Plain, also the county seat of Csongrád county. The Hungarian frontier with Serbia is just outside the town. The University of Szeged is one of the most distinguished universities in Hungary. Thousands of students study here, many of whom are international students.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Murmur (Noise)	Tomislav Zografski
	Pueri Heabreorum	Giovanni Pierlugi da Palestrina
	Veni Domine	Felix Mendelssohn – Bartholdy
	Ének Szent István királyhoz (Hymn to King Saint Stephen)	Kodály Zoltán
	Salve Regina	Kocsár Miklós



Boğaziçi Youth Choir Istanbul, Turkey

Masis Aram Gözbek
conductor

Mert Can Dursun
assistant conductor

Boğaziçi Youth Choir was established in 2014 by conductor Masis Aram Gözbek under the roof of “World Champion” Boğaziçi Jazz Choir. The choir was emerged as an important step towards the further development of choral music awareness and the common value of polyphony in Turkey. They performed at more than 100 concerts and won 12 awards in festivals in different cities of Turkey.

Masis Aram Gözbek was born in 1987 in İstanbul. He attended many competitions, festivals and master classes. He led workshops and performances with internationally acclaimed choirs abroad and won numerous awards, including YTÜ ‘Rectorship Award’, ‘The Most Successful Young Person’ award at the Turkey finals of the 19th TOYP and the ‘Young Conductor Special Award’ in the 35th International May Choir Competition. He was a jury member at the European Music Festival for Young People Neerpelt in 2018 and at the May Choir Competition –a member of European Grand Prix- in 2019. Most recently, he has been selected as one of the finalists in the World Choral Conducting Competition which will be held in July 2019 in Hong Kong.

The choir comes from the charming city of İstanbul.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Pseudo Yoik	Jaakko Mäntyjärvi
	Yeniden (Anew)	Hasan Uçarsu
	Do Tri Momi (Next to the Three Girls)	Dragan Shuplevski
	Kasar Mie La Gaji (The Earth is Tired)	Alberto Grau
	Nyon Nyon	Jake Runestad
FOLK	Yayla Yollarında Yürüyüp Gelir (She Comes Walking by the Plateau Roads)	Deniz Yıldız
	Kızılçıklar Oldu Mu (Have the Cornelian Cherries ripened?)	Hasan Önsöz
	Kara Üzüm Salkımı (Bunch Of Black Grapes)	Erdal Tuğcular
	Yol Havası (Road Tune)	Erdal Tuğcular
	Do Tri Momi (Next to the Three Girls)	Dragan Shuplevski



Children's Church Choir Branko

Leskovac, Serbia

Sinisa Stamenkovic
conductor

Aleksandar Jankovic
piano accompaniment

Milica Kocic
solo vocal

The Choir Branko was reestablished in 2012 as a successor of the choir formed 137 years ago. As a church children choir it is the only of this kind in Leskovac and it plays a significant role in preserving and promoting sacred music across the region. Along with church music the choir nurtures the traditional folk music. The choir actively participates in the church life of Leskovac by singing in almost all liturgies and also takes part in different festivals and celebrations. They won third place in the category of traditional music at the prestigious festival "Fedeho" in Belgrade. In 2019, the choir participated at the festival in Valjevo "Horfest" and won three awards: First prize in the category of spiritual music; First prize in the category of ethno duets; Third prize in the category of vocal groups.

Sinisa Stamenkovic was born in 1982 in Leskovac where he completed primary and secondary music education. Along with the classical music education, he was studying traditional styles of music. He has won many prestigious music awards. In 2006, he graduated music theory at the Academy of Music. Since then, he has been engaged in education and music pedagogy. In 2007 he founded the "Music workshop" at the Cultural centre in Grdelica. His interests spread in genres such as jazz, fusion, pop-rock music. He is also an active member at the International drum festival "Drum dum" in Leskovac since its founding. He is the founder and conductor of the children's church choir Branko.

The city of Leskovac abounds in a great variety of geographic features and tourist facilities which will attract prospective visitors. Leskovac is an important transit centre located in a vast and fertile valley surrounded by beautiful mountains. There are many cultural events such as: Strings Festival, International Carnival, International film festival (LIFFE), Leskovac days of music (LEDAMUS), International guitar festival and many more.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Dostjno jest (It is truly meet)	Georgije Prvopojac
	Heruvimska pesma (Cherubits hymn)	Starosimonovska
	The lion sleeps tonight	George David Weiss
	Kolovodja (Lead dancer "Kolo")	A. Maksimović
	Bor sadila moma (The damsel was planting a pine tree)	arr. Ilija Rajkovic



Choir of Collegium Medicum UMK

Bydgoszcz, Poland

Janusz Stanecki
conductor

Anna Kocent
conductor assistant

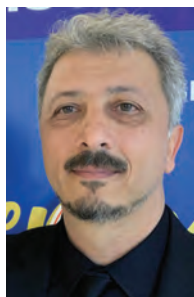
Adam Kujawski, Adam Cieślak
solo vocals

Choir of the Collegium Medicum was established in 1985. During the first four years it was a small vocal group managed by Halina Wieczór. Since 1989 to this day the conductor and artistic manager has been professor Janusz Stanecki. During this period, the group participated in many national and international events. The choir consists of students, graduates and university employees.

The conductor and choirmaster Janusz Stanecki is a professor at the Music Academy of Feliks Nowowiejski in Bydgoszcz. He was born in 1960 in Chełmno. In 1984 he graduated with honors from the Department of Choir Conducting and Music Education at the Music Academy in Bydgoszcz. His artistic and pedagogical achievements include numerous prizes and distinctions: the prizes of the mayor of the city of Bydgoszcz, the governor of Bydgoszcz and the rector of the Academy of Music. F. Nowowiejski in Bydgoszcz.

Bydgoszcz is one of the largest cities in Poland (nearly 400,000 inhabitants). A large center of industry, trade and logistics, as well as a road, rail and inland waterway junction. Bydgoszcz is one of the main national centers of the IT industry and business services, also an academic, scientific and cultural center.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Regina caeli	Romulad Twardowski
	Sicut lilium	Marek Raczyński
	I denna ljuva	arr. Bengt Ollen
	Syianiem	Tomislav Zografski
	Makedońska Humoreska	Todor Skalovski
SACRED	Signore del le cime	Bepi De Marzi
	Parce Domine	Feliks Nowowiejski
	Chwalitie imia Gosponie	Romulad Twardowski
	Sicut lilium	Marek Raczyński



Dokuz Eylül University Choir

İzmir, Turkey

Ahmet Muhip Şanal
conductor

Dokuz Eylül University choir works within the Dokuz Eylül University, Buca Faculty of Education, Department of Music Education. The choir was founded in 1973. It consists of students from the Music Education department. They have performed successfully in many concerts and festivals where the choir was awarded with numerous awards. Some of the recent awards are: "Musicality; Musical Dynamics Award" Ankara 2018, 23th Turkey Choir Festival and "Intonation Award" at 7th Sansev İstanbul International Polyphonic Choir Festival, 2-5 May 2019. Ahmet Muhip Şanal PhD. has been conducting the choir since 2014.

Muhip Şanal graduated from Gazi University, Faculty of Education Department of Music Education. Beside this choir Mr. Muhip Şanal also conducts the Ministry of Culture Bolu children's choir and the Polyphonic Youth Choir within TRT (Turkish Radio Television) İzmir Radio. With these choirs he has performed numerous concerts and won many awards and recognitions. Muhip Şanal has attended many workshops and courses, participated in exchange programs (Erasmus) and has worked as an observer on voice therapy techniques at UCL-Mont Godinne in Belgium. He currently works at Dokuz Eylül University as a lecturer of choral conducting and vocal technique.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	S'io ti vedess'	Orlando di Lasso
	Bogorodeetse Dyevo (Mother of God and Virgin)	Arvo Pärt
	Trois Chansons (Dieu! Qu'il la fait bon regarder!)	Claude Debussy
	Bebek	Sarper Özsan
	Nyon Nyon	Jake Runestad
	Shto mi e milo	Jean KleeB



Chamber Choir Emanuel

Valjevo, Serbia

Vanja Urošević
conductor

Chamber choir “Emanuel” was founded in 2015 in Valjevo – a small town in western Serbia surrounded by beautiful nature, water and mountains. Valjevo is known by its traditional music, but also by its jazz scene and by its great and long tradition of choral singing. That’s why many music festivals take place there. The great enthusiasm of the conductor Vanja Urošević and the experienced choristers resulted in the success that choir “Emanuel” achieved in representing Serbia’s great traditions in religious and folklore music. With its individuality and originality, the choir “Emanuel” enchants the listeners and gives them insight into the national music as well as the music from the world. The choir “Emanuel” was awarded with eight medals, six of which are golden. In May 2016 and 2018 the choir has been awarded as the best choir of its category, and also as the best choir of the Festival in Bijeljina (Grand Prix). In 2017, at the Choir Fest in Serbia, “Emanuel” was the Absolute winner of the festival. Chamber choir “Emanuel” successfully took part in the music festival in Loreto, Italy, and in Preveza, Greece. Vanja Urošević graduated from the Department of Music Theory and Pedagogy at the Music Academy in Belgrade in 2010. She leads the choir from its beginnings. Also, she founded and achieved high success with the Children’s choir “Hadži Ruvim”.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Il est bel et bon	Pierre Passerau
	K Bogorodice prilježno	Alexander Arkhangelsky
	Aliluja	Zapro Zapro
	Kozar	Stevan Stojanović Mokranjac
	I’m gonna sing	Negro spiritual



Fantasia Children's Choir

Vaslui, Romania

Vasile Negura
conductor

Founded in 1995 at "Elena Cuza" Gymnasium in Vaslui, the choir had its debut in 1996. In a while the choir has attained a high level of vocal achievement and has transformed its performances into innovative and exciting artistic events. Fantasia has a broad repertory that goes from the rhythmic refinement of the sacred-religious music, throughout the gospel sounds and a bit of jazz, to the purity of traditional folk music. The enthusiastic exploration of international music ensures variety and freshness in the choir's repertory. They have won many awards on national and international competition.

The conductor is Vasile Negura. Born in Piatra Neamt in 1955, he studied music pedagogy and choral conducting at the "George Enescu" Academy of Music in Iasi. His work with choir was enriched by many years of experience as a singer in "Cantores Amicitiae", a remarkable choir of the Academy from Iasi. Committed to excellence in music interpretation, Vasile Negura deals with choral conducting very intensely: he has been awarded, in May 2000, with the special prize for the most talented conductor, by famous "Madrigal-Marin Constantin" Foundation, and in November 2015 in Chisinau-Moldova, for the best conductor at the festival. He is frequently a jury member at regional, national and international choral competitions. He was awarded with the title of "Citizen of Honor" of the Vaslui.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Eminescu	Cristian Misievici
	Suita din Oas	Gheorghe Danga
	Pater Noster	Piotr Janczak
	Bohemian Rhapsody	Freddie Mercury
	Davaj me mamo	Zapro Zapro
SACRED	Adagio	Gavril Musicescu
	Pater Noster	Piotr Janczak
	Coralia Mundi	Stelian Ionascu



Farkas Ferenc Ensemble

Nagykanizsa, Hungary

Baráth Yvette Ágnes
conductor

Molnár Péter
solo vocal

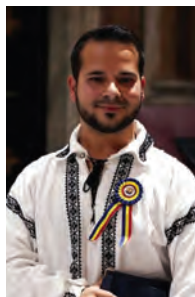
Vanyó Karsa
trumpet

The Farkas Ferenc Ensemble was founded in 1991 and has been working continuously ever since. They have broad repertoire from the Renaissance to contemporary pieces, including ecclesiastical, secular and popular pieces with emphasis on contemporary composers especially the works by the composer Ferenc Farkas who was born in Nagykanizsa. During the last three years, with the support of the National Cultural Fund, they performed independent acapella concerts abroad: Romania (Cluj-Napoca), Italy (Bologna), Slovakia and Poland (Krakow). The members of the choir are music amateurs with different professional occupations: engineer, teacher, music teacher, public prosecutor, veterinarian, logistics specialist, psychologist, kindergarten teacher. The most significant results of Farkas Ferenc Ensemble are: 5th World Choir Games in Graz 2008. - Mixed Chamber Choirs Golden Diploma Level II in the qualification; Mixed Chamber Choirs Silver Medal in the final; Concert Choir qualification (KÓTA) 2015.

The conductor of the choir is Yvette Ágnes Baráth, since its founding. She is a singing teacher in Ferenc Farkas Music School, a conductor and a mezzosoprano solo singer.

Nagykanizsa is a medium-sized county town in Zala county. As the centre of the Nagykanizsa district, numerous settlements belong to its agglomeration. The composers Ferenc Farkas and Sigmund Romberg were born there and the town has significant musical-cultural traditions. Its music school was founded in 1926 as the first in the region, and its amateur symphonic orchestra was founded in 1921. Numerous choirs operate in the town.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Siyaniem Op. 74.	Tomislav Zografski
	L'amour de moy (Première Symphonie Vocale III.) (My Love)	Marc de Ranse
	Rózsa Madrigál (Rose - Madrigal)	Farkas Ferenc
	Dormi Jesu (Sleep Jesus)	Tóth Péter
	Hajdútánc (Hajdu dance)	Farkas Ferenc
SACRED	O salutaris (O saving Victim)	Horváth Márton Levente
	Tavaszi szél vizet áraszt (Spring wind floods water)	Baráth Zoltán
	Assisi Szent Ferenc imája (Pray of St Francis of Assisi)	Tóth Árpád



Mixed Choir Ioan Dumitru Chirescu

Cernavoda, Romania

Manuel Balanica
conductor

Mixed choir I.D. Chirescu, founded 124 years ago, is the oldest section of the cultural institution, but also the “pride” of the city, bearing a history and musical tradition over time. “I.D. Chirescu”, the oldest choir from Dobrogea, but also one of the oldest in the country, had its first appearance at the inauguration of the bridge over the Danube - “Carol I”, built by Anghel Saligny. Throughout the time, the choral ensemble has participated in numerous festivals and competitions, both in the country and abroad: Caransebes, Focsani, Intorsura Buzaului, Călarasi, Topoloveni, Braila, Cluj-Napoca, Sfantu Gheorghe, Karditsa and Kalamos - Greece; Silistra, Dobrich, Obrochiste and Balcic - Bulgaria; Krsko - Slovenia; Rome - Italy; Chisinau - Republic of Moldova, receiving numerous awards and prizes, last one in 2018 - 1st Prize at “Ludovic Pacea Choir Festival” - Tulcea, Romania.

Currently, the choral ensemble is coordinated by the conductor Manuel Vasile Bălănică and it is composed of 30 members (young and adults), some of whom have a musical activity for more than 40 years. Mr. Bălănică is studying music at Ovidius University Constanta; he had just finished the 1st year at the Faculty of Arts. He has sung in Chirescu choir for many years as a tenor.

Cernavoda is a town situated on Danube’s shore, near Constanta and the Black Sea. Is the only city in Romania which has a nuclear power plant. Many prehistoric artifacts was found in Cernavoda, among them being the statues “Hamangian thinker” and “Sitting women”. Also, the famous Anghel Saligny Bridge is in Cernavoda.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Rum dum dum	Dragan Shuplevski
	Bogoroditse Devo (Rejoice, o Virgin Theotokos)	Serghei Rachmaninoff
	Morarul (The Miller)	D.G Kiriac
	La Paloma (The Dove)	Sebastian de Iradier
	Se equivoco la paloma (The dove has mistaken)	Carlos Guastavino
	Foaie verde viorea (Green leaf bluebell)	Stefan Popescu
FOLK	Zamfira	Gheorghe Danga
	Hai, Dunarea mea! (Come on, my Danube!)	Sorin Vinătoru
	Karagouna	Stefanos Eftimiadis



**The Jan Szyrocki Memorial Choir of West Pomeranian
University of Technology of Szczecin** Szczecin, Poland

Szymon Wyrzykowski
conductor

The Szczecin Technical University Choir was founded in 1952 by Jan Szyrocki, who was student at that time but went on to become a respected professor who will lead the choir until the day of his death. The choir's reputation grew very fast and within a short time of its founding became one of the best academic choirs in Poland, gaining numerous awards at home and abroad. To honor the professor's achievements and to acknowledge his great contribution, the choir was named after his great founder. In 2006 Szymon Wyrzykowski was appointed to the position of artistic manager and conductor. The choir enriches the cultural scene of the Szczecin University, the city and the region by performing at important cultural events. Awards: 1st place in the Choir's Tournament 41. LEGNICA CANTAT, 2010, Poland; Grand Prix at the International Choir Competition in Rumia, 2012, Poland; 1st place in Pop and Sacred Music categories at the International Choir Competition Canco Mediterrania in Lloret de Mar, 2015, Spain.

Szymon Wyrzykowski (b.1979) started conducting at the age of 17. He studied under the mentorship of eminent conductors: Prof. Jan Szyrocki at Szczecin Branch of the Poznań Music Academy at the Faculty of Choral Conducting and Prof. Antoni Wit at Frederick Chopin Music Academy in Warsaw at the Department of Composition, Conducting and Theory of Music with the specialization in Symphony and Opera Conducting. Szymon Wyrzykowski works as orchestral and choral conductor.

Szczecin is the capital and largest city of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship in Poland. Located on the Oder, near the Baltic Sea, Szczecin is a large industrial, cultural and scientific center.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Mała suita kaszubska (A little kashubian suite)	Szymon Godziemba-Trytek
	Już się zmierzcha (It is twilight)	Wacław z Szamotuł
	Stabat Mater	Marek Jasiński
	Do tri momi	Dragan Shuplevski



Kanytlena

Lublin, Poland

Małgorzata Nowak
conductor

Kamil Turczyn
piano accompaniment

In 1993, thanks to her personal passion and intense need to work with the youth, at the time when the old noble ways of spending leisure time were beginning to lose their significance, and believing that ‘music soothes the savage breast’, Małgorzata Nowak established the Kanytlena Lublin Youth Choir. She attracted vocally gifted high school students from Lublin. Thanks to her engagement and the significant assistance from Rev. Andrzej Dołba, this choir, which at that time was the only one of its kind in the city, was founded.

During the first two years of its existence, the choir functioned under the patronage the Archdiocesan Centre of the “Light-Life” Movement. Then, thanks to the kindness and care of the then headmaster Anna Suszyńska and the help of the Board of Education, the Department of Culture of the Provincial Office, the Marshal Office, the Department of Education and Culture of the Municipal Office in Lublin, the choir moved to its permanent seat at Unia Lubelska High School No. 3 in Lublin, where it has been operating ever since.

Kanytlena has won many awards: Second prize at the Passion Song Contest in 2013 in Bydgoszcz; First prize at III Cantantes Lublinensis Choir Festival in Lublin in 2018; Grand Prix at VII Children and Youth International Festival in 2018, in Golden Sands, Bulgaria.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Polka lubelska (Lublin polka)	Mieczysław Krzyński
	Aj shto mi e milo (So pleased)	Tomislav Zografski
	Groźna dziewczyna (Dangerous girl)	Stanisław Moniuszko
	Muzyka poranna (Morning music)	Marek Jasiński
	An Irish Blessing	James E. Moore Jr.
	Happy together	Gary Bonner



Kodály Zoltán Youth Mixed Choir Debrecen, Hungary

Mónika Végh
conductor

Dárius Teremi
piano accompaniment

The Choir of Zoltán Kodály Secondary School of Music was founded in the second half of 1950s by György Gulyás. Its members are the students of the school. The ensemble started as a female choir but soon it was transformed into a mixed choir. They have performed successfully at many national and international competitions under the guidance of eminent conductors. Since 2004 the choir has been led by Mónika Végh. The repertoire of the choir ranges from Renaissance to Contemporary music and they often perform oratorio music. The choir has taken part in national and international festivals and competitions. Major awards: Gold diploma in the category of contemporary music, Winner of the category and gold diploma in the category of youth mixed choirs at International Youth Festival in Bratislava, 2013; 1st place at Varsoviacantat in Warsaw, 2014; 1st Place and Grand Prix at Liviu Borlan International Choir Competition in Baia Mare, 2018.

Mónika Végh was born in Cegléd, Hungary in 1974. Since 2004 she has been teaching in Zoltán Kodály Secondary School of Music in Debrecen and leading the school choir. Currently she works as an instructor at the Faculty of Music, University of Debrecen. In May of 2019 she completed doctorate degree (DLA). She is awarded with numerous awards.

Debrecen is Hungary's second largest city and it is a commercial, administrative, cultural, and educational center in Eastern Hungary. There are many international sports and cultural events, for example the Béla Bartók International Choir Competition.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Selig sind die Toten (Blessed are the dead)	Heinrich Schütz
	Zigeunerleben (Gypsy life)	Robert Schumann
	Marika na stol sedeshe (Marika was sitting on a chair)	Tomislav Zografski
	Demon irrepit callidus (The Demon sneaks expertly)	Orbán György
	Kállai kettős (Double-Dance from Kálló)	Ligeti György
FOLK	Mezőföldi népdalok (Folksongs from Mezőföld)	Autentic folksong
	Debreceni népdalok (Folksongs from Debrecen)	Autentic folksong



Chamber Choir Lavirint

Zaječar, Serbia

Željka Aleksić
conductor

Tara Aleksić
piano accompaniment

The Chamber Choir Lavirint was formed in 2001 and performs vocal and vocal-instrumental music of national and foreign composers of different epochs. So far, it has given a large number of public performances and concerts in Serbia, Bulgaria, Austria, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia, Republic of Srpska, Greece, Czech Republic, Montenegro. In 2013 won the Golden diploma in the 4th Venezia Music Festival, Italy. In 2014th Lavirint won Silver diploma at the Sing'n'joy Vienna Choir festival and 29th International Franz Schubert Choir Competition. In July 2016 Labyrinth participated at the 34th International Festival of Choirs in Preveza, Greece and won a bronze medal. Since 2015, Chamber Choir Lavirint organizes and participates in World Choral Day celebration in its hometown and in town of Negotin.

Željka Aleksić, the choir conductor, finished primary music school in Zaječar (accordion and flute). Since 1992 she has led the vocal-instrumental quartet Lavrint, which in 2001 grown into a chamber choir. In 2004 she was awarded with a Medallion for the cultural contribution of the city of Zaječar. She is a physician, doctor of medical sciences, dealing with nuclear medicine and thyroidology.

Zaječar is a town in Eastern Serbia, situated at the confluence of two rivers into a Big Timok river. Zaječar is famous for its nearby archaeological site Gamzigrad with late Roman imperial fortified palace Felix Romuliana, a part of Unesco's World Heritage List and is widely known for "Gitarijada", the oldest music festival of rock bands in the region of South Eastern Europe.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Da ti pukne	Stefan Gajdov
	Northern Lights	Ola Gjeilo
	Sing We and Chant it	Thomas Morely
	The Cherubic Hymn	Irina Denisova
	IV Rukovet (IV Garland)	Stevan St. Mokranjac



Lodz University of Technology Academic Choir Lodz, Poland

Magdalena Kosciuszko
conductor

Katarzyna Jaskolowska
piano

Mario Colaprico
guitar

Adrian Kubik
solo vocals

Lodz University of Technology Academic Choir was originally a male choir founded by Electrical Engineering students in 1968. Nowadays it is a four-part mixed choir made up of undergraduates and graduates of Lodz universities, mainly of the Lodz University of Technology. In the 50 years of its existence, the choir has participated in numerous festivals and choral music contests in Poland and abroad. Among countless performances, the most noteworthy ones were the participation in well-known local and foreign choir festivals like Varsovia Cantat and Canti Veris Praga, during which the choir was awarded with Golden Diplomas, or Cantonigros International Music Festival in 2016, to which being qualified is an award itself. Magdalena Kosciuszko is a graduate of the Music Academy in Lodz, with majors in Choral and Orchestral Conducting and Theory of Music. She is also a pianist and a lecturer. Since 2017, she has been employed as the Assistant Conductor of Lodz University of Technology Academic Choir.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Cantate Domino (Sing to the Lord)	Josu Elberdin
	Kyrie (Lord have mercy)	Piotr Janczak
	Rum dum dum	Dragan Shuplevski
	Bohemian Rhapsody	Mark Brymer
SACRED	Cantate Domino (Sing to the Lord)	Josu Elberdin
	Kyrie (Lord have mercy)	Piotr Janczak
POP	I see fire	Sheeran / Houte de Lange
	And So it Goes	Joel / Chilcott
	Bohemian Rhapsody	Mark Brymer



Margi Ćuprija, Serbia

Suzana Milenković
conductor

Ćuprija is a town in central Serbia. It lies on the Great Morava river and it is surrounded by medieval monuments like Ravanica monastery or Resava cave. One of the landmarks is the School for musically gifted children, one of that kind in the former Yugoslavia. In 1950s, mixed city choir was founded in Ćuprija.

The choir worked successfully and stood shoulder to shoulder with the leading choirs of former Yugoslavia. Turbulent movements during the end of the 20th century made the choral singing slowly lose its power in the entire region. In order to save the tradition the enthusiastic members decided to continue the work as a church choir. In 2017 numerous events initiated the idea to establish a cultural association which aimed to preserve choral and ethno-singing. So the choir Margi was born. They have prepared concerts and have performed on humanitarian and fundraising events. One of their biggest successes was the performance at Kolarac National University Hall.

Suzana Milenkovic was born in 1967 in Cuprija, where she finished the Elementary music school "Dusan Skovran". She was awarded as a best student in the High School of Music "Miloje Milojevic" in Kragujevac, and in 1991 she graduated from the Faculty of Music Art in Skopje. During the studies she was attending choir conducting lessons with the eminent Professor Dragan Suplevski. After she returned to Ćuprija, the love and the passion toward conducting came to life with her work at the elementary music school "Dusan Skovran" where she is a leader of a children's choir. Since 2017 she is the conductor of Margi choir.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
FOLK	Tiho noći moje zlato spava (In quiet night my honey sleeps)	Bogoljub Dimić
	Oj Moravo	Mirjana Savić
	Bojarka	Vlastimir Pavlović Carevac
	Jovano, Jovanke	Dragana Milanović



Cultural and Artistic Association Naša Lipa Tuhelj Tuhelj, Croatia

Armando Slaviček
conductor

Cultural and Artistic Association Naša lipa Tuhelj, was founded in 1998. The choir performs sacred and secular compositions, both from domestic and foreign authors and classical folk tunes, particularly from Croatian composers. They have preformed at many concerts in Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro and Bosnia. The choir was eight times representative of Krapina-Zagorje County at the State Choir Competition in Rovinj and Novigrad Istarski, where it won silver (2017). At the “Music Festival” at the concert hall “Vatroslav Lisinski” in Zagreb, the choir won two silver plaques (2016 and 2017), and Golden Plaque (2018 and 2019). “Naša lipa” is the organizer of the International choir competition “Zlatna Lipa Tuhlja”. Due to its extraordinary results, they won the plaque from the Tuhelj Municipality and the special awards for promotion of Tuhelj.

Armando Slaviček is a Geodesy Engineer and currently works as a teacher in High School in Zagreb. As a student he was a member of “Vatroslav Lisinski” choir from Zagreb. He attended the Choir School at the Vocal Academy under the mentorship of Branko Stark. He composes songs and writes lyrics, especially for children. He is a member of Croatian Composers Society. He is the founder and the president of the Cultural and Artistic Association “Naša lipa” Tuhelj.

Tuhelj is located at the foot of the Cesargrad mountain. Throughout its past, Tuhelj was a prominent historical, ecclesiastical, political and cultural centre. It is therefore not surprising that it is here that the parish church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was built, categorized as cultural monument of the highest category, far-famed for its magnificence and cultural and historical significance. Today it is a true beauty among the traditional Tuhelj houses in the mesmerizing Zagorje surroundings. The spa center Terme Tuhelj is another great attraction of the town. The spa has a thermal water and healing mud spring and is surrounded by green nature and hills.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Ecce, quomodo moritur justus	Jakob Gallus
	Salmo 150	Ernani Aguiar
	Pjesme Iz Međimurja	Vinko Žganec
	Jaz bi rad cigajnar bil	Tadeja Vulc
	Shto mi e milo	Macedonian Folk Song



PoliPop
Istanbul, Turkey

Tolga Gulen
conductor

PoliPop is Turkey’s first pop music choir. The name Poly (Polyphonic) and Pop (Popular) means “Polyphonic Popular Choir”. Tolga Gülen started the PoliPop project in 2011 as a corporate motivation product. He decided to present PoliPop within of Kadıköy Kadıköy Municipality Voluntary Counseling and Training Center. Currently there are: PoliPop Children, Kadıköy PoliPop, Lions PoliPop and Soroptimist PoliPop. There is no audition or qualification exam to sing in PoliPop. Tolga Gülen has been using his own song learning technique which he developed during the years. PoliPop is open to everyone who wants to sing. Conductor Tolga Gülen is born in Istanbul. He graduated from Marmara University Atatürk Education Faculty Music Education Department 1995 (violin). In addition to violin studies, he worked in the fields of advanced harmony, choral education and management. In July 2017, he completed his Master’s Degree. In 2004, he founded Turkey’s first popular men acapella community “Vokaliz”. He has prepared vocal arrangements and transcriptions for Vocal and Acappella Grup 34 Choir. With PoliPop, he participated in many festivals and events in Turkey and abroad and he was invited to many TV and Radio programs. Kadıköy is one of the largest and most populous municipalities on the Anatolian side of Istanbul. Kadikoy, which has been a living space for many cultures and societies throughout the history, is one of the most important figures of Istanbul culture.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
POP	Je ne veux pas travailler	Thomas M. Lauderdale
	Kutlama	Arto Tunçboyacıyan
	Nah neh nah	Klein / Schoufs
	Travelling in North Macedonia	Various Composers arr. Tolga Gulen



Schola Cantorum Bialostociensis

Białystok, Poland

Anna Olszewska
conductor

Schola Cantorum Bialostociensis is a female choir based in Białystok at Ignacy Paderewski Complex of Music Schools. It was founded in 1987 by prof. Violetta Bielecka, the conductor and musical director of the choir until 2006. Between 2006 and 2011 it was conducted by Inga Poškute. Schola Cantorum Bialostociensis has been very active from the beginning. The choir has taken part in cultural life of the city of Białystok, in Poland and abroad. In March 2012 the baton was handed to Anna Olszewska. Since then the choir has won various competitions, receiving among others Grand Prix of 29th Priest Stanislaw Ormianski International Religious Music Festival in Rumia (2017), Grand Prix of Contemporary Music Competition and the main prize – St. Peter’s Amber Halo – in Musica Sacra Competition of 54th International Choir’s Songs Festival in Miedzyzdroje (2019).

Anna Olszewska leads the Conducting Class at the Instrumental-Pedagogical Faculty of Fryderyk Chopin Music University in Białystok. She is the founder and the conductor of the Interschool Female Choir at Senior High School no. 3 in Białystok. She is also the conductor of Schola Cantorum Bialostociensis. Under her baton the choirs have received the highest awards at various competitions and music festivals both in Poland and abroad.

The choir’s participation in the competition is possible thanks to financial support from Podlaskie Voivodeship Marshal’s Office.



	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Pejsazh	Mihajlo Nikolovski
	Facta est Lux	Marcin Gumiela
	Clap your hands, all peoples!	Katarzyna Danel
	O Sapientia	Tadeja Vulc
SACRED	Pie Jesu	Marek Raczynski
	Ubi Caritas	Marcin Łukaszewski



Szent László Choir of Oradea Cathedral Oradea, Romania

Kristófi János
conductor

A choir and an orchestra were founded in Oradea following the order by the Austrian emperor, and on 10th January 1723 debuted at the opening and blessing of the Oradea Cathedral. For more than 295 years the choir sang at the Sunday Latin mass, and this tradition is continuing to these days. In 1992 the choir was named after the founder of the diocese. Michael Haydn, Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf and Kersch Ferenc are just a few of the famous conductors who have served here. In the choirs' repertoire you can find Gregorian, renaissance, baroque, classical, romantic and contemporary works. In 1993 as part of a German concert tour, they performed with great success in the Bamberg and the Passau Cathedrals. They held many concerts throughout Europe: 2014 Salzburg and Passau, 2016 Kosice etc. Kristófi János became the conductor in 2011.

János Kristófi (b. 1965) has been the organist of the Roman-Catholic Cathedral since 1987. After finishing his university studies at Liszt Ferenc Music Academy, he started his teaching career at the Partium Christian University, where he is full time professor.

Oradea, famous for its thermal springs, lies in the North-West of Romania. It was founded in the 11th c. by St. King Ladislaus I of Hungary. Destroyed in the 17th c. by wars, it was rebuilt in the 18th c. The Cathedral and the Bishop's palace are in Baroque style. In the 20th c. the Art Nouveau style flourished here.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
SACRED	Alleluia - Megszentelt nap (Alleluia - A day made holy dawns upon us)	Gregorian chant
	Exsurge Domine (O Lord, and let not man be strengthened)	Alessandro Scarlatti
	Ave verum corpus (Hail the true body)	William Byrd
	Jubilate Deo (O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands)	Orlandus Lassus



Saint Naum Chamber Choir

Miskolc, Hungary

Váraljai Réka
conductor

The choir members are admirers of Byzantine church music from Miskolc. In the town of Miskolc, in the northern part of Hungary, the people of almost all of the Byzantine cultures were present in different numbers.

Saint Naum was the patron saint of the first Orthodox chapel in Miskolc and that is why the choir was named after him. The chapel and the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church was built by Aromanian traders. Serbian, Bulgarian, Rusin, Ukrainian, Russian and Hungarian believers also were members of the church. This multicultural Eastern Christian tradition is in the foundations of this choir. The aim of the choir is to introduce the medieval Eastern Christian church music, its authentic transcription into Hungarian and its presentation at concerts. The Aromanian founders of the Orthodox Parish of Miskolc originated from the area of Lake Ohrid, including Ohrid and Moscopole (Voskopojë). That is why it is particularly important and honorable to have them at the Ohrid Choir Festival.

Among the members there are professional musicians, music teachers, cantors, and those who sing only for fun. The conductor, Réka Váraljai is a singing teacher in the Catholic High School of György Fráter in Miskolc.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Tropar Sv Kliment Ohridski	Dimche Nikoleski
	Holly God	Byzantine Chant
	Hymn Of Cassia	Old Bulgarian Chant
	Stichera - Part of Holy and Great Friday Vespers	Carpatho-Russian Chant
	Behold, the Bridegroom is coming - troparion of the Holy Week	Carpatho-Russian Chant
	Hymn of the Cherubim	Old Bulgarian Chant
SACRED	Peaceful Light	Carpatho-Russian Chant
	Lord Have Mercy	Byzantine Chant
	Polyeleos	Slavonic-Byzantine Chant
	Resurrection Troparion Tone 5	Carpatho-Russian Chant
FOLK	Kaval Sviri	Bulgarian folk song
	Hungarian folk songs	Traditional



Tobav İzmir

Izmir, Turkey

Nural Altar
conductor

The Choir was founded in 2000 under the name Izmir Sanat Choir. The members are retired and active music teachers, students and music amateurs with different professions. The choir has preformed many concerts in Turkey. Some of them were preformed with Izmir State Symphony Orchester and Bodrum Symphony Orchestra. The choir joined a concert in Bremen, Germany with the Bremen Westend Project Orchestra. In 2015 the choir was awarded with Musicality and musical dynamics award at the First Izmir Polyphonic Choirs Festival

The conductor is Mrs. Nuran Altar. She is a vocal coach and opera singer. She obtained her masters degree in Frankfurt, Germany. She worked with the Izmir State Opera and Ballet community in more than 40 productions. She has conducted female and mixed choirs in Germany and Turkey. She has been also invited as a juror at competitions.

Turkey's third largest city, Izmir is proudly liberal and deeply cultured. Garlanded around the azure-blue Bay of İzmir, it has been an important Aegean port since ancient times and its sea-front promenade is as fetching and lively as any in the world. The city is home to compelling attractions including one of Turkey's most fascinating bazaars Kemeraltı and the impressive Museum of history and art. Local lifestyle is laid-back and welcoming.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Oh arranmore	Etienne Daniel
	Occhi dolchi e soavi (Sweet and sweet eyes)	Luca Marenzio
	So pleased	Tomislav Zografski
	Al yemeni (Red headscarf)	North Cyprus - Anonymus arr. Tolga Gulen
	To lemonaki	Mikis Theodorakis
	Ederlezi (St. Georges Day)	Gypsy Anonymus
	Money, money, money	ABBA



Veszprem City Choir

Veszprem, Hungary

Agnes Erdelyi
conductor

The choir was founded in 1956 in the city of Veszprém. The first 25 years were marked by the founder and conductor, Prof. Zámbo István, who, within a few years, had led his ensemble to the top of the European choral scene. The Veszprém City Choir has also achieved remarkable successes under the conductorship of Erdélyi Ágnes, including the highest rank of the Hungarian Choirs' Qualification, and international recognition. The choir's repertoire embraces the masterpieces of the a cappella literature, but its main focus is oratorio music. Since 1967, the choir continuously has been taking part at international choral projects of Europa Cantat including six EC Festivals and not less than four International Singing Weeks, which were organised in Veszprém and has hosted the Vivace International Choir Festival. The mixed choir toured all over Europe. For the rising generation, there is a youth mixed choir, and even a folk workshop, creating a continuous possibility to be present and even to develop the cultural life of Veszprém.

Erdélyi Ágnes has been the conductor since 1989. Graduated from the Liszt Ferenc Music Academy of Budapest, she has revitalized the community choir of Veszprém. Erdélyi Ágnes is a board-member of the national Association of Hungarian Choirs and Orchestras-KÓTA and the Hungarian Kodály Society. She is a jury-member abroad, and Hungarian consultant of several international choral bodies, artistic director of the Vivace International Choir Festival, and member of the music commission of EC Festivals.

Veszprém, this wonderful Baroque university town of 60,000 inhabitants lies at the foot of the forest-covered slopes of the Bakony Hills and the sunny Lake Balaton. It is often called the City of Queens, as it was the property and coronation venue of the Hungarian queens. The noble past turned into a vivid and colorful present with high level cultural activities – and a promising future. Veszprém will be the Cultural Capital of Europe in 2023.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Remember not, Lord, our offences	Henry Purcell
	Elegia	Dragan Shuplevski
	Székelyföldi szerelmi dalok (Love songs from Transylvania)	Karai József
	Muusica (Music)	Pärt Uusberg
	Ráolvasó (Spell)	Barabás Árpád



Vor Frelzers Kantori

Copenhagen, Denmark

Lars Sømod
conductor

Vor Frelzers Kantori aims at exploring all aspects of choir music within the European classical tradition. Not discriminating between secular and sacred music, the choir has acquainted itself with the whole scope of classical choir music, from early Renaissance pieces to contemporary compositions. But as the competition program reflects, the choir takes a special interest in music from the 20th and 21st centuries. Vor Frelzers Kantori is an independent choir, but it is housed by Our Savior's Church in Copenhagen, and participates regularly in the church's services and events. The Ohrid Choir Festival is the choir's first participation in a choir competition.

Lars Sømod is considered to be one of the most distinguished Danish organists. For years, he has been a frequent organ soloist at concerts throughout Northern Europe, and as conductor of several chamber choirs, he has become an influential figure within Danish choir culture. Beside his job as an organist at Our Savior's Church and conductor of Vor Frelzers Kantori, Lars Sømod is also a productive composer. In 2018, the choir participated in the performance of Lars' Requiem.

In a country where more people are said to sing in choirs than play football, Copenhagen is in all ways representative of the Danish song tradition where singing together is thoroughly institutionalized and practiced at any kind of event – weddings, funerals, graduation parties, and in any kind of social context – from kindergartens to corporate companies.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Timor et Tremor (Fear and trembling)	Francis Poulenc
	Ave Generosa (Hail, girl of a noble house)	Ola Gjeilo
	Kumanovka 2	Trajko Prokopiev
	Fadervor (The Lord's Prayer)	Sven Erik Werner
	Och jungfrun hon går i ringen (The Maiden and the Runaway Groom)	Hugo Alfvén
SACRED	Sing Joyfully	William Byrd
	Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)	Niels la Cour
	Benedicite Domino (Praise the Lord)	Vagn Holmboe



Choir of the University of Environmental and Life Sciences in Wrocław
Wrocław, Poland

Alan Urbanek conductor
Michał Ziemak solo baritone

The Choir has been led by Prof. Alan Urbanek since November 2009. The members of the choir are mostly students of the University of Environmental and Life Sciences. The choir has developed and executed a number of interesting art projects that enjoyed the appreciation of the audience such as New Year gala concerts with the participation of the biggest stars of Polish music. The choir has been active internationally: In October 2015 and 2016 they participated in a tour through the US and Canada accompanying Piotr Rubik; In 2016 the choir took part in the opening and closing ceremonies of European Capitol of Culture Wrocław; In 2017 the choir was the only choir from Poland in the International Music Festival in Qingdao (China); In 2018 the choir won the First Price (category Sacred Music) at the International Choral Competition in Corfu.

Alan Urbanek has conducted over 1000 concerts. Since 1992 he is an independent scientific-didactic worker and since 2009 professor at the Karol Lipinski Academy of Music in Wrocław, at the Department of Composition, Conducting, Theory of Music and Music Therapy. Since 1993 he has been the director of the Gaudium Choir of the University of Wrocław, pursuing intense artistic activity. As the director of the Choir of Opera in Wrocław, he was the co-producer of many great opera premiers. He has conducted the outstanding Beethoven Academy Orchestra from Krakow. As a conductor he co-operated with many philharmonic orchestras. Alan Urbanek was honored with the Golden Award of Polish Choirs and Orchestras Association. He was also awarded with several vice-chancellor's awards at the University of Wrocław and the Karol Lipinski Academy of Music, as well as the award for outstanding conducting performance at the International Choir Festival in Moscow. He conducted concerts in foreign countries like Austria, China, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Russia, Switzerland, and the USA.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	Psalm Radosny (Joyful Psalm)	Tadeusz Szeligowski
	Pani Pana Zabita (The Lady Killed)	Romuald Twardowski
	Razbojnika Blagorazumnago	Petr Dinew
	Con El Vito (El Vito)	Manuel Massotti Littel
	Syaniem	Tomislav Zografski



Girls Choir of the Secondary Music School Živorad Grbić Valjevo, Serbia

Milica Stepanović Baba-Milkić
conductor

Tijana Stanojević
piano accompaniment

Ana Blagojević
solo vocal

The Girls Choir Živorad Grbić was founded in the year 2015. It had its first performance with the Children's church choir "Hadži Ruvim" in the Big concert hall of Valjevo's Culture Centre for New Year, and after that it performed many times in the Concert hall of the Secondary music school "Živorad Grbić".

Since its foundation, the choir competes in at least two or three competitions a year and has won eight awards, including two gold medals from "May Music Festival" in Bljeljina in 2016 and 2017. The choir was the absolute winner of its category at the Choir Festival in Valjevo in 2019, and it also won the second award at the Republic competition of music schools in Serbia in 2018. The choir's conductor since its beginnings is Milica Stepanović Baba-Milkić. Milica Stepanović Baba-Milkić was born in Belgrade in 1968. She studied music theory in the Secondary music school "Josip Slavenski", and solo singing in the Secondary music school "Mokranjac". In 1991 she graduated from the Department of Music Pedagogy at the Faculty of Music in Belgrade. During her studies she was a member of the prominent Academic choir Collegium Musicum. Since 1991 she has been working as a teacher of music theory in the Secondary music school "Živorad Grbić", and in the period between 2010 and 2015 she was the principal of the school.

	TITLE	COMPOSER
COMPETITION	O occhi, Manza mia (What Eyes, My Dear Loved One)	Orlando di Lasso
	IX rukovet (IX garland)	Stevan Stojanović Mokranjac
	Blagoslovi, duše moja, Gospoda (Bless the Lord, my soul)	Pavel Česnokov
	Tundra	Ola Gjeilo
	Poshla moma na voda (A girl goes to fetch some water)	Dragan Shuplevski

J U R Y



**Josef
Surovík**

**Denitsa
Uzunova**

**Zapro
Zapro**

**Anna
Grabowska
-Borys**

**Bülent
Halvasi**

Ohrid Choir Festival 2019 is organised by Ohrid Choir

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Katerina Vasileska	<i>SPARE TIME ACTIVITIES</i>
Tatjana Dimoska	<i>ADMINISTRATION</i>
Isidora Janeva	<i>PRESENTER</i>
	<i>SECRETARY OF THE JURY</i>
Dea Plevneš	<i>SOUND ENGINEER</i>
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