

BARTÓK BÉLA
XXVII. NEMZETKÖZI
KÓRUSVERSENY
ÉS FOLKLÓRFESTIVÁL

BÉLA BARTÓK
27th INTERNATIONAL
CHOIR COMPETITION
AND FOLKLORE FESTIVAL





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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

In addition to the Rubik's Cube and Ferenc Puskás, the third best known Hungarian name all over the world must be that of Béla Bartók. We might as well put that Bartók is a musical world-wide brand. Not only do we have to be devoted to this value, but we must also nurture it, so that the younger generations would consider their own this world conquering, however still Hungarian to its core heritage of the genius. On the occasion of Béla Bartók's 135th anniversary of birth in tribute to the world famous composer, the years 2016-2017 are officially announced the *"Year of Bartók"*. This scheme is supported with a budget of more than 1 billion Forints by the Hungarian Government; furthermore a series of programmes has been going on all over the country.



The Béla Bartók International Choir Competition and Folklore Festival in Debrecen, having been one of the highest-standard contemporary choral events worldwide for more than half a century, is of outstanding significance in this project, as well as in its commitment to unceasingly perform and popularize Bartók's pieces home and abroad. *"Every art has the right to strike its roots in the art of a previous age."* – claimed Bartók, who referred to the pure folk music as the *"phenomenon of nature"*. His chorus pieces can hardly be translated into any other foreign languages; they remain within the frames of the original Hungarian or those of the Central-European languages, thus being genuinely able to convey the feelings rooted deeply in the Hungarian mother earth. Let this conception be their common mission, the inspiration of the Bartók Choir Competition! Let us, Hungarians be bound by this familiar feeling, and let's involve in this unique milieu everybody from all quarters of the world who is enthusiastic about the Hungarian musical heritage.

I wish to all of you memorable days and a successful competition!

Dr. Péter Hoppál
State Secretary of Culture
Ministry of Human Resources

DEAR GUESTS!

Recent years have been full of anniversaries in the history of the Béla Bartók International Choir Competition. In 2011 we celebrated the 50th jubilee of the foundation of the competition, just to arrive at the 25th event the next year. This year it is Béla Bartók's 135th anniversary of birth that provides opportunity to pay tribute to. In addition there is a prominent round anniversary, as it was right 100 years ago, in 1916, when the founder of the competition, György Gulyás was born. It is his outstanding artistic initiative that the traditions of the Béla Bartók Choir Competitions have been built on ever since, whose objective was to introduce and popularize contemporary choral art.



Debrecen has been preserving its characteristic of being a city of schools for centuries; furthermore the number of cultural opportunities available in the city has been constantly increasing. It is one of our great ambitions to gain the title of the European Capital of Culture at the beginning of the next decade, in 2023. If this dream comes true, we will certainly give prominence to the musical events of high standards, especially to those hosted by Debrecen.

We wish to focus on the developments required as well, not postponing the reconstructions of the Music School and the Csokonai Theatre any more. The music-lovers will be given a well-earned present if the independent, state-of-the-art concert hall is completed, long-deserved by the musical ensembles of Debrecen.

We can still consider Zoltán Kodály's salute sent on the occasion of the newly founded choir competition our motto: Vivat, crescat, floreat! (May it live, grow and flourish!) With these thoughts of mine I wish to all of you nice experiences, lifelong friendships! Have a great time in our city!

Dr. László Papp
Mayor of Debrecen

ORGANIZERS

Founder and Honorary Life President of the Competition:

György Gulyás

President of the Competition:

Szabolcs Komolay

Artistic Committee:

Miklós Csemiczky

Csaba Kiss

Csaba Somos

Máté Szabó Sipos

Ágnes Török

Director of the Competition:

József Balogh

Logistics Director:

Edit Bódor

Logistics manager:

Tibor Korponai


Artistic manager:


Zsófia Tóth

Organizing institutions of the competition:

Főnix Event Organizing Public Benefit Status NP LTD

Kodály Philharmonia Debrecen

July 6 th Wednesday		July 7 th Thursday		July 8 th Friday	
ARRIVAL OF CHOIRS		REHEARSALS		9.30 SEMI FINALS – CHILDREN'S CHOIRS	
		CHARITY CONCERTS CITYWIDE		11.30 SEMI FINALS – YOUTH CHOIR	
		14.00 COMMON SING-ALONG, REHEARSAL OF THE UNIFIED CHOIR		13.30 SEMI FINALS – CHAMBER CHOIR	
		REHEARSALS		16.00 SEMI FINALS – (PRECEDED BY A CONCERT OF RESULTS: CHAMBER CHOIR)	
				16.00 SEMI FINALS – (PRECEDED BY A CONCERT OF RESULTS: CHAMBER CHOIR)	
REHEARSALS		REHEARSALS		17.30 SEMI FINALS – (PRECEDED BY A CONCERT OF RESULTS: CHAMBER CHOIR)	
SURPRISE CONCERTS CITYWIDE		SURPRISE CONCERTS CITYWIDE		17.30 SEMI FINALS – (PRECEDED BY A CONCERT OF RESULTS: CHAMBER CHOIR)	
		17.00 PROCESSION OF CHOIRS AND OPENING CEREMONY		FOLK IN THE PARK, GATES OF WORLD, FOOTSTEPS OF THE CONCERT OF MAJDA AND FRIENDS (IN THE INTERVIEW) ANNOUNCEMENT MIXED CHOIRS	
20.00 MEET&GREET - CHOIRS, GET-TOGETHER AND FOLK DANCE HOUSE		20.00 OPENING GALA CONCERT, PREMIERES OF PIECES COMMISSIONED BY THE CITY OF DEBRECEN		20.00	
KÖLCSEY CENTRE		KOSSUTH SQUARE, GREAT CHURCH		MÚZSEUM	

Friday	July 9 th Saturday	July 10 th Sunday
CHOIRS	9.30 FINALS – CHILDREN'S CHOIRS	9.30 IN BARTÓK'S FOOTSTEPS – OPEN LECTURES
S	11.30 FINALS – YOUTH CHOIRS	10.00 MUSICA SACRA – CHURCH CONCERTS
CHOIRS	13.30 FINALS – CHAMBER CHOIRS	14.00 COMPETITION FOR THE GRAND PRIZE
EQUAL VOICES ANNOUNCEMENT CHILDREN'S AND)	16.00 FINALS – EQUAL VOICES (PRECEDED BY ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS FOR CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CHOIRS)	16.00 COMMON SING-ALONG, REHEARSAL OF THE UNIFIED CHOIR
MIXED CHOIRS ANNOUNCEMENT EQUAL VOICES AND CHOIRS)	16.30 CHOIR CAFE – HUNGARIAN MUSIC PUBLISHERS' EXPO, MEETING OF COMPOSERS, CONDUCTORS AND CHOIR MEMBERS	
ARK RLDS – BARTÓK'S	17.30 FINALS - MIXED CHOIRS (PRECEDED BY ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS: EQUAL VOICES AND CHAMBER CHOIRS)	
ÁRIA GUESSOUS ENDS AL, ENT OF RESULTS:)	20.00 FOLK IN THE PARK BARTÓK & FOLK - CONCERT OF ST. EFRÉM MALE CHOIR AND BALÁZS SZOKOLAY DONGÓ (IN THE INTERVAL, ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS: MIXED CHOIRS)	20.00 AWARDING CEREMONY AND CLOSING CONCERT BÉLA BARTÓK : CANTATA PROFANA

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6th



Choirs, jury members and guests arrive in Debrecen – rehearsals, taster concerts

citywide (Sightseeing trains, Fórum Shopping Mall, Water Tower)

This is the day when the majority of the choirs arrive in the city and occupy their accommodation. Besides having rehearsals and getting acquainted with the city, they spare some time to popularize the competition among the inhabitants of Debrecen.

20.00 MODEM garden

Meet and Greet in the Harmony Garden – get together with fellow choir members

The choirs can also find time to get acquainted with one another in the inner garden of MODEM (Gallery of Modern Art) - called the Harmony Garden during the competition -, which will be home to friendly chats, and forging international relationships. Folk music and dance house will cheer up the atmosphere even more. You are welcome to join in the event.

THURSDAY, JULY 7th



During the day rehearsals and short taster concerts take place all over the city:

Old Town Hall garden, Fórum Shopping mall, New City Hall, Hal köz, Ady park, Pedestrian Precinct - Csapó street, Public transport vehicles, Malompark, sightseeing city trains Kálvin square, Water Tower, Békás-pond in the Great Forest

14.00 Kölcsey Centre

Common sing-along, rehearsal of the unified choir

17.00 Kossuth square, Calvinist Great Church

Opening ceremony

Procession of choirs, opening ceremony
welcoming the choirs introducing the international jury
G.P. da Palestrina: Cultor Dei
Performed by the unified choir, conductor: Péter Erdei

20.00 Kölcsey Centre

Opening Gala Concert

For the past decades Debrecen has laid priority emphasis on establishing cutting-edge artistic values. In the spirit of this idea the ensembles of the Kodály Philharmonics Debrecen give a concert performing some of the pieces commissioned for the event at the opening gala concert. The opening concert of the competition will be broadcast live on Rádió Bartók. Tickets: 1.400 HUF

Programme:

First performances of the pieces commissioned by the city of Debrecen

Péter Andorka : Puzzle (five songs for children's choir on the poems of Erika Bartos)

Performed by Lautitia Children's Choir (St. Efrem Greek Catholic Primary School, Debrecen)
conductor: József Nemes

András Gábor Virágh : O sacrum convivium (female choir)

Performed by Kodály Choir Debrecen, conductor: Máté Szabó Sipos

Árpád Solti: Last statements (mixed choir)

Performed by Kodály Choir Debrecen, conductor: Máté Szabó Sipos

Rezső Ott: Romeo's farewell (for chamber choir, after William Shakespeare)

Rezső Ott: Romeo's farewell (for chamber choir, after William Shakespeare)

Lajos Huszár: Resurrectio – Resurrection Oratorio (Op. 40)

Performed by Ágnes Rendes (Soprano), Marianna Bódi (Mezzo-soprano) , Zoltán Megyesi (Tenor), Krisztián Cser (Bass) , Antal Cseh (Bass), Kodály Choir Debrecen, Kodály Philharmonic Orchestra Debrecen, conductor: János Kovács

21.40 Kölcsey Centre, Ballroom

Welcome toasts for conductors, jury members and invited guests

FRIDAY, JULY 8th



09.30 Kölcsey Centre, Concert hall

Semi-finals

09.30 Children's Choirs

Compulsory piece: Miklós Kocsár: Cat and Dog

11.30 Youth Choirs

Compulsory piece - female choirs: Béla Bartók: Keserves

Compulsory piece - mixed youth choirs. Árpád Barabás: Májusi szellő (May breeze)

13.30 Chamber Choirs

Compulsory piece: Barna Szabó: Lachrymarius - Ye heavy states of night

16.00 Equal Voices (preceded by the announcement of results for children's and youth choirs)

Compulsory piece: Levente Gyöngyösi: Quo ibo a spiritu tuo

17.30 Mixed choirs (preceded by the announcement of results for equal voices and chamber choirs)

Compulsory piece: János Vajda: Deux chansons - L'étoile a pleure rose

20.00 Déri square

Folk in the park (preceded by the announcement of results for mixed choirs)

Gates of worlds – Bartók's footsteps

concert of Mária Guessous Majda and friends

21.00 Folk shows of the choirs

Participants can unwind from the excitement of the competition and chill out in the park of the Déri Museum, where at 20:00 a folklore festival takes place. Mária Guessous Majda and friends give a concert during which they reveal the relations between the folk treasures of the Middle - East and those of the Carpathian Basin .

After the concert guest choirs treat the spectators with a selection of the folk vocal culture of their home country.

SATURDAY, JULY 9th

During the day charity concerts in hospitals, homes for the elderly or the disabled

09.30 Kölcsey Centre, Concert Hall

Finals

09.30 Children's Choirs

Compulsory piece: Zoltán Kodály: A 150. Genfi zsoltár (The Genevan Psalm no. 150)

11.30 Youth Choirs

Compulsory piece - female choir: Péter Tóth: Stiamo, Amor

Compulsory piece - mixed youth choirs:

Márton Levente Horváth: Missa Omni Tempore - Gloria

13.30 Chamber Choirs

Compulsory piece: György Orbán: Cor mundum

16.00 Equal Voices (preceded by the announcement of results: children's and youth choirs)

Compulsory piece: Miklós Csemiczky: Ave Maria (in F)

17.30 Mixed choirs (preceded by the announcement of results for equal voices and chamber choirs)

Compulsory piece:

Tamás Bescher-Matyó: Madrigals of Passion and Wisdom - My Poor Fool

16.00 Kölcsey Centre, Árpád Bényi Hall

Choir Cafe

Hungarian music publishers' expo, meeting of composers, conductors, choir members and publishers with live choir music

20.00 Déri square

Folk in the Park (preceded by the announcement of results for mixed choirs)

Bartók & Folk – Concert: St. Efrém Male Choir and Balázs Szokolay Dongó,
conductor: Tamás Bubnó

21.00 Déri square

Folk shows of the choirs

The park in front of the Déri Museum will be filled with music again. St. Efrém male choir and Balázs Szokolay Dongó this time present the rarely performed Bartók pieces for male voices. To top it all the original folk versions of the pieces will be sung as well, involving even the audience. After the concert, it is time again for the guest choirs to showcase some of the folk music of their home country.

SUNDAY, JULY 10th



09.00 Kölcsey Centre

In Bartók's footsteps – open lectures

In cooperation with KÓTA - Committee of Hungarian Choirs, Orchestras and Folk Ensembles

The types of Bartók's pieces for male voices – a lecture by István Párkai

The motif of the bird in the lyrics of Bartók's pieces for children's and female voices – a lecture by Péter Ordasi (with the participation of the Kodály Choir Debrecen)

10.00 Kölcsey Centre

Musica Sacra - church concerts citywide

Calvinist Great Church, St. Anna Cathedral, Greek Catholic Church - Attila square, Reformed Church - Árpád square, Red Church – Kossuth Street, St. László Dominican Church, Reformed Church – Széchenyi kert, Incarnation Parish Church, Synagogue - Pásti street, Debrecen Evangelist Church

14.00 Kölcsey Centre, Concert Hall

Competition for the Grand Prize of the Béla Bartók 27th International Choir Competition

The event is broadcast live by Radio Bartók. You are kindly requested to take your seat in due time. Tickets: 1.400 HUF

20.00 Kölcsey Centre, Concert Hall

Awarding Ceremony and Closing Concert

The event is broadcast live by Radio Bartók. You are kindly requested to take your seat in due time.

Programme: Béla Bartók - Cantata Profana

Performed by Otokar Klein (tenor), István Kovács (baritone), Kodály Choir Debrecen, Kodály Philharmonic Orchestra Debrecen

Conductor: Máté Szabó Sipos

Live sand animation: Levente Sáli

Awarding ceremony

G.F. Händel: Hallelujah from the Messiah

Performed by the unified choir, conductor: Csaba Somos

Other events at Kölcsey Centre:

Choir Cafe - Hungarian publishers' expo

Browse the scores issued by the best publishers while sipping a nice coffee; get acquainted with prominent representatives of the profession

Meet composers, have scores signed

Local crafts fair, tasting local dishes

Get together with the choirs in the Harmony Garden; make like-minded international friends with some good music in the background and refreshing drinks to cool you.

Rain day venue for the outdoor events: Kölcsey Centre. Read more: www.bbcc.hu

Béla Bartók 27th International Choir Competition Master Class for Conductors

July 6th-16th Zoltán Kodály Secondary Music School (1. Vár street)
Professors: Peter Broadbent(GBR), Máté Szabó-Sipos (HUN)
Course manager: Ágnes Török (HUN)

Sightseeing train trips

July 6th 17:30 Demachi Junior High School Chorus Club Toyama (JPN)
July 7th 10:00 Ponomaryov Vesna Children's Choir (RUS)
July 7th 11:00 Eos Female Choir (ITA)

Charity concerts

July 7th 09:30 Home for the Elderly and the Visually Disabled
Demachi Junior High School Chorus Club Toyama (JPN)
July 7th 10:00 Great Forest Park
Musamari Choir School (EST)
July 10th 09:00 Péter Méliusz Juhász Calvinist Home for the Elderly
Sophia Youth Chamber Choir (UKR)

Choirs on demand - Surprise concerts citywide

July 7th 16:15 Surprise concerts in the city centre and the Great Forest
Venues: Old Town Hall garden, Fórum Shopping mall, New City Hall, Hal köz, Ady park, Pedestrian Precinct - Csapó street, Public transport vehicles, Malompark, sightseeing city trains, Debrecen Shopping Mall, Kálvin square, Water Tower, Békás-pond in the Great Forest

Musica Sacra – church concerts

July 10th

9:30	Greek Catholic Church - Attila square Ponomaryov Vesna Children's Choir (RUS)
10:00	St. Anne Cathedral Eos Female Choir (ITA)
10:00	Debrecen Evangelist Church The Chamber Choir of the University of Tartu (EST)
10:00	Calvinist Church - Széchenyi kert Ensemble Vocal (GER)
10:00	Great Calvinist Church Jasmina Choir (LAT)
10:00	Calvinist Church- Árpád square Marymount Secondary School Choir (HKG)
10:00	Red Church - Kossuth street Musamari Choir School (EST)
10:30	St.László Dominican Church Lastivka Children's Choir (UKR)
11:15	Incarnation Parish Church Parahyangan Catholic University (INA)
16.00	Synagogue, Pásti street Udiana Choir (ISR): "The Gates of Silence"

Layers – Interferences - István Horváth's jubilee exhibition

Árpád Bényi Room – Kölcsey Centre

At the beginning of his career, art photography was determining for him, although it was photography combined with the other branches of fine art that he was most interested in: photography, painting, collage, montage and the composition of these in three dimensions. Since the mid -90-ies his work has been entirely characterized by painting and plastic art. His roots can mostly be found in the prehistoric culture in accordance with which a unique elaboration of his surfaces can be traced, typical exclusively for him. His pieces of art bear marks of both handicraft as well as folk art.

The paintings and plastics on display are built on the layer of the Hungarian organic-culture which served as foundation for our great predecessors of music and art in their times – this is what the title of the exhibition refers to.

I have written it with light

Exhibition of the art photographer István Süli

Ground floor foyer - Kölcsey Centre

"I have always been interested in people, especially in the life of the rural people, their environment, and I am only satisfied, if all these appear directly or indirectly in my photos. I am keen on photographing the still existing remains of our folk architecture all through the country: the village houses, churches, cemeteries.

In Szeged once I took all my courage and went to the Photo Club. I have not left it ever since, and committed myself to photography for all and good."

István Süli, art photographer

György Gulyás's centenary of birth

Ground floor foyer - Kölcsey Centre

Exhibition from the documents of the Péter Méliusz Juhász Library, the National and University Library of the Debrecen University and the Déri Museum.

Exhibition trustee: József Balogh

The exhibitions can be visited free of charge during opening times of the Kölcsey Centre.

FRIDAY, JULY 8th, 20:00
Déri square - Open air stage



Gates of worlds – in Bartók's footsteps

Concert: Mária Guessous Majda and friends

„My central idea which – ever since I found myself as a composer – I have been completely aware of is the concept of the brotherhood of nations, becoming brothers despite all the fights and conflicts. This is the notion I strive to serve – to the best of my strength – in my music; this is the reason why I do not shake off any influence let it be of Slovakian, Rumanian, Arabic, or any other sources. Let it only be pure, fresh and healthy source.”

Béla Bartók

The composer's idea harmonizes quite naturally with that of the Hungarian-Moroccan singer, Mária Majda Guessous: the openness towards other nation's music. In our confused world it is more important than ever to get a deep insight into the traditions of one another. Revealing the common roots of folk music in which the tunes of the Hungarian, Turkish, Moroccan and Indian musical traditions are organically interwoven could be of significant help for us.

Performed by:

Mária Guessous Majda – voice

Alexandra Berta – zither

Szabolcs Tóth – sitar

Gerzson Dávid Boros - darbuka, bendir, udu, riq, Jew's harp

Folklore shows of the choirs:

21:00 Announcement of results: mixed choirs

21:03 Lastivka Children's Choir (Kiev, Ukraine)

21:15 Jasmina Choir (Riga, Latvia)

21:30 Parahyangan Catholic University Choir (Bandung, Indonesia)



SATURDAY, JULY 9th 20:00
Déri square - Open air stage



Bartók & Folk

Concert: Saint Efrém Male Choir (artistic director: Tamás Bubnó)
and Balázs Szokolay Dongó

Saint Efrém Male Choir was founded in 2002, and in recent years they have become one of the most popular vocal ensembles in Hungary. Their founder and artistic director is the Liszt-prize winner Tamás Bubnó. They started dealing with Bartók's music in 2007. During the years they have realised that all the six pieces written for male voices have beauties unparalleled, however the highest standard of vocal chamber music is required from the performers. Although Bartók's pieces for male voices stem to the core from the Hungarian tunes as well as from those of the other nations living in the Carpathian- basin, they convey a deep message addressed to everyone: it is the place of man in the world, his prayers, struggles, feelings and thoughts, fears, love, fallibility as well as power that flow, pulsate and whirl in them.

Between the Bartók pieces authentic peasant music and occasionally their "further imagined" versions can be heard, allowing the insight into the sources, musical and mental experiences which the composer had the chance to come across with during his journeys of collecting. Balázs Szokolay Dongó, one of the most skilled interpreter of folk music plays the pipe, the flute and the Turkish pipe in the programme.

Folklore shows of the choirs:

21:00 Announcement of results: mixed choirs

21:03 Udiana Choir (Tel Aviv, Israel)

21:15 Demachi Junior High School Chorus Club (Toyama, Japan)

21:30 Academic Choir Maribor (Maribor, Slovenia)

The performances of the folklore festival are free of charge.



Miklós CSEMICZKY - composer



Miklós Csemiczky studied composing at the Béla Bartók Secondary School of Music in Budapest (1973-1977) and at the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest (1977-1982) his masters being Miklós Kocsár, Rezső Sugár and Emil Petrovics.

Since 1983 he has been teaching composition at the Béla Bartók Secondary School of Music in Budapest. Meanwhile he was professor of the faculty of composing at the Teachers' Training branch of the Budapest Music Academy (1998), at the Faculty of Composing at the Music Academy (1991-92), as well as at the Béla Bartók Conservatoire of the University of Miskolc (1992-2012).

He is frequently invited to the juries of International choir and composers' competitions (Gorizia, Arezzo, Tolosa, Debrecen, Budapest). Between 2002 and 2012 he was member of the Artistic Board of the Béla Bartók International Choir Competition in Debrecen.

His composing activity was acknowledged with the Ferenc Erkel Prize (1986) and the Bartók-Pásztory Prize (1996).

Csaba KISS - conductor



Csaba Kiss was born in 1963 in Debrecen. He studied music in Hajdúböszörmény, Nyíregyháza and Budapest and started his career as a music teacher and conductor in Miskolc. With the Forrás Chamber Choir and the Female Choir of the Ilona Zrínyi Secondary School he earned noted prizes as well as was awarded the special conductor prize at several choir competitions home and abroad.

He has lived in Debrecen since 1997 where he has achieved considerable successes with his ensembles; he has won prominent prizes from dozens of competitions with the Young Female Choir of the Endre Ady Secondary School as well as the Vox Antiqua Chamber Choir. Between 2001 and 2014 he also

contributed to the CD recordings and concert tours of the Canto Armonico Singers.

He joined the Kodály Choir in 1998. Since 2006 he has also performed occasional instructing tasks, and since 2014 he has been the leading conductor of the choir. He has given lectures in Ireland and Japan and has represented the Hungarian Choir culture either as a singer or as a conductor in more than 30 countries of Europe as well as in Israel, Japan, and Mexico.

Csaba Kiss has been lecturer of the Art Faculty of the Calvinist Theological University. Since 2009 he has acted as the course manager of the International Oratory Conducting Course in the framework of the "Hungarian Choir Palace" in Pomáz. In 2013 he gained his DLA degree at the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music.

Csaba SOMOS - conductor



Vocal and instrumental music is simultaneously present in the musical career of Csaba Somos. He gained his first diploma as choral conductor at the Music Academy (his masters: Valér Jobbágy, Péter Erdei), followed by the conductor course of the same institution (his masters: Ervin Lukács, Tamás Gál).

In 2002 he founded the Lajos Vass Chamber Choir and has been their artistic director ever since, earning podium places at several international choir competitions. Their latest success in 2014 was at the „Venezia in Musica” international choir competition in Carleole/Venezia where they earned the first prize as well as the Grand Prize.

From 2000 to 2003 he was the chief conductor of the Csokonai Theatre in Debrecen, in 2004 he was appointed music director of the same theatre. Between 2004 and 2007 he was the music director of the National Theatre in Pécs, in 2009 he became the leading conductor of the Hungarian Radio Chorus. Since 2012 he has been the Chairman of the Artistic Board of Kóta (The National Committee of the Hungarian Choirs). Since 2013 he has been professor at the Music Academy as well as the conductor of its Alma Mater choir.

For more than 20 years he has acted as a guest conductor with several symphonic orchestras, professional choirs home and abroad, furthermore he has often been jury member at competitions and festivals in recent years. He was awarded the Rubányi Prize in 2002, and the Liszt Ferenc Prize in 2014.

Máté SZABÓ SIPOS - conductor



Máté Szabó Sípós was born in Budapest in 1964. He began his musical studies as a pianist. In 1985 he enrolled at the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music where he first graduated as a choral conductor and teacher of music and musicology. In 1995 he also received a summa cum laude degree in Ervin Lukács's class as a conductor. Since 1994 he has been teaching conductors-to-be at the Hungarian Academy of Music.

He also worked as the leading conductor of the Symphonic Orchestra of Eger. He has worked with a number of well-known choirs and orchestras home and abroad. Between 2000 and 2003 he was the artistic director and conductor of the Kodály Choir of Debrecen. Later he was the chorus master and conductor of the Hungarian State Opera in Budapest.

He is the founder of the Chamber Opera Festival of Eger. Currently, he is the artistic director of the Debrecen Kodály Choir and also the chorus master of the opera department of the Debrecen Csokonai Theatre.

Ágnes TÖRÖK - conductor



Ágnes Török, conductor, is associate professor of the Music Faculty of the Debrecen University. Her subjects are conducting, solfeggio, music theory, Gregorian and plainsong.

She is the founder-conductor of the Canticum Novum Chamber Choir (1989). Their name can be associated with several achievements at international choir competitions as well as numerous first performances of Hungarian contemporary composers. On the field of her study she gained an Phd at the Jyväskylä University.

From 1999 to 2006 Ágnes Török was the deputy conductor of the professional Debrecen Kodály Chorus, where she was the choirmaster of many oratorios and operas; she directed numerous a cappella concerts and first performances. In Japan she is constant invited conductor of the Toyama Prefecture.

Ágnes Török regularly undertakes the qualifications of Hungarian choirs and adjudicates at international choir competitions. She is the artistic secretary of the Conducting Masterclass of the Béla Bartók International Choir Competition.

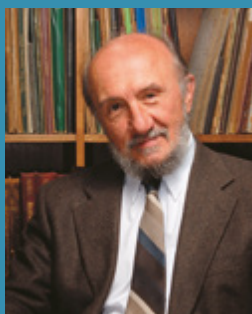


Debutition





Péter ERDEI - conductor (Hungary)



Mr. Erdei obtained his degree in choral conducting at the Ferenc Liszt Music Academy in Budapest. In 1969 he was the co-founder of the Kodály Musical Training Institute, USA. For decades he was working in Kecskemét as the director of the Zoltán Kodály Pedagogical Institute of Music. He was the professor of choral conducting, and leader of the Alma Mater Choir at the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music, Budapest until 2014. He is the founding conductor of the New Liszt Ferenc Chamber Choir, which he directed between 2010 and 2014. He is also a permanent guest professor of the Central Conservatoire of Music, Beijing, CN. Between 2002 and 2008 he was Chairman of the Artistic Board of the Béla Bartók International Choral Competition of Debrecen.

Between 1990 and 1992 he was the artistic leader of the Hungarian Radio Choir, and served as musical director of the Debrecen Kodály Choir for several years between 1983-2005. In 2000 he conducted the World Youth Choir. He has conducted master classes and regularly adjudicates at renowned festivals and competitions like Arezzo, Cambridge, Cork, Debrecen, Dublin, Hong Kong, Marktoberdorf, Oxford, Tours, Tolosa, Singapore, and Varna.

His teaching and artistic activities have been recognized by several prestigious prizes, among others the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary - the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary, the Order of Merit Chief Officer's Cross (awarded by the King of Norway).

Among the many artistic awards he holds the Liszt Prize and the Bartók - Pásztory Prize and the Honorary Doctorate of the Capital University, Columbus, Ohio, USA. In 2010 he received the "Merited Artist of Hungary" award.

Naomi FARAN - conductor (Israel)



Naomi Faran is the founder of the Moran Choirs and has been its conductor ever since 1986. She is a graduate of The Buchmann-Mehta School of Music, Tel Aviv University. Mrs. Faran is giving advanced master classes in conducting and she is a mentor and supervisor of choral conducting. She is invited to judge at prestigious competitions, and was awarded the prize of Outstanding Conductor at the First International Choir Competition in Israel. Mrs. Faran has given advanced master classes in conducting in Israel, as well as at International Symposiums in Slovenia, Denmark, Hong-Kong, China, South Korea, Italy, Spain and at the recent Europa Cantat. She is invited to perform with the best Israeli orchestras among them the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra, the Israeli Chamber Orchestra and the Rishon LeZion Symphonic Orchestra.

From 1992 to 2002 she was appointed by the Ministry of Education and Culture to head a special project to promote and develop children's and youth choirs in Israel. Her vision is expressed through successful results. Five generations of choirs aged 6-35 are educated with choral music, two of them gained recognition as professionals, internationally. The year 2002 saw the foundation of the Israeli Centre for Vocal Music, the home base of the Moran Choir, at Naomi's initiative. A special focus aims to bring the Center's activities closer to underprivileged communities. It is Naomi Faran's belief that singing is the most natural and profound human expression of all, bridging gaps between individuals, cultures and nations.

Jaakko MÄNTYJÄRVI - composer, conductor (Finland)



Jaakko Mäntyjärvi studied English and Linguistics at the University of Helsinki, graduating with an MA degree in 1991. He has also studied theory of music and choir conducting at the Sibelius Academy. Mr. Mäntyjärvi has been active as an amateur and semi-professional musician, mainly as a choral singer with a number of Finnish choirs, including the Savonlinna Opera Festival Choir, the professional Sibelius Academy Vocal Ensemble, the Tapiola Chamber Choir, the Klemetti Institute Chamber Choir and the Finnish Chamber Choir. He conducted the Savolaisen Osakunnan Laulajat student choir from 1988 to 1993 and was assistant conductor of the Tapiola Chamber Choir from 1998 to 2004.

More recently (2015), he founded Chamber Choir cc FREIA. He also teaches a course in the history of choral music at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki.

As a composer, Jaakko Mäntyjärvi describes himself as an eclectic traditionalist: eclectic in that he adopts influences from a number of styles and periods, fusing them into his own idiom; traditionalist in the sense that his musical language is based on an awareness of tradition, continuity and communicativeness. More than a hundred of his compositions have been published so far, most of which are choral pieces.

Péter ORDASI - conductor (Hungary)



Péter Ordasi studied conducting at the Teachers' Training College in Szeged, and at the Budapest Music Academy. As a teacher he gained significant experiences in primary, secondary as well as higher education. His school and amateur choirs have achieved great international successes, among others six first prizes, and two Grand Prizes.

He gained pedagogical and artistic experiences at the educational institutions of Kecskemét, Szeged, and Békéscsaba. Between 1992 and 1997 he was the director of the Bela Bartok Secondary Music School in Békéscsaba.

He has also given lectures on the same topics in the faculties of music pedagogy at the universities of Nitra (Slovakia), Cluj-Napoca (Romania), Bergen (Norway), Turku (Finland). He also taught at Conductors' Courses in Sapporo (Japan), Prešov (Slovakia), as well as at the International Conductors' Summer Seminars. Since 1991 he has regularly been invited to the jury of Hungarian qualifying concerts, and choir competitions either as a member or the head of the jury. He was member of board of the Hungarian Kodály Society between 2007 and 2012. In 2006 he gained a DLA degree at the Liszt Ferenc University of Music. Since September 2009 he has been Professor of the Music Faculty of the Debrecen University, and the leader of the Lajos Bárdos Female Choir.

Battista PRADAL - composer, conductor (Italy)



Battista Pradal graduated in composition and in piano from the Conservatoire of Venice, (with Professor Wanda Leskovic). He studied orchestral conducting at the European Academy in Vicenza where he attended master classes held by famous professors like J. Kalmar and D. Renzetti.

As a composer, his works have been performed and recorded internationally; He has won awards at many prestigious international composition competitions in Italy, France, the United States and Lithuania. Many of his works have been published by Italian and international Publishers.

He is the founder and conductor of "In Musica Gaudium", a choir and string orchestra in Oderzo – Treviso, formed by students, young musicians, and established soloists. He teaches Piano, Harmony and Composition at the Musical Foundation "Santa Cecilia" in Portogruaro - Venice and at the Music Institute "Opitergium" in Oderzo – Treviso. He is often invited to adjudicate at national and international composition and choral competitions.



Peter BROADBENT – conductor (Great Britain)



Peter Broadbent is one of Britain's leading choral conductors, known for his consistent commitment to contemporary music. In 1988, he formed the Joyful Company of Singers, which rapidly established itself as one of Europe's leading chamber choirs, winning an impressive list of National and International Competitions. Performances in the UK have included most of the major music festivals, including several "Proms" appearances, and they have given concerts throughout Europe and the USA. The JCS has recorded over 20 CDs as well as recording TV and film soundtracks and given over 30 first performances.

In the UK he has conducted the London Mozart Players, the English Chamber Orchestra, the City of London Sinfonia, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Southern Sinfonia and the BBC Singers, broadcasting frequently on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM. He works as a guest conductor throughout Europe, and gives masterclasses and adjudicates at international competitions.

He is Director of Training for the Association of British Choral Directors, having helped to instigate and design the curriculum for their conducting courses. He has recently formed a new professional choir – Ascolta – whose first CD of music by Ferenc Farkas was released in 2015 by Toccata Classics. He has been awarded the "Pro Cultura Hungarica" Medal by the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Hungary and more recently the Knight's Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit for promoting and strengthening British-Hungarian cultural relations.

Josep PRATS - conductor (Catalonia-Spain)



Josep Prats studied singing, musicology, harmony, counterpoint at Badalona and Barcelona conservatories, and conducting under Antoni Ros Marbà. He acquired choral conducting from Jordi Casas, Erwin List, Laszlo Heltay, Pierre Cao and others.

He is the chairman of the Music Committee of the Catalan Federation of Choirs (FCEC), and member of the Europa Cantat Permanent Music Committee. He teaches Choral Singing and Chamber Music in the 'Conservatori Superior de Música del Liceu' and 'Institut del Teatre'. At present he is the leader of the choirs: Coral Cantiga (Barcelona), Cor Ciutat de Tarragona (Tarragona)

and he is the director of a children's music programme called 'Cantània' produced by 'Auditori Nacional de Catalunya'. He is Guest Conductor of the Spanish Radio and Television Choir (RTVE), and frequently conducts different professional and amateur choirs as a guest.

He is regularly invited to conduct by different national and international choir festivals (Spain, France, Belgium, England, Argentina, Chile, German, Portugal, Austria, Brazil) just like at the last Europa Cantat festivals – Linz, Nevers and Barcelona. He often adjudicates at various international choir competitions (Tolosa, Riva del Garda, Maasmechelen, Des Moines, Trelew, Amiens...) and regularly delivers choral conducting courses in Spain, Portugal, France and South America. He has been music director of several courses and festivals (Cursos Internacionals de Música de Lleida, Setmana Cantant de Tarragona...), and in the near future he will conduct in Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina and Hungary.

Valéria SZEBELLÉDI - conductor (Hungary)



Valéria Szebellédi obtained her degree in music teaching and conducting from the Hungarian Academy of Music. She teaches at the Ferenc Erkel Primary Music School in Budapest. She founded the Magnificat Choir (young female choir) in 1990, as well as the Vox Celestis Mixed Choir and has been their music director ever since. Until 2006 she was a mentor teacher of the students of choir conducting attending the Academy of Music..

As founder and conductress of the Magnificat Choir she has achieved several category first prizes and eight Grand Prizes: 1997- Interkultur Budapest, 2000 - Bartók Béla Choir Competition

(Debrecen), 2007 – Interkultur Budapest, 2009 - A. Bruckner Choir Competition (Linz), 2009 – Zoltán Kodály Hungarian Choir Competition (Budapest), 2011 – Interkultur Budapest, 2014 – Béla Bartók Choir Competition (Debrecen), 2001 Grand Prix of the European Choirs and was Champion of Choir Olympics in two categories in 2004.

As a guest conductress or lecturer, Valéria Szebellédi has worked several times with foreign choirs. She has been invited to Japan five times as lecturer-in-residence by the local Kodály Association to teach solfeggio, choir conducting, delivered seminars and conducted concerts. She has adjudicated several times at international competitions in Tokyo, Budapest, and Debrecen. Ms. Szebellédi is member of the KOTA (Association of Hungarian Choirs) Board of Arts. She was awarded the following prizes and medals: Artisjus Prize (2003, 2009, 2010), Ferenc Liszt Prize (2006), and the Merit of the Hungarian Cross (2014).

Marius TABACU - pianist, artistic manager (Romania)



Marius Tabacu was raised in the multi-cultural city of Timișoara. He graduated from the Music Academy of Cluj. As a pianist, he has played in the most significant concert halls of Romania. Between 1976 and 1990 he was a teacher at the music school of Cluj. After the revolution, he worked for three years as a journalist for the Cluj Radio and TV. In 1993 he founded the Video Pontes production studio. As a director he realized more than 30 documentaries, reports and TV programmes. Simultaneously he translated literature, philosophical and sociological works from Hungarian into Romanian. At present he is the manager of the "Transilvania" Philharmonic of Cluj - Napoca. Acknowledging his work he was awarded the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary – Knight's Cross in 2007.

Péter TÓTH - composer (Hungary)



Péter Tóth was born in Budapest, Hungary. He attended the Béla Bartók Secondary Music School where he studied percussion under Oszkár Schwarz and composing under Miklós Kocsár at the same time. In 1985 he was accepted to the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music, to the class of Emil Petrovics. He graduated in 1990. In the 1990's he frequently composed scores for performances of theatres in the country and the capital city. In addition he was working for several years as a part time teacher at the University of Theatre and Film. Currently, he is the dean of the Faculty of Music at the University of Szeged. Several of his choir pieces have earned prizes at national and international competitions. Mr. Tóth was the founder of the first Hungarian classical music website, called Café Mumus. He was awarded the Erkel-prize in 2007, the KÓTA-prize in 2009 and the Bartók-Pásztory Ditta Prize in 2013. He is regular member of the Hungarian Academy of Arts.

CATEGORIES



Children's choirs

Children's Choir Lastivka (UKR)
 Children's Choir of Musamari Choral School (EST)
 Demachi Junior High School Chorus (JPN)
 Lautitia Children's Choir (HUN)
 Ponomaryov Vesna Children's Choir (RUS)

Youth choirs

Female Marymount Secondary School Choir Hong Kong (CHN)
 Mixed choirs Lautitia Youth Choir (HUN)
 Zoltán Kodály Mixed Youth Choir (HUN)

Equal voices

Female choirs Bartók Béla Female Choir
 of the University of Miskolc (HUN)
 Eos Female Choir (ITA)

Chamber choirs

Kórus Spontánusz (HUN)
 Parahyangan Catholic University Choir (INA)
 Udiana Choir (ISR)
 Youth Chamber Choir „Sophia” (UKR)

Mixed choirs

Academic Choir Maribor (SLO)
 Chamber Choir of the University of Tartu (EST)
 Ensemble vocal (GER)
 Jasmina Choir (LAT)
 Kórus Spontánusz (HUN)
 Parahyangan Catholic University Choir (INA)

COUNTRIES



China, Hong Kong

Marymount Secondary School Choir Hong Kong

Estonia

Chamber Choir of the University of Tartu
Children's Choir of Musamari Choral School

Germany

Ensemble vocal

Hungary

Béla Bartók Female Choir of the University of Miskolc
Kórus Spontánusz
Lautitia Children's Choir and Youth Choir
Zoltán Kodály Mixed Youth Choir

Indonesia

Parahyangan Catholic University Choir

Israel

Udiana Kórus

Italy

Eos Female Choir

Japan

Demachi Junior High School

Latvia

Jasmina Choir

Russia

Ponomaryov Vesna Children's Choir

Slovenia

Academic Choir Maribor

Ukraine

Children's Choir Lastivka
Youth Chamber Choir „Sophia”



ACADEMIC CHOIR MARIBOR (Maribor, Slovenia)

conductor: Tadeja Vulc

APZ Maribor is a choir of University of Maribor students from different faculties. Music connects them into a constant cycle of artistic creation and builds strong bonds of friendship, love for music and youth culture.

In 2015 they proved that Slovene singing is at an enviable level as they competed at the International Competition Gallus Maribor achieving 4th place in the Grand Prix and 3rd place in the Grand Prix in Gorizia, at the International Competition Seghizzi. Besides competing they organize concerts and projects and use every opportunity to sing and bring the joy of music to people around them.

Tadeja Vulc is a renowned composer and conductress. She has already gained several awards; her compositions (choral works for adult, youth and children choirs, didactic works for children, instrumental, vocal-instrumental, chamber, orchestral works and many arrangements) are regularly performed in Slovenia and abroad.

Since 2012/13 she has been a very successful artistic director of the APZ Maribor. Together they won many awards and a special prize for the promising debutante conductress at the national competition Nasa pesem in 2014. She was also awarded with a Gallus Sculpture of the Public Fund of Republic of Slovenia for Cultural Activities.

Competition programme:

Semi-finals

Josep Vila: Salve Regina

Tadeja Vulc: Fortuna

Finals

Eric Whitacre: Lux Aurumque

Alejandro Yagüe Llorente: Pater Pauperum

Folke Rabe: Rondes



BÉLA BARTÓK FEMALE CHOIR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISKOLC (Miskolc, Hungary) conductor: Zoltán Sándor

The Female Choir of the Bartók Béla Music Institute of the Miskolc University was founded in 1987 as the practice choir of the institution. It is an active participant of the music life of the city. Several radio recordings and performances, concerts, and festivals in Hungary and abroad prove its significant presence. Its a cappella repertoire reaches from the Renaissance to the 21st century and it is often involved in performing oratorios. The choir master is Zoltán Sándor the director of the Institute.

The Choir first took part in an international competition in Fivizzano, Italy, in 2001, where it was awarded first prize both in the categories of female choirs and church music. In 2002 the choir was awarded first prize in the category of unison choirs at the Béla Bartók XX. International Choir Competition in Debrecen. Since then it has been awarded a great number of prizes at various choir competitions in Europe.

Competition programme:

Semi-finals

Piotr Janczak: De profundis clamavi

Vic Nees: Tollite portas

André Ducret: Arc en Ciel

Finals

Javier Busto: Salve Regina

Antonio Iafigliola: Ave Maria

Levente Gyöngyösi: Vihar (Storm)



CHAMBER CHOIR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TARTU

(Tartu, Estonia)

conductor: Triin Koch

The Chamber Choir of the University of Tartu was founded in 1971 and since that time more than a half a thousand of singers, mostly students and alumni of the University of Tartu, have sung in the choir. Our choir has initiated numerous fascinating choir concerts, have been active co-thinkers and co-speakers in the field of the Estonian choral music, and have always joyfully participated at the Estonian song celebrations.

The Chamber Choir of the University of Tartu is an energetic student choir and a concert choir. In our repertoire there is a special place for classic Estonian choral composers (especially Mart Saar, Cyrillus Kreek, Veljo Tormis and Arvo Pärt). In 2013 and in 2015 our choir was awarded the 2nd price in the A-level category at a prestigious local choral competition for the mixed choirs, „Tuljak”. The choir earned the 3rd price at the 14th International Choir Festival “Tallinn 2015”.

Competition programme:

Semi-finals

Tõnu Kõrvits: Minu hing, oh ole rõõmus (Kreegi vihik)

Veljo Tormis: Jaani hobu (Jaani laulud)

Michael Berkeley: Jubilate Deo (Eight Motets)

Petr Eben: De circuitu aeterno (Verba sapientiae)

Finals

Tõnu Kõrvits: Brother Fire (Canticle of the Sun)

Veljo Tormis: Tuul kõnnumaa kohal (Sügismaastikud)

Knut Nystedt: Thus saith the Lord (Three Motets)

Andres Lemba: Miserere



CHILDREN'S CHOIR LASTIVKA (Kyiv, Ukraine)

conductor: Oksana Ursatii

In spring 2005, the Children and Youth Creativity House in the Holosiivski district of Kyiv founded the children's choir „Lastivka” („Swallow”). The choir was created and works under the leadership of Oksana Ursatii, and works by a principle of a choral studio. The young choristers study the art of choral singing and academic singing, solfeggio, to play the piano as out-of-school activities.

The team consists of three choirs:

Preparatory Choir „Lastiviatko”- children of 4-5 years

Junior Choir „Lastivka” – children of 6-10 years

Elder (Concert) Choir „Lastivka” – children of 10-18 years.

The choir was the winner of national and international competitions, among many the VI. International Pavlovskyy Choral Festival named after Mykhail Glinka (St. Petersburg, Russia), III place and the 36th International Children's Choir Festival „George Frederick Handel” (Halle, Germany), 1st place.

In 2014, choir published its first audio disc featuring Benjamin Britten's choral compositions (Missa Brevis, and Ceremony of Carols).

Competition programme:

Semi-finals

Mark Karminsky: The hotter day

Anna Cederberg-Orreteg: Dona nobis pacem

Iryna Aleksiychuk: Along spring (Oh, Spring, Spring)

Finals

Lorenz Maierhofer: The Light of the Future



CHILDREN'S CHOIR OF MUSAMARI CHORAL SCHOOL

(Tallinn, Estonia)

conductor: Tiina Mee

Children's Choir of Musamari Choral School was founded in 2006 and consists of girls aged 9 to 16. The singers participating at the Bela Bartok International Choir Competition in Debrecen are the younger members of the choir, age 9-14.

The choir has taken part in several music projects, Song Celebrations, festivals and competitions in Estonia and abroad. They have worked together with Estonian top musicians, singers, composers, including seven concert projects in cooperation with Estonian Youth Symphony Orchestra.

The choir's conductor is Tiina Mee who graduated from Estonian Academy of Music as music teacher and choral conductor. The choreographer of the choir is Piret Hinrikus.

With her choirs, Tiina Mee has won different awards in different prestigious festivals and competitions in Estonia and abroad. Among many in Bergen, Graz, Malcezone, Olomouc, Vienna and in Tolosa.

Competition programme:

Semi-finals

Veljo Tormis: Etüüdid helilaadides

Javier Busto: Gizon on bat...

Priit Pajusaa: Tii

Finals

Carlo Tommasi: Agnus Dei

Mari Amor: Unemetsades

Liis Viira: Ei ole mina su raadio

Veljo Tormis: Kiigel kartlik



DEMACHI JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS CLUB (Tonami, Japan)

conductor: Mami Takami

The hometown of the choir is the city of Tonami which is located in Toyama prefecture. The Demachi Junior High School Chorus Club was founded in April 2013 and is new among school clubs. Currently it consists of 16 female students from the first and second grades. By participating in local events and competitions, they are constantly working hard to polish their skills. The club practices every day for an hour after regular classes end. Incorporating various voice training exercises, its members aim to be able to sing confidently on an individual level. In particular, they practice songs unaccompanied by instruments, enjoying the limitless power of expression of the human voice, with appreciation for harmony and melody lines. The Chorus Club aspires to create beautiful music, while being thankful to and respecting their fellow chorus members, their teachers and their family.

Competition programme:

Semi-finals

Otmar Mácha: Hoj, hura hoj!

Javier Busto: Laudate Dominum

Ko Matsushita: Alma Redemptoris Mater (Antiphona Beatae Mariae Virginis)

Ko Matsushita: Ebesuke Don Don (Children's Songs of Ki-no-Kuni)

Finals

Miklós Kocsár: Sanctus - Benedictus (Missa in A)

Yujiro Fukushima: Songs call in Gods (Nantou Uta-asobi)



ENSEMBLE VOCAL (Hamburg, Germany)

conductor: Cornelius Trantow

Ensemble vocal, a mixed chamber choir from Hamburg, Germany was founded in 1994 and has specialized in contemporary a cappella music, although occasional symphonic projects further broaden their repertoire, e. g. a widely appreciated performance of Bach's b-minor-mass in celebration of their 20th anniversary in 2014. Under their conductor Cornelius Trantow, professor for choral conducting at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg (Hamburg music college), Ensemble vocal has become one of Germany's leading chamber choirs. The group has performed in over 200 concerts in Germany and abroad, giving several first performances. The choir's many national and international awards include a 1st prize and top placement in the mixed chamber choirs category at the German choir competition in Kiel 2006, a 2nd prize, another top placement and two special awards for the best competition programme and the best conducting of a compulsory work at the International Chamber Choir Competition Marktoberdorf 2007, as well as a 2nd prize and a special award for the best choral work at the Fleischmann International Trophy competition in Cork 2012.

Competition programme:

Semi-finals

Michael Ostrzyga: Deus in adjutorium

Wolfram Buchenberg: Da pacem sabbati!

Finals

Mikko Heiniö: Luceat

Jake Runestad: Alleluia



EOS FEMALE CHOIR (Rome, Italy)

conductor: Fabrizio Barchi

Eos Female Choir emerged from Primavera children's choir in 1995 thanks to Fabrizio Barchi and Mario Madonna. Eos choir had its debut at the Città di Rieti Choral Competition (2000) and since 2002 has achieved prestigious awards at several choral competitions – also in the circle of the European Grand Prix for Choral Singing. In July 2015 the choir won the 1st prize for Female Voices at the "VI International Polyphonic Competition of Sacred Music" in Rome, being thus invited to the Grand Prize Competition. Their repertory includes music from Medieval Age to folk music, with special emphasis on the study of contemporary music. The choir has published two CDs edited by Errefe Musica and is currently recording a new one.

Competition programme:

Semi-finals

Maurice Duruflé: Tota Pulchra Es

Knut Nystedt: Hosanna

Alessandro Bonanno: Regina Coeli

Finals

Miklós Kocsár: Gloria

Fabrizio Barchi: Laudate Dominum



JASMINA CHOIR (Riga, Latvia)
conductors: Agita Ikauniece, Jānis Strupcāns

Jasmina Choir (Jasmīnas koris) is a newcomer to the scene of Latvian choir music, was established September 2014 in Riga. The idea of this musical family belongs to Ms. Agita Ikauniece, an experienced Chief Conductor of the General Latvian Song Festival; a creative, enthusiastic and dedicated personality and an ardent patriot of her native region, Sēlija which is famous for its ancient singing tradition.

The mission of the "Jasmina Choir" is to strengthen the ethnical identity in modern choir music. The lively and stubborn mentality of the ancient people of Sēlija are present in every interpretation of the musical pieces performed by the choir.

Despite its short biography, the choir has managed to perform at several high-quality concerts in Latvia and were awarded a diploma of the highest degree at a Latvian nationwide competition in 2015, thus entering the elite of the six best mixed choirs in their country.

"Jasmina Choir" actively promotes the development of the choir music movement in Latvia, taking part and carrying out various projects. For example, currently 15 non-academic composers are creating pieces especially for "Jasmina Choir". These pieces will be performed in numerous concerts in Latvia, as well as released in CD/DVD format in 2016.

Competition programme:

Semi-finals

Ēriks Ešenvalds: A Drop in the Ocean

André van der Merwe: Nader My God By U

Finals

Ēriks Ešenvalds: Only in Sleep

Juris Ābols: Karawane



KÓRUS SPONTÁNUSZ (Sopron, Hungary) conductor: Zoltán Kocsis-Holper

Kórus Spontánusz was formed in December 2001 to sing Christmas carols for the passersby. The artistic leader of the choir has been Zoltán Kocsis-Holper ever since.

In the near fifteen years that have passed the choir has grown to be a significant factor in the music scene of Sopron. Our traditional Muzsika+Szó (The Word+Music) concerts enjoy great popularity in town, where our conductor's light-hearted commentaries help the audience enjoy music.

We are proud of having achieved 2nd and 5th places at the 5th World Choir Games of Graz in 2008 with a gold and a silver diploma. In 2014 we entered the Games again, and we managed to return from Riga with a gold and a silver diploma once again.

We find the collaboration of artistic groups important, since it is this joint effort that enables us to shape the music scene and the diversity of our community. We have had the chance to cooperate with such great ensembles as the world-renowned Capella Savaria chamber orchestra, the Sopron Gospel or the Csik Zenekar and to work under the guidance of such conductors as the Liszt-prize winner Gábor Hollerung or the Grammy Award winner Vance George from the USA.

The conductor, Zoltán Kocsis-Holper won 2nd prize and the audience award at the 8th International Competition for Young Choral Conductors in Torino in 2015.

Competition programme - Chamber Choirs:

Semi-finals

William Hawley: Vita de la mia Vita (Six madrigals)

Tamás Daróci Bárdos: Madáretető (Bird feeder)

Pietro Ferrario: O sacrum convivium

Finals

Vytautas Miskinis: Cantate Domino

Ola Gjeilo: Ubi caritas

Miklós Pászti: Csángó-magyar szerelmi dalok
(Csángó- Hungarian love songs)

Competition programme - Mixed choirs:

Semi-finals

Miklós Csemiczky: Pater noster

Ola Gjeilo: Unicornis captivatur

Finals

György Orbán: Ave Maria in D

Jake Runestad: Alleluia

Miklós Kocsár: Hegyet hágék



LAUTITIA CHILDREN'S CHOIR (Debrecen, Hungary)

conductor: József Nemes

Lautitia Children's Choir was founded in 1959 (as the Choir of the Júlia Bánai Primary School) by Mrs. Katalin Kiss Weiser. Since 2006 the ensemble has been directed by József Nemes, who was a former choir member too. Over the past 55 years, the choir participated at numerous festivals, and achieved prestigious prizes at several national and international choir competitions. They are regularly involved in the performances of the Kodály Philharmonic and the Csokonai Theatre; furthermore they also fulfill the requests of the Greek Catholic Church and the City of Debrecen. Out of their achievements of recent years, the most remarkable ones are their European and World Champion's title, as well as the Prima Prizes awarded by the KÓTA. Their most important feature, however, is the fact, that the Lautitia Choir family has become a community, the members of which like and respect one another, and the chance to create collectively means a constant, new challenge for all of them.

Competition programme:

Semi-finals

Béla Bartók: Bolyongás (Wandering)

Péter Tóth: Kobold a polcon (Mesedoboz)- Pixie on the Shelf (Tale Box)

József Karai: Sárközi karikázó (Dance song)

Finals

Eugen Meier: Weischus dü?

Péter Tóth: Gurul a gurula (Mesedoboz) Rolling (Tale Box)

Matti Hyökki: On suuri sun rantas

Levente Gyöngyösi: Vihar (Storm)



LAUTITIA YOUTH CHOIR (Debrecen, Hungary)

conductor: József Nemes

Lautitia mixed youth choir was formed in 2008 on the initiative of the students leaving their primary school. Throughout the years they have participated at numerous festivals and competitions. Their European Champion's title and the Grand Prizes achieved at the Zoltán Kodály National Choir Competition as well as at the Arezzo International Choir Competition outshine from their successes. 2015 saw the beginning of a process in which the oldest members of the choir continued their chorus work in the Lautitia Chamber Choir due to the increase in the number of the choir members. The generation between 14 and 19 remained in the Lautitia Mixed Choir. They have been working separately since January 2016. All of them have taken with themselves their enthusiasm and respect towards artistic work from their former children's choir, thus the choir strives to remain true to the values associated with the name „Lautitia”. All their productions are interwoven with their primary motivation: the joy of singing.

Competition programme:

Semi-finals

Péter Tóth: Flames

Pierre Villette: Notre Pere d'Aix

Guy Lafarge: Les boîtes a musique

Finals

Ola Gjeilo: Ubi caritas

György Orbán György: A Paprikajancsi szerenádja (The clown's serenade)

Péter Tóth: Elindultam szép hazámból (I've left my beloved homeland)



MARYMOUNT SECONDARY SCHOOL CHOIR HONG KONG

(Hong Kong, China)

conductor: Jane Lau

The Marymount Secondary School Choir is a well-established Hong Kong female voice choir conducted by Miss Jane Lau, with a total of 150 choristers aged 12 to 17, categorized into the Junior, Intermediate and Senior section. Being in a school that puts music in high regard, we have joined myriads of competitions and performed on numerous occasions to polish our musicality. In 2012, our most prominent choristers were chosen to participate at the 9th Cantemus Festival in Hungary. They received the Gold Award as recognition to their performance, as well as the Best Kodaly Performance Award. In 2014, they took part in 'The Singing World', an international Choral Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia. They were extremely honoured to have taken the First Place in both the Children's as well as the Modern Music category, and a total of four special jury prizes, including The Best Performance of a Russian Composer's Work, Best Performance of Contemporary Music. In 2015, the choir won the title of "World Youth Choral Artist". Every year, the choir actively participates at the Annual Hong Kong Schools Music Festival. The choir have received many positive reviews and prestigious awards throughout the years. In 2014, they even participated at the highly acclaimed local concert "Ode to Joy", where they performed Beethoven's Symphony No.9. Marymount Secondary School organizes international music study tours every other summer, providing students with the opportunity of receiving professional musical training and enjoying music to the full.

Competition programme:

Semi-finals

Levente Gyöngyösi: Laudate Dominum

David Ho-yi Chan: Gods on the Magpie Bridge

(World Premiere, Commissioned by Marymount Secondary School Choir for Béla Bartók International Choir Competition with sponsorship from CASH Music Fund)

Finals

Tamás Beischer-Matyó: A Virágok Vetélkedése (Competition of Flowers)

(First Performance, commissioned for the Béla Bartók Choir Competition)

Ganlin: Ancient Paintings on the Rocks in Guangxi



PARAHYANGAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY CHOIR

(Bandung, Indonesia)

karnagy: Ivan Yohan

Parahyangan Catholic University Choir was initiated in 1962 by A.P. Sugiarto, originally for the purpose of campus protocol. Through various achievements and national as well as international activities, Parahyangan Catholic University Choir (Unpar Choir) has gained a reputation as one of the leading choirs in Indonesia. The choir has acclaimed many international prizes since 1995 under the direction of Avip Priatna as conductor and music director. The current conductor and music director of Unpar Choir for this competition is Ivan Yohan.

Their first international achievement was in the Netherlands when they earned the 1st prize in the category of mixed choirs at the „Nederlands International Koor Festival 1995” in Arnhem. They have been awarded several prizes at other well known international competitions such as „XLV Concorso Polifonico Guido d'Arezzo 1997” in Arezzo - Italy, the „1st Choir Olympics 2000” in Linz - Austria, „Internazionaler Kammerchor Wettbewerb Marktoberdorf 2003” in Marktoberdorf - Germany and the „45th International Competition of Choral Singing 2008” in An der Drau Spittal - Austria, and received the 3rd prize in the Free-Expression category at the „40eme Florilège Vocal de Tours 2011” in Tours - France.

Competition programme - Chamber Choirs:

Semi-finals

Ivan Yohan: Après un rêve
Morten Lauridsen: Ov'è, Lass', Il Bel Viso?
(Six Fire Songs)
Jung-sun Park: Kyrie (O Lord, Our Lord)

Finals

William Hawley: O Magnum Mysterium
Vytautas Barkauskas Jr.: Stabat Mater

Competition programme - Mixed Choirs:

Semi-finals

Ivan Yohan: Dies Irae
Ken Steven: Angele Dei
Knut Nystedt: Veni

Finals

Pēteris Vasks: Māte saule
Ben Hanlon: O Frondens Virga
Ken Steven: Fecit Potentiam



PONOMARYOV VESNA CHILDREN'S CHOIR (Moscow, Russia)

conductor: Nadezhda Averina

Ponomaryov VESNA Children's Choir is the senior choir of the Ponomaryov VESNA Children's Choir School (Moscow, Russia). In 2015 it celebrated its 50th anniversary. Aleksander S. Ponomaryov (1938 – 2012), Distinguished Artist of Russia and the laureate of international competitions, was the principal of the school and the artistic director of Vesna Choir for almost 50 years. Since 2012 the choir has been conducted by Nadezhda Averina. Vesna children's choir is well-known in Russia and abroad.

The choir has been awarded the most prestigious prizes at international competitions in Spain, Italy, France, Canada, Bulgaria, Hungary and Belgium. In 2000 the choir won the European Grand Prix for Choral Singing award. The latest Vesna achievements are the wins at the international choir contests in Belgium and Germany in 2014. Vesna has performed its concert programs in 12 countries of Europe, Canada, Japan and China, as well as in about 50 cities and towns of Russia. The Choir has sung in the best concert halls in Moscow with many famous orchestras and conductors.

The Choir's repertoire is wide and varied. During these years it has sung hundreds of pieces of classical music of different eras, countries, styles and genres. The choir's programmes have been recorded by record companies and by both the radio and the television.

Competition programme:

Semi-finals

Efrem Podgaits: To the enfant

Vladimir Rubin: To get the alphabet books

Manolo da Rold: Laudate Dominum

Finals

Iosif Kechakmadze: Georgian song

Jorge Gijon Sanchez: The fly

Efrem Podgaits: Dithyramb



UDIANA CHOIR (Israel, Tel Aviv)

conductor: Anat Aharoni

The Kolot Hasadeh choir was formed in 2004 and is conducted by Anat Aharoni. Their repertoire consists of classical music of different periods, with emphasis on compositions from the 20th and 21st centuries in multiple languages. They perform mostly a capella pieces.

The choir has performed on the best stages in Israel, and has won high praise from the audience. Conductors and musicians remark how this choir brings something unique to the choir culture in Israel.

The choir has been supported by a government fund since 2012.

The Kolot Hasadeh choir builds its programmes around a specific theme, investigating it from many angles. In recent years the themes have been „Prayer“, „Song to the Earth“, „Peace“, and „Water“.

The choir is currently working on a new programme: „Silence“, including compositions written by Morten Lauridsen, Pēteris Vasks, and Arvo Pärt, and songs written especially for the choir.

Competition programme:

Semi-finals

Vic Nees: Songs of Sado Isle (Eight Japanese Folk-Songs)

Pēteris Vasks: Madrigals

Pēteris Vasks: 4 Silent Songs (Nr. 1)

Anat Aharoni: Usheavtem Maim Besason

Finals

Pēteris Vasks: 4 Silent Songs (Nr. 3)

Eyal Batt: Yedid Shaket Shel Merhakim

Eitan Steinberg: Adam-ma



YOUTH CHAMBER CHOIR „SOPHIA” (Kyiv, Ukraine)

conductor: Alexey Shamritsky

Kiev Youth Chamber Choir “Sophia” was founded in 2008. Ensemble “Sophia” sang motets and madrigals of composers of the Renaissance.

Since the end 2010, the team management has been carried out by Alexey Shamritsky. In September 2011 the choir “Sophia” recorded its premiere CD “Liturgy”, which includes well-known works of Russian composers.

Since 2012 choir “Sophia” has been a permanent participant of many festivals, such as “KievMusikFest”, “Season Premiere” and others.

In May 2014 the choir “Sophia” was the winner of the First prize at the XXXIII. International Festival of Church Music “Hajnowka-2014”.

In April 2015 the choir “Sophia” toured Veimar and Erfurt (Germany).

Competition programme:

Semi-finals

Semi-finals:

Morten Lauridsen: O Magnum Mysterium

Lesya Dychko: Dumka

Finals

Eric Whitacre: Water Night

Vytautas Miskinis: O salutaris hostia

Rene Clausen: All That Hath Life & Breath Praise Ye the Lord!



ZOLTÁN KODÁLY MIXED YOUTH CHOIR (Hungary, Debrecen)

conductor: Mónika Végh

The Zoltan Kodaly Secondary School of Music celebrated its 150th anniversary last year. The choir of the school was founded in the second half of the 1950s by György Gulyas. The choir has been led by Monika Vegh since 2004. Its members come exclusively from the school's students. The choir has participated at several national and international festivals and competitions recently. It also works as the training choir of the Music Faculty of University of Debrecen. The repertoire of the choir ranges from renaissance to contemporary music and they often perform oratorical pieces.

Major awards, events from previous years:

2011 Budapest International Choir Competition mixed youth choir category: gold diploma;

2012 Bela Bartok 25th International Choir Competition: winner of the youth choir category;

2013 International Youth Festival, Bratislava: Category of contemporary music: gold diploma category of youth mixed choirs: winner of the category, gold diploma

2014 International Choir Competition - Warsaw: 1st prize in the category of Youth Choirs.

Competition programme:

Semi-finals

Romuald Twardowski: *Virginum Custos*

Lajos Huszár: *Két madrigál (I-II. tétel)* (Two madrigals)

György Orbán: *Daemon irrepit callidus*

Finals

Javier Busto: *Ametsetan*

György Orbán: *Lanthúr ha szól*

Jaakko Mäntyjärvi: *Double, double toil and trouble* (Four Shakespeare Songs)

1. Composition of the juries

1.1 Performances at the competition shall be evaluated and adjudicated by international juries of 5 members each, one of whom is the President. Performances for the Grand Prize will be evaluated by a full jury including all jury members headed by a member of the Artistic Board.

1.2. The composition of the juries will be determined by the Artistic Board. Each jury shall have a secretary.

1.3. Members of the international jury shall carry out their work in accordance with the Competition Announcement. In disputable cases, the standpoint taken by the Artistic Board shall be followed.

2. The work of the jury and the rules of scoring points

2.1 At the first meeting of the jury, the Director of the Competition will present the rules of the competition as defined in the Competition Announcement.

2.2 In the work of evaluation/adjudication, the following issues shall be considered by the juries:

- a) fidelity to the score
- b) the richness of choral articulation
- c) artistic achievement

In the process of the adjudication, the points scored for performing the compulsory works and those scored for performing the optional pieces shall constitute 50-50% of the total score. Each member of the jury will award 1-10 points for the compulsory works as well as for the chosen optional works. The points awarded for the optional pieces shall be calculated as the average of the points awarded for the individual pieces. Thus, maximum 20 points may be received from each one of the individual jury members, which may total a maximum of 100 points altogether. The members of the jury shall be allowed to use only one decimal number (Thus 8.5 points may be awarded but 8.75 points may not). The members of the jury shall award their respective scores immediately after the performance of the piece and shall write it on the scoring sheet.

2.3 Choirs exceeding the given time limit shall be penalized by deducting one point for every overtime minute from their total score. Exactly the same applies to those choirs whose programmes are shorter than the minimum limit.

2.4 Scoring and awarding the prizes:

The choirs may qualify to the finals on the basis of their points scored in the semi-finals. The minimum score for qualifying to the finals shall be 70 points. However, the points scored in the semi-finals are not public and shall not be forwarded into the finals.

Awarding the prizes shall be administered on the basis of the points scored in the finals.

1st prizes may not be awarded below 85 points

2nd prizes may not be awarded below 80 points

3rd prizes may not be awarded below 75 points

No prize shall be shared. In an exceptional case if the difference between the final scores of two choirs is less than one (1) point, the jury may propose to award two prizes of equal value (ex aequo). The final decision on awarding such prizes shall be made by the Director of the Competition.

At the end of the competition, the presidents of the juries shall inform the choir directors concerning the artistic achievement of their choir.

3. Competition for the Grand Prize

Choirs may enter the competition for the Grand Prize as specified in the competition announcement. This contest will be held if a minimum of three choirs have been entered. The evaluation procedure will follow the same basic principles as identified for the other competition categories.

The Jury shall decide about the Grand Prize in conclave through secret ballot by clear majority. If the competition for the Grand Prize takes place, the Grand Prize must and will be awarded.

4. Special Prizes

The special prizes will be awarded on the recommendation of the Presidents of the juries on the basis of the opinions of the jury members. The final decisions shall be made by the Artistic Board.

5. All the decisions of the juries are final and irrevocable.

The amount of the prize: 2.000 €

The conductor of the Grand Prize-winning choir will be awarded 500 € and will get invited into the jury of the Béla Bartók 28th International Choir Competition in 2018.

The competition for the Grand Prize is open for choirs winning the first place in their own categories. In case the winner of the given category does not wish to enter the competition or no first prize has been awarded, the choir taking the second place may compete for the Grand Prize. If a choir wins first prizes in several categories, it still may enter the competition for the Grand Prize in only one category. In such case it will represent the category in the competition for the Grand Prize in which it has received a higher score of points.

When applying for the competition, choirs have to indicate if they wish to enter the contest for the Grand Prize, provided they meet the necessary requirements. Official entries for the Grand Prize need to be submitted during the course of the competition, following the announcement of the results (the official announcement of a victory in the given category) in the individual categories. The competition for the Grand Prize will be held only if a minimum of three choirs have been entered.

The order of appearance in the competition for the Grand Prize shall be the following:

- Children's Choir
- Youth Choir
- Equal voices
- Chamber Choir
- Mixed Choir

In the competition for the Grand Prize, only works composed in the 20th and 21st centuries may be performed. The quality and the level of difficulty of the performed pieces must reflect the spirit and quality of the Béla Bartók International Choir Competition. It is especially desirable to choose pieces written by composers from the turn of the millennium.

Choral works with musical accompaniment may also be performed in the programme for the Grand Prize but with no more than maximum five instrumental participants. Only one piece or movement the choir has performed in the general competition may be repeated here. The maximum time limit of the repeated program is 8 minutes. The conductors of eligible choirs wishing to enter the contest for the Grand Prize must receive an approval of their programme from the Artistic Committee. Music scores of the programme shall be submitted in 11 copies.

The net time limit („pure singing time”) for the programme is minimum 12 and maximum 15 minutes.

The winner of the Grand Prize will be invited to the Competition for the „European Grand Prix for Choral Singing” held in every year alternately in Arezzo, Debrecen, Maribor, Tolosa, Tours and Varna. This competition is organized for the Grand Prize winners of the six respective choir contests to compete for the European Grand Prix. The Grand Prize winner of the Béla Bartók 26th International Choir Competition will be invited to the competition for the „European Grand Prix for Choral Music” (EGP) 2017.



Children's choirs, youth choirs

- 1. prize - 1.200 €
- 2. prize - 1.000 €
- 3. prize - 800 €

Equal voices, chamber choirs

- 1. prize - 1.400 €
- 2. prize - 1.200 €
- 3. prize - 1.000 €

Mixed choirs

- 1. prize - 1.600 €
- 2. prize - 1.400 €
- 3. prize - 1.200 €

Special prizes:

A special prize for the best interpretation of a contemporary piece may be awarded to one choir for the high-quality and authentic rendering of a piece written after 1 January 2011 as part of their optional programme.

Special priz(es) for best conductor(s)

The jury may also award prizes offered by cultural or musical institutions and various sponsors:

György Gulyás Centenarial Conductor Prize results in 300.000 HUF which is offered by Mrs. Éva Gulyás-Mánya. The prize is for the conductor whose interpretation of contemporary pieces is outstanding and especially expressive of choral sounding.

Special prize of Editio Musica Music Publishing Ltd. for the outstanding interpretation of a Hungarian piece.

In memoriam Szesztay Zsolt – special prize to a Hungarian conductor for the outstanding interpretation of a piece composed after 2000.

Special prize of Kontrapunkt Music Publishing Ltd. for a talented young conductor.

Besides competition prizes, the jury shall award certificate to the prize-winning choirs. All choirs participating in the competition shall receive memorial certificates.

Lajos HUSZÁR: Resurrection Oratorio (Resurrectio Domini nostri Jesu Christi)

*„When I completed *The Passion* (2003-2004), and after its premiere, two of my colleagues – László Attila Almásy- organist and István Kassai – pianist –inspired me to keep on writing Jesus Christ's story, and compose the Resurrection Oratorio too. Years had passed when I finally ceased resisting the thought, and I started to note the musical material of the piece in September 2014. I had previously assembled the libretto on the basis of the gospels, using some psalms from the Old Testament, as well as parts of the book of the prophet Isaiah. At the beginning I was contemplating composing a seven-part oratorio, later, however – taking into consideration the time limit of the performance in Debrecen-, I decided on the three-part structure leaving out several previously planned scenes (the High Priests' intrigue, the Miraculous Catch of Fish etc.)*

The three parts are the following:

- 1. The Crucifixion, the women at the tomb*
- 2. The Resurrected Jesus appears to the women and the disciples*
- 3. Supreme authority is conferred upon Peter, the Ascension of Jesus*

The style of the Resurrection Oratorio is mainly tonal, with some atonal elements appearing in it here and there. In accordance with my previous intentions, I aim to achieve synthesis between the two musical structures this time too. The piece is made homogeneous by two reoccurring elements: one of them is chromatic – the crucifixion, symbolizing suffering, the other is diatonic (in Lydian mode) - the resurrection, expressing joy.

Almost half a century have passed since I started reading the gospels, the psalms, the books of the Prophets and the texts of the LiberUsualis and have been passionate about them ever since. It is a kind of deep truth, purity, power and poetic nature that radiate from them.

This poetry, however, differs from that created by poets or writers: it is ecstatic, saint poetry, which suffered many times, rose to cultic heights during thousand years, became collective. To deal with it and draw inspiration from it means returning to the roots of our European culture, and to our ancient desire for transcendence”

Lajos Huszár

First Part: the crucifixion, the women at the Tomb

1. Choir, Soprano solo, Alto Solo: For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried. (Creed)
2. Evangelist: When it was evening, a rich man from Arimathea arrived, his name was Joseph, and he also was a disciple of Jesus. He went into the presence of Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate gave orders for the body to be given to Joseph. So Joseph took it, wrapped it in a new linen sheet, and placed it in his own tomb, which he had just recently dug out of solid rock. Then he rolled a large stone across the entrance to the tomb, and went away. (Matth.27/57-60)
3. Choir: You place me in the lowest regions of the Pit, in the dark places, in the watery depths. (Ps. 88/7)
4. Evangelist: Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there, facing the tomb.
5. Soprano solo, alto solo, choir: He was treated harshly and afflicted, but he did not even open his mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughtering block, like a sheep silent before her shearers, he did not even open his mouth

Second Part: Jesus appears to the Women and to the Disciples

6. Angel: You must not be afraid, I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, he has been raised, just as he said. Come here and see the place where he was lying. (Matth.28/5,6)
7. Choir: So they left the tomb in a hurry, afraid and yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said: (Matth.28/8,9)
8. Jesus: Peace be with you. (Matth.28/9)
9. Evangelist: They came up to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. (Matth.28/9)
10. Choir: The Lord has raised from the dead, halleluia! (Versus alleluatici)
11. Evangelist: Jesus said to them: (Matth.28/10)
12. Jesus: Peace be with you. You must not be afraid. (John 20/19)
13. Evangelist: After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. (John 20/20)
14. Choir: This is the day which the Lord has made, let us be glad and rejoice in it. (Antiphon)
15. Jesus: Receive the Holy Spirit! If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven: if you do not forgive them, they are nor forgiven. (John 20/22,23)
16. Choir: Receive the Holy Spirit! The Spirit of truth will remain with you for ever. (John 20/22)

Third part: the Assignment of the Chiefdom to Peter, the Ascension of Jesus

17. Evangelist: After this, Jesus appeared once more to his disciples at Lake Tiberias. Simon Peter, Thomas – called the Twin – and other disciples were all together. (John 21/1,2)

18. Alto solo, Evangelist, Jesus, Peter

Alto solo: After they have eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter:

Jesus: Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these others do?

Alto solo: He answered:

Peter: Yes Lord, you know that I love you.

Jesus: Take care of my lambs.

Alto solo: A second time Jesus said to him:

Jesus: Simon, son of John, do you love me?

Alto solo: He answered:

Peter: Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.

Jesus: Take care of my sheep.

Alto solo: A third time Jesus said:

Jesus: Simon, son of John, do you love me?

Evangelist: Peter became sad because Jesus asked him the third time: do you love me? and he said to him:

Peter: Lord, you know everything, you know that I love you!

Jesus: Take care of my sheep.

Alto solo, Peter: Lord, you know that I love you. (John 21/15-17)

19. Choir: For water will flow in the desert, streams in the wilderness, the dry soil will become a pool of water, the parched ground springs of water. (Is.35/6,7)

20. Jesus: I am telling you the truth: when you were young, you used to get ready and go anywhere you wanted to: but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands and someone will tie you up and take you where you don't want to go.

Evangelist: In saying this, Jesus was indicating the way in which Peter would die and bring glory to God. Then Jesus said to him:

Jesus: Follow me! (John 21/18,19)

21. Choir: For, look, darkness covers the earth, and deep darkness covers the nations, but the Lord shines on you and his splendor appears over you. (Is.60/2)

22. Soprano solo: Then he raised his hands and blessed them. Then he was taken up to heaven as they watched him, and a cloud hid him from their sight. (Luke 24/50, Acts 1/9)

23. Choir: Christ, rising again from the dead, dies no more. Death shall no more have dominion over him. (Communio)

Shout for joy, o sky, rejoice, o earth, let the mountains give a joyful shout. Halleluia! (Is.49/13)

Béla Bartók 28th International Choir Competition and Folklore Festival

Debrecen, Hungary, 5-8th July, 2018.

The Municipality of Debrecen announces to host the Béla Bartók 28th International Choir Competition and Folklore Festival between 5-8th July, 2018.

The aims and purposes of the competition:

- to present contemporary choral music in an intelligible and convincing way
- to popularise high-level collective singing
- to promote the meeting of the composers and choral musicians of different nationalities, and to strengthen the relationship between contemporary music and the general public

Both amateur and professional choirs may participate in the competition.

Choirs may enter the competition in the following categories, with the number of members and age-limits indicated below:

CATEGORIES	AGE LIMIT	NUMBER OF MEMBERS
CHILDREN'S CHOIRS	Maximum age limit: 15 years* (born after 5 July 2003)	max. 50 singers
YOUTH CHOIRS	Maximum age limit: 21 years* (born after 5 July 1997)	Equal voices of youth choirs min. 25, max. 50 singers Youth mixed choirs min. 25, max. 50 singers
EQUAL VOICES (female and male choirs)	Minimum age limit: 18 years for female choirs (born before 5 July 2000)	min. 25, max. 40 singers
CHAMBER CHOIRS	---	max. 24 singers
MIXED CHOIRS	---	min. 30, max. 50 singers

*10 percent of the number of singers in a choir may be 1 year older at the most

Only a cappella works may be presented at the event which consists of two rounds: semi-final and final. In both rounds and each category a choir composition of a Hungarian composer is announced as compulsory work.

Besides the compulsory pieces, a programme of optional works must also be presented. All pieces of the optional programme - both in the semi-final and the final - should include only contemporary choral works composed after 26th of September 1945 (Bartók's date of death).

An international jury of great experience decides about the valuable prizes. Choirs winning the first place in their categories may enter the Competition for the Grand Prize.

The Grand Prize winner of the Competition is invited to the upcoming "European Grand Prix" (EGP) event established by Arezzo, Debrecen, Gorizia, Maribor, Tolosa, Tours and Varna and is organised at annually changing locations.



The organizer of the Béla Bartók International Choir Competition and Folklore Festival on the authority of the Municipality of Debrecen is the Főnix Event Organizer Non-profit Ltd.
(Hunyadi str. 1-3, 4026 Debrecen, Hungary)
tel.: +36 52/ 518-400
e-mail: info@fonixinfo.hu

Editors: József Balogh, Tibor Korponai, Franciska Papp, Zsolt Szabó
Graphics design, page-setting: Attila Nagy
Printing: Center-Print Nyomda Kft.
Editor in Chief: Edit Bódor managing director

We reserve the right to change the programme.



