

BÉLA BARTÓK
28th INTERNATIONAL
CHOIR COMPETITION
AND FOLKLORE FESTIVAL
July 5th – 8th 2018
Debrecen



FESTIVAL GUIDE



CONTENTS

Greetings	3
Programme overview	6
Detailed programme	8
Accompanying events	12
Artistic Panel	14
Jury	16
Categories and choirs	22
Participating choirs and countries	23
Choirs and competition programmes	24
Jury regulations	42
Grand Prix	44
Awards by categories, special awards	45
Composers	46
Guides and librettos	47
Resident ensembles of the competition	50
Competition announcement 2020	51

DEAR FRIENDS AND GUESTS,

Throughout its history, a seemingly contradictory dichotomy has been characteristic of the city of Debrecen. On the one hand, Debrecen has always adhered to its own traditions, on the other hand, it has also endeavoured to be in the vanguard of social and artistic progress and the mentality of the people of Debrecen has always carried the feature of openness to new ideas. The inhabitants of this town hold the view that it is this contrast that provides its special atmosphere. The centuries old roots of its spiritual life originate in the Reformed Calvinist College, where eminent figures of Hungarian science and literature worked either as teachers or were students of this school. It having been a church institution, it is natural that the practice of "harmonic singing", which was initiated and enthusiastically disseminated in Hungary by Professor György Maróthi, has always been present within its walls. Choir singing in Debrecen began at about the same time (early 18th century), which laid the foundations of musical life and the network of musical institutions in Debrecen.



It was exactly 150 years ago that our city had first organized a national choir festival in the autumn of 1868. This event demonstrated the idea of national unity through the powerful influence of common singing. According to contemporary press reports "Debrecen has risen to national fame and occupied a significant place in the history of Hungarian art." The Béla Bartók International Choir Competition, which started in 1961, is a late successor of that festival of songs, and has focused on choral music of the recent past and present for the last 57 years. Since it was launched, the competition has achieved international prestige and is listed as one of the most prominent events in the professional world of choirs. It has maintained its vitality due to the high artistic standards and to the fact that both the organizers and the participating ensembles believe in the overwhelming power of choral singing. We, the citizens of Debrecen, are proud of this noble tradition, which must be preserved and held up to the public. We strongly hope that we gain the title of the Capital of European Culture in 2023, as a result of which Debrecen and its cultural festivals, the Béla Bartók Choir Competition among them, will receive particular attention.

It is my pleasure to welcome you in Debrecen. I wish memorable days and a successful competition!

Szabolcs Komolay
Vice-Mayor of city of Debrecen,
President of the Béla Bartók International Choir Competition



THE EUROPEAN GRAND PRIX FOR CHORAL SINGING

Inaugurated in 1989, the European Grand Prix for Choral Singing (EGP) is considered to be the “competition of competitions” of all the choral events in the world. The GPE is organized by the organizing committees of the six biggest choral competitions in Europe, namely, Arezzo (Italy), Debrecen (Hungary), Maribor (Slovenia), Tolosa (Spain, Basque Country), Tours (France), and Varna (Bulgaria), every year. The hosting of each annual GPE competition is rotated among the six member cities.

There is no direct application for the entry to this competition. The grand prize winners of each contest are automatically eligible to compete at the GPE. The Grand Prize winner of the Béla Bartók 28th International Choir Competition will be invited to the European Grand Prix competition to be held in Arezzo in 2019.

For further information visit: www.egpchoral.com



ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Founder and Honorary Life President of the Competition:

György Gulyás

President of the Competition:

Szabolcs Komolay

Artistic Panel:

Miklós Csemiczky

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 Institution:

Főnix Event Organizing NP Ltd.

BÉLA BARTÓK 28th INTERNATIONAL CHOIR COMPETITION AND FOLKLORE FESTIVAL - PROGRAMME CHART

July 4 th Wednesday		July 5 th Thursday		July 6 th Friday		July 7 th Saturday		July 8 th Sunday	
<div>ARRIVAL OF CHOIRS</div> <div>  </div> <div>FLASH MOBS IN DEBRECEN</div> <div> <div>20.00</div> <div>MEET CHORAL FRIENDS FROM ALL AROUND THE GLOBE IN THE HARMONY GARDEN</div> </div>		<div>REHEARSALS</div> <div>TASTER CONCERTS, FLASH MOBS</div> <div> <div>14.00</div> <div>JOINT SINGING, REHEARSAL OF UNIFIED PIECES</div> </div> <div>REHEARSALS</div> <div>FLASH MOBS IN THE CITY</div> <div> <div>17.00</div> <div>OPENING PARADE AND CEREMONY</div> </div> <div> <div>20.00</div> <div>OPENING GALA CONCERT</div> </div>		<div> <div>9.30</div> <div>SEMI FINAL - CHILDREN'S CHOIRS</div> </div> <div> <div>11.00</div> <div>SEMI FINAL – YOUTH CHOIRS</div> </div> <div> <div>13.00</div> <div>SEMI FINAL – EQUAL VOICES</div> </div> <div> <div>15.00</div> <div>SEMI FINAL – VOCAL ENSEMBLES, CHAMBER CHOIRS (ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS FOR CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CHOIRS, EQUAL VOICES)</div> </div> <div> <div>17.00</div> <div>SEMI FINAL – MIXED CHOIRS</div> </div> <div> <div>19.00</div> <div>FOLKLORE FESTIVAL (ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS FOR VOCAL ENSEMBLES, CHAMBER CHOIRS AND MIXED CHOIRS)</div> </div>		<div> <div>9.30</div> <div>FINALS – CHILDREN'S CHOIRS</div> </div> <div> <div>11.00</div> <div>FINALS – YOUTH CHOIRS</div> </div> <div> <div>13.00</div> <div>FINALS – EQUAL VOICES</div> </div> <div> <div>15.00</div> <div>FINALS – VOCAL ENSEMBLES, CHAMBER CHOIRS (ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS FOR CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CHOIRS, EQUAL VOICES)</div> </div> <div> <div>17.00</div> <div>FINALS – MIXED CHOIRS</div> </div> <div> <div>20.00</div> <div>FOLKLORE FESTIVAL (ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS FOR VOCAL ENSEMBLES, CHAMBER CHOIRS AND MIXED CHOIRS)</div> </div>		<div> <div>9.30</div> <div>MUSICA SACRA - CHURCH CONCERTS</div> </div> <div> <div>14.00</div> <div>COMPETITION FOR THE GRAND PRIZE</div> </div> <div>  </div> <div> <div>20.00</div> <div>AWARDING CEREMONY AND CLOSING CONCERT</div> </div>	
KÖLCSEY CENTRE		KOSSUTH SQUARE, GREAT CHURCH		MUSIC SCHOOL OF DEBRECEN		DÉRI SQUARE, OPEN AIR STAGE			

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4TH

Choirs, jury members and guests arrive in Debrecen – rehearsals, taster concerts citywide, sightseeing train tours (“Ady” park, pedestrian zone in Csapó and Piac street, Debrecen Plaza, public transport vehicles, FORUM Debrecen, Hal passage, balcony of Hotel Aranybika, Kálvin square, “Békás” pond in the Great Forest, New City Hall)

20.00 MODEM GARDEN

MEET AND GREET IN THE HARMONY GARDEN – GET TOGETHER WITH FELLOW CHOIR MEMBERS AND LEARN HUNGARIAN FOLK DANCES

The choirs can also find time to get acquainted in the inner garden of MODEM (Centre for Modern Art), to be called 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 5TH

During the day rehearsals and short taster concerts take place all over the city (“Ady” Park, pedestrian zone in Csapó and Piac street, balcony of the Csokonai Theatre, Debrecen Plaza, public transport vehicles, FORUM Debrecen, Hal passage, balcony of Hotel Aranybika, Kálvin square, “Békás” pond in the Great Forest, New City Hall)

14.00 KÖLCSEY CENTRE

COMMON SING-ALONG, A REHEARSAL OF THE WORKS TO BE PERFORMED BY THE UNIFIED CHOIR

17.00 KOSSUTH SQUARE, CALVINIST GREAT CHURCH

OPENING CEREMONY

17.00 Procession of the choirs

17.15 Árpád Barabás: Fanfare, Toccata and Fugue for a Theme by Zoltán Kodály (to be performed by organist Dániel Sárosi)

17.18 Greetings, introducing the international jury

17.25 Presentation of memorial certificates to the Honorary Ambassadors of the competition

17.30 Common singing G.P. Palestrina: Cultor Dei (to be performed by the unified choir, conductor: Máté Szabó Sipos)

20.00 KÖLCSEY CENTRE

OPENING GALA CONCERT

For the past decades Debrecen has laid great emphasis on creating cutting-edge artistic values. In the spirit of this idea, prominent contemporary Hungarian composers are regularly commissioned to write new pieces for the Béla Bartók International Choir Competition. Over the past decades, nearly all the outstanding figures of Hungarian musical composition have been asked to contribute. The majority of a cappella and oratorical works composed on this initiative have been incorporated in the repertoire of Hungarian and international choirs. As the event will be broadcast live by the mr3 Bartók Radio station, you are kindly requested to take your seats in time.
Admission: 2500 HUF

20.00 Addresses of welcome

20.10 First performances of the pieces commissioned by the City of Debrecen (46)

Ákos Zarándy: *From the Merry Songs of Darkness* (for childrens' choir on poems by Attila Jász), to be performed by Lautitia Children's Choir (Saint Ephrem Greek Catholic Primary School, Debrecen), conductor: József Nemes

Timea Dragony: *Sonnet CIX* (for female choir, based on Shakespeare), to be performed by the Kodály Choir Debrecen, conductor: Máté Szabó Sipos
Balázs D. Kecskés: *Hallelujah* (for mixed voices), to be performed by the Kodály Choir Debrecen, conductor: Máté Szabó Sipos

Judit Varga: *A Wreath* (for chamber choir, on a poem by George Herbert), to be performed by the Kodály Choir Debrecen, conductor: Máté Szabó Sipos

Zoltán Kovács: *Missa Pannonica (47-48)*

Soloists: Klára Kolonits (soprano), Marianna Bódi (mezzo soprano), Boldizsár László (tenor), István Kovács (bass), Kodály Choir Debrecen (artistic leader: Máté Szabó Sipos), Kodály Philharmonic Orchestra Debrecen (artistic leader: Dániel Somogyi-Tóth), conductor: Zsolt Hamar

CCA 21.30 KÖLCSEY CENTRE, BALLROOM

WELCOME TOASTS FOR CONDUCTORS, JURY MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS

FRIDAY, JULY 6TH

9.30 KÖLCSEY CENTRE CONCERT HALL

SEMI-FINALS

09.30 Childrens' Choirs

Compulsory piece: Ilona Meskó: Jinger Ring – I. Splish-splash, III. Days
Children Choir Perezvony (37) / Lautitia Childrens' Choir (31) / Shanghai Youth Choir (39)

11.00 Youth Choirs

Compulsory piece for girls' choirs: Béla Bartók: Canon
Vörösmarty Girls' Choir (41) / Cantilon Chamber Choir (28)

13.00 Equal Voice

Compulsory piece: Miklós Kocsár: Salve Regina
Cantemus (27) / Female Choir of Miskolc University (33)

15.00 Vocal ensembles, chamber choirs

(to be preceded by the announcement of the winners and runners-up of the following categories: childrens' choirs, youth choirs, equal voice choirs)
Compulsory pieces: György Orbán: Salve Regina
Rezső Ott: Vivat, crescat, floreat!
University of Houston Concert Chorale (29) / Chamber Choir “Petersburg’s serenades (40) / Amici Cantates (24) / Riverside City Chamber Singers (38) / Imusicapella (30)

17.00 Mixed Choirs

Riverside City Chamber Singers (38) / Ankara Polyphonic Choir (25) / Art Sonus (26) / New Dublin Voices (35) / University of Houston Concert Chorale (29) / Chamber Choir MIREA (34) / Onatiko Ganbara (36) / University Choir Lille MUKO (32)

Entrance to all competition concerts is free.

Please avoid disturbing the concerts. You can enter or leave the concert hall immediately before the beginning of category programmes or in the interval between performances.

19.00 OPEN-AIR THEATRE IN DÉRI SQUARE

BÉLA BARTÓK FOLKLORE FESTIVAL AND DEBRECEN GINGERBREAD DAYS

- 16.00-22.00** Decoration of gingerbread cakes, learning different forms of craftsmanship, making "Debrecen honey plate", craft fair
- 16.00** Toddlers' concert – to be given by Trio Harmony
- 17.00** Combat – show of the Ládaia Puppet Theatre
- 18.00** Chit-chat
programme for children to be given by Kiváncsi Katica and her Tale Music Band
- 19.00** Folk shows of the choirs:
- 19.00** Perezvony Childrens' Choir
 - 19.15** Shanghai Youth Choir
 - 19.30** Cantilon Chamber Choir
 - 19.45** Cantemus
 - 20.00** Female Choir of the Béla Bartók Institute of Music, University of Miskolc
 - 20.15** Imusicapella
- 20.30** Announcement of results: vocal ensembles, chamber choirs, mixed choirs
- 20.35** Gala concert of the Debrecen participants of the folklore competition "Peacock" organized by the Hungarian Television and the Hungarian Heritage House
In the 2017 season of the Peacock folk competition two ensembles from Debrecen were particularly successful. The "Pendely" Vocal Ensemble of the Zoltán Kodály Musical Primary and Secondary School came in first in their category, whereas the Hajdú Folk Dance Ensemble was awarded a special prize. Both groups are committed to Bartók and Kodály's spiritual heritage. During the gala concert the audience will hear music from the Hajdú area as well as folk songs from historical Northern Hungary. The event will be hosted by Dr. Gergely Agócs, ethnographer and folk musician, artistic leader of the Peacock competition.
Ingyenes rendezvény. Esőhelyszín: Kölcsey Központ

SATURDAY, JULY 7TH

KÖLCSEY CENTRE

FINALS

- 9.30** Childrens' Choirs
Compulsory piece: Péter Andorka: Kirakós ('Jigsaw Puzzle')
IV. Szomorkodó ('Grief-stricken'), V. Cipőfűző ('Shoelaces')
- 11.00** Youth Choirs
Compulsory piece: Zoltán Kodály: Fancy dal ('Fancy Song')
- 13.00** Equal Voices
Compulsory piece: Miklós Csemiczky: Four Sacred Songs – III. Caeli Deus Sanctissime
- 15.00** Vocal Ensembles, Chamber Choirs (to be preceded by the announcement of results for the childrens' choirs, youth choirs and equal voices)
Compulsory piece: Barna Szabó: Lachrymarium – IV. Me, Me and None but Me
János Vajda: Psalm 117
- 17.00** Mixed Choirs
Compulsory piece: Levente Gyöngyösi: O magnum mysterium

Admission to all the events of the competition is free.
Please avoid disturbing the concerts. You can enter or leave the concert hall immediately before the beginning of category programmes or between two performances (cca. every 18-20 minutes).

OPEN-AIR THEATRE IN DÉRI SQUARE

BÉLA BARTÓK FOLKLORE FESTIVAL AND DEBRECEN GINGERBREAD DAYS

- 16.00-22.00** Decoration of gingerbread cakes, learning different forms of craftsmanship, decorating of "gingerbread hearts", craft fair
- 16.00** Rozka's tales – by Rozka Sörös
- 17.00** Hungarian folk tales – by the group "Kuckó Művészanya"
- 18.00** Summer night cricket music – programme for children by the "Sokszínűvirág" ensemble
- 19.00** Folk music programme by the "Cívis Banda" group
- 20.00** Choirs' Folk Show (results for vocal ensembles, chamber choirs and mixed choirs to be announced during the programme)
- 20.00** Riverside City College Chamber Singers
 - 20.15** Ankara Polyphonic Choir
 - 20.30** Art Sonus
 - 20.45** The University of Houston Concert Chorale
 - 21.00** Oñatiko Ganbara Abesbatza Chamber Choir
 - 21.15** Lille MUKO University Choir
- 21.30** Folk dance event

Admission free. Venue in case of bad weather: Déri Museum

HORTOBÁGY

During the programme traditional Hungarian dinner will be served (for participating choirs)

- 18.30** Driving the herd of horses
- 19.00** Concert of the "Csík" ensemble
- 21.00** Parno Graszt concert – authentic gypsy music
(results for mixed choirs will be announced during the programme)

Tickets for the Hortobágyi Lovasnapok (horse-riding days) are valid for these events.

SUNDAY, JULY 8TH

10.00 MUSICA SACRA – CONCERTS IN CHURCHES OF DEBRECEN, CHARITY CONCERTS

14.00 KÖLCSEY CENTRE, CONCERT HALL

COMPETITION FOR THE GRAND PRIX

OF THE BÉLA BARTÓK 28TH INTERNATIONAL CHOIR COMPETITION

The event will be broadcast live by Radio Bartók. You are kindly requested to take your seats in time.

Admission: 2,500 HUF

20.00 KÖLCSEY CENTRE, CONCERT HALL

AWARDS CEREMONY AND CLOSING CONCERT

- 20.00** Franz Liszt: Saint Cecilia's Legend (49)
Soloist: Gabriella Balga (mezzo soprano); Kodály Choir Debrecen,
Kodály Philharmonic Orchestra Debrecen; conductor: Dániel Somogyi-Tóth
- 20.20** Awards Ceremony
- CCA. 21.10** Hallelujah from G. F. Händel's Oratorio "Messiah"
To be performed by all the participating choirs; Kodály Philharmonic Orchestra
Debrecen; conductor: Dániel Somogyi-Tóth

SHEET MUSIC CLUB – HUNGARIAN MUSIC PUBLISHING HOUSES PRESENTING THEIR PUBLICATIONS

Browse the scores issued by the best publishers while enjoying an excellent coffee in the ground floor lobby of the Kölcsey Centre!

JULY 4TH – 13TH ZOLTÁN KODÁLY SECONDARY MUSIC SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL BÉLA BARTÓK CHORAL CONDUCTING COURSE

Tutors: Mikael Wedar (SWE), Máté Szabó Sipos (HUN)

The International Béla Bartók Choral Conducting Course was launched to satisfy choir leaders' increasing and continuous interest in the interpretation and performance of 20th – 21st century choral works.

What can be regarded as a special and exceptional advantage of the course is that both the topics treated and its timing are adjusted to the Béla Bartók International Choir Competition. The tutors are members of the jury as well as conductors of international fame. What also makes the course a unique opportunity is that the professional Kodály Choir Debrecen will serve as a practising choir. Applicants can attend either as active or as passive participants. At the end of the course, the active students will conduct the works which they have studied theoretically and in practice. Students will receive a bilingual certificate of attendance to be issued by the Musical Faculty of Debrecen University.

EXHIBITIONS

Kölcsey Centre, Árpád Bényi Hall

Selective exhibition of works from the 90-year-old Hortobágy Colony of Artists

Kölcsey Centre, ground-floor lobby

36th Hungarian Press Photo Exhibition

The exhibition, organized by the National Association of Hungarian Journalists, is a festive occasion for Hungarian photographers and photojournalism. This year it is for the 36th time that the best and most important moments of the previous year have been displayed in order to reveal more of the world surrounding us. All the photos on the walls were taken in 2017 and were award-winning ones in their categories (news or reports, series of commentaries on events, etc.)

Admission to the exhibitions is free during the opening hours of the Kölcsey Centre from 9 am to 7 pm.



Miklós CSEMICZKY – composer (Hungary)



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 taught composition at the Béla Bartók Secondary School of Music in Budapest. He has also held teaching posts at the Teacher Training branch of the Liszt Academy of Music, (1998), as well as at the Liszt Academy of Music (1991-92). From 1999 to 2012 he worked for the Béla Bartók Musical Institute of Miskolc University (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 Panel of the Béla Bartók International Choir Competition in Debrecen. His achievement as composer has been acknowledged with the Ferenc Erkel Prize (1986) and the Bartók-Pásztory Prize (1996).

Csaba SOMOS – conductor (Hungary)



Vocal and instrumental music is simultaneously present in the musical career of Csaba Somos.

He took his first degree as choral conductor at the Academy of Music (his masters were Valér Jobbágy and Péter Erdei), followed by the conductor course of the same institution under the auspices of Ervin Lukács and Tamás Gál.

In 2002 he founded the Lajos Vass Chamber Choir and has been their artistic director ever since. 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, and between 2009 and 2013 he was leading conductor of the Hungarian Radio Chorus. Since 2012 he has served as Chairman of the Artistic Board of Kóta (The National Committee of the Hungarian Choirs). Since 2013 he has been professor at the Academy of Music as well as conductor of its Alma Mater choir. Since 2016 he has been chief conductor of the Hungarian National Choir. For more than 20 years he has acted as a guest conductor with several symphonic orchestras, professional choirs at home and abroad, and has often been jury member at competitions and festivals in recent years.

He was awarded the Vilmos Rubányi Prize in 2002, and the Liszt Prize in 2014.

Máté SZABÓ-SIPOS – conductor (Hungary)



Máté Szabó Sipos began his musical studies as a pianist, then 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 received his summa cum laude degree in Ervin Lukács's class as a conductor.

Since 1994 he has taught future conductors at the Academy of Music.

In 1996 he was chosen leading conductor of the Symphonic Orchestra of Eger.

He has worked with a number of well-known choirs and orchestras both in Hungary and abroad. Between 2000 and 2003 he was artistic director and conductor of the Debrecen Kodály Choir.

Before 2016 he was chorus master at the Hungarian National Opera in Budapest. Currently, he works as leading conductor of the Debrecen Kodály Choir and also as musical director of the opera department of the Debrecen Csokonai Theatre. He founded and has directed of the annual Eger Chamber Opera Festival.

Ágnes TÖRÖK – conductor (Hungary)



She works as associate professor at the Music Faculty of Debrecen University. Her teaching obligations include conducting, solfeggio, music theory, Gregorian chant and plainsong.

She is the founding 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.

From 1999 to 2006 Ágnes Török held the post of deputy conductor of the professional Debrecen Kodály Choir, where she contributed as the choirmaster to performances of oratorios and operas, directing numerous a cappella concerts and first performances. She is the regular invited conductor of the Toyama Prefecture in Japan.

THE INTERNATIONAL JURY

„A” jury

Valér JOBBÁGY (HUN)

Nadeshda AVERINA (RUS)

Stephen CONNOLLY (GRB)

Csaba KUTNYÁNSZKY (HUN)

Felix RESCH (ITA)

„B” jury

Dénes SZABÓ (HUN)

Michael KAULKIN (USA)

Katalin KISS (HUN)

Michalis PATSEAS (GRE)

Mikael WEDAR (SWE)

Nadezhda AVERINA – conductor (Russia)



She graduated from the Ponomaryov VESNA Children's Choir School (Moscow, Russia) and Tchaikovsky Moscow Conservatory. Professor of Moscow Conservatory, laureate of international competitions, she holds a PhD in History of Arts

Since 2012 she has been Artistic Director and Conductor of VESNA Children's Choir. Under the leadership of Dr. Averina, the Choir received first places and Grand Prix at various international competitions, including Malcesine, Italy, 2012; Neerpelt, Belgium, 2014; Debrecen, Hungary 2016. In 2017 the Choir won the "Europe-2017 Grand Prix" in Tolosa.

Dr. Averina has written articles on the methodology of teaching, arranged a number of music pieces for choir performance and compiled numerous choir music collections. She regularly holds seminars and master classes for choirmasters and is a member of judging panels of many Russian and international choir competitions.

Stephen CONNOLLY – singer, conductor (United Kingdom)



For many years, Stephen Connolly sang Bass and co-directed the internationally acclaimed vocal ensemble, The King's Singers. As well as having performed in excess of 120 concerts each year for almost a quarter of a century, he has made frequent appearances around the world on both TV and Radio and recorded extensively with EMI, BMG Records, Signum Records and Sony, collecting many awards - including three Grammy nominations and a Grammy. More recently, Stephen has devoted much time to adjudicating competitions and offering workshops as well as appearing as a guest conductor with choirs. In 2008, Stephen founded the International A Cappella School, which offers a series of international residential choral courses for singers. In

2010, Stephen was appointed as Head of Vocal Studies at The Cheltenham Ladies' College. He lives in Gloucestershire.

Valér JOBBÁGY – conductor (Hungary)



Valér Jobbágy began studying music in Pécs and took his degree as choir leader and clarinet artist at the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. In 1973 he attended Hans Swarowsky's master course in conducting.

He began his career as a teacher in Debrecen, then he moved to Pécs to teach at the Secondary School of Arts, the Teacher Training College, later at the Musical Faculty of the University of Pécs. Since 1988 he has also taught at the Liszt Academy of Music. In the course of his career his excellent choirs in Pécs and Szekszárd (Puellae Female Chamber Choir, Szekszárd Madrigal Choir, Schola Cantorum Sopianensis) came in as winners or runners-up at over 30 significant competitions in Europe and Japan (Arezzo, Cork, Debrecen, Marktoberdorf, Maasmechelen, Neuchatel, Rimini, Rome, Tolosa, Tours, Varna, Takarazuka, etc.). He has been on the jury in Arezzo, Debrecen, and Montreux. In 2003 he took his PhD Summa cum laude at the Liszt Academy of Music.

Michael KAULKIN – composer (USA)



Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, Michael Kaulkin's choral, chamber and orchestral music has been performed around the world. He holds a Master of Music degree from the San Francisco Conservatory, having previously spent several years at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, studying composition with János Vajda and choral conducting with István Párkai. Currently, he is the 2017-18 Composer-in-Residence with San Francisco Choral Artists. Also active as a teacher, he serves on the Musicianship and Composition Faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory and has previously taught at the Kodály Summer Institute at Holy Names University in Oakland, California.

As an active publisher of his own music, in 2014 Kaulkin recognized the need for an easy way to make self-publishing composers' work available in print and founded Swirly Music, a website for the work of now nearly fifty self-publishing composers and hundreds of titles in chamber, choral, vocal and orchestral music.

Katalin KISS – conductor (Hungary)



Katalin was born in Debrecen and started studying music in her native town. From 1973 she was student of the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, from which she graduated as a secondary school teacher of singing and choir conducting. She took her PhD at the same institution in 2002. From 1977 she worked as a teacher in Szombathely and, from 1983, at the Kodály School in Kecskemét. She was a visiting teacher and choir conductor at the Kodály Center of America in Boston for a year twice, in 1979 and 1988. Since 1989 she has been assistant professor at Kodály Institute, a branch of the Liszt Academy of Music in Kecskemét.

She founded the Ars Nova Vocal Ensemble in 1990 and the Kecskemét Festival Choir in 2005. For the last 25 years they have given over 500 concerts, made several CD records and won first prizes at various competitions. Katalin Kiss has been invited to work as a guest conductor and hold workshops all over the world. She has also been on the jury of many competitions. She is the founder of Ars Nova Publishing. For her professional achievement she has been awarded several prizes, including the József Katona Prize (1996), the Artisjus Prize (1997, 1999, 2001), For the Art of Bács-Kiskun County (2000).

Csaba KUTNYÁNSZKY – conductor (Hungary)



Csaba Kutnyánszky graduated in choral conducting and theory of music from the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. He did research at the University of Bologna in 1998 and took his PhD at the Liszt Academy of Music in 2005.

Currently he conducts the Female Chamber Choir of Pécsvárad. He has won several first prizes with the choirs he has conducted and has produced several radio recordings and eight CDs with them. In 2009 and 2010 he was the leader of the choir conducting masterclass of the Renaissance and Baroque Days in Keszthely. In 2011, he was chairman of the Artistic Committee of the 6th International Competition for Young Choral Conductors in Budapest.

As full time professor, he teaches choral conducting at the Liszt Academy of Music. He is the head of the Orchestral and Choral Conducting Department. Since 2011 he has been Vice Rector for Education of the Academy. He is a member of the Presidency of the Association of Hungarian Choirs and Orchestras (KÓTA).

Michalis PATSEAS – conductor (Greece)



Director of the Kodály Conservatory - Greek Kodály Institute. Immediate past President of the International Kodály Society. Vice-President of the Greek Kodály Society. Honorary member of the Hungarian Kodály Society. Invited member at the Friends of Hungary Foundation.

He conducts choirs and orchestral ensembles. He is invited as member of jury to international choral festivals. He was the first conductor of the Greek Radio Children's choir. He has taken part in congresses of musicology in 14 countries as an invited lecturer. He teaches conducting, music pedagogy and singing at international seminars and universities.

He holds the Pro Cultura Hungarica and the A Kodály Intézetért awards. He is decorated with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Hungarian Republic (2003). He studied choir and orchestra conducting, composition, singing and Byzantine church music at the National Conservatory of Athens, the Vienna University of Music, and at the Zoltán Kodály Pedagogical Institute of Music of the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music. He graduated from the latter with an advanced diploma with Peter Erdei as his professor.

Felix RESCH – conductor, composer (Italy)



Felix Resch was Rector of the Claudio Monteverdi Conservatory in Bolzano from 2008 to 2014, where he is full professor of music theory and analysis.

During his composition studies with Professor Francesco Valdambri at Bolzano Conservatory he began composing a considerable number of various chamber music works (Quartetto d'archi, Sonata Pf. e Vlc. Cadenz per VI. Solo, Ballade per Pf. Fantasia per Ob. e Pf.) and orchestral works (Perspektive I per Orchestra, Perspektive II Fl. solo e orchestra, "Strade segnate" Soprano and orchestra).

He graduated in choral music and choral conducting in 1981 and started his teaching activity at the Tartini Conservatory in Trieste, while he continued composing and conducting choirs. He has been awarded various national and international prizes as choir director of the musical ensemble "Ars Cantandi" (in Arezzo, Verona, Vittorio Veneto) and as composer of choir music in Italy, Austria, the Czech Republic, Spain, Switzerland and Germany.

Mikael WEDAR – conductor, singer (Sweden)



Mikael was educated at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. He has a degree in conducting, piano and vocal singing. From 2003 to 2011 Mikael was a teacher at Kungsholmens Gymnasium and Stockholms Musikgymnasium, teaching choral singing. Mikael has worked with some of the most notable choirs in Stockholm, including the Eric Ericson Chamber Choir and the Swedish Radio Choir.

In 2007 Mikael founded St Jacobs Vokalensemble, and has been its musical and artistic leader ever since. In November 2013, the choir took part in 45th Tolosa choral contest in Spain, where they won all the five possible prizes and qualified for the European Grand Prix in Debrecen, Hungary 2014, where they were also winners. In the summer of 2017, St Jacobs Vokalensemble was invited to represent Sweden at the World Symposium on Choral Music in Barcelona, Spain. Mikael was part of the jury in The International May Choir Competition – Varna, Bulgaria in 2014 and in the Tolosa Choral Contest in 2016. In the summer of 2018, he will attend the competition in Debrecen, Hungary as jury member, and also teach a conducting masterclass.

Dénes SZABÓ – conductor (Hungary)



Dénes Szabó studied music in Szeged, Miskolc and Budapest. He has taught at the Kodály Primary School in Nyíregyháza since 1969. In 1975 he founded the Cantemus Children's Choir, an ensemble which has developed into three choirs: the Cantemus Children's Choir, the Pro Musica Girls' Choir and the Cantemus Mixed Choir, coordinated by the Cantemus Choir of Nyíregyháza since 2004. Each of the three meets the highest standards of artistic performance.

Dénes Szabó is often invited to give lectures and master classes on choir conducting, choral voice training and the application of the Kodály method. He has been on the jury of several international competitions from the USA to Japan.

He holds various prestigious Hungarian and international awards, such as the Liszt Prize (1985), the Bartók – Pásztory Prize (1993), the Kossuth Prize (2000), the IFCM Prize (2013). Since 2012 he has been regular member of the Hungarian Academy of Arts. In 2014 he was promoted to "Artist of the Nation". In 2017 he was awarded the Gold and Silver Rays of the Order of the Rising Sun, the highest Japanese decoration that can be conferred upon a foreigner for his contribution to the development of connections between the two countries.



PARTICIPATING CHOIRS IN CATEGORIES

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Children Choir Perezvony
Lautitia Children's Choir
Shanghai Youth Choir

YOUTH CHOIRS

YOUTH FEMALE CHOIRS

Cantilon Chamber Choir
Vörösmarty Girls' Choir

EQUAL VOICES

FEMALE CHOIRS

Cantemus Youth Choir
Female Choir of Miskolc University

VOCAL ENSEMBLES

Amici Cantates

CHAMBER CHOIRS

Chamber Choir "Petersburg's
serenades"
Imusicapella
Riverside City College Chamber Singers
University of Houston Concert Chorale

MIXED CHOIRS

Ankara Polyphonic Choir
Art Sonus
Chamber Choir of MIREA - Russian
Technological University
New Dublin Voices
Oñatiko Ganbara Abesbatza
Riverside City College Chamber Singers
University Choir Lille MUKO
University of Houston Concert Chorale

PARTICIPATING CHOIRS BY NATIONALITY

CANADA

Cantilon Chamber Choir (28)

CHINA

Shanghai Youth Choir (39)

DENMARK

University Choir Lille MUKO (32)

HUNGARY

Amici Cantates (24)
Female Choir of Miskolc University (33)
Lautitia Children's Choir (31)
Vörösmarty Girls' Choir (41)

IRELAND

New Dublin Voices (35)

MOLDOVA

Cantemus (27)

RUSSIA

Art Sonus (26)
Chamber Choir of MIREA - Russian
Technological University (34)
Chamber Choir "Petersburg's
serenades" (40)
Children Choir Perezvony (37)

SPAIN

Oñatiko Ganbara Abesbatza (36)

THE PHILIPPINES

Imusicapella (30)

TURKEY

Ankara Polyphonic Choir (25)

USA

Riverside City College Chamber Singers (38)
University of Houston Concert Chorale (29)



AMICI CANTATES (Debrecen, Hungary)

Conductors: Dorottya Rácz-Nyíri and Balázs Porcsalmy

The Amici Cantates vocal ensemble was established in July 2017 in Debrecen. It mainly consists of current and former members of the Kántus, the choir of the Reformed College of Debrecen. Their aim is to demonstrate their proficiency in contemporary choral art and to participate in an event of such a high prestige as the Béla Bartók International Choir Competition. The members of the ensemble are employed in various occupations: pastors and students of theology, experts engaged in clinical medicine research, solo singers doctors, students of geoinformatics and music teachers. What connects them is the love of singing together and the commitment to choral singing. The ensemble also regard performing contemporary choral pieces at a high artistic level as their important task because they are convinced that they should be made organic part of modern liturgical practice. The ensemble is led by Dorottya Rácz-Nyíri, teacher of the Kölcsey Reformed Practicing Primary School in Debrecen and Balázs Porcsalmy, teacher of the Reformed High School and College of Lónyai Street in Budapest.

Competition programme:

Semi-final

László Udvardy: Bájoló

Ola Gjeilo: Northern Lights

Levente Gyöngyösi: Szépen
IV. Ha én kedvesemről gondolkodom

Final

Levente Gyöngyösi: Te lucis ante terminum

György Orbán: Ave Regina

Jaakko Mäntyjärvi: Four Shakespeare Songs
- III. Double, Double Toil and Trouble



ANKARA POLYPHONIC CHOIR (Ankara, Turkey)

Conductor: Nilgun Tuzkaya

The Ankara Polyphonic Choir was established by Prof. Muzaffer Arkan in 1965 as the Radio Children's Choir. It consisted of wholly amateur members. Renamed as the Ankara Youth Choir in 1973, it attended the International Choral Competition in Arezzo, and was the first choir to represent Turkey in the country's history. Since its establishment the choir has demonstrated a high artistic standard at international festivals as well as competitions in Italy, Germany, Bulgaria, England, Belgium, Holland, Spain, Austria, France, Poland, Cyprus, and Hungary, by winning the Grand Prix nine times as well as coming in second and third. The ensemble came to be called The Ankara Polyphonic Choir in 1985. Today, their aim is to keep Prof. Muzaffer Arkan's memory alive. They have worked as an ensemble of the Ankara Polyphonic Music Association since February 2012. The conductor is Nilgun Tuzkaya, daughter of Muzaffer Arkan. It has an extensive repertoire from the Renaissance to the present, including both Turkish and international choral pieces.

Competition programme:

Semi-final

İlhan Baran: Eylül Sonu

Ola Gjeilo: Northern Lights

Alexandru Pașcanu: Chindia

Ernani Aguiar: Salmo 150

Final

Turgay Erdener: Ninni

Zoltán Kodály: Túrót Eszik a Cigány

Z. Randall Stroope: Cantate Domino



ART SONUS (St Petersburg, Russia)

Conductor: Vera Slasnaya

This non-professional choir was established in 2008. It has given performances since 2009 and is constantly involved in various local and international festivals and competitions. The first time the choir was awarded the diploma "For the best performance of a contemporary composer" at the 6th International Forum of student choirs "Paparats Kvetka - 2011" (Belorussia, Minsk, 2011). In 2012 they won the first prize in the category of mixed choirs at the international chorus competition in Istanbul, Turkey.

The repertoire of the choir includes music of the Renaissance and the Baroque periods, folk music, spiritual music and works of modern composers.

Vera Slasnaya, conductor

She graduated as a choral conductor from the Rimsky-Korsakov State Conservatoire of St. Petersburg in 2015. In 2008 she founded the "Art Sonus" choir.

In 2011-2012 she conducted master-classes of Russian ecclesiastical music in Aarhus, Denmark, and in Minsk (2016). She is regularly chosen "best conductor" at choir competitions. Since 2010 she has worked in Rimsky Korsakov Music School of St. Petersburg. In 2011 she founded "Offenheit" - a choir of students.

Competition programme:

Semi-final

Benjamin Britten: Five Flower Songs - op 47
Nr. 1. To Daffodils

Dmitry Smirnov: The Only-Begotten Son
(fragment from the praying songs)

Ludo Claessen: Sanctus

Stephen Leek: Kungala

Final

Br. Ingi Porteinsson: Rausi Riddarinn

Peter Tuchkov: O, captain! My captain!..

Dmitry Smirnov: From the trefoil "The old villa"

Arvo Pärt: Lobet den herrn, Alle Heiden (zwei slawische psalmen) n.1 psalm 117.

Giedrius Svilainis: Sodai, Sodai, Ieliumoi



CANTEMUS YOUTH CHOIR (Chisinau, Moldova)

Conductor: Denis Ceausov

The Cantemus Youth Choir was established in 2007. The choir was founded and since then has been led by Denis Ceausov. Cantemus consists of young people of 11-24, who enjoy choral music. The repertoire of the choir contains works by European, American and Moldavian composers from the Renaissance to our days. They have also participated in 15 international choral competitions and have been awardees for their outstanding performance, as, e.g. at the 56th International Choral Competition "Seghizzi" (July 2017 Gorizia, Italy) - 1st Prize in Romantic and Modern Music categories, Grand Prix Seghizzi 2nd Award Denis Ceausov (conductor of "Cantemus")

Denis Ceausov graduated from the Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts of Moldova. Apart from leading "Cantemus", he works as second conductor of the Moldavian National Symphonic Orchestra.

In 2011 he received a special prize as "best choir conductor" at the 29th International Youth Choir Festival, (Celje, Slovenia). In 2013 he was also awarded a special prize at the 52nd International Choir Competition "Seghizzi" (Gorizia, Italy).

Competition programme:

Semi-final

Vladimir Ciolac: Miserere

Albert Alcaraz: Rugen Erasoaldia

Final

Ko Matsushita: Ave Regina coelorum

Igor Iachimciuc: Dati-mi un trup, voi muntilor



CANTILON CHAMBER CHOIR (Edmonton, Canada)

Conductor: Heather Johnson

The Cantilon Chamber Choir is one of Canada's leading children's choral ensembles. Since its inception, the Cantilon Chamber Choir has been honoured with numerous awards, including 1st place (Children's Choirs) in the 2017 National Competition for Canadian Amateur Choirs. The choir has competed twice in the Béla Bartók International Choral Competition (2014 – 2nd, Youth Choir; 2006 – 1st, Children's Choirs & 1st, Youth Choirs) and in the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in Wales (2011 – 1st, Youth Choirs). In 2007, the Cantilon Chamber Choir was proud to represent Canada in the European Broadcast Union's Let The Peoples Sing (2nd).

The Founder and Artistic Director, Heather Johnson, holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Lethbridge (Canada), Bachelor of Education and Master of Music degrees from the University of Alberta (Canada), and a diploma from the Kodály Pedagogical Institute in Kecskemét. Heather tours and records frequently with both the Cantilon Chamber Choir and her women's ensemble, Belle Canto.

Competition programme:

Semi-final

Miklós Kocsár: Salve Regina
Péter Tóth: Magnus, maior, maximus
Jussi Chydenius: Kaipaava

Final

Kelly-Marie Murphy: Alleluia
Keith Hamel: Lullaby
György Orbán: Lauda Sion



THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON CONCERT CHORALE (Houston, US)

Conductor: Betsy Cook Weber

The choir is the University of Houston's premiere large choral ensemble, which consists primarily of undergraduate students representing a variety of majors, including music. During the school year, Chorale sings 10 - 12 performances, with a repertoire from very early to recently-composed music. Chorale singers are busy making and directing music outside of the ensemble as well. Many Chorale singers are also active in the University of Houston's excellent opera program and many serve as staff singers in local church choirs. Dr. Betsy Cook Weber is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies. She is also active internationally as a conductor and lecturer. In 2013, Weber became the 1st woman to receive the Texas Choral Director Association's coveted Texas Choirmaster Award. She also serves as Director of the Houston Symphony Chorus. Before coming to the University of Houston, Weber taught vocal music in the public schools for thirteen years. The district where she taught was one of the first in the United States to embrace the music-teaching philosophy of Zoltán Kodály, which, of course, relies heavily on the folk-song collections of Béla Bartók and others.

Competition programme - Chamber choirs: Competition programme - Mixed Choirs:

Semi-final

Ben May: So Sweet
David Ashley White: In the Smokeless Air
Paul Mealor: Upon a Bank With Roses Set About

Final

Pärt Uusberg: Muusika
Joshua Shank: Grass-Green Pillow
Hans Schanderl: Bazar

Semi-final

Ivo Antognini: I Am the Rose of Sharon
Carlos Cordero: This Sky
Budi Susantos: Gloria Patri

Final

Ugis Praulins: Crucifixus (Missa Rigensis)
Stephen Paulus: Splendid Jewel
Urmaz Sisask: Benedictio



IMUSICAPELLA (Imus City, The Philippines)

Conductor: Tristan Caliston Ignacio

Formed in 2002, Imusicapella is a church choir based at the Our Lady of the Pillar Parish in Imus City, Cavite, Philippines. The choir regularly sings at the Imus Cathedral and St. Peregrine Chapel.

They have competed and won 1st prizes in international choral competitions in Arezzo, Italy (2015); Tours, France (2011); Spittal, Austria (2015); Takarazuka, Japan (2017); Busan, South Korea (2012); Mainhausen (2011) and Lindenholzhausen (2005 & 2011), Germany; Montreux (2007) and Neuchatel (2003), Switzerland; Sopot, Poland (2005) and San Luis Obispo, California, USA (2007).

The founder and conductor of the choir is Tristan Caliston Ignacio. He is the winner of the 2015 Günther-Mittergradnegger Preis for the best interpretation of a contemporary choral work in Spittal, Austria; the 2011 Conductor's Prize at the 6th HARMONIE Festival in Lindenholzhausen, Germany and the 2007 Pro Musica Viva Maria Strecker Daelen Preis, the Conductor's Prize for the best interpretation of a contemporary choral work in Marktoberdorf, Germany.

Competition programme:

Semi-final

Morten Lauridsen: Ov'e, lass, il be viso?
Z.Randall Stroope: Conversion of Saul
Nilo Alcalá: Dayo Dayo Kupita

Final

Pēteris Vasks: Mate Saule
Joed Balsamo: Gloria Laus et Honor
Francisco Feliciano: Pamugun



LAUTITIA CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Conductor: József Nemes

The choir is affiliated to the Saint Ephrem Primary School in Debrecen. Established in 1959, it has been named Lautitia Children's Choir since 2006, when József Nemes took over as conductor. They regularly participate in concerts given by the Debrecen Kodály Philharmonic Orchestra and in performances of the local Csokonai Theatre. They also serve the Greek Catholic Church and the city of Debrecen. Their winning the European and World Choir Championships is especially noteworthy. They have also been awarded prizes by the National Council of Choirs and the prize „For Excellence” by the county of Hajdú-Bihar. In 2017 they received 1st prize in their own category at the 16th Budapest International Choir Competition. Also in 2017, they were given 2nd prize in Preveza, Greece. In 2018 they attended the 15th Concorso Corale International Choir Competition in Italy, where they came in 1st in their category. It should, however, be emphasized that the Lautitia Children's Choir has become a community in which everybody loves and respects the other members. For them common creative work means constant challenge in their everyday life.

Competition programme:

Semi-final

Josu Elberdin: Ikusten duzu
Péter Tóth: Mesedoboz - Kobold a polcon
Arr. Michael Barrett: Indodana

Final

Péter Tóth: Mesedoboz - Gurula gurula
Veljo Tormis: Lauliku lapsepoli
Josu Elberdin: Cantate Domino



UNIVERSITY CHOIR LILLE MUKO (Copenhagen, Denmark)

Conductor: Jesper Grove Jørgensen

The University Choir Lille MUKO is amongst the best classical choirs in Denmark. Based in Copenhagen, the choir has existed since 1967 and consists of 30-40 skilled and ambitious singers. Lille MUKO strives to continuously explore compositional music in various contexts. Their trademark is the interpretation of lyrical Danish songs. Contemporary classical music is also a high priority for the choir. They often sing first performances of new works by Danish composers.

Since its foundation, Lille MUKO has participated in numerous competitions and tours around the world. Through recordings and its activities, Lille MUKO continuously seeks to acquaint the world with especially Danish and Scandinavian choral music.

Over the years, Lille MUKO has released a number of recordings, frequently played on the Danish radio. The present conductor Jesper Grove Jørgensen has been at the helm of Lille MUKO for 30 years, and continuity in musical direction has ensured conservation and refinement of the choir's praised expression and sonority.

Competition programme:

Semi-final

Sven-David Sandström: Four Songs of Love - III. Awake, o North Wind

Vagn Holmboe: The Wee Wee Man

Ildbrando Pizzetti: Due Composizioni corali - II. Giardino Di Afrodite

Final

Stephen Chatman: A Magical Machine

Matti Borg: Landskab - VIII. Til Majdag forer jeg hjem min brud

Frank Martin: Songs of Ariel - III. Before you can say "Come and go"

Per Nørgård: Wie ein Kind - I. Wiegenlied



FEMALE CHOIR OF THE BÉLA BARTÓK INSTITUTE OF MUSIC, UNIVERSITY OF MISKOLC

Conductor: Zoltán Sándor

The ensemble was founded in 1987 as the training choir of the institute. It is an active participant of the music life of the city and its significant presence is proved by several radio recordings and performances (concerts, festivals) both in Hungary and abroad. Its a cappella repertoire spans from the Renaissance to the 21st century and it is often involved in performing oratorios. The conductor is Professor Zoltán Sándor, also head 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 equal voice choirs at the 20th Debrecen International Choir Competition. Since then it has been awarded a great number of prizes at various choir competitions in Europe.

Competition programme:

Semi-final

Rihards Dubra: Laudate

Rupert Lang: Cantate Domino

Vic Nees: Ave Maria

Péter Tóth: Gaudete

Final

Ēriks Ešenvalds: O salutaris hostia

János Vajda: O lux

Guido Messori: Tre sentenze Nr. 3.

Petr Eben: Catonis moralia - I. Preludio



CHAMBER CHOIR OF MIREA - RUSSIAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (Moscow, Russia)

Conductor: Ivan Samoilov

Under the direction of its founder, Ivan Samoilov, the choir has become a prize winner of many competitions - Champion and Gold Medalist of the 2nd European Choir Games (Germany, 2015), Gold Medalist of Grand Prix of Nations (Germany, 2015); silver medalist of the 8th World Choir Games (Latvia, 2014), silver winner of 5th World Choir Games (Austria, 2008). The artistic director and conductor, awardee of international competitions, is Ivan Samoilov, graduate of the Tchaikovsky State Conservatory.

The Chamber Choir regularly performs solo concert programs, both in Russia and abroad. They sing music composed for chamber choirs as well as large-scale opera and symphonic works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Mozart, Rachmaninoff, Fauré, Orff; etc.

Since June 2009 the Chamber Choir has annually organized the International Choir Assembly "Golden Crane".

Competition programme:

Semi-final

Jakub Neske: Mironczarnia

Rihards Dubra: Stetit angelus

Jake Runestad: Alleluia

Final

Z. Randall Stroope: The conversion of Saul

Alexey Davidovich Machavariani: Doluri

Laura Jekabsone: Div dujinas



NEW DUBLIN VOICES (Dublin, Ireland)

Conductor: Bernie Sherlock

Internationally acclaimed New Dublin Voices is a leading Irish chamber choir. Founded by award-winning conductor, Bernie Sherlock, in 2005, NDV strives to present programmes that are fresh, innovative and exciting. The choir takes pleasure in exploring the music of living composers and has given over 50 world premieres.

NDV has won prizes at major competitions in Ireland, France, Hungary, Germany, Finland, Spain, England, Latvia and Italy, including the Grand Prix at the 2nd International Baltic Sea Choir Competition in Latvia, 2017. In 2013, they became the first Irish choir to win a place in the European Grand Prix for Choral Singing.

NDV has previously been invited to perform at some of the world's most prestigious choral festivals: 37th Musiqueen Morvan, France (2012), 9th European Festival of Youth Choirs, Switzerland (2014), 23rd Festival des Chœurs Lauréats, France (2015), and the 2nd World Choral Festival, USA (2016).

In December 2017, they released their fourth CD, consisting of Christmas music by Irish composers and arrangers.

Competition programme:

Semi-final

John Hoybye: Jubilate Deo

Zoltán Kodály: Ode for Music

Ivo Antognini: Canticum Novum

Final

Goffredo Petrassi: Nonsense 1

Seán Doherty: Under-song

Josep Vila: Salve Regina



OÑATIKO GANBARA ABESBATZA (Oñati, Spain/Basque Country)

Conductor: Aitor Biain

Oñatiko Ganbara Abesbatza is a mixed voice choral group founded in the 1994, on the initiative of 12 youths from different choirs. Since then, the group has grown to its current number of thirty-some choir members. The group was founded under the direction of Gorka Cueva, duties that were taken over by Esteban Urzelai (1996-2009) and then by Aitor Biain, who is the current choir director.

Their repertoire includes all types of works from the 16th century to the present; they cover polyphonic works as well as folk music from various countries, spirituals, gospels. Basque folklore also forms a major component of their programs, as are works by contemporary composers.

For more than two decades, the choir has participated in many competitions, being awarded numerous prizes. Main highlights:

First prize in the "15th National Choral Competition Antonio Jose", Burgos (Spain), October 2016

Second prize in the category of Mixed Voices at the International contest "Fondazione Guido d'Arezzo", Arezzo (Italy), August 2015.

Competition programme:

Semi-final

Josep Vila i Casanas: Salve Regina

Knut Nysted: Peace I leave with you

Randall Stroope: The conversion of Saul

Final

Arvo Pärt: Bogoroditsie Djevo

Ēriks Ešenvalds: Stars

Michael Ostrzyga: Iuppiter



Children Choir Perezvony (St Petersburg, Russia)

Conductor: Larisa Yarutskaya

The concert choir "Perezvony" (Chimes) was formed in September 2008. It consists of schoolchildren of 4-9 classes of the choral department of the M. Glinka Children's Arts School of St Petersburg. Director and conductor of the "Perezvony" is Larisa Yarutskaya, winner of international competitions.

Over the years the group has repeatedly become the winner of international festivals and competitions.

Awards:

Gold diplomas at International and Russian festivals:

2010 – Shaoxing, China, St Petersburg, Russia; Petrozavodsk, Republic of Karelia.

2011 – St.Petersburg, Russia; Krakow, Poland.

2012 – Neerpelt, Belgium.

2013 – Daugavpils, Latvia; Moscow, St.Petersburg, Russia; Turku, Finland.

2014 – Petrozavodsk, Republic of Karelia; St.Petersburg, Russia.

2015 – St.Petersburg, Russia.

2016 – Sochi, Russia.

2014 – St Petersburg, Russia (two awards)

2015 – Vologda, Moscow, St.Petersburg, Russia.

2016 – St Petersburg (two awards), Moscow Russia

2017 – Moscow, Russia; Mogilev, Belarus

Competition programme:

Semi-final

Krzysztof Penderecki: Sanctus Benedictus

From the Mass

V. Polyakov: Bogorodice Devo raduysya

Final

Arvo Pärt: Zwei Beter

Sergey Pleshak: Vague dreams



RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE CHAMBER SINGERS (USA, Riverside City /California)

Conductor: John Byun

The Riverside City College Chamber Singers have performed at the ACDA in Tucson 2010 and Santa Barbara 2014, at the NCCO national conference in Fort Collins 2011 and Portland 2015 and at the CASMEC conference in San Jose, CA 2016. The Chamber Singers have competed nationally and internationally taking first place at the California International Choral Competition 2011, The Eisteddfod Choral Competition in Wales 2009, and at the Choral Competition in Spittal, Austria 2015. They often have opportunities to perform with special guest artists and as chorus for the Star Wars in Concert.

John Byun received his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of California, Irvine and his Masters in Choral Conducting from California State University, Long Beach. He is the director of Choral and Vocal Activities at Riverside City College. Mr. Byun is also the artistic director of the Temecula Valley Master Chorale. He has been the guest conductor for several district honor choirs.

Competition programme - Chamber choirs: Competition programme - Mixed Choirs:

Semi-final

Ivo Antognini: O gloriosa domina

Richard Burchard: Ecce dedi verba mea

Jake Runestad: Alleluia

Final

Ambrož Čopi: Cantate Domino

Eric Whitacre: I carry your heart with me

Audi Susanto Yohanes: Gloria Patri

Semi-final

Allan Rae: Keltic Song

Kevin Memley: O magnum mysterium

Hyo Won Woo: Gloria

Final

Julian Reisenthel: Kia wore upendo

(Ubi Caritas)

Ivo Antognini: Alleluia



SHANGHAI YOUTH CHOIR (Shanghai, China)

Conductor: Lin Fang

The Shanghai Municipal Education Commission founded SYC in 2012 to represent the highest level of youth choir singing in Shanghai. The singers join SYC through audition. SYC have distinguished and caring teachers, whose aim is: -to develop excellent singers through choral and musical training in a good learning environment;

-to make children enjoy music and make choral music part of their life.

Choral competitions:

9th "Singing World" Russia 2013

1st Prize, Folklore Music

2nd Prize, Children's choirs

2nd Prize, Modern music

3rd Singapore Int. Choir Competition 2016

Gold diploma, Folklore and Gold diploma, EqualVoices

Competition programme:

Semi-final

Hua Lin: The Wild Goose

Jaakko Mäntyjärvi: Pseudo-Yoik Lite

Michael Bojesen: Gloria

Conductor Lin Fang

Deputy director and conductor of Shanghai Youth Choir,

Some of his concerts and workshops:

Aug 2014: Concert, Helsinki, Finland

Apr 2015: Concert, Turkey

May 2017: Workshop, Chongqing, China

Jul 2017: Concerts, Barcelona and Viladecans, Spain

Awards&Prizes:

2016: Conductor prize

Educational background:

2006: graduated from Shanghai Conservatory Of Music

2006-2008 studied with Geshun Ma

2017- studies with Uffe Most

Final

Yuchuan Wen: The Lullaby

Marie-Claire Saindon: Le Train d'hiver

Knut Nysted: Hosanna



Chamber Choir «Petersburg's serenades» (St Petersburg, Russia)

Conductor: Yegor Losev

The Saint Petersburg Serenades chamber choir was formed in 1991 at the faculty of music of the Herzen Pedagogical University. The ensemble took its name from a series of choir miniatures by Alexander Dargomyzhsky.

In 1996 the Saint Petersburg Serenades was given professional status.

In 2014 the mansion of Tepper de Ferguson (teacher of music and singing at the Imperial Tsarskoye Selo Lyceum) was transformed into a concert hall for concerts by Saint Petersburg Serenades. Since then, the creative life of the community has been filled with events.

In 2015 the choir won the first prize at the 14th "The Singing World" in the category of chamber choirs. In 2016 they won the Grand Prix of this festival.

Yegor Losev was born in 1984 in Leningrad. He is a graduate of the Glinka Choral College, and the Saint Petersburg State Conservatory.

From 2003 to 2007 he was master of the choir of students of St. Petersburg State University, and from 2007 to 2016 he taught conducting at the Glinka Choral College.

Since 2013 Yegor Losev has been the conductor of the chamber choir Saint Petersburg Serenades.

Competition programme:

Semi-final

Michael Ostrzyga: Iuppiter

Yuri Falik: Poëses by Igor' Severyanin
IV. Intermezzo

Yuri Falik: Poëses by Igor' Severyanin
VI. Narodnaya (folk)

Ilya Demutsky: Three choruses for poems by
Russian poets - II. Zashumela, razgulyalas v
pole epogoda... (Made a noise, walked out bad
weather in the field)

Final

Nicolai Dranitsyn: Psalm 103 "Lobe den Herrn,
meine Seele"

Sergey Ekimov: Three Poems of Marina
Tsvetaeva - II. Blessed

Svetlana Nesterova: "To the Unknown God" - II.
Each before God naked ...



VÖRÖSMARTY GIRLS' CHOIR (Budapest, Hungary)

Conductor: Bálint Gyombolai

The girls' choir of Mihály Vörösmarty Primary and Secondary Musical School is based in Pestszentlőrinc, a district of Budapest. It was founded in 1991 by then head teacher Györgyi Járai-Bődi, and the late music teacher and choir master, Miklós Csík. His successor in the leadership position was Sándor Kabdebó the girls' choir is a regular participant of the so-called 'Singing Youth' concerts. They have been honoured with the 'Choir of the Year' prize several times. Most recently, they have been noted for their remarkable achievements in international choir contests, e.g., in Celje (2009), Neerpelt (2010) and Graz (2011). The choir has been directed by Bálint Gyombolai since September 2012. Under his leadership the choir earned a Golden Diploma at the Youth Singing Contest as well as a Diploma of Merit in 2013. The ensemble won a 3rd prize at the Budapest International Choir Competition in 2015, where Bálint Gyombolai was awarded a special prize for conducting. The Vörösmarty Girls' Choir lays a special emphasis on singing contemporary music: they have premiered seven compositions in the past two years.

Competition programme:

Semi-final

Béla Bartók: Madárdal

Béla Bartók: Isten veled!

Margaret King: Aurora

Péter Tóth: Gaudete

Final

Péter Tóth: Dulcis Amor

Francis Poulenc: Ave verum corpus

György Orbán: Mundi renovatio

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 Panel.

1.2. The composition of the juries will be determined by the Artistic Panel. 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 Panel 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 by performing the compulsory works and those scored by 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 programs 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 Panel.

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 29th International Choir Competition in 2020.

The Grand Prize is awarded by the Ministry of Human Capacities.

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 28th International Choir Competition will be invited to the competition for the „European Grand Prix for Choral Music” (EGP) 2019 in Arezzo, Italy.

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 a choir for the high-quality and authentic interpretation of a piece written after January 1st 2013 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:

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.

Tímea Dragony (*1976, Nyíregyháza) began her musical studies as the member of the Cantemus choir family in her native town. She took her composer's degree as a student of György Orbán at the Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest, in 2002. Her artistic career was also supported by the Académie Musicale de Villecroze (France). She has won several prizes at competitions for composers. Recently, two of her outstanding works have earned special recognition: the cantata *Estharangok* (Evening Bells), premiered at the Academy of Music, the symphonic poem *Crann Bethadh*, first performed by the Symphonic Orchestra of the Hungarian Radio, and *Gwethyr*, premiered by the Liszt Chamber Orchestra. Her cycle of songs with orchestra accompaniment *Virradás* (Day-break), on János Arany's poems, was awarded 2nd prize at the competition of composers announced on the occasion of the Arany anniversary. Her 1st award-winning ballet *Gyöngyhalászok* (Pearl Fishers) was staged in the Erkel Theatre.

Balázs D. Kecskés (*1993, Budapest) belongs to the youngest generation of Hungarian composers. At present he is doing his PhD course and works as a teacher for the Béla Bartók Secondary Music School in Budapest. He graduated as a composer under the direction of János Vajda from the Liszt Academy of Music in 2016. His compositions have been performed by such eminent ensembles as the Choir and Symphonic Orchestra of the Hungarian Radio, the Liszt Chamber Orchestra, the Danubia Orchestra of Óbuda and the Concerto Budapest. In 2018 he participated in a composers' competition organized by the American Garth Newel Music, having won the first prize with his piano quartet ahead of 90 applicants.

Judit Varga (*1979, Győr) lives and works as a pianist and composer in Vienna. She graduated as a composer under the direction of György Orbán and Zoltán Jeney from the Liszt Academy of Music. Since 2013 she has been a teacher at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna and the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. She takes special interest in composing music for short films, theatre performances and other multimedia channels, having written incidental music for over 30 theatre performances and films. In 2017 she was awarded the Béla Bartók-Ditta Pásztory Prize and the Ferenc Erkel Prize in 2016. Apart from her chamber music pieces, orchestral works and film music, one of her most important creations is the opera *Szerelem* (Love), staged by the Hungarian State Opera in 2016.

Ákos Zarándy (*1982, Budapest) was a student of singing and choir conducting at the Liszt Academy of Music under the supervision of Máté Szabó Sipos and Valér Jobbágy. In 2004 he also began his composition studies, his professors having been János Vajda and Zoltán Jeney. At his diploma concert in 2009 a cross-section of his opera *Las dos Fridas* was performed. In 2011 his *Nightmare Symphony* was selected for the finals of the "New Hungarian Musical Forum 2011", having been given a special prize offered by the *Fidelio* magazine. In 2011 the National Cultural Fund announced a tender for one-act operas, in which he was one of the prize winners. Both in 2014 and 2016 he held the Kodály Scholarship. His compositions have been performed in several European countries as well as in the United States and Mexico.

Zoltán Kovács (*1969, Budapest) studied the bassoon and composition at the Bartók Conservatory and the Liszt Academy of Music, later also taking a degree as a conductor. He learnt composition from Miklós Kocsár and Emil Petrovics. His symphonies, concertos and oratorios have been written in response to requests by different ensembles from Budapest and from the rest of the country, but chamber instrumental groups and choirs often approach him for compositions. Apart from his work as a composer he frequently makes his appearance as a performing artist. Since 1991 he has been the first bassoonist of the orchestra of the Hungarian State Opera. Many of his works have been recorded by the Hungarian Radio and the Hungaroton Recording Studio. Since 2014 he has been regular member of the Hungarian Academy of Arts. He holds the Artisjus Prize, the Benedek Istvánffy Prize, and, from 2009, the Ferenc Erkel Prize as marks of appreciation of his activity.

Zoltán Kovács: Missa Pannonica

I have composed my *Missa Pannonica* for the 28th Béla Bartók International Choir Competition in response to the request of the city of Debrecen. It is based on four passages of the traditional Latin-language mass.

A constant interesting feature of the first Kyrie movement is that the text is extremely short, consisting of merely three lines. Nevertheless, the audience can hear an opening movement of large dimensions with the basic idea that one can invoke God and pray to Him in many different ways. The very same sentence can take on a wide variety of characters from imploring supplication to coming up with immodest claims and calling God to account. Another peculiarity of the movement is that at the peak of the fugue written on the text of *Christe eleison* there appears a Hungarian religious folksong "*Édes Jézus neked élünk*" (Dear Jesus, we live for you) in the parts of the trumpets and the trombones. The 2nd Gloria movement contains quick and vigorous music in the spirit of compositional tradition. Its main theme uses three chords that keep returning like a leitmotif in the whole movement. It is from this point that the choir and the orchestra are joined by the soloists and it is they who present the weighty and dramatic motifs of the section *Qui tollis peccata mundi* (who takes away the sins of the world), which is contrapuntal to the rest of the movement in its character.

The music of *Sanctus*, the 3rd movement is also dynamic and animated. Here, however, one can hear a more playful and lighter tone which is partly accounted for by the 6/8 and ¾ metre. The sound is lent additional colour by the soloists' and the choir's virtuoso parts as well as by special effects of rhythm patterns. In the middle passage *Benedictus qui venit* (Blessed who comes) the soloists are given the main role.

Agnus Dei (The Lamb of God), the last movement, is by and large evocative of the atmosphere of the first one. A heartfelt and intimate prayer can be heard, which later reaches its climax in the manifold repetitions of the text *Misere nobis* (Have mercy on us), a monumental and hymnic supplication. The movement and the whole composition are closed by the tones of reconciliation and tranquility achieved through the belief in God.

Zoltán Kovács: Missa Pannonica

KYRIE

Kyrie eleison!
Christe eleison!
Kyrie eleison!

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam, Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili Unigenite, Iesu Christe, Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis; qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Iesu Christe, Cum Sancto Spiritu: in gloria Dei Patris.

SANCTUS

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis, Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: dona nobis pacem.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy

GLORIA

Glory be to God in the highest. And in earth peace to men of good will. We praise Thee; we bless Thee; we worship Thee; we glorify Thee. We give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy, thou only art the Lord, thou only art the most high, Jesus Christ. Together with the Holy Ghost in the glory of God the Father.

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. Amen

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Lamb of God. Grant us peace.

Sainte Cécile.

Légende.

C'était une dame romaine,
Une dame d'un très-haut rang,
Qui jadis pour la foi chrétienne
Donna son sang.

De Dieu célébrant les louanges,
Nuit et jour elle aimait chanter;
Et du Ciel descendaient les anges
Pour l'écouter.

Elle disait l'hymne suprême
Quand on vint la faire mourir:
Le bourreau s'étonna lui-même
De s'attendrir.

Sur sa tête il suspend le glaive
De ses mains prêt à s'échapper,
Il attend que l'hymne s'achève
Pour la frapper.

Et la tête mal abattue,
Sans tomber, s'incline en tremblant.
Tel qu'on le voit dans sa statue
Du marbre blanc.

Dans les douleurs elle succombe,
Ses plaintes sont des chants encor.
Avec elle on mit dans sa tombe
Sa robe d'or.

Plus tard on trouva sa dépouille;
A l'église elle est dans le chœur,
Et devant elle on sagenouille,
L'haut du cœur.

Au voyageur on montre, à Rome,
Les saints débris de sa maison,
Dans la riche église qu'on nomme
De son doux nom.

Et tous les ans dans cette enceinte,
Quand vient la saison des hivers,
On va célébrer cette sainte
Par des concerts.

Tous les arts lui rendent hommage;
On lui donne des traits touchants;
Raphaël a peint son image
D'après ses chants.

Une auréole est sa couronne,
Un luth est sous ses doigts sacrés,
Sainte Cécile est la patronne
Des Insprén.

Vierge, symbole d'harmonie,
Elle dicte les vers pleurs,
Et sa voix répond en gentile
Du haut des Cieux.

Santa Cecilia.

Leggenda.

Delle romane dame l'onore
Era Cecilia; e per la fe
Giurata a Cristo suo fedeltà
Il sangue diè.

Oi Dio la lodi con dolce zelo
E glorio e notte s'udia cantar:
I Serafini scendean dal cielo
Ad ascoltar.

L'Inno supremo ella cantava
Quando li Uccisi le s'appressò;
D'intenerirsi quest' alma prava
Maravigliò.

Sulla sua testa l'acelar sospende
Che dalla mano santa sfuggì:
Ch' abbia compito l'Inno egli attende
Prima di ferir.

E la mal tredda testa fu vista
Tremar, chinarsi senza andar;
Come nel bianco marmo l'artista
La fa veder.

Nel duolo avvien ch'ella soccomba,
Ma i suoi lamenti son canti ancor:
Con lei fu chiusa nella sua tomba
La veste d'or.

Trovò più tardi la spoglia, e nella
Chiesa a lei sacra la colloca;
Devota prostrasi dinnanzi a quella
Genta a pregar.

Nel ricco templo, che il mondo noma
Del suo bel nome, al viator
Di sua magione mostransi a Roma
Gli avanzi ancor.

E ciascun anno con suoni in questa
Sua stanza, come l'inverno appar,
I musicanti van la sua festa
A celebrar.

Oi dolce incanto quel suo divino
Volto devota l'arte vestì;
Prima d'affiggirla l'angiol d'Urbino
Cantar l'odi.

A lei tra mano fremo la lira;
L'è al erin corona sacro fulgor;
Santa Cecilia, cui li belle ispira
Protegge ognor.

Dell' armonia simbolo, veste
D'lette forme l'Inno al fedel;
Risponde al gento la sua celeste
Voce dal ciel.

Legende *)

von der heiligen Cécile.

Zu Rom da lebt' vor alten Zeiten
Eine Frau gar reich und gut,
Die, Christi Lehre zu verbreiten,
Vergoss ihr Blut.

Und Gott höchste Ehre zu geben,
Ihr Lied Tag und Nacht erklang;
Selbst Engel niederschweben,
Zu lauschen dem Sang.

Sie pfies noch Gott mit lauter Stimme,
Zum Richtplatz schon hinausgeführt;
Der Henker selbst in seinem Grimme
Ward tief gerührt.

Und zögernd liesz das Schwert er sinken
Ob ihrem Haupt so schön und bleich,
Und harrete auf des Sanges Ende
Mit seinem Streich.

Verwundet schwer nur ach! so neigte
Das Haupt sieh, im Tode noch mild,
Wie wir ihr Antlitz schauen
Im Marmorbild.

Dem Leid erliegend stiegen die Klagen
Als Töne noch klingend dem Himmel zu;
Dann im Goldgewand ward sie getragen
Zur ewigen Ruh.

Oh längst auch alle Spur verloren,
Der Heiligen Leib sich wieder fand;
Ihr ward nun eine Kirch' erkoren,
Nach ihr benannt.

Der Wandrer schaut im Heiligtume
Die Trümmer ihres Hauses auch,
Darin sie sang zu Gottes Ruhme
Nach frommem Brauch.

Ihr Fest im Gotteshaus zu ehren,
Erschallt der Lieder freudig Weis!
Alljährlich noch von Sangschören
Zu ihrem Preis.

Die Künste alle reich gediehen,
Beschenkt von ihrem mächtigen Schild.
Von Raphael ward uns verliehen
Der Heiligen Bild.

Ihr Haupt die Märt'ryrion' umgänzet,
Die Laute spielt sie wunderbar,
Heilige Cécilia! Dich bekränzet
Die Künstlerschaar!

O Jungfrau, Symbol Du des Schönen!
Wie sich ein Strahl durch Wolken bricht,
Gewäbrst Erhöhung Du in Tönen
Vom Himmel Licht!

*) In der heiligen Cécilien Kirche zu Rom „verbleibt die Statue von Stefano Maderna, deren Abzeichnung auf dem vorausgehenden Titelblatt zu sehen ist.“

The Kodály Philharmonic Debrecen is a regular partner of and contributor to the Choir Competition

(director and artistic leader: Dániel Somogy-Tóth)

Resident ensembles:

Kodály Choir Debrecen (artistic leader: Máté Szabó Sipos)

Established by György Gulyás in 1955, the choir functioned within the framework of the Secondary Music School of Debrecen. It achieved its first great international success in Llangollen in Wales in 1958, still as a girls' choir. Their victory a year later in Arezzo was a landmark in the career of the new mixed choir. Since 1971 The Kodály Choir has been a professional ensemble funded by the city of Debrecen, the second largest city in Hungary. They have an extremely wide repertoire from a cappella works through the most significant oratorios of European music to the latest modern compositions. They have premiered several renowned Hungarian and international pieces of music. Apart from European countries, they have toured the US, the Philippines, Japan, Morocco and Israel.

Kodály Philharmonic Orchestra (chief conductor: László Kovács)

The foundation of the symphonic orchestra of the city of Debrecen goes back to the year 1923 and was supported by the Hungarian State Railways. It soon became the first-rate symphonic orchestra of the country outside Budapest. 29 years later, in 1952, it was declared by the Hungarian Railways an independent institution. From this time on the orchestra regularly contributed to the opera performances of the local Csokonai theatre, besides concerts organized by the National Philharmonic. After the political changes, the local government of Debrecen, a city with county rights, recognizing its values and role in the life of the city and its surroundings, undertook the funding of the ensemble, which was renamed the Philharmonic Orchestra of Debrecen. Since 2011 it has been called Kodály Philharmonic Debrecen, a change approved of by Mrs Zoltán Kodály, née Sarolta Péczely. Their repertoire is open to the general public as well as to young audiences, conveying lasting values and works rarely performed. Bearing Kodály's name, they regard the regular performance of the great composer's compositions as their primary task, apart from classics and modern Hungarian and foreign composers.



Béla Bartók 29th International Choir Competition and Folklore Festival - Debrecen, Hungary

July 8th - 12th, 2020.

The Municipality of Debrecen announces to host the Béla Bartók 29th International Choir Competition and Folklore Festival between July 8th - 12th, 2020.

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 July 8 th , 2005)	max. 50 singers
YOUTH CHOIRS (equal voices of youth choirs)	Maximum age limit: 21 years* (born after July 8 th , 1999)	min. 25 max. 50 singers
EQUAL VOICES (female and male choirs)	Minimum age limit: 18 years for female choirs (born before July 8 th , 2002)	min. 25 max. 40 singers
CHAMBER CHOIRS, VOCAL ENSEMBLES	---	vocal ensembles: max. 24 singers chamber choirs: 16-24 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), with the exception of Bartók's oeuvre. 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, Maribor, Tolosa, Tours and Varna and is organised at annually changing locations.

More information: www.bbcc.hu

2TH – 5TH AUGUST, 2018
NAGYERDEI PARK, DEBRECEN



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3D mapping

Nights of the Lights

Fairy Garden

Carnival Parade

Exhibition of flower floats

Carnival Night

Carnival Night

2000 artists

Food Truck Show

Concerts

Carnival Night Parade

Fireworks

THE GREATEST CARNIVAL OF HUNGARY

The Béla Bartók International Choir Competition and Folklore Festival is organized by the Főnix Event Organizing NP LLC (Hunyadi u. 1-3, 4026 Debrecen, Hungary) on behalf of the City of Debrecen

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