



**8<sup>th</sup>  
Florence  
International  
Choir & Orchestra  
Festival  
FICF 2019**

**23 – 26 July 2019**







# FICF - FLORENCE INTERNATIONAL CHOIR & ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

a production by



under the patronage of



supported by





## **CARLA GIOVANNA ZANIN**

Founder & CEO



**W**ith the same emotion and the same enthusiasm of the first edition back in July 2012, this year I am pleased to give my sincere and warm welcome to the joyous and jubilant choirs, bands and orchestras from all over the world. Eight years have passed since the birth of this amazing event, the Florence International Choir & Orchestra Festival, which I had the honour to create and follow its growth year after year, enriched by the special artistic quality and by the human depth of its participants.

My hard work “behind the scenes” is entirely dedicated to offering the maximum comfort and fun to our dearest musicians who with passion and professionalism are getting ready to perform on the most fascinating stage of the Renaissance: the city of Florence.

Florence International Choir & Orchestra Festival has been awarded by the Municipality of Florence for its high quality and reliability and it got the Patronage by the Mayor of Florence Dario Nardella. This recognition is proof of the heavy work and professionalism that we put on every day in managing our Festivals.

Dear Musicians, dear Friends, I thank you for helping to make our Festival more and more magnificent and I hope you can take home an unforgettable experience!





## **FEDERICO BARDAZZI**

President & Artistic Director



**I**t is really a great pleasure to extend my warmest welcome to all the musicians, their conductors and their escorts participating in the 8th Florence International Choir Festival, a great initiative created by the Ensemble San Felice in the beautiful city of Florence, reference place for its history, its beauty, art and culture. I believe that our hearts will come into resonance with the marvelous venues of the Festival, which unfold in a great artistic and cultural journey: Salone dei Cinquecento, Basilica of Santa Croce, Basilica of Santa Trinita, Church of Ognissanti, Auditorium Sant'Apollonia, up to get their echoes in a continuous crescendo, our minds towards harmony.

I hope that this experience will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to build bridges of friendship through music between different people, cultures and continents and that we will be able to carry within us, after the Festival, our joy of making music together! This will really be a concrete development of the ideals of Florence today, which always in its long history have influenced the world!



# *Participant Groups*



# Participant Groups

**BAT KOL CHOIR**  
*Conductor* Hadar Zlatin  
Mazkeret Batia, Israel

**BEIJING VOICE OF ANGEL  
CHAMBER ENSEMBLE**  
*Conductor* Chang Jihsi  
Beijing, China

**BEIJING VOICE OF ANGEL CHILDREN CHOIR**  
*Conductor* Meng Jia  
Beijing, China

**EBORAE MUSICA**  
*Conductor* Eduardo Martins  
Évora, Portugal

**HONG KONG YING WA PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN CHOIR  
& SYMPHONIC BAND**  
*Conductor* Elise Kwok  
Hong Kong, China

**HONG KONG YING WA PRIMARY SCHOOL SYMPHONIC BAND**  
*Conductor* Maurice Poon  
Hong Kong, China

**JOVEN ORQUESTA DE CUERDA ALLEGRO**  
*Conductor* Maryluz Moreno Rojas  
Jaen Cordoba, Spain

**MOLÉTAI CULTURE CENTER VOCAL ENSEMBLE “A CAPPELLA”**  
*Conductor* Violeta Zutkuvienė  
Molėtai, Lithuania

**TIAN ZHI YUN CHOIR**  
*Conductor* Yi Dan  
Chengdu, China

**VOCA ERUDITA STUDENT CHOIR OF UNIVERSITAS SEBELAS MARET**  
*Conductors* Redi Sabtono &  
Ardian Dika Adhyatma  
Surakarta, Indonesia

**VOCASOUL**  
*Conductor* Moshe Nir  
Ramat Gan, Israel

**XIAMEN UNIVERSITY DUET**  
Xiamen, China

**XIAMEN UNIVERSITY ENSEMBLE**  
Xiamen, China

**XIAMEN UNIVERSITY  
NATIONAL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**  
Xiamen, China



# *Program*



# Program

## 23 JULY

- 21.00 Piazza Santa Croce  
**Special Concert Hong Kong Primary School Choir & Band**

## 24 JULY

- 16.00 Salone dei Cinquecento  
**Opening Ceremony**
- 21.00 Church of Ognissanti  
**Concert**

## 25 JULY

- 8.30 Church of Ognissanti  
**Competition Instrumental Groups**
- 13.30 Auditorium Sant'Apollonia  
**Competition Vocal Groups**
- 21.00 Basilica of Santa Trinita  
**Concert**

## 26 JULY

- 17.00 Basilica of Santa Croce  
**Award Ceremony**
- 19.30 Basilica of Santa Croce  
**Final Celebration Concert**



*Venues*



# Venues

## BASILICA OF SANTA CROCE

The Basilica di Santa Croce (Basilica of the Holy Cross) is the principal Franciscan church in Florence and the largest Franciscan church in the world. Its most notable features are its sixteen chapels many of them decorated with frescoes by Giotto and his pupils, and its tombs and cenotaphs. It is the burial place of some of the most illustrious Italians, such as Michelangelo Buonarroti, Galileo Galilei and Gioachino Rossini thus it is known also as the "Temple of the Italian Glories". In the Primo Chiostro, the main cloister, there is the Cappella dei Pazzi, completed in the 1470. Filippo Brunelleschi (who had designed and executed the dome of the Duomo) was involved in its design which has remained rigorously simple and unadorned. Artists whose work is present in the church include: Andrea and Luca Della Robbia, Cimabue, Giorgio Vasari.



## SALONE DEI CINQUECENTO

The Palazzo Vecchio is the town hall of Florence. Overlooking the Piazza della Signoria with its copy of Michelangelo's David statue as well the gallery of statues in the adjacent Loggia dei Lanzi, it is one of the most significant public places in Italy. Inside the Palazzo Vecchio, the Salone dei Cinquecento has a length of 52 m (170 ft) and is 23 m (75 ft) broad. It was built in 1494 by Simone del Pollaiuolo, on commission of Savonarola who, replacing the Medici after their exile as the spiritual leader of the Republic, wanted it as a seat of the Grand Council (Consiglio Maggiore) consisting of 500 members. Later the hall was enlarged by Giorgio Vasari so that Grand Duke Cosimo I could hold his court in this chamber. During this transformation famous (but unfinished) works were lost, including the Battle of Cascina by Michelangelo and the Battle of Anghiari by Leonardo da Vinci. The surviving decorations in this hall were made between 1555 and 1572 by Giorgio Vasari. They mark the culmination of mannerism and make this hall the showpiece of the palace. On the north side of the hall, illuminated by enormous windows, is the raised stage called the Udiienza, built by Bartolommeo Bandinelli for Cosimo I to receive citizens and ambassadors.



## CHURCH OF OGNISSANTI

The Church of Ognissanti (All-Saints Church), is a Franciscan church located on the piazza of the same name in central Florence. Founded by the lay order of the Umiliati, the church was dedicated to all the saints and martyrs, known and unknown. It was completed originally during the 1250, but almost completely rebuilt around 1627 in Baroque-style by the architect Bartolomeo Pettirossi. Ognissanti was among the first examples of Baroque architecture to penetrate this Renaissance city. Its two orders of pilasters enclose niches and windows with elaborate cornices. To the left of the façade is a campanile of 13th and 14th century construction. The Umiliati, by the dedication and probity of the lay brothers and sisters, gained a reputation in Florence, and dedicated works of art began to accumulate in their severely simple church. For example, Giotto's celebrated Madonna and Child with angels (circa 1310) was painted for the high altar. Recent cleaning of the Crucifix in the left transept has led this work to be attributed also to Giotto. Fifteenth-century frescoes by Domenico Ghirlandaio and Sandro Botticelli were preserved in the nave; Botticelli is buried in the church near his beloved Simonetta Vespucci. In the Vespucci chapel, a fresco by Domenico Ghirlandaio with his brother David, depicting the Madonna della Misericordia protecting members of the Vespucci family (circa 1472), is reputed to include the portrait of Amerigo Vespucci as a child. When Amerigo found a bay in the actual Brazil, he named to "San Salvatore di Ognissanti", in portugues "San Salvador de Todos os Santos": this is the origin of the name of the city of Salvador and Bahia de Todos os Santos.



## AUDITORIUM SANT'APOLLONIA

The church dates back to 1529 and was consecrated in 1535. The choir was finished in 1554. The church portal was initially attributed to Michelangelo, seems instead to John Dosio, a pupil of Michelangelo, but Vasari recalls that there is still a relationship between Michelangelo and the church because his nephew had become a nun in this monastery. The portal has two columns in Tuscan style and it opens on the only nave of the church; The nave ends with a square apse with vaulted frescoed and has an elevated transept. In the 16th Century the ceiling was adorned with coffered gilded, presenting the symbols of the holy martyr tongs and the flowering branch. Even the ceiling was attributed to Michelangelo. The choir from which the nuns in the religious services has elegant columns that supported the vaulted ceiling. The frescoes of the dome were made from Poccetti (Bernadino Barbatelli), with representations of the Virgin and saints. The two side altars presented the Holy Trinity of Pier Dandini and a Crucifix of Baccio da Montelupo. From the apse side doors it leads to two vestries. To the right you could reach in a restricted environment where nuns received the Eucharist through a small opening.



## BASILICA OF SANTA TRINITA

Santa Trinita (Holy Trinity) is situated in the centre of Florence, few steps from the Arno river and the magnificent homonymous bridge, the Ponte Santa Trinita. It is the mother church of the Vallumbrosan Order of monks, founded in 1092 by a Florentine nobleman. The church is famous for its Sassetti Chapel, containing notable frescoes by Domenico Ghirlandaio, ranked amongst 15th century painting's masterworks. The current church was constructed in 1258-1280 over a pre-existing 11th century church. Multiple reconstructions occurred thereafter. The Mannerist façade (1593-1594) was designed by Bernardo Buontalenti. The relief over the central door of the Trinity was sculpted by Pietro Bernini. The 17th century wooden doors were carved to recall saints of the Vallumbrosan order. The church is wonderfully located in the heart of the shopping area, the famous Via Tornabuoni which hosts the most important Italian and international fashion brands as Ferragamo, Gucci, Armani, Dolce&Gabbana.



FICF *in details*



# Concerts

**Wednesday 24 July 16.00**  
**Salone dei Cinquecento**  
**Opening Ceremony**

**HONG KONG YING WA PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN CHOIR  
& SYMPHONIC BAND**  
*Conductor Elise Kwok*  
Hong Kong, China

**BAT KOL CHOIR**  
*Conductor Hadar Zlatin*  
Mazkeret Batia, Israel

**BEIJING VOICE OF ANGEL CHILDREN CHOIR**  
*Conductor Meng Jia*  
Beijing, China

**BEIJING VOICE OF ANGEL CHAMBER ENSEMBLE**  
*Conductor Chang Jihsi*  
Beijing, China

**MOLĖTAI CULTURE CENTER VOCAL ENSEMBLE "A CAPPELLA"**  
*Conductor Violeta Zutkuvienė*  
Molėtai, Lithuania

**VOCASOUL**  
*Conductor Moshe Nir*  
Ramat Gan, Israel

**TIAN ZHI YUN CHOIR**  
*Conductor Yi Dan*  
Chengdu, China

**EBORAE MUSICA**  
*Conductor Eduardo Martins*  
Evora, Portugal

**VOCA ERUDITA STUDENT CHOIR OF UNIVERSITAS  
SEBELAS MARET**  
*Conductors Redi Sabtono & Ardian Dika Adhyatma*  
Surakarta, Indonesia

**XIAMEN UNIVERSITY NATIONAL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**  
Xiamen, China

**JOVEN ORQUESTA DE CUERDA ALLEGRO**  
*Conductor Maryluz Moreno Rojas*  
Jaen Cordoba, Spain

**HONG KONG YING WA PRIMARY SCHOOL SYMPHONIC BAND**  
*Conductor Maurice Poon*  
Hong Kong, China



**Wednesday 24 July 21.00**  
**Church of Ognissanti**  
**Concert**

**VOCA ERUDITA STUDENT CHOIR OF UNIVERSITAS  
SEBELAS MARET**

***Conductors Redi Sabtono & Ardian Dika Adhyatma***  
Surakarta, Indonesia

**HONG KONG YING WA PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN CHOIR  
& SYMPHONIC BAND**

***Conductor Elise Kwok***  
Hong Kong, China

**JOVEN ORQUESTA DE CUERDA ALLEGRO**

***Conductor Maryluz Moreno Rojas***  
Jaen Cordoba, Spain

**HONG KONG YING WA PRIMARY SCHOOL SYMPHONIC BAND**

***Conductor Maurice Poon***  
Hong Kong, China



**Thursday 25 July 21.00**  
**Basilica of Santa Trinita**  
**Concert**

**TIAN ZHI YUN CHOIR**

***Conductor Yi Dan***

Chengdu, China

**BAT KOL CHOIR**

***Conductor Hadar Zlatin***

Mazkeret Batia, Israel

**MOLĖTAI CULTURE CENTER VOCAL ENSEMBLE "A CAPPELA"**

***Conductor Violeta Zutkuvienė***

Molėtai, Lithuania

**BEIJING VOICE OF ANGEL CHILDREN CHOIR**

***Conductor Meng Jia***

Beijing, China

**BEIJING VOICE OF ANGEL CHAMBER ENSEMBLE**

***Conductor Chang Jihsi***

Beijing, China

**VOCASOUL**

***Conductor Moshe Nir***

Ramat Gan, Israel

**EBORAE MUSICA**

***Conductor Eduardo Martins***

Évora, Portugal

**XIAMEN UNIVERSITY NATIONAL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

Xiamen, China



**Friday 26 July 19.30**  
**Basilica of Santa Croce**  
**Final Celebration Concert**

**BEIJING VOICE OF ANGEL CHILDREN CHOIR**

*Conductor Meng Jia*  
Beijing, China

**BEIJING VOICE OF ANGEL CHAMBER ENSEMBLE**

*Conductor Chang Jihsi*  
Beijing, China

**MOLĖTAI CULTURE CENTER VOCAL ENSEMBLE "A CAPPELA"**

*Conductor Violeta Zutkuvienė*  
Molėtai, Lithuania

**TIAN ZHI YUN CHOIR**

*Conductor Yi Dan*  
Chengdu, China

**VOCASOUL**

*Conductor Moshe Nir*  
Ramat Gan, Israel

**VOCA ERUDITA STUDENT CHOIR OF UNIVERSITAS**

**SEBELAS MARET**

*Conductors Redi Sabtono & Ardian Dika Adhyatma*  
Surakarta, Indonesia

**XIAMEN UNIVERSITY NATIONAL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

Xiamen, China

**BAT KOL CHOIR**

*Conductor Hadar Zlatin*  
Mazkeret Batia, Israel

**EBORAE MUSICA**

*Conductor Eduardo Martins*  
Évora, Portugal

**HONG KONG YING WA PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN CHOIR  
& SYMPHONIC BAND**

*Conductor Elise Kwok*  
Hong Kong, China

**JOVEN ORQUESTA DE CUERDA ALLEGRO**

*Conductor Maryluz Moreno Rojas*  
Jaen Cordoba, Spain

**HONG KONG YING WA PRIMARY SCHOOL SYMPHONIC BAND**

*Conductor Maurice Poon*  
Hong Kong, China



*Competition*



# Board

FEDERICO BARDAZZI  
President & Artistic Director

CARLA GIOVANNA ZANIN  
Founder & CEO

# Jury Members

JÜRGEN PARTAJ, Austria  
Permanent Chairman of the Jury

LUC ANTHONIS, Belgium

LEONARDO CREMONINI, Italy

ALEXANDRE JAMAR DE BOLSE, France  
Winner of the 5th International Competition of  
Choral Composition Ennio Morricone 2018

JAVIER CLAUDIO PORTALES, Spain



**Thursday 25 JULY**  
**Church of Ognissanti**  
**Competition Instrumental Groups**

**Category D Chamber Orchestras**

8.30        Xiamen University National Chamber Orchestra  
              Xiamen, China

**Category C School Bands**

9.00        Hong Kong Ying Wa Primary School Symphonic Band  
              *Conductor* Maurice Poon  
              Hong Kong, China

**Category A Instrumental Ensembles**

9.30        Xiamen University Ensemble  
              Xiamen, China

**Categories B Youth Orchestras**

9.45        Joven Orquesta de Cuerda Allegro  
              *Conductor* Maryluz Moreno Rojas  
              Jaen Cordoba, Spain

**Category L Folk Music Ensembles**

10.15       Xiamen University Duo  
              Xiamen, China

**Category C String Orchestras**

10.30       Joven Orquesta de Cuerda Allegro  
              *Conductor* Maryluz Moreno Rojas  
              Jaen Cordoba, Spain

**Category F Vocal and Instrumental Ensembles**

11.00       Beijing Voice of Angel Chamber Ensemble  
              *Conductor* Chang Jihsi  
              Beijing, China

11.15       Molėtai culture center vocal ensemble "A cappella"  
              *Conductor* Violeta Zutkuvienė  
              Molėtai, Lithuania

**Thursday 25 JULY**  
**Auditorium Sant'Apollonia**  
**Competition Vocal Groups**

**Category A Mixed Choirs Adults**

- 13.30      Voca Erudita Student Choir of Universitas Sebelas Maret  
              *Conductors* Redi Sabtono & Ardian Dika Adhyatma  
              Surakarta, Indonesia
- 14.00      Tian Zhi Yun Choir  
              *Conductor* Yi Dan  
              Chengdu, China
- 14.15      Eborae Musica  
              *Conductor* Eduardo Martins  
              Évora, Portugal

**Category H Popular, Folk, Gospel, Barbershop Ensembles**

- 14.30      Vocasoul  
              *Conductor* Moshe Nir  
              Ramat Gan, Israel

**Category M Modern and Contemporary Music**

- 15.00      Voca Erudita Student Choir of Universitas Sebelas Maret  
              *Conductors* Redi Sabtono & Ardian Dika Adhyatma  
              Surakarta, Indonesia

**Category D Children Choirs**

- 15.15      Hong Kong Ying Wa Primary School Children Choir &  
              Symphonic Band  
              *Conductor* Elise Kwok  
              Hong Kong, China
- 15.30      Beijing Voice of Angel Children Choir  
              *Conductor* Meng Jia  
              Beijing, China

**Category G Sacred Music**

- 15.45      Eborae Musica  
              *Conductor* Eduardo Martins  
              Évora, Portugal

**Category E Chamber Choirs**

- 16.00      Beijing Voice of Angel Children Choir  
              *Conductor* Meng Jia  
              Beijing, China



# *Biographies*







## CARLA GIOVANNA ZANIN

Founder & CEO

Carla Zanin has worked for over twenty-five years in the live performance sector and specifically in classical and choral music and drama. At first she was the organizational manager and then went into project management, marketing and communications. She conceived and founded Opera Network Firenze and at present she is its President and legal representative, an institution skilled in opera productions and in the training of young talents and professionals in all the art performances. Thanks to her long activity in musical marketing and communication by creating innovative and responsible methods for supporting the production of live performances, without the excessive use of public money, she conceived and developed the Opera Network Project, a complex network system over which operas can be produced with the cooperation of numerous partners who are directly involved; at the moment the partners are some of the most important performing Arts Academies and Theatres such as Salzburger Landestheater, Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze, Fondazione Zeffirelli, Teatro Verdi di Pisa, Fondazione Festival Pucciniano, Accademia LABA di Firenze, Fondazione Cerratelli, Biblioteca Marucelliana, Università per Stranieri di Perugia, Conservatorio di Musica Gesualdo da Venosa di Potenza, Conservatorio di Musica Puccini di La Spezia, Hebei Normal University, Inner Mongolia Normal University, Sichuan Normal University, Teatro Goldoni di Livorno, Fondazione Carnevale Viareggio and many others. So many opera productions were staged with this system, the first one was in September 2013, Henry Purcell's "The Fairy Queen". She is the President of the Opera Network International Italian Center founded together with Federico Bardazzi and Paolo Bellocchi, specialized in the issuance of certifications of knowledge of the Italian language. She is the General Manager of the Ensemble San Felice, with whom she takes part in the research and programming of musical projects in Italy and abroad. Particularly she manages teaching/training projects supported by European Union. She is artistic consultant of the project: "La Musica nella Divina Commedia di Dante". She was the project consultant of Teatro Metastasio di Prato for the training sector. Since 2012 she was the founder and the Chief Executive Officer of the Florence International Choir & Orchestra Festival and she realized the launching of the first edition, focusing particularly on marketing and communications, executive management, public relations and relations with the authorities. In the last eight years she is dedicating with passion and care to the realization of the three FICF brand Music Festivals. The following are the most important recent activities: Throughout the year 2011 she was Marketing and Development consultant for the Associazione Maggio Fiorentino Formazione which is the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Training Academy. In 2008 and 2009 she was the cultural consultant to the UN for the development programme UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) concerning international cooperation in the Maghreb region. In 2009 she organised a music and theatre atelier in Fès (Morocco) as part of the project entitled "La représentation culturelle et artistique de la femme dans la zone euroméditerranéenne". Carla Zanin was production director for three editions (in 2007, 2008 and 2009) of the Magna Graecia Teatro Festival, the theatre event held among the archeological sites in the Calabria Region - Italy.



## FEDERICO BARDAZZI

President & Artistic Director



**F**ederico Bardazzi specialises in Early and Baroque Music, he is primarily active as a director in operatic repertoire, from its origins to Händel, Gluck, Mozart, Rossini and Puccini.

Having trained as a cellist with André Navarra in Siena and Paris, he studied chamber music with Piero Farulli and the Quartetto Borodin, composition with Carlo Prosperi e Roberto Becheri, Gregorian chant with Nino Albarosa and Johannes Berchmans Göschl, choral conducting with Roberto Gabbiani and Peter Phillips, orchestral conducting at the Accademia Chigiana with Myung-Whun Chung.

He conducts the Ensemble San Felice, a vocal and instrumental group whose repertoire ranges from Medieval to contemporary music, with whom he has performed to great acclaim across the world.

Devoted for many years now to the Bachian repertoire, through the Ensemble he has conducted all of the great Kirchenmusik and all of the instrumental concerts. He has conducted Händel's Messiah in numerous concerts in Italy and Europe.

He usually offers, as well as a new version of Mozart's unfinished Requiem, rare pages and masterpieces of seventeenth-century music: Girolamo Frescobaldi, Francesco Maria Stiava, Dietrich Buxtehude, Jeronimo de Carrion, François Couperin, Michel-Richard Delalande, John Dowland. In 2005 in particular he presented three oratorios by Giacomo Carissimi at the Queen Elisabeth Hall in London and, also in London, in May 2008 he conducted the music for the first staged performance in modern time of Händel's Rodrigo, directed by Luciano Alberti, at the Lufthansa festival of baroque music. This production was presented in 2009 at the Teatro della Pergola in Florence, where in 2011 he directed Claudio Monteverdi's Il Vespro for the Amici della Musica di Firenze, which was recorded as an audio CD by Brilliant Classic.

His research programmes in Medieval music have met with great success across Europe: Nigra sum sed formosa Cantigas de Santa Maria, La Sibilla del reno Hildegard von Bingen, the liturgical drama drawn from Florentine codices Quem queritis, Francesco Landini Laudi e Contrafacta nella Firenze del Trecento, Musica per San Zanobi nella Firenze del Trecento. Within this frame he is currently curating La musica della Commedia, an important work on the music of Dante Alighieri's masterpiece, which takes place through concerts, conferences and multimedia productions.

Federico Bardazzi has been the Director of the Maggio Fiorentino Formazione's courses from 2008 to 2014. In his role as training coordinator he has realised higher specialized training courses and projects funded by the European Social Fund. All his artistic and technical projects at the Lyrical Theatre have been developed in collaboration with some of the main Tuscan musical institutions, such as: Teatro Verdi of Pisa, Festival Pucciniano of Torre del Lago, Teatro Metastasio of Prato, with which he is currently collaborating

for other projects. This experience leads to the creation of Opera Network, originally funded together with Carla Zanin, whose objective is to assist in the development of lyrical productions, in collaboration between institutions of different natures, with the aim of encouraging and assisting young artists in the early stages of their careers in developing their professional profile and career path. Some of the most successful projects, all conducted by Federico Bardazzi, have been: Purcell's Fairy Queen (Teatro Goldoni, Florence 2013), Pergolesi's Flaminio (Teatro Verdi of Pisa 2014). Two forthcoming productions are: Alessandro Scarlatti's Il trionfo dell'Onore and Gazzaniga's Don Giovanni (Teatro Verdi, Pisa 2015). Moreover, the season 2016/2017 will see Galuppi's opera in collaboration with Landestheater of Salzburg, under the direction of Carl Philip von Maldegem.

Federico Bardazzi is artistic direct of In-canto gregoriano - Incontri Internazionali di Firenze, a project devoted to the philological study and musical interpretation of the early liturgical repertoire, and member of the senior committee of AISCGre (Associazione Internazionale Studi di Canto Gregoriano).

He is also President of the del Florence International Choir Festival, which, every year, brings together hundreds of choristers from all around the world, in a kermesse of high human and musical value.

Being aware of the high potential that the East represents for both the Italian University as well as for the Artistic and Musical Higher Education system, he is the funder and leading member, within the project Turandot, in collaboration with the Università per Stranieri of Perugia, of a project of cultural, linguistic and musical training for Chinese students.

He has been giving courses on Gregorian chant and Medieval monody at the University of Florence and he has been invited all around the world to lead Masterclasses. 2014 has been a particularly fruitful year, whose highlight have been the World Symposium of Choral Music in Seoul and the Israel Choir Conductor Association in Jerusalem.

Recordings by the Ensemble San Felice – whose concerts have been transmitted by Rai, Swiss, German and Polish radio and the BBC, which has devoted one special on his performances – ranges from the Medieval to the operatic repertoire, and sees him not only in his role of conductor, but also of baroque cellist, gamba and fiddle player, for record labels such as Brilliant, Tactus, and Bongiovanni.

Federico Bardazzi is Professor of Chamber Music and Baroque Music at the State Conservatory Puccini of La Spezia.





## **JÜRGEN PARTAJ**

*President of the Jury*

Jürgen Partaj was born in Vienna into a family of music enthusiasts and so came into early contact with the Austrian choral scene. He studied violin with Eva Bru and attended master classes with Christian Altenburger and Ernst Kovacic. Initially he was active purely in the field of classical music in solo, chamber music and orchestral projects but his concert activity gradually shifted towards crossover. His musical career is complemented by performances with Oscar winner Glen Hansard, concerts as a guest musician in various international performing groups, several CD productions, broadcasts on international TV and radio stations as well as the musical direction at festivals and theatre productions, among others in the framework of the Wiener Festwochen. Besides his musical activities Jürgen Partaj graduated in law with a focus on arts law and founded a music agency in 2000 that specialized in international orchestral and choral tour management.

Jürgen Partaj had the opportunity to work with outstanding musicians such as Elina Garanca, Julian Rachlin, Joe Zawinul, Randy Newman, Lalo Schiffrin and with choral conductors such as Erwin Ortner, Robert Page and Simon Carrington. Jürgen Partaj was founder and director of the contemporary music festival at Schloss Ebelsberg before he founded the "Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival" in 2007 together with the Association Via Musica – a festival for youth choirs and youth orchestras from all over the world. As intendant and artistic director, he annually creates over 200 music events in seven European countries. The festival annually offers concerts, competitions, workshops and intercultural exchange events for around 2.000 participants, among others in the Musikverein (Golden Hall), the Konzerthaus, St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Imperial Palace, the Vienna City Hall and the University of Music as well as in Prague's Smetana Hall. With the establishment and the artistic direction of the youth choir "Neue Wiener Stimmen" in 2010 Jürgen Partaj was able to make a lasting impression in his hometown.

Despite its short existence the Neue Wiener Stimmen can already look back on tours in Austria and abroad, CD and DVD recordings, performances in the most important concert venues in Vienna, at the Life Ball, at the EXPO 2015 in Milan and acclaimed projects with the RSO Vienna, the Swiss Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Max Steiner Orchestra.

Jürgen Partaj is working with the Austrian Composers Society and is much sought after as a jury member of international music competitions.

Since 2019 he is Permanent Chairman of the Jury of the brand Florence Music Festivals: Florence Fun & Music Festival – Colors of the world, Florence International Choir & Orchestra Festival, Music Festa Florence.





## **LUC ANTHONIS**

*Jury Member*

**A**t the Royal Flemish Music Conservatory of Antwerp Luc Anthonis received qualifications for flute, chamber music, harmony, analyses, choral and orchestral conducting.

He rounded out his knowledge on choral conducting in master classes with Eric Ericson, Simon Halsey, Péter Erdei, Jan Eelkema, Michael Scheck and others.

In 1980 Luc Anthonis took over the choir and he himself founded the Vocal Ensemble Cantando in 1989. He still is the conductor of both choirs. The latter has won a great number of prizes in national and international competitions. He conducts the Flemish Radio Choir on a regular basis and has been choirmaster of an international choir in Italy for four years. He gave choral conducting masterclasses in the Netherlands, Austria, Italy, Poland, Estonia,

...

Luc Anthonis is a member the World Choir Council. He is adjudicator in several national and international competitions (Belgium, Netherlands, Estonia, France, Austria, Hong Kong, ...).

He is professor of choral conducting at the Royal Flemish Music Conservatory in Antwerp (Belgium).

He is also teacher at "Art Academie of Ekeren" (Antwerp-Belgium). Over the years his "String Ensemble" has grown to become the "Symphonic Ensemble of Ekeren" (SEE), one of the few "School Symphonic Orchestras" in Belgium.





## LEONARDO CREMONINI

*Jury Member*

**L**eonardo Cremonini, born in Florence in 1973, studies music at the State Conservatory "L. Cherubini" of his hometown, graduating in Clarinet with the maximum of votes and praise under the guidance of M<sup>o</sup> A. Zambelli, and attending the Composition Course under the guidance of M<sup>o</sup> S. Sciarrino.

In parallel with the study of the instrument, he devoted himself to the study of languages, obtaining the Certification of English Language at The British School in Florence. He perfected himself, subsequently, attending Masters in Italy and abroad with F. Meloni, S. Meyer, T. Friedly, A. Pay, R. Crocilla and taking part in the Professional Training Courses of the Youth Symphonic Orchestra "A. Toscanini" of Parma (in the years '93, '94, '95, '96) and of the Teatro alla Scala Academy Orchestra of Milan (in the years '96, '97).

He has been awarded, both as a soloist and in chamber ensembles, in many national and international competitions.

He performed intense chamber music with various groups: Clarinet Quartet "Just for

Clarinet", Quintet of Fiati "L. Cherubini", Quintet Gordon Jacob, performing for the most important Musical institutions and for the main Italian Festivals and Theaters, such as the Friends of Music of Florence, the "Lingotto Musica" Cultural Association of Turin, the Fiesole School of Music, the Roman Philharmonic Academy, the Metastasio Theater of Prato, the Ravello Festival.

He has collaborated with numerous prestigious orchestras: the Instrumental Camerata of Pisa, the Camerata Musicale Padana, the Kammermusik Orchestra of Naples, the Symphonic Orchestra "A. Toscanini" in Parma, the Teatro alla Scala Orchestra of Milan, the Orchestra of Maggio Musicale Fiorentino.

Since 1998 he has been the second Clarinet in the Orchestra of Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, playing under the direction of the most prestigious worldwide conductors: Z. Mehta, C. Abbado, R. Abbado, R. Muti, S. Ozawa, D. Oren, B. Bartoletti, L. Maazel, G. Pretre, to name a few.

For Maggio Musicale Formazione he took part, as a teacher of ensemble music for wind instruments, in the Professional Qualification Courses for Orchestra Teachers, in the years 2004 and 2005.

The orchestral activity combines with that of composer and arranger of pieces for bands and wind groups.



## ALEXANDRE JAMAR DE BOLSE

*Jury Member*

Winner of the 5th  
International Competition of  
Choral Composition  
Ennio Morricone 2018

Alexandre Jamar was born in 1995 in Paris. After a degree in piano and music theory he began his composition studies by following courses in orchestration and harmony at the Conservatory of Nancy. He then joined his present teacher Pierre-Alain Braye-Weppe at the Conservatory of Montereau and also attends regularly private lessons given by Allain Gaussin. His compositions have been premiered at the Belvedere Music Festival of Memphis (3rd Prize) and he received the 1st Price of the Grieg Composition Competition in Oslo, as well as the 1st Price of the Franz Josef Reini-Stiftung in Vienna. His music has been performed in the United States, in France, Norway, Italy and Austria.

In parallel, he studies singing with Didier Henry at the Conservatoire Paul Dukas in Paris. As a singer, he is working with La Chambre Concertante, an ensemble specialised in Renaissance music, and has given several concerts around German lied and French song repertoire.

In 2018, he graduated from the Paris Institute of Political Science, with a master diploma in the management of cultural institutions.





## **JAVIER CLAUDIO PORTALES**

*Jury Member*

**J**avier Claudio Portales –Conductor- (Violin Professor at the Superior Conservatory of Music in Málaga, Dr. professor in the department of Music Education at the University of Málaga, artistic director of Promúsica Project, coordinator of Campus Promúsica and radio music collaborator).

Javier Claudio Portales studied violin in Spain, Luxembourg and Austria, obtaining the highest grades, Extraordari Award Grade and the II International Violin Grand Prix of Spain. He has studied with violinists from the likes of Igor Ozim, Michael Grube, Bretislav Novotny, T. Adamopoulos, Anna Baget or Agustín León Ara, among others. It has integrated various symphony orchestras and chamber as tutti, concertmaster and soloist, and various chamber ensembles (duo and trio), with concerts in Spain, Algeria, France, Italy, Denmark, Austria and Germany. As a teacher, has a history of nearly three decades in which he participated as a speaker at international conferences and has given lectures, and courses for students and teachers throughout the country (Almería, Huelva, Granada, Murcia, Ibiza, Madrid , etc). He is the author of several articles in professional journals and about twenty books and books with different publishers on learning the violin that are distributed and implemented in various Spanish-speaking countries and the US. He was appointed by the Government of Andalusia as editor-rapporteur of the LEA (Law Education of Andalucía) to the basic teachings of music in Andalusia.

He is Doctor from the Department of Education in the Faculty of Education of Málaga and is a member of the research group "Albatros". He has served on the jury of various competitions such as "Angeles Reina", Young Musicians of Ayto Malaga or Muñoz Molleda (Cádiz). He recorded an Compact Disc with the Chamber Orchestra "Rosa Faria", who created and directed for ten years with concerts in and out of Spain and three Compact Disc as Director of Orchestral Project Promúsica of Malaga. He has also directed several meetings to Cuenca Youth Orchestra, Allegro Chamber Orchestra of Andújar, Academy Orchestra of Lisbon and International Orchestre of Eurochestries Festival. For his important professional career he was awarded in 2016: "Ensign of Honor" –Málaga Musical Foundation-.



# Groups

## **BAT KOL CHOIR**

***Conductor Hadar Zlatin***  
Mazkeret Batia, Israel



**M**rs. Hadar Zlatin was born in Haifa, Israel to family of musician. Her parents were known as musician in Haifa and its vicinity. And so, her brother and sisters. As a young girl, Hadar studied music and piano. Hadar is well-known musician, graduate of the school of music at Tel Aviv university and holds a BA degree from the university for Conducting, composing and musical arrangements.

Hadar composed music for theater and shows for children and served as the Musical Director. She is well-known pianist accompanying first class artist in soloist shows. Hadar conducts choirs and writes all the arrangements for their performance and accompanied them by piano.

Mrs. Zlatin represented Israel in large concerts and participated in choral Festivals throughout Europe. She was invited many times, with choral ensemble, to perform in official events at the Israeli President's Residence in Jerusalem. Mrs Zlatin serves as the conductor and Musical Director of the Hadar BAT KOL singers' ensemble about 5 years.



**B**at Kol Group, Mazkeret Batya  
The vocal group Bat Kol has been singing together for more than 25 years, the last 5 of those with our beloved conductor, Hadar Zlatin. We are a diverse group of people in a variety of ages and professions, whose common interest is the love for music and singing.

Our repertoire includes Israeli songs from different periods and musical styles.

The group performed in various events in Jerusalem, Nazareth, the Dead Sea and more, and we are very happy and excited to participate in the Florence International choir festival.



## BEIJING VOICE OF ANGEL CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

**Conductor Chang Jihsi**  
Beijing, China



**C**hang Jihsi, in 1989, attended the Chinese University of Culture in Taipei -Taiwan, Shi Shiryawu, the same year, the young Lion Tube Orchestra. During the school period he joins the Hua Gang Symphony Orchestra, Taipei City, the Chinese orchestra and the young orchestra of artists. In 1992 participated in the school competition, and the Hua Gang Symphony Orchestra had a performance. At the same time, he participated in the concert of the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra. In 1996 he returned to Busan, South Korea, to participate in the PU San Clarinet Choir (Busan single Spring tube Ensemble) with the Japanese Kansai Clarinet Choir (Spring tube Ensemble) and in 2004 was invited by the Kansai clarinet (the Spring tube Ensemble). Touring the Billis. In 2000, he entered the Dutch Conservatory of Rotterdam, graduating in bass clarinet with Henri Bok. Obtained a diploma in education as a performer in 2004. In 2004, he entered the Amsterdam Conservatory in the highest artistic diploma course, graduating in bass clarinet with Harry Sparnay and minor orchestral and chamber music conducting and at the Fontys Conservatorium, in the Netherlands, he achieves Major in saxophone and woodwind chamber music Ensemble. In 2006 he obtained the highest art of the bass clarinet the highest diploma of artist at the Amsterdam Conservatory of Music.



## BEIJING VOICE OF ANGEL CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

The Voice of Angel Chamber Ensemble was jointly planned by the Voice of Angels chorus team and the famous Taiwanese bass clarinet performer Chang Jihsi.

Chang Jihsi is the music director and the permanent chief conductor. The teachers' team are graduated from the Professional Music Academy and have rich teaching qualifications.

The orchestra premiered at the Beijing Concert Hall in July of 2017.



## **BEIJING VOICE OF ANGEL CHILDREN CHOIR**

***Conductor Meng Jia***  
Beijing, China



**M**eng Jia graduated from Central Conservatory of Music. Founder Art Director and President of choir "The Angel voice choir " and "The Angel Voice boys choir "; Vice-Secretary of the Kodaly Music Education Committee of the Musician Association in Beijing.

Meng Jia learnt music since childhood und has been engaged in singing performance for more than ten years.



## BEIJING VOICE OF ANGEL CHILDREN CHOIR

Established in 2005, it aims to provide a diversified stage performance and professional art guide for kids enthusiasts about music. It is a paradise for young people and children who love music. Teachers and children communicate with each other with music, get along well with each other and feel the beauty of music and harmony together. After reaching a certain level, they will step onto the stage together and impress the audience with songs.

After more than ten years, the Angel Voice Choir has successfully held more than ten concerts in Beijing Concert Hall, National Grand Theater and National Atlas Art Center. The kids of Angel Voice have put on performances abroad many times, including the United States, Canada, Germany, Austria, Greece, Singapore and so on. The overall artistic accomplishment and performance level of Angel Voice Choir has been recognized and well received by the audience.



## **EBORAE MUSICA**

### ***Conductor* Eduardo Martins**

Évora, Portugal



**B**orn in Aveiro, Eduardo has completed his basic graduation in Calouste Gulbenkian Music Conservatory of Aveiro. He has a Master degree in Choral Direction at Lisbon's Superior School of Music (ESML), working with teachers as Paulo Lourenço, Vasco Azevedo and Alberto Roque.

He has directed several choirs including the Coral de Letras da Universidade de Coimbra and Grupo Coral Laudamus – Ovar, Coro Sacro e Coro de Câmara da ESML; currently, the Polyphonic Choir Eborae Musica - Évora, the ViVaVoz Choir – Oeiras, Coro do Tejo – Lisboa, Coro da Universidade de Lisboa. Regularly participates as singer or pianist in some musical projects, as the Officium Ensemble (dedicated to perform renaissance poliphony) or mpmp (dedicated to portuguese music). Still, teaches Music Theory lessons, and Choir in the specialized music education.



The "Eborae Mvsica" Polyphonic Choir made its debut in 1987. It has delivered several performances throughout its existence, interpreting not only the polyphony of the Évora Cathedral Music School (16th and 17th centuries), its main goal, as well as other works of different periods, among which should be noted the works with instrumental accompaniment by orchestras: the Oratorio "Jephte" by Carissimi, Mozart's Coronation Mass, "Gloria" by Vivaldi, Mozart's Mass in C Major, Beethoven's 9th Symphony, Mass in G Major by Carlos Seixas and Dvorák's Mass in D Major.

In 2012, the choir participated in the opera "Der Jasager" by Bertold Brecht and Kurt Weill; in 2018 and 2019 in the opera "Orfeo ed Euridice" by Gluck, at Convento dos Remédios and at Teatro Garcia de Resende in Évora. It is preparing the debut of the opera "Geraldo e Samira" by Amílcar Vasques-Dias, towards the end of August.

It has recorded CD's in 1996 and 2005; the CD "Solitânia" with Ronda dos Quatro Caminhos as well as a CD for the compilation "The best Choirs of the Region"; it has recorded broadcasts for Antena 2 (Classical Radio) in 2007 and 2008, for RTP in 1999 and 2000 with the Orquestra Metropolitana, and in 2007 and 2008 for the television show "Acontece".

In international travel, we highlight the participation in "Europália 91" in Belgium, the 10th International Preveza Sacred Music Competition, Greece (2004), having won the third place (bronze medal) and the Concert at Chartres Cathedral in 2018.



## **HONG KONG YING WA PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN CHOIR & SYMPHONIC BAND**

***Conductor* Elise Kwok**  
Hong Kong, China



**M**s Elise Kwok has shown her interest in piano playing and singing since she was 8 years old.

She was an active choir member, choir conductor and assembly pianist in her secondary school years in Hong Kong.

She fulfilled her dream and graduated with a Bachelor of Music Degree at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1997, majoring in Piano Performance with a minor in Vocal Training.

She attained Grade 8 (ABRSM) in Piano with Distinction and achieved a Licentiate Diploma in Piano Performance from Trinity College London (LTCL) as well as an Advanced Certificate from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in Piano Performance.

Besides, she studied vocal and held a recital in the San Francisco Conservatory of Music under the guidance of Ms Anja Strauss, a renowned soprano at the San Francisco Opera.

In the last 20 years, Elise has dedicated herself to children's choir in local Hong Kong schools and the church. She is currently the conductor of the Senior Choir of Ying Wa primary school. She has led the school choirs to participate in the Hong Kong Schools Music Festival for many years and won numbers of prizes and received for the team outstanding comments from international adjudicators.

She loves teaching children singing and she believes singing can brighten their lives.



Ying Wa Primary School's Children Choir was established in 2004. It currently consists of three groups, namely Junior Choir, Senior Choir and Hymn Choir, totalling 150 members.

They sing regularly in school assemblies and for different services. They have actively performed in public concerts including 'Les Choristes In Concert (China Tour Concerts)', 'School Choral Jazz Festival' (organised by Hong Kong Association for Music Educators) and 'New Choral Settings of Tang Poems Gala Concert' (Organised by The Education University of Hong Kong). The Choir was also invited by The Education University of Hong Kong to produce recordings of Choral Setting of Tang Poems, of which the songs were composed by Hong Kong's famous choral composers.

The Choirs enter the competitions of the Hong Kong Schools Music Festival every year and always receive outstanding comments from international adjudicators and have won numbers of prizes, such as the winner of boy choir competition, the winner of Junior choir competition and the winner in singing of Church music.



**HONG KONG YING WA  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
SYMPHONIC BAND**

***Conductor Maurice Poon***

Hong Kong, China



**C**onductor - Maurice Poon Po-choi Poon, a Hong Kong contemporary composer and conductor, is also a keen promoter of education in music. Poon has many years of experience in conducting. Since 2004, with Poon's strict leading and training, the orchestras that he has led have been crowned as Champions at various Hong Kong Schools Music Festivals in the past 15 years. He has also conducted some of YWPS's music groups to victories in overseas festivals and competitions in Europe and Australia.

Poon is now the chief conductor of the Symphony Orchestra, String Orchestra, Symphonic Band and Percussion Ensemble of Ying Wa Primary School. Under his guidance, all teams have won the top accolades in both Hong Kong and abroad. As a whole-hearted conductor, Poon trains the teams through his own style and rich experiences. On the other hand, he has been a saxophonist since he was young. After graduating from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with distinction, majoring in Composition, Poon furthered his studies at Conservatoire de Paris and learned composition with composer Gérard Grisey.



## YING WA PRIMARY SCHOOL SYMPHONIC BAND

Founded in 2009, the Ying Wa Primary School Symphonic Band, embracing the motto "Music Excellence with a Soul", is often regarded as one of the finest school bands in Hong Kong. The team consists of 80-99 members and each of them has had their musical passion cultivated under the professional leadership of their Music Director Ms Eleanor Luk Yin-hung and Chief Conductor Mr Maurice Poon Po-choi.

Every year, more than 80 passionate young musicians, aged 6-12, build up their repertoire of various styles and periods through weekly rehearsals. They receive training highly focused on intonation, sound projection, phrasing and ensemble skills.

Hong Kong Ying Wa Symphonic Band joins different competitions every year. Since 2009, they have obtained numerous honours including Gold Medals and Champions in the Hong Kong Youth Music Interflows Competition and the Hong Kong Schools Music Festival. In 2012, the team was awarded Gold Prize with Honour and Grand Prize at the 21st Century International Arts Festival 2012 (Genting, Malaysia) – Band Competition. In 2014, the team was crowned international champion again, winning the 2014 Yamaha National Band Championships (Concert Band Junior C Grade) held in Brisbane, Australia. On our most recent trip to Europe in 2017, the band made the unprecedented move to enter into festival, The 18th World Music Contest (WMC) in Netherland. The Band received the "Gold Medal" in Harmony 3rd Division and one of our Bassoonists awarded as "The Best soloist" of the competition.



## JOVEN ORQUESTA DE CUERDA ALLEGRO

**Conductor Maryluz Moreno Rojas**

Jaen Cordoba, Spain



**M**aryluz got the Superior Studies of Violin and Chamber Music in Cordoba, her hometown, with the highest marks. She was member of the Andalusian Youth Program Instrumentalists (OJA). During that period she received lessons from Joel Pitchon, Isel Rodriguez, Alfredo García, Manuel Villuendas, Francisco Romo, Víctor Ambroa, Yossi Zinovi and Michael Thomas among other ones. She also did Symphonic and chamber concerts in different places of Andalusia. She played with the Youth Orchestra of Valencia, where she received lessons from Vicente Huertas. There she performed at the Palau de la Música.

She attended to many masterclasses such as Agustín León Ara, Goncal Comellas, Greenwich Quartet, Andras Zcifra, Jose Luis García Asensio, Vartan Manoogian, Eduardo Ortega, David Quigle, Mauro Rossi, Sergei Teslyla, Mimi Zweig, David Zafer, Mariana Todorova, Suzana Stefanovic, Vadim Repin and Mauricio Fucks.

Later, she moved to Madrid so as to wide her studies and she received violin masterclasses at the Reina Sofía Music School.

Maryluz has been member of many different orchestras, such as ORTVE, Orquesta Filarmonía de España, Orquesta Santa Cecilia... She has also recorded some soundtracks like Carmen (Carlos Saura's Film).

She has always been outstanding at chamber music, being part of many chamber groups. Not only doing classical performances, has she been implied at flamenco and traditional Spanish music, playing with José Mercé, Dorantes, Rocío Jurado, etc. Nowadays Maryluz is a violin teacher and headteacher of the school of music of Bailen, and she has been the conductor of Allegro since 2007. Allegro is a cutting-edge project from Andalusia, in South Spain, made for young string players. It is an orchestra which encourages values as teamwork and discipline, while offering the students the opportunity to discover and enjoy the art of music.



Created in 2007 by Maryluz Moreno Rojas, it has had performances at many different places as theatres, churches, museums, streets and squares in order to promote live classical music, making it accesible to all citizenship.

This orchestra has members from different cities from both provinces Córdoba and Jaén, what makes it an original and diverse formation which has become a family.

This understanding is shown in all its musical performances. Moreover, the members are given professional high-technical learning what makes them better musicians while enjoying music.

Allegro usually plays works of a great variety of styles such as Classical composers' works and contemporary ones, with such a high technical difficulty.

Some of its most important actions has been playing with the soloist of the RTVE Orchestra Suzana Stefanovic, taking part in the International Orchestra Meeting in Almuñécar, participation in the V International Alternative Festival on Social Use of the Arts in Italy, the honor of playing for their Majestic the King and Queen of Spain and the President of Andalusia. It has also been awarded with the "Young Collective Prize" withing the ninth edition of the Young Awards Bailenenses 2019 for its avant-garde project in the province for young string players.



## **Molėtai Culture Center Vocal Ensemble "A Cappella"**

**Conductor Violeta Zutkuvienė**  
Molėtai, Lithuania



**V**ioleta Zutkuvienė (1963) is a choir conductor as well as a music teacher. In 1982 she graduated M.K. Ciurlionis Art school and in 1992 she graduated the Lithuanian Music Academy and became a choir conductor and a music teacher too. She started her choir conductor's career in 1986 and she conducted the men choir "Aukštaiciai".

Since 1992 Violeta Zutkuvienė has become a youth and mixed choirs leader and organist at Moletai St. Petras and Povilas church. From 1996 to 2007 she was a conductor of a women quartette in Moletai Cultural Centre. The quartette became the winner of the famous choir conquests not only in Lithuania but in Baltic countries too.

The most successful her project is the mixed ensemble "A cappella". It started in 2000 and it also became the winner of the choir conquests such as "Golden bird", "Silver voices" five times. Violeta Zutkuvienė is a successful music teacher too. She taught at Utena Musical School and now she works at Moletai Musical School. Since 2002 Violeta became a member of initiative group of an annual sacral music festival which is organized at Moletai church.



**M**olėtai Culture Center Vocal Ensemble "A cappella" started singing career since 2000. They performed in their region, in Lithuania and abroad too. They have got pieces in different styles and from different times.

In 2003 they received "The nomination of Golden bird" for the best debut; in 2005 "The silver voices", the first degree diploma.

In 2004 at the national competition "The Song of Šventoji" they won "Absolutely the Best Ensemble".

In 2001, 2002, 2003, 2006 they were the members of the National Festival of the City Burgas in Germany.

In 2006 their first CD "Musical date" was released.

At the same year at "The International Competition of the Vocal Ensembles" in Ryga they obtained the first degree diplom.

In 2007 they won the II place at "The International XVI Šimkus Competition of the Choirs and Ensembles in Klaipėda".

In 2008 they participated in the national competition "Šilų Aidai" (absolutely the best member), at the international competition "Vivace 2008" in Hungary (the Winner of the Jury) and at "The Parade of Lithuanian Greatest Musicians".

In 2009 they won II place at "The international XVII Šimkus Competition of the Choirs and Ensembles" in Klaipėda and in 2010 the Gold Diploma I place at the international competition "Cantate Domino" in Kaunas.

In 2011 at the international competition "Tallinn 2011" in Estonia they obtained the II Degree Diploma.

In 2012 and 2014 they won Gold Diploma I place at the international competition "Cantate Domino" in Kaunas.

In 2015 at "The Internacional Competition, Festival Bratislava Cantat II 2015" they won Gold diplome, I place.

The leader of Molėtai Culture Center Vocal Ensemble "A cappella" is Violeta Zutkuvienė



## TIAN ZHI YUN CHOIR

### **Conductor Yi Dan**

Chengdu, China



**Y**i Dan, conductor, studying the undergraduate course in Sichuan Music College Music Education, professional master's degree is at Sichuan Conservatory of Music composition command, from the famous conductor Xilin Li, professor has repeatedly to participate in the international and domestic chorus game, winning the award for the best conductor.

She is the Sichuan Conservatory of Music Association Chorus Sichuan Opera Chorus director teacher, assistant to the director, "Tian Zhi Yun" Chorus Art Director of Chengdu, Chengdu Children's Choir distinguished command.



The chorus named "Tian Zhi Yun" in Chengdu, China, brought together a group of like-minded chorus lovers, most of the members are the Chengdu bureau of China railway group co., LTD., the company's employees, 16 years of choral art persistence and pursuit, Rhyme of Days chorus has become China's Western Sichuan province's top ten excellent choruses, won the gold prize in 2016 at China International Chorus Festival held in Hong Kong, attended the XiChang Venue of a household name in China's Spring Festival gala performances in 2017.

A part of the "Tian Zhi Yun" women's chorus members will go to Florence, Italy to participate in the choral art study exchange on this occasion. They will absorb the nutrition of the chorus, share the joy of the chorus and bring the beautiful harmony of the far eastern countries in the shining land of Italy. Ms. Yi Dan, the conductor of the chorus, is an excellent young teacher of Music College in Sichuan province, China. She is under the guidance of professor Xilin Li, the famous conductor and vice chairman of the Chinese Chorus Association, chairman of the Sichuan Chorus Association. Yi Dan is one of the most active chorus artists in western China.



## **VOCA ERUDITA STUDENT CHOIR OF UNIVERSITAS SEBELAS MARET**

**Conductors Redi Sabtono & Ardian Dika  
Adhyatma**  
Surakarta, Indonesia

**R**edi Sabtono is the conductor of Voca Erudita Student Choir of Sebelas Maret University. Under his guidance, Voca Erudita Student Choir has achieved several awards; both national and international. Recent achievements reached by Voca Erudita Student Choir is by winning the 3rd Place for Poliphony Categories, 3rd Place for Habaneras Categories dan Francisco Vallejos award for Best Interpretation of Song Tu in 35th Festival Internacional de Musica de Cantonigros and 63rd International Choral Contest Habaneras and Poliphony-Torrevieja, which is held in Spain, 2017. Moreover, Redi Saptono also delivered Voca Erudita Student Choir as the Grand Champion in Soegijapranata Choral Festival 2018 for various achievements such as Champion of Mixed Category, Gold A Medal for Folklore Category, and Best Interpretation for Indonesia Contemporary Choral Music and also, a year before, Voca Erudita Student Choir also becoming the Grand Champion of Choir Competition of Airlangga University (Lomba Paduan Suara Universitas Airlangga) in 2016 for Folksong and Hystorical Programme, achieved also the Best Programme in folksong category.



**A**rdian Dika Adhyatma is a former member of Voca Erudita Student Choir of Sebelas Maret University who has been actively participated as an assisant conductor since 2012, and today he is one of conductor Voca Erudita Student Choir. Under his direction, Voca Erudita Student Choir achieved an award as the first winner of Choir Competition of University in Central Java (Lomba Paduan Suara antar Universitas Tingkat Jawa Tengah), as well as in 2016 he also conducted the choir in Choir Competition of Airlangga University (Lomb Paduan Suara Universitas Airlangga). In the following year, Ardian Dika Adhyatma participated as the main conductor for Voca Erudita Student Choir in the 6th Satya Dharma Gita National Choir Festival 2017 of Law Faculty of Diponegoro University and led Voca Erudita Student Choir to achieved several awards as well as Grand Champion, Champion of Popular Music Category, Champion of Folklore Category, 2nd Winner of Mixed Choir Category, and Best Interpretation of Mixed Choir Compulsory Song "Cinta Di Ujung Duka Pertiwi".



**V**oca Erudita Student Choir of Universitas Sebelas Maret Reformed in Solo, the spirit of java, in December 17, 1987, Voca Erudita Student Choir is the foremost student activity unit in Sebelas Maret University where students are not only learning about singing and musical skills but also developing their organizational management. Voca Erudita, which is originated from Latin words meaning the voice of educated people, had proven their reputation towards various local and international choral competitions. Regarding its achievements, Voca Erudita has been well known because of its name representing the Sebelas Maret Univeristy. Some of the recent achievements obtained by Voca Erudita Student Choir Of Sebelas Maret University: in 2017 at 6th Satya Dharma Gita National Choir Festival 2017, Semarang, Voca Erudita won the categories Grand Champion, Champion of Popular Music Category, Champion of Folklore Category, 2nd Winner of Mixed Choir Category, Best Interpretation of Mixed Choir Compulsory Song "Cinta Di Ujung Duka Pertiwi". At the same year at 35th Festival Internacional de Musica de Cantonigros and 63rd International Choral Contest Habaneras and Poliphony-Torre Vieja 2017 Voca Erudita won: 3rd Place for Poliphony Categories, 3rd Place for Habaneras Categories, Francisco Vallejos Award for Best Interpretation of Song Tu. In 2018, Voca Erudita participated in the Soegijapranata Choral Festival, Semarang and won Grand Champion of Soegijapranata Choral Festival for VocaErudita Female Choir, Champion of Mixed Category, Champion of Equal Voices Category, Gold A Medal for Folklore Category and Best Interpretation for Indonesian Contemporary Choral Music. Many other prizes were won in other Festivals, such as: Lomba Paduan Suara Universitas Airlangga 2016, Surabaya, Intenationaler Chorwettbewerb Spittal An Der Drau, Austria 2015, BusanChoral Festival and Competition 2014, South Korea, Vocal Group Competition in Pekan Seni Mahasiswa Daerah (PEKSIMIDA) of Central Java 2014 of Satya Wacana Christian University Salatiga, Hongkong International Youth And Children's Choir Festival 2013, Hongkong International Youth And Children's Choir Festival 2013 (Grand Champion of Youth Mix Voice, Gold Medal of Folklore) and Bali International Choir Festival Agustus 2012 (Grand Champion of Mixed Choir Category Grand Champion of Folklore Category,Grand Champion of Pop Jazz Category,Grandprix of BICF 2012, Champion of Champion)



## VOCASOUL

### **Conductor Moshe Nir**

Ramat Gan, Israel



**I**n 1990 Moshe Nir obtained B.A. in choir conducting from Tel Aviv University and Lewinsky College, in 2004 Master in music and educational management, M.E.D. from the University of Liverpool. He writes the arrangements for five choirs. He is conductor and musical manager of the following choirs: Nigunin, Shikma, Chen Singers, Tzadikov, Tzahalolim.

Moshe Nir writes and composes original music for songs and guitar. He also works with children with special needs, teaching them music and singing.



**V**ocasoul choir is a combined choir of three choirs conducted by our conductor Moshe Nir.  
The choir's names are: Shikma, Nigunim, Chen Singers.

Vocasoul was established five years ago; the choir meets once a week to practice.

Singers from the choir have been performing in various choirs from five to twenty years.

The repertoire is rich and versatile and consists of various styles and includes: ethnic songs, classic, jazz, with emphasis on Israeli oldies The choir participated in many choral concerts and performed in various musical events.

Vocasoul choir competed in respectable international competitions such as:

Alta Pusteria Italy, Preveza Grece, Saint Petersburg Russia

The choir received a silver medal in Saint Petersburg

The choir main assets are love of music and mankind

The musical arrangements were written by our conductor Moshe Nir

Our gifted pianist is Eyal Shaked



## **XIAMEN UNIVERSITY DUET**

Xiamen, China

**Q**in Xiao Zheng Di" (Li Jing & Ye Feisheng)  
Chinese National Chamber Music Group  
The "Qin Xiao Zheng Di" Chinese National Chamber Music Group was jointly founded in 2003 by zheng (Chinese zither) teacher Li Jing and bamboo flute and dongxiao (Chinese vertical bamboo flute) teacher Ye Feisheng at Xiamen University's School of Art.

Both teachers are renowned for their highly-skilled, expressive performances. Over the years, they have been devoted to promoting Chinese classical national chamber music and have presented many performances on and off campus, fascinating the audiences with the charm of Oriental culture and art.

Their performances have received high praise from national and foreign leaders.



On April 28, 2014, they staged the "River Scene on the Pure Brightness Festival" Flute, Xiao and Zheng Trio Concert. They have performed in more than thirty countries and regions, including the UK, the US, Canada, Germany and Poland, on behalf of Xiamen University, winning critical acclaims around the world.



## **XIAMEN UNIVERSITY ENSEMBLE**

Xiamen, China

**X**u Caiping, Ye Feisheng, Li Jing, Lin Chen  
(From Xiamen University National Chamber Orchestra)  
Xu Caiping, Ye Feisheng, Li Jing and Lin Chen are teachers from Xiamen University National Chamber Orchestra.

The Orchesetra is composed of teachers and students of the National Instrument and Music Teaching and Research Department of the Music Department of the College of Arts of Xiamen University. Since 1983, the National Instrument and Music Teaching and Research Department has trained many excellent national music talents, which has made an important contribution to the inheritance and development of Chinese traditional music culture in Fujian Province.



Over the past decades, art troupes composed of teachers and students have visited more than a dozen countries on behalf of China and Xiamen University.

They have participated in many important conferences, reception and celebration performances inside and outside the university, such as: "Music Xiamen, Rhyming New Year: 2019 Xiamen New Year Concert", "Global Humanities Festival Special Concert", "Chinese Rhyme, Elegant Style, Respecting to the National Music: National Orchestra Special Concert", "A Night of Flowers and Moonlight by the Spring River: Chinese Traditional Music Concerts", "The Ninth Confucius Institute Congress", and "Victoria University Day in Wellington, New Zealand", etc. It has been recognized and highly appraised by the guests and music experts at home and abroad.

Teachers and students of the orchestra will continue to adhere to and develop cultural self-confidence, and strive to make their own contributions to enriching campus culture, promoting national music and inheriting excellent traditional Chinese culture.



## **XIAMEN UNIVERSITY NATIONAL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

Xiamen, China

**I**t is composed of teachers and students of the National Instrument and Music Teaching and Research Department of the Music Department of the College of Arts of Xiamen University. Since 1983, the National Instrument and Music Teaching and Research Department has trained many excellent national music talents, which has made an important contribution to the inheritance and development of Chinese traditional music culture in Fujian Province.

Over the past decades, art troupes composed of teachers and students have visited more than a dozen countries on behalf of China and Xiamen University. They have participated in many important conferences, reception and celebration performances inside and outside the university, such as: "Music Xiamen, Rhyming New Year: 2019 Xiamen New Year Concert", "Global Humanities Festival Special Concert", "Chinese Rhyme, Elegant Style, Respecting to the National Music: National Orchestra Special Concert", "A Night of Flowers and Moonlight by the Spring River: Chinese Traditional Music Concerts", "The Ninth Confucius Institute Congress", and "Victoria University Day in Wellington, New Zealand", etc.



**I**t has been recognized and highly appraised by the guests and music experts at home and abroad.

Teachers and students of the orchestra will continue to adhere to and develop cultural self-confidence, and strive to make their own contributions to enriching campus culture, promoting national music and inheriting excellent traditional Chinese culture.



## **International Competition of Choral Composition Ennio Morricone**

The FICF is enhanced by a prestigious new initiative. A choral composition competition where the famous Maestro Ennio Morricone, honorary Academy Award winner, will nominate the best composition that will be the obligatory piece in the category M - Modern and Contemporary Music and it will be premiered during the next Florence International Choir & Orchestra Festival.

The winning composer will be member of the international jury on the Florence International Choir Festival.



## RESULT OF 6th EDITION 2019

### 1st Prize:

VELJKO NENADIĆ, Serbia  
*Haiku*

### JURY

ENNIO MORRICONE



Ennio Morricone in his house in Rome with the Diplomas of the winners just personally signed, together with the Board of FICF Federico Bardazzi and Carla Zanin.





## **Veljko Nenadić, Serbia**

**V**eljko Nenadić, composer and pianist, was born in Smederevo, Serbia, in 1998. He is a sophomore at the Music Academy in Belgrade, Composition Department, in the class of prof. Isidora Žebeljan.

He has won a number of competitions abroad and in Serbia. The most significant successes were four wins in the competition for young composers in the USA "Golden Key Piano Composition Competition" 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2017, having been the second best in 2016. In 2013, he won Spanish "Fidelio Musica" competition, without age limits. He won Moscow competition, "Slavic Music Festival" and the Grand Prix in 2015, and was second best in 2016. In Slovenia, he won the international competition of young composers and performers "Oscar Rieding" and a Special Award of the competition.

In addition to contemporary classical music, Veljko is also successful in other music genres. He has published an independent CD "Flute And Piano Play" released by WMAS records, and he was also composing music for TV shows at Serbian National Television (RTS). In 2015, he was selected to perform at the "Nishville Jazz Festival", as one of the four best young pianists in Serbia.

Veljko won a special prize for the most promising young Serbian composer from the "Society for the Appreciation of Artistic Endeavor".





# FICF - FLORENCE INTERNATIONAL CHOIR & ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL



## BOARD

*Founder & CEO* **Carla Zanin**

*President & Artistic Director* **Federico Bardazzi**

*Permanent Chairman of the Jury* **Jürgen Partaj**

*Organization & Presenter* **Letizia Dei**

*Organization* **Claudia Bacherini**

## STAFF

**Cristina Wang**  
**Manuela Mollica**  
**Silvano Boccia**

*Photo & Video* **Nicola Cavina**

*Graphic designer, Photo & Video* **Sinem Samuray**

[www.florencechoirfestival.com](http://www.florencechoirfestival.com)  
[info@florencechoirfestival.com](mailto:info@florencechoirfestival.com)

A production by



## ENSEMBLE SAN FELICE

*President* Federico Bardazzi

*General Manager* Carla Zanin

*Artistic Director* Marco Di Manno

[www.ensemblesanfelice.com](http://www.ensemblesanfelice.com)

[info@ensemblesanfelice.com](mailto:info@ensemblesanfelice.com)

### **FLORENCE MUSIC FESTIVALS 2020**

9th International Choirs & Orchestras Festival  
22 - 24 July 2020

3rd Florence Fun & Music Festival – colours of the world  
28 - 30 June 2020

5th Music Festa Florence  
26 – 28 November 2020

1st Florence Gospel Symposium  
26 - 29 November 2020







**Next edition**  
**22 – 24 July 2020**

*The Unique  
and  
Original Brand*

for Choirs  
Orchestras & Bands in Florence

[www.florencechoirfestival.com](http://www.florencechoirfestival.com)

[info@florencechoirfestival.com](mailto:info@florencechoirfestival.com)



Florence Choir Festival