



32nd INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR FESTIVAL **Celje, Slovenia, May 10 – 14, 2017**

**Competition of Children's, Youth and Girl's Choirs * Concerts *
Open Singing * Workshops * Round Tables * Exhibitor * Closing
concert of joined choirs**

Organiser of the Festival

Zavod Celeia Celje
Manager: Milena Čeko Pungartnik
Art Director: Nenad Firšt
Music Committee: Tomaž Faganel, Nenad Firšt, Damijan Močnik

International Youth Choir Festival Celje is a biennial meeting of youth choirs chosen from Slovenia and abroad. In its history it has become a manifestation of the European character which regularly follows, values and stimulates the achievements of youth choirs, and with this it influences the quality level of young people's singing culture.

The Choirs taking part at the 32nd International Youth Choir Festival will present themselves at the competition concert and with an independent performance with a programme of their choice, as well as joining other singers at open singing and presenting a typical piece from their cultural environment.

Competition Terms

Competition Categories

The competitions at the 32nd International Youth Choir Festival are open to children's, youth and girls' choirs and are divided into three categories:

- A** – Children's choirs (choristers born in 2002 or younger);
- B** – Youth choirs - SATB (choristers born in 1997 or younger);
- C** – Girls' choirs (choristers born in 1997 or younger).

Competition Programme

Every competing choir must perform four compositions:

Category A

- **Compulsory piece:** Fran Gerbič (1840-1917): **Ave Maria, op. 66;**
- **A composition written after 1990;**
- **Two compositions of free choice, maximum one of them can be a folk song.**

Category B

- **Compulsory piece:** Jacobus Handl – Gallus (1550–1591): **Heroes, pugnate viri fortissimi!** (Harmoniaë morales, I, 12) *;
- **A Romantic composition written by an author born before 1900;**
- **A composition written after 1990;**
- **One free choice composition.**

Category C

- **Compulsory piece:** Jacobus Handl – Gallus (1550–1591): **Pueri Hebraeorum** (Opus musicum II, 10) *;
- **A Romantic composition written by an author born before 1900;**
- **A composition written after 1990;**
- **One free choice composition.**

* The pitch of the compulsory piece is allowed to be changed.

Printed music for compulsory pieces (Jacobus Handl – Gallus) is available at:

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Maximum two compositions in a competition programme (besides the compulsory piece) may be the work of composers from the choir's country of origin.

Competition procedure

A choir may consist of 20 to 50 singers and can be accompanied by up to 5 persons including the conductor. The number of choristers and their ages will be verified by a special commission immediately before the competition.

The competing choirs are, as a rule, expected to perform a cappella. Only in one free-choice composition original instrumental accompaniment of maximum 3 instruments may be used.

The total music time of compositions selected by a choir must not exceed 15 minutes. The order of compositions is defined by the relevant choir on the entry form and cannot be changed at a later time.

Judging

The international jury will assess a choir's technical (intonation, rhythm, diction, phrasing, fidelity to the score) and artistic performance (tempo, agogics, dynamics, sound, style, narration), besides the artistic quality and the demands of the programme, grading the choirs within a system of points with 100 as a maximum. The jury decisions will be announced no later than one hour after the conclusion of a particular competition category. Possible special awards will be decided upon by the jury after the competition conclusion. The jury decisions are final. All competing choirs will receive a written evaluation of their performance within two months.

Awards and prizes

A festival gold plaque will be awarded to choirs achieving at least 90 points.

A festival silver plaque will be awarded to choirs achieving at least 80 points.

A festival bronze plaque will be awarded to choirs achieving at least 70 points.

A participation recognition will be received by all the other choirs.

Optionally, the jury may choose to award the following special prizes:

- for the best performance of the compulsory piece;
- for the best performance of a composition written after 1990;
- for the best performance of a Slovene composition.

Monetary prizes will be received by:

- three gold plaque winning choirs that will have achieved the highest total of points in their category;
- the artistically most convincing conductor;

An award by the public will be granted to a choir at every competition concert.

Competition Entry

The deadline for application form submission is March 1, 2017. The application must be sent to both e-mail addresses below:

nenad.first@celje.si and **tic@celje.si**

Or by post:

Zavod Celeia Celje
32. MMPF
Krekov trg 3
SI - 3000 Celje

Enclosures to the application form must include:

- scores of the entering compositions;
- a brief history and a recent photograph of the choir;
- a list of names and birth dates of the choristers- a live performance recording of the choir with a minimum of 15 minutes music time. The recording must not be older than one year;
- the programme of a 20-minute repertoire to be performed by the choir at the non-competitive festival concert.

Acknowledged will be only the application forms, with all required enclosures, received by the organiser (The Festival) by March 1, 2017.

General Provisions

The festival music committee will select a maximum of 20 choirs for entry in the competition. The selected choirs will be notified in writing by March 20, 2017.

The order of the choirs performing at the competition is defined by the musical committee of the festival. Their decisions are final. The selected choirs waive all rights pertaining to any sound or video recordings of the performances. Their sole owner shall be the organiser (The Festival).

The registration fee for choirs from abroad is 45,00 EUR per person and must be paid in cash on arrival. The cost of the journey to and from Celje must be covered by the choirs themselves. **During the festival the choirs will be provided with suitable free accommodation and meals.**

History

The first idea of uniting youth choirs dates back to the year 1935, by the initiative of The Youth Choirs Choirmasters' Association from Slovenske Konjice. In 1946 the project was carried out as the first open singing concert of young singers, called "Praznik mladinske pomladi" (The holiday of youth spring). Jurče Vreže, who took over the part of the first conductor of the unique open singing concert, took the lead of 3000 young singers in front of the Prothasi Mansion in Celje. The first Youth Choir Festival was created. Between 1946 and 1961 the event started exceeding its local character. In 1960, the choirs from several cities of the former Yugoslav republics performed for the first time and in 1963 the event, now becoming competitive and organised every two years, attracted young singers from abroad. In 1969, the 8th Youth Choir Festival attracted choirs from abroad to open singing at the Muzejski trg, which has become a tradition up until now. In 1989, once strong connections between nations and nationalities of the former Yugoslavia began to blunt. No one had the premonition that the festival, scheduled for 1991, will not take place. The war in former Yugoslavia started. The substitutional year for the postponed festival was 1992, with choirs from Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Hungary. The arrival of the Bosnia and Herzegovina's choir was prevented by the war. The foreign countries responded in a smaller number and with fear. *"The performing choirs were singing in a relaxed atmosphere, the joint singing was spontaneously joyful, with great approval of the foreign choirs and conductors and the president of the Republic of Slovenia... It was a real European atmosphere."* Those are the memories of György Mihalka, a collaborator of many years of the festival. The Festival, now taking place in a new country, Slovenia, has made an important move, due to all the unpleasant circumstances. It has officially become the International Youth Choir Festival. Since 1992 ten festivals were organised. The invitation was accepted by Slovene choirs as well as other European choirs, and young people from Italy, Germany, Austria, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia, Portugal, Russia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Ireland, Belarus, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Estonia, Sweden, Great Britain and Israel, were singing in Celje again. The choirs and choirmasters were accompanied by distinguished members of the jury: Edvard Goršič, Tomaž Faganel, Jernej Habjanič, Damijan Močnik, Dragica Žvar, Martina Batič, Helena Fojkar Zupančič, Sebastjan Vrhovnik (Slovenia), Vladimir Kranjčević (Croatia), Venno Laul (Estonia), François-Xavier Delacoste, Hansruedi Kämpfen (Switzerland), Johan van Bouwelen, Johan Duijck, Benoît Giaux, Jean-Claude Wilkens (Belgium), Zsuzsánna Graf, Zsuzsánna Mindeszenty (Hungary), Karl Zepnik, Johannes Rahe, Gudrun Schröfel (Germany), Malcolm Goldring, Joy Hill (Great Britain), Bo Johansson (Sweden), Corrado Margutti (Italy) and Anne-Marie Cabut (France). The festival which is created by us since 1946 is still very much alive. It follows the pulse of the time, and it is planned as a festival, changing with generations.

