

CHORAL SINGING IN SLOVENIA

Major National and International Choral Events

Outstanding Choirs

Contemporary Slovene Composers

Institutions Supporting Choral Activities

Publishers of Choral Music

JSKD

MAJOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CHORAL EVENTS

The choirs regularly present themselves by concerts. The most spread out is the network for amateur culture under the organisation of the Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities. Each of its 58 branches takes an active part in the organisation of regular choir events where the choirs are professionally assisted and counselled by the best Slovene choirmasters.

The events proceed on three levels:

Local - annual local presentation of all choirs by 3 songs each

Regional - biennial competitions (6) of the better choirs from the local level; biennial non-competitive concerts with thematic programme

National - festival and 3 competitions:



Review of selected octets from Slovenia, Brežice

For up to 10 selected octets.
Next: October 15, 2005.

Review of children's and youth choirs, Zagorje ob Savi

Biennial national competition for up to 44 selected children's and youth choirs.
Next: April 4/5, 2006.

Competition of Slovene choirs

Naša pesem (Our Song), Maribor
Biennial national competition for up to 28 selected Slovene adult choirs.
Next: April 21/22, 2007.



Festival of vocal pop and jazz music Sredi zvezd (Amidst the Stars), Žalec

Competition for selected ensembles of 4-10 members; vocal pop and jazz a cappella. *Next: May 19/20, 2006.*



International Choral Competition Maribor

Biennial since 1992. For up to 12 selected female, male and mixed choirs of 16 - 48 singers. Folk songs (non-competitive) and three competitive programmes (compulsory, free and Grand Prix). Monetary awards; accommodation for the selected choirs free of charge. The



Maribor competition is one of the founding members of the new Choral Festival Network (CFN), organised by the IFCM.

*Next: April 21/23, 2006.
(Application deadline Nov.
28, '05.) For announcements,
application forms, names of
outstanding choirs and jury
members from the previous events
see www.jskd.si*



International Youth Choir Festival, Celje

Biennial since 1946. Three categories (children's, youth, girls'). Accompanying festival events: professional conferences of pedagogues and choirmasters, musical workshops, choral concerts, and the traditional concluding concert of the joint Slovene and foreign children's and youth choirs.



*Next: April 2007.
For announcements, application
forms, names of outstanding
choirs and jury members from
the previous events see
www.zkp-celje.si*

Children's and Youth Choirs

Carmina Slovenica, Maribor

(Cond. Karmina Šilec)

Renowned worldwide, this youth choir introduces with the Choriegi - Vocal Theatre a new artistic concept which incorporates music, movement, acting and other scenic elements. Their



Carmina Slovenica

stage productions of this kind have lately been Scivias, Vampirabile, Iz veka vekov (From Time Immemorial), Slovenian Sounds, Adiemus - awarded projects, performed at many international festivals and broadcast by EBU and Eurovision. The choir's speciality are contemporary music, ethnic (particularly from the



Karmina Šilec

Balkan countries) and medieval music as well as baroque pieces composed by nuns.

Karmina Šilec is the recipient of the international prize for choral music Robert Edler 2004.

www.zbor-carmina-slovenica.si

Mešani mladinski zbor Veter

(Youth Choir Veter), Ljubljana

(Cond. Urša Lah)

Most international awards (recently Neerpelt, Pohlheim, Cork, Budapest, Lindenholzhauen, Preveza). Their concert activities are high; frequently they have collaborated with the Slovenia RTV Symphony Orchestra and the Slovenia RTV Big Band.
www.gml-drustvo.si/zbor_veter.htm

Other excellent choirs

Children's

Children's choir of the Centre for musical education, Koper (cond. Maja Cilenšek); Children's choir of Radio Slovenia (cond. Tomaž Pirnat); Children's choir of the musical school Fran Korun

Gombač); Girls' choir of the Gymnasium Celje-Center (cond. Barbara Arlič).

Mixed Youth

Youth choir of the Diocesan Clasical Gymnasium, Ljubljana Šentvid (cond. Helena Fojkar Zupančič, Damijan Močnik).

Youth Choir Veter



Koželjski, Velenje (cond. Matjaž Vehovec).

Girls'

Girls' choir of the Diocesan Classical Gymnasium, Ljubljana Šentvid (cond. Helena Fojkar Zupančič); Girls' choir Aurora SVŠGL (Gymnasium), Ljubljana (cond. Janja Dragan

More on choirs at the
www.jskd.si

**OUTSTANDING
CHOIRS**

Amateur Adult Choirs

Akademski pevski zbor (APZ) Tone Tomšič, University of Ljubljana

(cond. Urša Lah)

Academic choir with an 80-year tradition. Programme orientation: contemporary compositions and première performances



APZ Tone Tomšič



Stojan Kuret

of the works by Slovene composers. The only Slovene choir to obtain the European Grand Prix (Arezzo 2002, cond. Stojan Kuret). Their recent successes are: Awards at Tampere 2003, Cantonigros 2004 and Gorizia 2005 (cond. Urša Lah).

www.apz-tt.si

Komorni zbor Ave

(cond. Andraž Hauptman)

Chamber choir, placed among the finalists of the European Grand Prix in Tours, first and second prizes at the 2000 Felipe Vallesi Mendoza, 2001 Tallin, 2004 Franz Schubert, Vienna.
www2.arnes.si/~ljave1s

The recipients of the Gold Plaque at the last two national competitions Naša pesem:

Mešani zbor Sv. Nikolaja, Litija

(cond. Helena Fojkar Zupančič)

A mixed choir, the choristers of which are linked by a sincere and strong experience of sacred music.

De profundis



Ave



Mešani pevski zbor Cantemus, Kamnik

(cond. *Sebastjan Vrhovnik*)

Mixed choir. Besides in Slovene music they are interested as well in interpreting Renaissance and Baroque pieces (including the vocal-instrumental works).

www.zbor-cantemus.si



Sv. Nikolaj

Komorni zbor Ipavška

(cond. *Matjaž Šček*)

The chamber choir was born with V. Myskinis's music; their performances were assisted by the composer. They were prized as the best debutant choir in 2003 in Slovenia and later on achieved many international successes.

Komorni zbor De profundis

(cond. *Branka Potočnik Krajnik*)

This chamber choir has recently commissioned and performed a number of new pieces by Slovene composers.

www.drustvo-de profundis.si

Mešani pevski zbor Hrast, Doberdob/Italy

(cond. *Hilarij Lavrenčič*)

Mixed choir of the Slovene minority in Italy that became renowned in Italy and Slovenia.

hrast@tiscali.it

Mešani pevski zbor Obala

(cond. *Ambrož Čopi*)

Mixed choir; organiser of the interesting Choir Festival Koper with concerts and workshops.

www.zborobala.net

Šaleški akademski zbor

(cond. *Danica Pirečnik*)

Academic choir. Recently they premiered works by the rising very young composers.

matjaz.salej@erico.si

Komorní zbor Megaron

(cond. Damijan Močnik)

The best debutant choir at the national competition Naša pesem 2005.

www.megaron.si

See the www.jskd.si for other excellent Slovene choirs:



Akademski pevski zbor France Prešeren Kranj (cond. Primož Kerštanj), Akademski pevski zbor Maribor (cond. Zsuzsa Budavari Novak), Cerkveni ženski pevski zbor A. Vavken (cond. Damijan Močnik), Vokalna skupina Canticum (cond. Jože Fürst), Consortium musicum (Mirko Cuderman), Mešani zbor Danica

Št. Primož/

Austria

(cond.

Stanko

Polzer),

Domžalski komorni

zbor (cond. Tomaž Pirnat),

Komorni zbor Emanuel Celje

(cond. Bernarda Kink), KUD

PAZ Vinko Vodopivec (cond.

Primož Malavašič), Ljubljanski

madrigalisti (cond. Andreja

Martinjak), Mešani pevski zbor

Postojna (cond. Matej Penko),

Perpetuum Jazzile (cond. Tomaž

Kozlevčar).

Project Choirs (working in summer sessions)

Slovene Children's Choir

(10-16), for 90 singers



(artistic director Damijan Močnik, conductors: Helena Fojkar Zupančič, Bernarda Kink, Martina Batič)

Slovene Project Choir

for young adults (18-30)

(Cond. Karmina Šilec, Stojan Kuret)

Three choirs in one: male (24),

female (32) and mixed (56).



Ipavška

The best Slovene vocal groups of pop and jazz music:

Bit

(under Sanja Mlinar)

Dust

(under Samo Ivačič)

www.vs-dust.com



Šaleški akademski zbor

Vocal Groups

Slovenski oktet (Slovene octet)

(Artistic director Mirko Cuderman)

The best octet; in the past

it carried out the function of

spreading Slovene song among

the Slovenes abroad.

www.slovenski-oktet.si

For other excellent vocal groups see the website www.jskd.si

Professional Choirs

Slovenski komorni zbor (Slovene Chamber Choir)

(cond. Mirko Cuderman)

Since 1991. The only professional concert choir in Slovenia. Every year they give eight concerts



of the Vocal Season. The choir recorded 30 CDs of the series Musica sacra slovenica and 20 CDs of the series Slovene Choral Music.
www.filharmonija.si/zbor

The Choir of the Opera Theatre of Ljubljana

www2.arnes.si/opera

The Choir of the Opera Theatre of Maribor

www.sng-mb.si

Komorni zbor RTV Slovenija

The RTV Slovenia chamber choir is a semi-professional choir. 60 years of this choir's activity after the WWII have passed by now. It has been led by notable and experienced conductors (many of whom were closely connected with the APZ Tone Tomšič): Ciril Cvetko, Milko Škoberne, Lojze Lebič, Marko Munih, Mirko Cuderman, Jože Fürst, Matjaž Šček, Urša Lah, Stojan Kuret.

Slovene Chamber Choir



Lojze Lebič (1934)

Today he ranks as one of Slovenia's leading composers. Although he is mainly an instrumental composer, his choral opus is weighty. He has been the most demanded composer by Slovene choir ensembles. Also scenic music is to be found in his large life opus. His choral works are published mostly by the JSKD (Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities) and the Earthsongs.



Alojz Srebotnjak (1931)

His large opus contains also quite an amount of choral works. Slovene music has been enriched by a line of his vocal pieces where he applies some elements of the musical tradition of other South Slavic nations. Publishers: DSS, JSKD, Astrum (Slovenia).

CONTEMPORARY

Uroš Krek (1922)

His life work ranks him among the most excellent Slovene composers of the 20th century. Attached to neoromantic tendency and use of folklore elements (he also worked at the Musical and Ethnographic Institute) he follows the example of classical principles without avoiding the constraints of more modern research. Publishers: JSKD, DSS (The Society of Slovene Composers), Pizzicato Verlag.



Jakob Jež (1928)

His opus of vocal music is rich and wide, particularly in the youth and children's genre. Writes instrumental music as well. The characteristic features of his compositions reflect the use of traditional means on the one hand and scenic effects on the other. Publishers: JSKD, DSS.

Pavle Merkù (1927)

Member of the Slovene minority in Italy. Besides composing, he is dedicated to ethnomusicology and researches into the music of the Slovene minority in Resia/Italy which is often reflected also in his vocal compositions. His opus extends to almost all forms of composing. Publishers: JSKD, Pizzicato, Astrum.



Aldo Kumar (1954)

Of the works by Slovene composers, his compositions are among the most frequently performed. Though he has written a number of significant pieces in the instrumental and symphonic fields, vocal music has remained his first love. In his creativity, strong traces of Istrian folk music are characteristically present in the opus. Publishers: JSKD, Astrum.

Damijan Močnik (1967)

His musical language is inspired by a chosen text, its rhythm and tune. In his melodism a remote tinge of the chorale and archetypal sonic notions, also from folk music, are perceived. His melodic narrative often develops into a many-coloured polyphonic, polylonial and polychord structure. Publishers: Astrum, Carus Verlag.



Ambrož Čopí (1973)

Composer of works with secular as well as sacred topic (in Latin) and arrangements of Slovene folk songs. His distinctive mark is the sense of symbiosis between the word and melody, harmonically rich neoclassical or neoromantic sound. Publishers: Súlasol, Astrum, DSS.

SLOVENE COMPOSERS

The Ministry of Culture

www.kultura.gov.si

adopted in 2004 the Resolution on the National Programme for Culture. It defines the public interest in culture with the aim to assure conditions for creativity, availability of cultural goods, cultural diversity and the Slovene cultural identity. The public interest in the field of musical arts comprises also choral singing and musical publishing. By public calls the Ministry of culture supports the projects of the best Slovene choirs. The other choirs and their projects are backed by the Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities (JSKD).

The Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities (JSKD)

www.jskd.si, mihela.jagodic@jskd.si

is a non-profit governmental institution for culture and art with experts at its headquarters in Ljubljana and 58 local offices in all major urban centres in Slovenia. By a governmental regulation the JSKD is obligated to support amateur cultural societies and their unions. It is functioning primarily as a focal point for education in culture and backs cultural projects. The JSKD prepares seminars for the members of various cultural groups, for mentors and school teachers as well as amateurs, interested in art. It organises annual reviews and festivals of non-institutional artistic and cultural activities. There are 2250 cultural societies with 79000 members in Slovenia. Most of them are engaged in choral singing. Once a year the JSKD announces a public call for financing of projects and programmes on the national level. Since 1999 the state of Slovenia has been allocating special funding for investments in culture (~kulturni tolar~ - ~the cultural tolar~). The JSKD is obligated to make two annual public calls for investments: one for investments to enhance the equipment of non-professional groups and the other for youth culture centres.

The Ministry of Education and Sports and The Republic of Slovenia Institute for Education

www.mszs.si/eng, www.zrss.si

The Ministry for Education and Sports finances 6 hours per week of choral activity in all nine-form primary schools; they are approved as regular working hours of the teacher, for the children this is an activity of interest. A school has to organise a one-voice choir in the first triad and a two or three-voice choir in the second and third triads. In secondary schools the choirs are considered an activity of interest which is financed by the Ministry upon a contract for 4 hours per week. In secondary schools there are few choirs, mostly they are mixed or girls' ensembles.

The Union of Cultural Societies of Slovenia (ZKDS)

www.zveza-kds.si, info@zveza-kds.si

is a national non-government central organisation of cultural societies that represents the interests of these societies in relation to the state or its Public Fund and in relation to the local communities. Several decades ago it had at its disposal a professional and organisational apparatus which supported the development of choral activity (publishing, organisation of national choral events and awarding of prizes). After the Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities (JSKD) had been founded in 1997 within frames of the Ministry of Culture, the entire Union apparatus and its tasks were taken over by the JSKD. Per tradition the Union retained the role of the co-organiser of some national choral events.

The Academy of Music

www.ag.uni-lj.si, ag-dekanat@uni-lj.si in Ljubljana is on the university level the only musical academy in Slovenia and is a member of the University of Ljubljana. This institution has given professional

education to the majority of Slovene musicians

- instrumentalists, conductors, composers and musical pedagogues.

Musical education on the university level can be obtained in Slovenia also at the musicological departments of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana, of the

Pedagogic Faculty in Ljubljana and the Pedagogic Faculty in Maribor.

An independent university-level study of choir conducting does not exist in Slovenia. This subject is taught at the Academy of Music in two departments: musical pedagogy and sacred music (2 hrs per week of group lessons). Through practical work, where each class acts as a choir, the students learn the technique of conducting, didactics, the technique of rehearsals and get acquainted with the theoretical problems of performing music of various periods. Besides conducting, the syllabus comprises every year also one hour per week of score playing and of the vocal technique.

The Society of Slovene Composers (DSS)

www.dss.si, info@drustvo-dss.si

is a voluntary professional association of composers and musicologists, founded in 1945. Up to now, the Edicije DSS have published 1700 works by Slovene composers, appr. 8% of which was choral music. In 2001 a choral division was founded, since then the number of newly commissioned compositions has increased and contacts with the best choirs for performing the new pieces were established.

Institute of Musicology of the Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts

www.odmев.zrc-sazu.si/instituti/mi

The Institute of Musicology that forms a part of the Scientific Research Centre (ZRC) was founded by the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts in 1980. It's main task is the research into Slovenian cultural and musical heritage. The Institute publishes critical editions of old music which comprise

also the complete works by Iacobus Gallus (1550 - 1591). See the chapter on editions.

The Slovene Music Information Centre (SIMIC)

www.sigic.si, info@sigic.si

The society operates as the principal Slovene musical information centre. It presents info on the Slovene musical past and present of all genres and styles, info on Slovene musicians of all genres and styles, on Slovene institutions and non-government organisations that in professional or amateur manner operate in the field of music, on the available sound carriers of Slovene authors and performers, on the Slovene book and music editions, on the materials in the Slovene musical archives and museum collections, on Slovene folk music, on the achievements of Slovene musicology and on the programmes of the creators of Slovene musical life, and at the same time enables by websites an exchange of info with corresponding musical-information organisations worldwide.

TV Slovenia

www.rtvslo.si

broadcasts the Slovene choral competition Naša pesem, the International Choral

Competition Maribor and the competition of children's choirs Zagorje ob Savi. In its regular broadcast Izvir(ni) it presents some of the more important performances of amateur ensembles.

Radio Slovenia

www.rtvslo.si,

Ljubljana: brigita.rosek@rtvslo.si

Koper: branka.kljun@rtvslo.si

Maribor: urska.cop@rtvslo.si

Radio Slovenia with its headquarters in Ljubljana and regional centres in Koper and Maribor records and broadcasts all major choir concerts and events. Current events - national and foreign - are transmitted live and in the weekly programme Choir Panopticon, the rest are given in the eight regular broadcast of every week on the Ars Programme (R3) and the four broadcasts on the First Programme (R1). Selected records are sent to the Euronradio (EBU): for their transmissions, for the programmes in the nightly European Classical Nocturne and for the biennial competition Let the People Sing. The Musical Programme of the Radio Slovenia shapes its programmes and increases the materials in its musical archives by paying special attention to children's, youth and amateur performers and to the Slovene choral creativity, including the one that still awaits to be discovered.

The Slovene Caecilian Society

is a professional association of church musicians. After a break of several years it has re-assembled since 1996. They organise master classes for church choirmasters and organists and issue hymnals. Address: 23, Štula, SI-1210 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Glasbena matica Ljubljana (The Ljubljana Philharmonic Society)

www2.arnes.si/~ljglmat/

zgodovinadruštva.html,

glasbena-matica.lj@guest.arnes.si

The Society was founded in 1872. Its aim was initially to promote Slovene music literature which was still meagre at the time. The following year the Society started issuing music editions that up to 1945 kept bringing more and less demanding compositions by Slovene composers of all genres. Within the Society operated the archive, artistic department for musical editions, concert agency, bookshop for music editions, Orchestra Society, musical school and a choir. Its archives held the largest collection of music editions in Slovenia. Now the Glasbena matica collaborates in inciting new choral projects which it executes with various co-organisers.

Zveza primorskih pevskih zborov (The union of choirs in the Slovene maritime area)

zpzzp.kp@siol.net

This union links the choirs of Primorska, the western part of the country, which is the most active in choral singing in Slovenia. It organises educational events and regional competitions, and issues anthologies of music by composers from Primorska.

Zveza kulturnih društev Ljubljana (The union of cultural societies, Ljubljana)

www.zkdlj-zveza.si, zkdlj@siol.net

links the cultural societies operating mainly in the capital city of Ljubljana. It organises review events.

INSTITUTIONS SUPPORTING CHORAL ACTIVITIES

Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities (JSKD)

www.jskd.si, mihela.jagodic@jskd.si publishes Slovene choral literature for children's and adult choirs. The most prominent editions are the monographies on the leading Slovene composers (Lebič, Krek, Jež etc.), the anthologies of folk music and artistic compositions, thematic anthologies and material for seminars. For 60 years it has published the journal *Naši zbori* (Our Choirs) which three times per year presents composers, choirs and conductors, and

brings study contributions, reports on choral events, critiques on new publications etc. In its music supplement it brings in each issue the scores of one folk and one artistic composition for all adult voice settings.

Astrum Music Publications

www.astrum.si, info@astrum.si was founded in 1993. It is a predominantly choral literature publisher of Slovene composers and arrangers. It publishes music from around the world as well. Series: Astrum Carols, Sacred Choral Music, Secular Choral Music,

Astrum



Handl-Gallus Edition; choral Music from Slovenia and New Choral Horizons. Published by now: works by composers Ambrož Čopi, Corrado Margutti, Pavle Merkù, Vytautas Myskinis, Damijan Močnik and others. Astrum music publications have been at several expositions of the American Choral Directors' Association (ACDA), at the World Choral Symposium in Minneapolis and the Frankfurt Music Fair.



ZRC Publishing

zalozba@zrc-sazu.si,
www.zrc-sazu/zalozba

is a scientific editorial house that also issues the series of critical music editions *Monumenta artis musicae Sloveniae*. The most significant volumes of the series:
Iacobus Handl - Gallus (1550–1591): *Opus musicum* (Vols. 5-17); *Selectiores quaedam missae* (Vols. 18-21); *Harmoniae morales* (Vol. 26) and *Moralia* (Vol. 27; composition preserved in manuscript). First complete recording by Singer Pur, Freiburg, Ljubljana 2000; 3 CDs, accompanying book.

Musica noster amor. Musical Art of Slovenia from its Beginnings to the Present. Maribor, Ljubljana 2002. Anthology; 16 CDs, accompanying book.

Other volumes involve the works by Lagkhner, Dolar, Prenner, Strictius, Plautzius - Plavec, Posch, Wratny, Puliti, Schwerdt.

DSS (The Society of Slovene Composers)

www.dss.si, edicije@dss.si

Up to the present day, the Edicije DSS have published 1700 works by Slovene composers. Among them some 160 publications involved the voice (a cappella, solo songs, cantatas, masses, didactic works, pieces for children etc.); about 60 are choral pieces (a cappella or with piano accompaniment).

The Rep. of Slov. Institute for Education

www.zrss.si, zalozba@zrss.si

Journal Glasba v šoli (Music at School), with a music supplement; choral anthologies for school choirs.

The Slovene Caecilian Society

Issues hymnals.

Družina d.o.o.

cg@druzina.si

issues the oldest Slovene musical journal *Cerkveni glasbenik* (Church Musician).

PUBLISHERS OF CHORAL MUSIC

Mr. Christian Balandras, artistic director of the prominent French international choral competition Florilège Vocal de Tours, undertook on behalf of the French Ministry of Culture a research into the achievements of choirs from various countries at the most demanding international choral competitions in the past ten years. About the interesting survey and the communication of the significant international success of Slovenia, an accomplishment of the best Slovene choirs, you can read at the www.rapportbalandras.free.fr