

Polonia
Finlandia
Trieste
Russia

POLONIA

Akademicki Chór Politechniki Śląskiej
direttore Tomasz Giedwillo

ACADEMIC CHOIR OF SILESIAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

The Choir was established in 1945 by former employees and students of Lvov Technical University who used to sing in Lvov Technical Choir (that is the reason why Academic Choir celebrated its 100-th Anniversary in the academic year 2004/05 as a continuation of this tradition).

Academic Choir gives approx. 40 performances a year in Poland. On their numerous tours (over 30) to almost all European countries, Siberia, Canada, the USA and South Korea they gave over 100 concerts. They gained over 50 musical awards as well as honourable mentions for their social activities, including: Prize of the Minister of Art and Culture, Prize of the President of Gliwice City in 1996 and 2005, Decoration of Merits for Services for Silesian University of Technology granted by University Authorities in 1998 and Medal on Occasion of 60-year Anniversary of University in 2005 as a recognition of merits for development of University.

Since 1980 the Choir has been organising national festival under the name of Choir Meetings in Gliwice City - Gliwickie Spotkania Chóralne (this year, a jubilee 25-th meeting). They record for Polish Radio and Television. They have published 9 cassettes and 5 CDs as well as a book 50 Years of Academic Choir of Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice and three books of a magazine Silesian Singer - Śpiewak Śląski - which is published by Silesian Branch of Polish Association of Choirs and Orchestras (1-st and 2-nd book on the occasion of 55-th and 60-th anniversary, 3-rd one as Books of Lvov Technical Choir).

The repertoire of the Choir is very rich and various. The Choir performs works of early, classical and contemporary music of both Polish and foreign composers, folk music adaptations, as well as big instrumental and vocal forms, including pieces by: Beethoven, Elsner, Haendel, Mozart, Rossini, Rutter, Twardowski, Schubert, Viern.

Tomasz Giedwillo has been the conductor and artistic manager of Academic Choir of Silesian University of Technology since January 2006. Before that, over the past 10 years this position was held by Professor Czesław Freund.

In October 2006 Choir was on a tour in South America, giving concerts in Argentina and Uruguay. The most significant artistic achievements of the Choir over the past few years are as follows:

- **Main Prize** in the category of academic choirs in 28-th National Tournament **Legnica Cantat '97**,
- **Bronze Medal** at 32-nd International Festival of Choral Songs in **Międzyzdroje '97**,
- **Gold Medal and Special Award** in 2-nd International Competition in **Riva del Garda** in Italy '97,
- **First Prize** in the category of lay choirs at 17-th International Festival of Orthodox Church Music in **Hajnówka '98**,
- **Second Prize** at International Choir Festival **Kathaumixw in Canada '98**,
- **Grand Prix** at Festival of Songs of Holy Mary **MAGNIFICAT** and **Special Award** granted by the Prior of the Sanctuary of Jasna Góra – **Piekary '2000**,
- **Three Silver Medals** at 1-st Choral Olympics – **Linz '2000 - Austria**,
- **Concert at the Royal Castle in Warsaw at the invitation of Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland – 2000**,
- **Concerts at the Philharmonic, St. Patrick's Cathedral and United Nations Organisation in New York '2001 - USA**,
- **First Prize** in the category of lay choirs at 20-th International Festival of Orthodox Church Music in **Hajnówka '2001**,
- **Three Silver Medals** at 2-nd Choral Olympics – **Busan '2002 – South Korea**,
- **Three Silver Medals** at 3-rd Choral Olympics – **Bremen '2004 – Germany**,
- **Grand Prix and Cup of the President of the Republic of Poland** at 14-th National Festival of Polish Choral Songs – **Katowice '2006 – Poland**,
- **pre-performance of pieces** of: Norbert **Blacha**, Edward **Bogustawski**, Andrzej **Dziadek**, Jan Wincenty **Hawel**, Benedykt **Konowski**, Józef **Świder** i Romuald **Twardowski**.

Tomasz Giedwillo graduated from the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice, majoring in Composition, Theory and Education of Music in the Class of Conducting of Professor Warzecha.

During his studies he was granted a scholarship by the Minister of Art and Culture. He brushed up his conducting skills in Academic Choir of Silesian University of Technology. In his professional career he works for Silesian Philharmonic as a choir artist, for the Academy of Music in Katowice where he conducts a mixed choir at the Instrumental Faculty (extramural studies) and for the Group of Schools of Music in Tychy.

In 2003 he participated in an international course for choral conductors (he was conducting Swedish Voices Chamber Choir from Stockholm) at the Z. Kodaly Institute in Kecskemet (Hungary). In 2005 he took part in the International Symposium of Choral Music in Gdańsk (he was conducting Polish Chamber Choir - Schola Cantorum Gedanensis).

His independent work with Academic Choir has already resulted in the preparation and concerts of Christmas Carols in Henryk Botor's arrangement as well as their recording on a CD, concerts during Choir Meetings in Gliwice City and the latest great success on 3-rd May 2006: winning Grand Prix and the Cup of the President of the Republic of Poland at 14-th National Festival of Polish Choral Songs.

FINLANDIA

Brahe Djäkna

Direttore: Ulf Långbacka

The student choir Brahe Djäkna, the male choir at Åbo Akademi University in Turku, Finland, was founded in 1937 and conducted by John Rosas during its first years. After him, the honorary conductor Gottfrid Gräsbeck took over and led the choir for over thirty years. Gräsbeck's successor was Ulf Långbacka who took over the baton in 1991.

Brahe Djäkna is a very active organisation with concerts both in Finland and abroad, radio and television appearances, recordings and joined projects with other choirs and orchestras. In the past several years, Brahe Djäkna has performed in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Estonia, Russia, Germany, Luxemburg, Hungary, Spain, France, Canada and USA. In 2000, BD won the international choir competition "Europe... and its songs" in Barcelona. In May 2004, BD took part in an international choir competition in Helsingborg, Sweden and returned with a gold diploma. Among the choir's annual performances are the Advent Concerts in Turku cathedral, arranged since 1956, which fill the national shrine to the last seat for two successive evenings. Also celebrated in Swedish speaking Finland is BD's Walpurgis Night concert which is attended by thousands, and televised from the Vårdberget park in Turku.

Most singers in the choir are students from Åbo Akademi University, the Swedish speaking university in Finland. The active choir consists of about fifty singers; representing all of the faculties at the university.

In 2007, Brahe Djäkna will celebrate its anniversary in the traditional way: singers from near and far will converge in Turku to celebrate for three days. Beside the traditional repertoire, there will also be some exciting modern music. The same repertoire will be performed in Italy on a ten day tour to Venice, Fano, Siena and Rome in the beginning of September 2007.

Conductor

Ulf Långbacka has studied musicology at Åbo Akademi, as well as conducting, piano and singing at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki. In 1987, he took a degree in choir conducting and a Bachelor degree in music with choir conduction as his main subject.

Ulf Långbacka has conducted the chamber choir Cantabile and the choir at Helsinki Conservatory, and he has lectured on conduction at the Sibelius Academy. In 1991, Långbacka was appointed lecturer of music at Åbo Akademi University, and at the same time he was appointed conductor for the student choirs Florakören (female choir) and Brahe Djäkna. During his lead, the choirs have won several awards at international choir competitions.

Ulf Långbacka is also an active composer, and he has composed works for all kinds of choirs. In 2001, his work *Tre sånger om natten* was awarded second price at the choir festival *Tampereen sävel* at a composition contest with over 200 contestants. Ulf Långbacka has also written chamber music, as well as music for orchestra and for theatre. His choir works has been performed by choirs in several countries.

ITALIA

Trieste - Coro "Nuovo Accordo"

Direttore Andrea Mistaro

La corale 'Nuovo accordo' è gestita dall'Associazione Culturale 'Nuovo Accordo – Musica del Novecento', impegnata in attività musicali e didattiche.

Nel 2004 – 05 l'associazione ha ideato e coordinato un progetto biennale di commemorazione del compositore istriano Luigi Dalla piccola nel centenario della nascita ed ha progettato, ad uso delle scuole superiori, un percorso didattico su testi di poeti italiani e sloveni musicati da compositori italiani e sloveni.

Il Direttore artistico è attivo da anni nella divulgazione della storia della musica presso le scuole del Friuli-Venezia Giulia e del Veneto; nel 2006 ha tenuto un corso della storia della musica del Novecento presso l'Accademia Ars Nova di Trieste.

A partire dalla sua fondazione 2001, la Corale ha allestito diversi ed interessanti progetti destinati a prestigiose stagioni concertistiche locali, come il festival 'Julius Kugy' di Trieste (2003, programma dedicato al Novecento francese), il festival di Musica contemporanea 'Luigi Nono' di Trieste (2003, eseguendo in occasione dell'80° anniversario della nascita del compositore, 'Lux Aeterna' Per coro a 16 voci di G. Ligeti), il festival Internazionale 'Nei suoni dei luoghi' (2005, Grisignano, Croazia) ed il festival 'Erev/ Laila' (2005)

Nel 2004

The main purpose of the "Vox Ecumenica" choir is the performance of choral music in perfect consonance with the feeling of belonging to the European Union, in the respect of the different traditions, national and regional cultures which are essential parts of the Union.

The "Vox Ecumenica" choir is formed by highly professional singers who represent many nationalities: Italian, Slovenian, Russian, Ukrainian, Croatian and Argentinean.

The musical pieces chosen by "Vox Ecumenica" choir include, above all, ecclesiastical melodies peculiar of the Orthodox Religion.

The religious orthodox songs have a specific function during the church musical services and also in non-liturgical performances.

From the musical point of view, we can point out the complete originality of the melodies performed when compared to the religious repertoires of Catholic Church in which the tuneful pieces refer to Gregorian chants which are modified through a common processes of simplification and adaptation as to the tune.

The sacred Orthodox Russian music originates from the Greek-Byzantine music.

The Orthodox-Eastern Church has taken from the Byzantine not only the religion but also the whole rite and the sacred music in the same from the Greeks performed.

The Orthodox liturgy is a magnificent and imposing drama which is performed from beginning to end and represents the Church meant as Corpus Christi and not as a temple.

The language used in the Eastern Orthodox liturgy is the ancient Slav which is the source of all the Slavic languages, as well as Latin represents the origin of the Neo-Latin languages.

Il coro è diretto dal M^o Anna Kaira che si è formata a Kiev (Ucraina) dove è nata. Ha compiuto i suoi studi a Mosca e Kiev, dove si è diplomata in Direzione di coro e Musicologia presso il Conservatorio "Chiajkovskij" di Kiev. In seguito ha approfondito i suoi studi musicali in Germania, dove ha svolto il dottorato di ricerca in musicologia con conferimento nell'anno 2002 del titolo accademico "Dottore in filosofia".

Attualmente è docente all'università di Bayreuth (Germania) presso la Facoltà di Scienze Teatrali e collabora con diverse università in Italia nell'ambito della musicologia.

In Ucraina, Germania ed Italia ha diretto numerosi cori tra i quali anche alcuni con dei teatri lirici. A Trieste, oltre il coro *Vox Ecumenica*, dirige il coro presso la chiesa Serbo-Ortodossa di S. Spiridione ed insegna canto all'Accademia di Musica "Ars Nova".

The choir is conducted by Anna Kaira who musically grew in Kiev (Ucraina) where she was born. She completed her studies in Moscow and Kiev where she took her degree in Choir Conduction and Musicology, at the “Chiajkovskij” Academy of Music in Kiev. Later she deepened her musical studies in Germany where she took her doctorate in 2002, awarded with a “Philosophy Doctor” in the Music field research. Today she teaches at the University of Bayreuth (Germany), Faculty of Theatrical Sciences and she collaborates with many Italian Universities in the Musicology sphere. She has conducted many choirs in Ucarina, Germany and Italy among which some opera ones. In Trieste she conducts not only the “ Vox Ecumenica” choir but also the choir of the Serbian Orthodox Church of St.Spiridione and teaches singing at the Academy of Music “ Ars Nova “.

ITALIA

Cremona – Castelleone - La Rossignol

E' formato da artisti e ricercatori con l'obiettivo di diffondere la danza e la musica del Rinascimento italiano. Lo studio delle fonti dirette, le indagini storiche, organologiche ed iconografiche, la particolare attenzione all'aspetto spettacolare del proprio lavoro, hanno portato i componenti del gruppo, sin dal 1987, ad un'intensa attività artistica, in Italia, Svizzera, Francia, Germania, Israele, Tunisia, Algeria, Egitto, Russia, Grecia, India, Cina, Giappone, Turchia, Pakistan, Brasile, Taiwan, Messico, Città del Vaticano, con concerti e spettacoli in rassegne di grande prestigio (*International Venice Festival; Bologna Open Festival; Carnevale di Venezia; Festival de la Médina - Tunisi; Teatro Nazionale - Algeri; Teatro dell'Opera - Il Cairo; Accademia Musicale – Mosca; Italia in Giappone 2001 e 2005; Festival de arte sacro – Madrid; Ciclo de Musica antiqua UNAM - Mexico City; ...* All'attivo vi sono collaborazioni con la RAI, MEDIASET, TSI (*Amici miei*) e con il cinema (*“Il mestiere delle armi”* di E. OLMI); riprese televisive con le maggiori emittenti mondiali, consulenze e direzioni artistiche (*Festival italiano di musica e danza rinascimentale*), corsi di formazione ed aggiornamento e la realizzazione delle musiche per spettacoli teatrali e di danza antica. Hanno realizzato inoltre varie formazioni più di 15 CDs.

The group is made up of artists and researchers whose aim is to divulge Italian Renaissance dance and music. The study of the direct sources, the historical organological and iconographic investigations, the special attention to the spectacular aspect of their own work, have led the members of the group, since 1987, to an intense artistic activity, in Italy, Switzerland, France, Germany, Israel, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Russia, Greece, India, China, Japan, Brazil, Taiwan, Mexico, Città del Vaticano....., so far they have performed concerts and performances in reviews of high prestige (*International Venice Festival; Bologna Open Festival; Carnevale di Venezia; Festival de la Médina- Tunisi; National Theatre-Algeri; Opera Theatre- Cairo; Musical Academy- Mosca; Italy and Japan 2001 and 2005; Festival de arte sacro - Madrid; Ciclo de Musica antique-Mexico City;...*). So far the group has worked with R.A.I., MEDIASET, TSI (*“Amici miei”*) and in the film industry (*“Il mestiere delle armi”* by E. Olmi).

They have performed concerts on T.V. with the most important T.V. networks, they have also been entrusted with artistic conduction (*Italian Music Festival and Renaissance dance*) and training courses; they wrote music pieces meant for theatrical performances and ancient dances. They have also recorded more than 15 CDs.

“Commento” Concerto “La Rossignol”

Avvalendosi di strumenti d'epoca che consentono effetti e sonorità molto suggestive, il concerto propone un significativo viaggio nella musica rinascimentale destinata alla festa, vale a dire all'ascolto, al canto, al ballo ed al divertimento in un'epoca in cui essa si trova ad essere protagonista della vita e della cultura cortigiana. Il programma, proposto con brevi commenti (curiosità, aneddoti, notizie... la cui funzione è quella di rendere ancora più godibili i brani proposti), è incentrato sulle forme in voga nei Sec. XV e XVI, quando la musica segue un felice itinerario verso la perfezione, senz'altra pretesa se non quella di rivivere riprovare, anche se parzialmente e deformate dai secoli, alcune delle emozioni che contribuirono alla grandezza di quell'epoca.

Availing themselves of ancient instruments which permit very impressive effects and sonorities, the group propose a concert as a meaningful trip through the renaissance music composed for feasts, that is to say for the listening, for singing, for dancing and for entertainment in an age where this kind of music was main part of the culture and courtesan life. The program, introduced with brief remarks (curiosities, anecdotes and news... which function is to make joyful more than ever the suggested songs), is centred on the forms in fashion on XV and XVI centuries, when the music followed an happy way towards the perfection, with no other demand than trying, even if just partially and deformed by time, to enjoy again some emotions that made great that age.

Teramo - Coro VERDI – direttore Carmine Leonzi

Nata nel 1948 con "intendimenti" lirici, la Corale teramana "G. Verdi" ha poi rivolto la sua attenzione allo studio del repertorio polifonico e del folklore abruzzese. Ha partecipato a rassegne e concorsi nazionali ed internazionali ottenendo sempre ottimi piazzamenti. E' d'obbligo ricordare: il Concorso polifonico " Guido Monaco" di Arezzo, il Concorso Nazionale di Vittorio Veneto e " Les Reincontres Internationales" di Tours (Francia). Nel corso della sua cinquantennale attività ha tenuto innumerevoli concerti di musica polifonica e folkloristica in tutta Italia. Ben conosciuta anche all'estero, è stata più volte invitata in Libia, Germania, Russia, Polonia, Belgio, Francia, Svizzera, Austria, Canada, Repubblica Ceca, Jugoslavia, Grecia, Slovenia, Croazia, Spagna, Serbia, Montenegro. Recentemente è stata chiamata a rappresentare l'Italia, durante la "Settimana della cultura Italiana", a Potsdam (Germania). La Corale ha partecipato più volte a trasmissioni televisive sulle principali reti italiane; nel suo vasto repertorio la Corale ha anche composizioni di Monteverdi, Mozart, Vivaldi, Schubert, Haydn, Cherubini, Rossini per coro, soli ed orchestra, che ha eseguito con l'Orchestra Sinfonica Abruzzese e con l'Orchestra " Benedetto Marcello" di Teramo. La Corale, inoltre, cura l'organizzazione di due importanti manifestazioni musicali: la "Rassegna polifonica aprutina" e "Giugno in coro" - incontri folkloristici. In occasione del 50° anno della fondazione la Corale ha pubblicato il volume "In Coro", e due CD di canti folkloristici e un CD di brani dalla "Selva morale e spirituale" di Claudio Monteverdi. Fin dalla sua nascita direttore artistico della Corale è il M° Ennio Vetuschi che l'ha creata. Dal 2006 il coro è diretto dal M° Carmine Leonzi

The "G. Verdi" Choir started its activity in 1948 with lyrical purposes; later it turned its interests to the polyphonic repertory and to the repertory of Abruzzo folkloristic music.

It took part in many national and international contests where it always gained best positions as in the polyphonic contest " Guido Monaco" in Arezzo, the National Contest in Vittorio Veneto and " Les Reincontres Internationales" in Tours (France).

It is known as well in Italy as abroad and is frequently invited in Libya, Germany, Russia, Poland, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, ex- Yugoslavia, Greece, Slovenia, Montenegro.

It has been recently called as representative choir for Italy during the " Settimana della cultura italiana" in Postdam (Germany).

The choir has frequently taken part in TV telecasts of the most important Italian networks.

In its wide repertory the choir counts also compositions for choir, soloist and orchestra by Monteverdi, Mozart, Vivaldi, Schubert, Haydn, Cherubini, Rossini, performed with the " Orchestra Sinfonica Abruzzese " and with the Orchestra "Benedetto Marcello" of Teramo.

The Choir also organizes two important musical events: the " Rassegna Polifonica Aprutina " and " Giugno in Coro" and folkloristic meetings.

On the occasion of the 50th year of its foundation the Choir has published the book " In coro " and it has recorded two CD of folkloristic songs from Claudio Monteverdi's " Selva morale e spirituale ".

Since its birth its artistic conductor has been Ennio Vetuschi.

From 2006 the Choir is conducted by Carmine Leonzi.

M° Carmine Leonzi

Carmine Leonzi si è diplomato in Contrabbasso al Conservatorio "G. Rossini" di Pesaro e si è laureato in Musicologia al D.A.M.S. di Bologna. Ha frequentato i corsi di Didattica Kodályana diplomandosi presso l'Università Internazionale di Esztergom, in Ungheria, sotto la guida di Erzsébet Szonyi. Ha frequentato Corsi e Seminari di Musica Corale e Direzione di Coro con B. Zagni, G. Kirschner, F. Floris, G. Acciai; di Composizione Corale con P.P. Scattolin, M. Zuccate, G. Bonato; Corsi di vocalità e training funzionale della voce con B. Costi e M. Rizzo. Ha diretto la Schola Cantorum "Aristotele Pacini" di Atri dal 1987 al 2004; con questo gruppo maschile ha tenuto concerti in numerosi Paesi europei e Canada ed ha inciso sei CD. Con la "Pacini" ha inoltre vinto, nel 2003, il primo premio al Concorso Nazionale di Vasto con giudizio unanime della Commissione. E' membro del Consiglio Direttivo dell'Associazione Regionale Cori d'Abruzzo.

Carmine Leonzi graduated in double-bass at the Academy of Music " G. Rossini " in Pesaro and he took his degree in Musicology at D.A.M.S. in Bologna.

He attended Kodályana didactics taking his degree at the International University of Esztergom in Hungary under Erzsébet Szonyi.

He attended courses and seminars of choral music and choir conducting with B.Zagni, G.Kirschner, F.Floris, G.Acciai.

He attended also courses of choral composition with P.P.Scattolini, M.Zuccate, G.Bonato and vocal courses and functional training of the voice with B.Costi and M.Rizzo.

From 1987 to 2004 he conducted the “ Schola Cantorum Aristotele Pacini “in Atri; with this male group he performed in many European Countries and in Canada and recorded 6 CD.

In 2003 with the “ Schola Cantorum A. Pacini “.he won the first prize in the National Contest in Vasto

He is member of the “Abruzzo Regional Association of Choirs” Conductors Board.