

*JJ Fest!*



*CHORAL COMPETITION*

*10- 13.11.2023*





Jean Sibelius: «Music begins where the possibilities of language end»  
The International Culture Association in Turku in collaboration with Finnish company SEM Consulting as well as The Union of Russian Composers invites singers and musicians from all over to celebrate a festival of music JSFest. Come and join us in Turku and celebrate with us this international festival of choral, vocal and instrumental music! Every year in November we welcome again the participants from all over the world for the International Competition, dedicated to Jean Sibelius. The JSFest concept includes the Competition as the main part of the event but also allows concerts and manifold encounters between the participants. Participants from around the globe will again have the chance to discover the beauty of the Northern country, combined with an international music event, dedicated to Sibelius. All concert and competition venues as well as accommodations and other event locations in Turku are situated within walking distance. Here participants will meet, celebrate, play music and sing together and get to know other nations and their traditions.

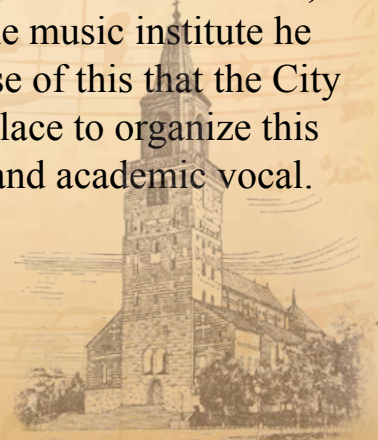
One of the most important things for the artist and his heirs: keeping up the musical spirit. Following this intension, I would like to warmly welcome you to our festival JSFest. With all my heart, I wish all participants a beautiful, inspiring and successful time in Turku! Take a chance on the opportunity to get to know new people and continue together with us the musical tradition of Jean Sibelius! Good luck at the competition! I hope and I wish that you can show your best performance. I wish all competitors, organizers and supporters but above all the audience an exciting competition!

President of the International Culture Association in Turku, Finland  
Svetlana Myhkyrä





«Jean Sibelius is one of those composers who express the character of the Finnish people by their music truthfully and effortlessly», wrote the critic K. Flodin about the remarkable Finnish composer in 1891. The creativity of Sibelius is not only a bright page in the history of the music culture of Finland, but his popularity as a composer has reached far beyond his native land. His most prosperous creative period was between the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century — a time of growing national liberation and revolutionary movements in Finland. At the time, the small state was a part of the Russian Empire and tested by the moods of an epoch of social changes preceding a storm. It is remarkable that in Finland, as well as in Russia, this period created a significant rise in the growth of nationalistic art. Sibelius composed in various genres. He wrote seven symphonies, symphonic poems, three orchestral suites, a concert for a violin with an orchestra, two string quartets, piano quintets and trios, chamber vocal and instrumental works, music and drama performances, but his greatest talent lay in symphonic music. In Finland Sibelius played and plays an important role: he is recognized as the quintessential national composer, a symbol of greatness of the country. During his lifetime Sibelius received honours rendered to few artists. There are streets, parks and an annual music festival named after him, and the music institute he studied in was renamed as the Sibelius Academy. It is because of this that the City of Turku, which houses the Sibelius Museum, is a perfect place to organize this international competition of choruses, instrumental music and academic vocal.



*The Eleventh  
International  
JSFest Choral  
Competition*

*10.-13.11.2023*



# Contestants of the Eleventh International JSFest Choral Competition

## Senior Choir of the Galina Vishnevskaya College

Moscow, Russia

**Conductor:** Diana Degtyareva



The Senior Choir of the Galina Vishnevskaya College of Music and Theater Arts was established in 2018. It consists of children of the choral department of the school, the age of participants is 11-16 years old. The head of the team and conductor is Diana Degtyareva, Laureate of International and All-Russian competitions, Honorary Worker of secondary vocational education in Russia. In its activities, the Senior Choir tries to preserve and multiply the traditions of academic choral singing, relying on classical Russian and foreign choral literature in the chosen repertoire, as well as folk songs, spiritual compositions, works by composers of the XX-XXI centuries are also present in the repertoire of the collective. The choir conducts active concert and competitive activities at leading venues in Moscow, participates in festivals of the «International Children's Philharmonic of Talents» of the «Art for All Time» Foundation, the children's creative project «Choral Youth of Russia», projects of the Vladimir Spivakov Charitable Foundation, conducts master classes on choral performance. In 2023, the Moscow Department of Culture awarded the collective the highest title "Moscow City Creative Collective" for merits and contribution to culture. The collective is a multiple winner of the first degree and the Grand Prix of numerous Russian and international competitions and festivals, conducts touring activities.



# Tonal Children & Youth Choir

Tehran, Iran

**Conductor:** Leila Najafoushani



Tonal Children & Youth Choir leading by Leila Najafoushani, under the supervision of Milad Omranloo began its activities at Tonal Music Academy on May 6, 2018.

On July 2, 2019, accompanied by the Paytakht Orchestra and Tonal Choir, they had their first appearance at Vahdat Hall, performing Carmina Burana.

Tonal Children & Youth Choir has held several concerts along with the Tonal Choir. Among them, one can mention the concert on February 1, 2019, and two performances during the summer of 2022 at Roudaki Hall in Tehran. In the summer of 2023, Tonal Children & Youth Choir participated in the World Choir Games held in Gangneung, South Korea. They competed in the category of youth choirs in the open competition and achieved a score of 19.11, earning them a Silver Diploma. They also made history by becoming the first Iranian children and youth choir to participate in the World Choir Games.

# Yamuger Music School Children Choir

Jakarta, Indonesia

**Conductor:** Dona Sirait



Yamuger Music School Children's Choir (YMSCC) was established on the September 2017. YMSCC is a children's choir Indonesia, which has a strong commitment in participating elevating the art values of the nation's children, both in Indonesia and in the eyes of the world through national culture songs appointed and re-arranged with the aim of beauty and harmony of songs.

YMSCC consists of the nation's next generation, starting from children to teenagers who are still in elementary school to school upper middle class, and consists of several ethnic groups in Indonesia.

YMSCC members are boys and girls who practice and hone vocals at the Yamuger School of Music, and wants to develop and lift the name of the Nation through music. With ability singing they have, YMSCC brings together all the children to practice together to hone the talents that God gave to each one of them.



# Boys' and Youth' Choir named after I. A. Zhuravlenko

Minsk, Belarus

**Conductor:** Siamion Klimanau



The honoured group "Boys' and Youths' choir named after Igor Andreevich Zhuravlenko" works under the the state educational establishment "Republican Gymnasium-College at the Belarusian State Academy of Music".

The choir was founded in 1968 by a graduate of the Moscow State Conservatory. Igor Zhuravlenko – a student and continuer of the traditions of the A.V. Sveshnikov Moscow Choir college.

Since 2020, the group has been headed by a graduate of the choir – Siamion Klimanau (choirmaster – Volha Izhyk).

The complexity and diversity of the repertoire, as well as the accuracy and high level of performance are characteristic features of the choir, which is rightfully considered one of the oldest boys' choirs in the Republic of Belarus.

The choir also performed on concert tours in Europe (England, France, Holland, Belgium, Germany), and took part in international festivals in France, Italy, Switzerland, Latvia, Russia, China, Poland, Lithuania.

Over the years of the choir activity, its graduates have become outstanding choral and orchestral conductors, soloists of opera and drama theaters, teachers and music researchers.

Boys' and Youths' choir named after I.A.Zhuravlenko has a collection of prizes from European choir competitions: 1998 – 3rd International Robert Schumann Choir Competition (Germany) – "Golden Diploma" and a special prize for the best performance of romantic music; 1999 – F.Mendelssohn International choir competition (Germany) – Gold and Silver diplomas and a special prize of the German Singing Union; 2004 – Grand Prix of the 12th International Competition "Magutny Bozha" (Mogilev); Golden diploma, first place and Grand Prix of the Chancellor of Germany for the "Best Choir" at the "Harmonie-Festival" competition in Limburg (Germany) and others.

Under the leadership of Siamion Klimanau in December 2020, I.Zhuravlenko choir became the winner (Grand Prix holder) of the X International Competition "Winter's Tale" (St. Petersburg, Russia), in May 2021 the choir became a laureate of the first degree of the I International Choral Competition named after V. Rovdo (Minsk, Belarus). In April 2023, the choir won the Grand Prix of the V Minsk open competition of choral and solo singing "Vyasnovy speu" (Minsk, Belarus).



# University of Puerto Rico at Ponce Concert Choir

Ponce, Puerto Rico

**Conductor:** Brandon Torres



The University of Puerto Rico in Ponce Concert Choir was founded by Prof. Rafael Montero Castro approximately in 1980. It operates as a creative space of excellence, where 40 students from different non music majors with economic needs come together to exploit their potential by creating good music. Year after year, they present a repertoire of excellence, that serves as refreshment and relaxation; both for the university community and for the public in general. The UPR Ponce Concert Choir has participated in “danza” festivals, concerts in museums and universities, international choral festivals and competitions. The choir has represented Puerto Rico in Venezuela, Vienna, Czech Republic, Rome Italy and United States (New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia).

The UPR Ponce Choir had the opportunity to publish a patriotic video during the pandemic which was last November 2020; “Preciosa” which served as an opportunity to reach millions of homes. Telemundo, Univision, Wapa, Channel 6, and countless influential people, artists, and public figures shared it. Undoubtedly, their hard work was compensated with cheers and recognition for the choir and the UPR Ponce.

# Calmore Children & Youth Choir

Bogor, Indonesia

**Conductor:** Fitri Intendia



Calmore Children and Youth Choir (CCYC) is an independent Children and Youth Choir from Bogor City, West Java. It was formed in mid-2022 by Fitri Intendia as Music Director and Conductor. Calmore comes from the combination of Italian "calma" which means calm and "amore" which means love. So the future hope is that all works from Calmore will make people feel calm, peaceful, and joyful. CCYC has been awarded the 1st Prize (gold medal) of Penabur International Choir Festival 2022 for virtual children choir category. CCYC also held its first concert in July 2023. In addition to participating in competitions, CCYC also actively creates projects and releases works in the form of virtual choirs to commemorate events such as Mother's Day.



# Manado Catholic Choir

Manado, Indonesia

**Conductor:** Kevin Bosco



Manado Catholic Choir is a Catholic group based in Manado, Indonesia providing singing engagement in the diocese of Manado in particular, and has gained national and International recognition for its award receptions and performances in prestigious festivals and competitions in various locations.

Founded in 2009, the choir consists of Catholic youngsters performing a wide range of repertoire from classical, contemporary, and sacred scores to folk, secular, and popular music. Manado Catholic Choir aims to feature the best of choral artistry and provide its members the opportunity to develop their talents.

# Voci di Gesù Chamber Singers

General Trias, Philippines

**Conductor:** Daniel Dumas



Voci di Gesù Chamber Singers is a church choir based at the St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in General Trias, Cavite. The choir regularly sings at the St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish (6pm Mass, every Sunday) and in Tierra de Maria in Tagaytay City (3pm Mass, every first Saturday). Their Choirmaster Mr. Daniel Dumas founded the choir in August 22, 2011.

The group participated in several local and international choral competitions and won the following:

4th Tokyo International Choir Competition (2022)

- Gold Prize and 2nd Prize, Folklore Music Category
- Gold Prize and 3rd Prize, Chamber Choir Category

Taipei International Choir Competition (2022)

- Gold Prize and 3rd Prize, Vocal Ensemble Category
- Gold Prize, Mixed Choir Category

5th Karangturi International Choir Competition (2019)

- Silver Prize, Folklore Category
- Silver Prize, Musica Sacra Category

WIKAWIT Tagisan ng mga Korong Kabitenyo (2018)

- 3rd Prize, Nobato Category



# Sibenik singing group "Kolo"

Šibenik, Croatia

**Conductor:** Ivo Lise



Since its foundation in 1899, Šibenik's Singing society "Kolo", has been preserving tradition of polyphonic singing, cherishes Croatian musical heritage and contributes to the affirmation of Croatian choral music, promoting it in Croatia and Europe. Numerous awards from singing competitions testify to the choir's success, and as a proof of successful work of "Kolo". The Charter of the Republic of Croatia stands out for special merits in promoting culture and contributing to cultural development in the Republic of Croatia and Europe. In its history, "Kolo" recorded 13 recordings, made over 1800 performances and concerts in 153 cities in Croatia and Europe, sang over 640 pieces and performed over 50 concert tours, 25 of which were foreign. ŠPD "Kolo" is the "pride of Šibenik", and the people of Šibenik consider it one of the most important symbols of the city.

# Nibun Chorus

Kaohsiung, Taiwan

**Conductor:** Chun-Chih Chen



Nibun Chorus was established in 2017. "Nibun" is derived from the Bunun language meaning "tooth". We are affiliated to the Kaohsiung Nibun Association. The members of the chorus are from Kaohsiung Liou-Guei, Bao-Lai and Tao-Yuan districts who love to sing. Conductor Chun-Chih Chen, pianist Shu-Han Lu, Yi-Han Lin, and vocal instructor Chia-Lun Hsu. We hope that through the connection of music, local young people can focus on their hometowns and give back to their home villages. In addition, Nibun Chorus is devoted to collecting and preserving local characteristics, and we re-arrange cultural music, such as indigenous, Hakka, Taiwanese new immigrants' and Hokkien songs. Our footprints throughout Taiwan and were invited to perform in many countries, such as Japan and the USA...etc.



# The Korea Women's Evangelism Association Praise Choir

Seoul, South Korea

**Conductor:** Seunghwan Oh



The Choir of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Korea (PCK) was founded in 1992 with the aim of evangelising with praise, participating in the movement of church unity, and performing musical service at various events of the Presbyterian Women's Association.

The start of the choir after the construction of the headquarters of the Korean Presbyterian Women's Association became a medium for raising the status of the Women's Association at the level of the unified movement, both at home and abroad.

It played a role as a glorifying mission group of the Women's Presbyterian Association by strengthening musical competence.

2022 celebrated the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the choir, which realised Christian culture through glorification.

Over the years, the choir has spread the gospel through glorification with 12 overseas concerts among others in Indonesia, Australia, Russia, Canada, Hungary, Germany, Austria.

Head: KI-SOOK HONG

Conductor: SEUNGHWAN OH

**ORGANIZATION**  
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