Concerts, Open Singing, hybrid and online training and special projects – for singers, choirs, conductors, composers and music teachers

The leading cultural event during the Slovenian presidency of the Council of the European Union 2021

EUROPA CANTAT FESTIVAL 2021
LJUBLJANA SLOVENIA 16–25 JULY

Concerts, Open Singing, hybrid and online training and special projects – for singers, choirs, conductors, composers and music teachers

The leading cultural event during the Slovenian presidency of the Council of the European Union 2021
Dear choral music enthusiasts,

Music and singing hold a very special place in the Slovenian cultural tradition because they help us celebrate and rejoice as well as grieve, as they resound at key moments of our lives. The most pivotal role of both, however, is to bond us, to unite us. It gives me great pleasure to see Ljubljana host the international Europa Cantat Festival 2021 and have its many venues filled with rapturous choral singing. Dear guests, as President of the host country and the festival’s patron of honour, I wish for one of the biggest international choral festivals in the world! WELCOME to our city – the most beautiful city in the Slovenian cultural tradition.

Sincerely yours,

Borut Pahor,
President of the Republic of Slovenia, the festival’s patron of honour

Dear all,

Choral singing is considered as one of the most noble cultural traditions in Slovenia for its ability to combine two great loves – the love for music and the love for Slovenian language. They both follow us throughout our lives and shape us just like play, learning, social life, cultural activity and art. By successfully winning the candidacy to host the largest international choral festival Europa Cantat 2021, the Republic of Slovenia has officially become one of the most important and prestigious countries in which music and choral singing are not only deeply rooted in our cultural being, but also characterised by exceptionally talented choral artists. The Ministry of Culture is aware that the Europa Cantat project is extensive in terms of promotion, music, education and social matters, which is why the maximum financial resources will be allocated for this purpose in the history of the independent Republic of Slovenia. This festival will also feature as one of the leading events during the Slovenian EU Council Presidency. While the pandemic and different measures aimed at curbing the spread of infections continue to shape our lives, the festival’s diverse programme has undergone several changes. Listen to Slovenia choir cycle remains one of the main festival choral events, during which we will be able to showcase our rich singing tradition from the treasury of Slovenian choral music. We are convinced that despite the changes made to the programme, the festival and its connecting mission will come to life in the summer of 2021.

Vasko Simoniti, PhD,
Minister of Culture

Dear visitors of the Europa Cantat festival,

This year, the summer in Ljubljana will be filled with singing and music will spread throughout the squares, allowing us to see and hear many groups during their concerts on stages in the city. Open singing is one of the most important social elements of society. It is the connective tissue that binds people in communities and gives them a sense of belonging and satisfaction. This is of great importance especially after having to limit our contacts during the epidemic. Singers and their companions travelling to Ljubljana will have the opportunity to perform in a friendly and welcoming city, see the sights, meet friendly citizens and exchange experience with Slovenian musicians. We are proud that Ljubljana is hosting the Europa Cantat, so allow us to welcome you to our city – the most beautiful city in the world!

Dear singers, esteemed choral conductors and choral enthusiasts!

In the country nested between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea, singing has always been at the centre of the cultural life. They say that Slovenians are a singing nation. But rather than singing alone, Slovenians inherently wish and enjoy collective singing. We are proud to say that choral singing is (and hopefully will remain for years to come) the most widespread activity in amateur culture. It brings together nearly 80,000 singers in more than 2,500 choirs with over 1,000 choral conductors sharing their passion for singing. The love for collective singing is nurtured in families and kindergartens and follows us everywhere throughout life. It is hard to find a place without at least one vocal group, be it for children, youth, adults or seniors. No wonder this fertile ground yields such precious fruit. What inspires the most is the creativity of Slovenian choral culture in the last decades. However, our unique system of competitions has significantly enhanced the quality of our choirs. It helped build the Slovenian choral pyramid from the local and regional level to the national and international level. Such high visibility of Slovenian choral music and its creators in the international sphere is nothing short of proverbial. But this would never happen without countless singers and incredible conductors who keep building our choral culture and leave a mark with their enthusiasm and love for singing. We sincerely appreciate everyone’s contribution to our choral mosaic. Once choral music is rooted firmly in your heart, it will never go away!

Metka Šošterič,
Acting Director of the Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities
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EUROPA CANTAT

THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL IN EUROPE

EUROPA CANTAT was first organised in 1961 in Passau, Germany by a group of conductors who then founded the European Federation of Young Choirs in 1963. The association, later called Europa Cantat, was merged with AGEC in 2011 to form the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat. The festival has since then become firmly established as a central meeting point for the choral world – singers and choirs of all types, levels and ages, choral and orchestra conductors, music teachers, composers, creators, educators and managers – without any competitive elements. EUROPA CANTAT, renowned for its dynamic schedule and inspiring atmosphere, is held every three years, always hosted by a city in a different country, which gives it a new, fresh touch. By moving across the Europe, each festival is a unique experience: the EUROPA CANTAT is never the same. The event gathers over 4000 participants coming from all over Europe and the world to share their passion for singing and discover one another’s cultures by attending ateliers and workshops, perform in final concerts, listen to invited choirs, eat, sleep and have fun together. The EUROPA CANTAT XX in 2018 received the European Year of Cultural Heritage label.

DID YOU KNOW?

As many as 37 million singers in 1 million choirs on the European continent and 22.5 million singers in 625,000 choirs in the European Union, which is 4.5% of the population, are involved in collective singing.

37.000.000 singers
1.000.000 choirs or ensembles

4,5 % of the population

https://europeanchoralassociation.org/cooperation-projects/singing-europe/

EUROPA CANTAT LJUBLJANA 2021

SING WITH LOVE

In July 2021, the EUROPA CANTAT will take place in Slovenia, which is recognised for its love for (choral) music. The 2021 host country aims to shed light on the potential and the genuine cohesive role of choral music, particularly interrelating the arts, social and therapeutic activities, science, sport, tourism and other segments of society. The EUROPA CANTAT in Ljubljana is – despite all the changes due to the current situation – sure to leave a meaningful imprint of the country’s already rich musical tradition and we believe the same goes for the festival.

PREVIOUS FESTIVALS

1961 Passau (DE)
1964 Nevers (FR)
1967 Namur (BE)
1970 Graz (AT)
1964 Nevers (FR)
1976 Leicestershire (UK)
1979 Luzern (CH)
1982 Namur (BE)
1973 Autun (FR)
1976 Pécs (HU)
1985 Strasbourg (FR)
1988 Victoria (ES)
1970 Graz (AT)
1979 Luzern (CH)
1982 Namur (BE)
1967 Namur (BE)
1985 Strasbourg (FR)
1988 Victoria (ES)
1991 Herning (DK)
1994 Herning (DK)
1997 Linz (AT)
2000 Nevers (FR)
2003 Barcelona (ES)
2006 Mainz (DE)
2009 Utrecht (NL)
2012 Torino (IT)
2015 Pécs (HU)
2018 Tallinn (EE)
ONE VOICE FOR COLLECTIVE SINGING

The European Choral Association is a network of organisations, choirs, and individuals in the field of collective singing in Europe. Through their membership, they represent:

- 2,500,000 singers, vocal leaders/conductors, creators/composers, educators/teachers and managers
- 59 choral organisations
- 178 choirs
- 185 individuals and families

Its mission is to be the leading pan-European non-profit organisation dedicated to life-long learning and cultural exchange through collective singing. They aim at contributing to the mutual understanding among European nations, their music, their languages, and their cultural life. The vision of the European Choral Association is a world where everybody experiences the benefits of singing.

Since 1955, the association’s aims are to promote singing as an art form and as a tool to connect people of all ages, with a focus on children and young people, to foster cooperation and understanding between cultures, nations and individuals across social and political borders by promoting, supporting, developing and organising activities and events, and to represent the collective singing.

They organise and promote activities and events for choirs, singers, vocal leaders/conductors, music creators/composers, educators/teachers, students, managers and organisations and reach out to potential singers and audiences as well as those active in other arts. Also, through their work, they contribute to raising awareness of the benefits of collective singing within and outside the sector.

MAIN PROJECTS OF THE EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION:

- Europa Cantat – one of the most resounding projects of the association
- Europa Cantat Junior
- World Youth Choir
- Eurochoir

The European Award for Choral Composers
- the annual General Assembly
- workshops and conferences
- grants

Membership and participation in activities are also open to non-Europeans. The association is connected to the choral world outside Europe and to other music and culture organisations through its membership in:

- IFCM – the International Federation for Choral Music
- IMC/EMC – the International and European Music Council
- CFN – the Choral Festival Network
- Musica International – the virtual Choral Library
- Culture Action Europe

### People Behind the Scenes – The Team

**Team EC Ljubljana 2021**
- Urška Bittner Pipan, General Manager
- Miha Banovec
- Zala Horvatič
- Tadeja Petrovič Jerina
- Matej Primožič
- Nikola Rožanc
- Anja Trilar
- Jendi Vovk

**Music Commission EC Ljubljana 2021**
- Jean-Claude Wilkens (FR), Chair
- Damijan Močnik (SI), Vice-Chair
- Jeroen Beckers (BE)
- Julia Blank (DE/NO)
- Dora Halás (HU)
- Katarina Henryson (SE)
- Burak Onur Erdem (TR)
- Simona Rešman Strnad (SI)
- Raul Talmar (EE)
- Josep Vila i Casañas (ES)

**Steering Committee EC Ljubljana 2021**
- Urška Bittner Pipan (SI), Chair
- Sonja Greiner (DE)
- Marti Ferrer (ES)
- Mihaela Jagodic (SI)
- Marko Repnik (SI)
- Flannery Ryan (DE)

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**Board of the European Choral Association 2019-2021**
- Carlo Pavese (IT), President
- Dermot O’Callaghan (IE), 1st Vice-President
- Jean-Claude Wilkens (FR), 2nd Artistic Vice-President
- Martine Spanjers (NL), Treasurer
- Mihaela Jagodic (SI)
- Burak Onur Erdem (TR)
- Marti Ferrer (ES)
- Loti Pirs Niño (BE)
- Flannery Ryan (DE)
- Raul Talmar (EE)
- Martin Wildhaber (CH)

**Youth Committee 2019-2021**
- Silvija Procytė (LT), Chair
- Ruben Timmer (NL), Vice-Chair and Treasurer
- Zeynep Eren Kovankaya (TR), Secretary
- Mathilde Sanchez (FR), Communication
- Anna Bobrikova (RU)
- Alberto Palacín Fernandez (ES)
- Zala Horvatič (SI)

**Artistic Strategic Group**
- Jean-Claude Wilkens (FR), Chair, Artistic Vice-President ECA
- Mihaela Jagodic (SI), Board
- Burak Onur Erdem (TR), Board
- Raul Talmar (EE), Board
- Martin Wildhaber (CH), Board
- Zeynep Eren Kovankaya (TR), Youth Committee

**General Secretariat**
- Sonja Greiner (DE), Secretary General
- Sophie Dowden (UK), Project & Fundraising Manager
- Sylvia Kerratt (DE), Office Manager
- Ester Mihaila (RO), Communication & Marketing Manager
- Alfred Jürgens (DE), Project Manager

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JSKD (The Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities) is a professional cultural network supporting amateur culture. Its expert unit and 59 regional branch offices foster the development and help to realise the national potential of amateur cultural activities while enabling the access to important cultural and artistic achievements even outside major urban centres. JSKD not only provides well-designed programmes that enable personal growth and cultural integration, but also supports programmes for cultural education and lifelong learning. Every year, it organises around 2,000 different art events for cultural professionals, societies and groups and, within the Study Centre, educates more than 10,000 individuals, particularly mentors of cultural groups. Two other sections of JSKD are the publishing programme, which issues manuals and professional publications, and the Residence Centre Cankarjeva, which hosts artists from abroad. The organisation also carries out co-financing of projects and amateur cultural programmes and manages the Tomaz Salaman Poetry Centre. Being a member of various choral organisations (European Choral Association, EGP, CFN, IFCM, ACDA) has for many years helped it promote Slovenian choral music around the world and organise exchanges of Slovenian and foreign choirs and artists. Through the festival, JSKD wishes to consolidate the visibility of Slovenian choral music and its creators internationally and offer an unforgettable musical experience to Slovenian singers and music enthusiasts. More: www.jskd.si

AMATEUR CULTURE IN SLOVENIA

From folk singing to modern multimedia trends

10 million hours of volunteering by participants per year

4 million visitors to around 25,000 events (before 2020)

107,000 participants in 5,000 cultural societies and sections

THE MOST VISIBLE CHORAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LAST 30 YEARS

Establishment of the professional Slovenian Philharmonic Choir

Gallus - Maribor International Choral Competition became part of the European Grand Prix for Choral Singing Association (EGP)

Establishment of the department for choral conducting at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana

Invitations to the best Slovenian choirs to attend the most important choral events and festivals

Fostering a new generation of composers, producing new and prominent Slovenian choral literature

Improved quality and more new members of children’s, youth and adult choirs in Slovenia

Improved quality and more new members of children’s, youth and adult choirs in Slovenia

Many new excellent editions of recordings of Slovenian and foreign choral pieces

Establishment of the professional Slovenian Philharmonic Choir

The most widespread cultural activity

Around 80,000 active singers

World-renowned artists

Around 1,300 choral conductors

50,000 visitors to JSKD’s choral events

200 choral competitions with expert advice per year

More than 2,500 vocal groups

10,000 active singers

10 million hours of volunteering by participants per year

107,000 participants in 5,000 cultural societies and sections

4 million visitors to around 25,000 events (before 2020)
Concerts, Open Singing, hybrid and online training and special projects – for singers, choirs, conductors, composers and music teachers

The leading cultural event during the Slovenian presidency of the Council of the European Union 2021

EUROPA CANTAT FESTIVAL

LJUBLJANA
SLOVENIA
16–25 JULY

Concerts, Open Singing, hybrid and online training and special projects – for singers, choirs, conductors, composers and music teachers

The leading cultural event during the Slovenian presidency of the Council of the European Union 2021
When I was elected vice-president of the European Choral Association in November 2018, I knew perfectly what the mandate was about: to participate in the executive board of the association, to have a look over the artistic content of the activities of the association and check that they are in line with ECA’s mission and vision and finally to chair the Music Commission of the next festival Europa Cantat planned in Ljubljana in summer 2021. I was confident in my capacity to serve and happy to help develop a nice festival with my colleagues.

Nobody could have imagine what would happen 15 months later!

The music commission met a first time in May 2019, and a second time late November 2019 in Ljubljana. The democratic brainstorming was embracing largely innovation, creativity, hot topics and the Slovenian artistic group, under the guidance of Mihaela Jagodic and Damijan Močnik, brought wonderful ideas and the full richness of the Slovenian choral scene. It started with no names, no score, but with a common vision of what the European Association must bring to the educational and social missions have prevailed.

Mankind can be very warm and caring.

We all had our down moments during the process, some steps were very hard along the road, but we all found when needed a friendly hand to take us out of the blue. The many supporting messages from choirs, conductors and colleagues have helped a lot as well... the choral community is wounded but will not die, I can tell. The festival became step by step a «flexival». I am proud of all those who worked until the end to offer a possibility to the most affected discipline. Because of the circumstances, we were forced to adapt several times and re-design our wonderful programme. We ended up with what is on stage and online in this month of July 2021. As consolation, there are many positive aspects in this terrible adventure. The staff, the music commission and the different instances of the European Choral Association has shown an indefectible unity and coherence during the difficult steps that were taken. The human capacity to be creative again and again through the process has been incredible and the main mission and visions of the association became clearer and clearer on the road of cancelling and cutting into the programme: the educational and social missions have prevailed.

Jean-Claude Wilkens, Chair of the Music Commission of Europa Cantat Ljubljana 2021 «flexival», Vice president of the European Choral Association

I accepted the invitation to participate in the organisation of Europa Cantat Ljubljana 2021 as the President of the Slovenian and Vice-President of the International Federation of Arts Council with full responsibility and great anticipation. We held numerous meetings during which I and my colleagues engaged in several stimulating conversations to create an incredibly interesting, colourful and high-quality festival programme. I was looking forward to the idea of Ljubljana becoming the centre of European choral life for more than a week as this meant that we would be able to enjoy a variety of musical events and marvel at the talent of numerous singers, while participants would be able to meet in person the masters they can usually admire only through screens or on recordings. We planned a comprehensive presentation of the Slovenian music tradition and its current situation. When it seemed nothing could go wrong, we were stopped by something invisible, i.e. a tiny virus that metaphorically stopped the Earth from spinning. After many adaptations, at least a part of the festival will be carried out on another occasion. It broke my heart every time we had to cancel another project.

Throughout the whole process, I have admired the work of the festival planning team. They put all their energy and enthusiasm into solving problems, which seemed impossible, and looked for the slightest chance to still realise certain parts of the festival. Every colleague serves our immense respect and gratitude for their contribution so that a part of the festival will take place after all.

On 17 May, after eight months, I was finally able to stand in front of my choir again. It was a great feeling despite the fact that the concert was held in the sports hall and that the singers had to wear protective masks and I only saw 55 pairs of curious eyes staring at me. I will not easily forget the flawless sweet-sounding D major chord and the text of the song «Life». I look forward to each and every event, every meeting, and every concert in July 2021.

Damijan Močnik, Vice-chair of the Music Commission of Europa Cantat Ljubljana 2021
Dear members and friends,

Europa Cantat is a very special event, alive, connected with its time, showing old roots and new routes. Europa Cantat Ljubljana 2021 will be special, too. During the preparation, it has suffered limitations, difficulties, changes and frustration, exactly as it happened in our lives, but in the end, it will be the result of our strength and visions, of the things we have learned and lived through with the firm determination not to give up. The strength of the tenacious Slovenian team, combined with the European Choral Association, truly shines in the presentation of this programme book and its contents.

We know that an important part of the festival will be missing. Even though the situation is clearly improving while we are writing these words, we had to take difficult decisions when the conditions for July were not clear yet. It was with a very heavy heart that we had to decide, at the end of April, to cancel all ateliers of 4 to 8 days. It is the first time since 1961 that we will not be able to gather several thousand people from 40 or 50 countries worldwide in one city, bring them together in different activities and invite them to join their voices in the daily Open Singings.

In these unpredictable circumstances, we are happy to be able to offer an interesting programme of activities taking place in Ljubljana: an opening ceremony, concerts with invited groups and Slovenian choirs – some preceded by short open singing sessions, a project with four national youth choirs and a session of the EuroChoir. Some foreign conductors will also come to Ljubljana to work with local choirs. In addition, we will offer a rich educational programme online – partly in a hybrid format with a small choir working with the conductor on the spot while others can join digitally, partly entirely online with the workshop leaders and lecturers teaching from home. This will include offers for singers such as open singing sessions and sing-along discovery ateliers, as well as offers for vocal leaders and conductors, composers and creators, managers, music educators and students in the PULSE programme. During the breaks we will broadcast a varied Europa Cantat TV programme with background information, interviews, excerpts from performances and much more.

We are fully aware of the fact that these online programmes cannot replace live meetings, especially when it comes to singing together. Of course, hybrid and online formats also have advantages: activities and events can be more inclusive and reach a bigger audience, while online meetings can contribute to reducing the carbon footprint. We believe that some parts will stay with us in the future. However, we know very well that collective online music-making has its limits, that social interaction is missing, and that networking and creativity often take place during informal meetings. Nevertheless, we will try to provide some space for social interaction and meetings in the Europa Cantat Ljubljana virtual foyer which will be open 24/7 – an opportunity for you to meet old friends, find new ones, talk to lecturers and workshop leaders, attend virtual receptions, and to dream together about real life meetings in the future.

In these unforeseeable circumstances, after a long period during which collective singing was mostly not possible in Europe and the sector of collective singing is still struggling with numerous effects of the pandemic, the European Choral Association started a campaign on the social, physical, psychological and educational benefits of collective singing (#benefitsofsinging), which will last until July 30th. This campaign was planned before the pandemic but seems to be more important and relevant than ever. The launch of the campaign coincided with the careful reopening of activities across Europe and first rehearsals and even performances taking place in different countries. We believe that Europa Cantat Ljubljana 2021 will be, as always, a powerful event and the best testimonial of our campaign, playing an important role and representing the start of a brighter and more hopeful future.

Everything that will be happening between 17 and 22 July has only been possible thanks to a number of persons and institutions whom Europa Cantat Ljubljana 2021 would not have happened. We would therefore like to thank:

− the wonderful Europa Cantat Ljubljana team, which faced many challenges and had to adapt over and over again to the changing circumstances,
− the inspired and creative festival Music Commission, which put together an artistic programme for which we received a lot of praise,
− the festival Steering Committee, which had to take many difficult decisions and always had the well-being of everybody involved in mind,
− the extended JSKD team,
− the board, youth committee and team of the European Choral Association,
− the 20 young managers who applied for the Young Event Management Programme (YEMP),
− the international and local volunteers who will be joining the team in July,
− the 2,700 registered participants who put their trust and hope in Europa Cantat Ljubljana 2021, which exceeded our expectations during the pandemic,
− all those who accepted our invitation to lead the ateliers and give lectures and workshops in the original programme, but who will unfortunately not be able to attend it now,
− those who have accepted the challenge of leading hybrid sessions or giving online lectures and workshops,
− the invited ensembles who will perform in Ljubljana,
− all Slovenian choirs who will share Slovenian choral music with us,
− those who could not join in virtual sessions or in the virtual foyer.

Therefore, despite the odds, we look forward to meeting as many of you as possible, at a concert in Ljubljana, in an online session or in the virtual foyer.

Carlo Pavese, President
Sonja Greiner, Secretary General

On behalf of the board and team of the European Choral Association

The European Choral Association is a powerful event for the Y O U N G Event Management Programme (YEMP),
− the international and local volunteers who will be joining the team in July,
− the 2,700 registered participants who put their trust and hope in Europa Cantat Ljubljana 2021, which exceeded our expectations during the pandemic,
− all those who accepted our invitation to lead the ateliers and give lectures and workshops in the original programme, but who will unfortunately not be able to attend it now,
− those who have accepted the challenge of leading hybrid sessions or giving online lectures and workshops,
− the invited ensembles who will perform in Ljubljana,
− all Slovenian choirs who will share Slovenian choral music in concerts,
− the festival partners who are joining forces with Europa Cantat Ljubljana 2021,
− the European Union, which is supporting the event through different projects and programmes,
− the Ministry of Culture of Slovenia and the Municipality of Ljubljana, which offered financial support for all scenarios of the event,
− the Slovenian EU Council Presidency, which included Europa Cantat Ljubljana 2021 into its programme as the main cultural event,
− the sponsors and donors, including the participants who donated their registration fee.

On behalf of the board and team of the European Choral Association
Interview with Urška Bittner Pipan and Mihela Jagodic, General Manager and Programme Manager of Europa Cantat 2021 Ljubljana

It is certainly true that Urška Bittner Pipan and Mihela Jagodic, the leading figures of Europa Cantat 2021, have spent more time together than with their families in the last year and a half. This is what it takes to organise such a large-scale project. When you add the unpredictable nature of the COVID-19 epidemic and the subsequent measures to the list, you can imagine that being a festival’s general manager or programme manager is far from easy.

Considering your vast experience with managing cultural projects and events, you could definitely foresee that the festival would be demanding in terms of organisation and programme. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you assess the actual complexity of this project?

UBP: If we discussed this one month ago, I would say 20. (Laughing) Today my opinion is slightly different and everything seems calmer, so I would say it is a 9. Let me say that Mihela and I are an important part of the project, but we have a phenomenal core team behind us. We have been going through the preparations in this relatively long period of three years together, encouraging each other. We had to face some difficulties and make very tough decisions that had to be harmonised within our team and then with all the other important stakeholders and co-financers. This is how we tried to keep the momentum going and sustain the belief that we are creating a project in which we believe, despite the major changes that took place. I would say that, considering all these changes, we have been »sprinting a marathon« all the time.

MJ: We knew that the process would be very challenging, but without the additional complications brought by the epidemic, which has paralysed the cultural sphere in particular. The twelve-member team, which managed to bring the project to the point where other JSKD co-workers and volunteers from Slovenia and abroad started assisting with the preparation, has carried out remarkable work. The project is incredibly demanding and, even since the end of registration period this February, I would assess it somewhere around 10, if not more, because of constant changes, adaptations, and the consequent lack of time … it also varies from day to day and individual parts of the team. However, the number would be significantly higher without our amazing colleagues – all team members are enthusiasts with a positive attitude!

How did the process start after your candidacy in 2017 had been accepted?

UBP: It started enthusiastically because, back in 2017, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Municipality of Ljubljana supported the efforts of JSKD to upgrade the well-established tradition and organised choral education by offering candidacy for the largest choral festival Europa Cantat. We were really excited when Ljubljana was chosen as the organiser of the 2021 festival at the general assembly in Tallinn. Our wish to present Slovenian music at the global level and bring the best of the choral world to Slovenia was fulfilled – and so we rolled up our sleeves. Then we began with the work and I will never stop appreciating the opportunity to create such a beautiful and great story from scratch.

MJ: We had many ideas for the programme. Firstly, we tried to decide which Slovenian choral achievements to present to the participants and how to do it, and then who and what from abroad to present to the Slovenian choral public, e.g. renowned mentors, ensembles, interesting music programmes and lectures. In the second phase, we tried to determine how to complement the music ideas – how to connect choral activity with other areas of life and give it a chance to come alive outside the entirely musical framework. We made parallels with sport, photography, economy, science, etc. It seemed particularly important to draw up a programme so interesting that our singers and conductors would feel that they should not miss it out despite it being held in the middle of summer holidays. We are pleased to see that we managed to achieve just that.

We cannot avoid the question of how the new virus and everything that followed affected the programme?

UBP: It started enthusiastically because, back in 2017, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Municipality of Ljubljana supported the efforts of JSKD to upgrade the well-established tradition and organised choral education by offering candidacy for the largest choral festival Europa Cantat. We were really excited when Ljubljana was chosen as the organiser of the 2021 festival at the general assembly in Tallinn. Our wish to present Slovenian music at the global level and bring the best of the choral world to Slovenia was fulfilled – and so we rolled up our sleeves. Then we began with the work and I will never stop appreciating the opportunity to create such a beautiful and great story from scratch.

MJ: We had many ideas for the programme. Firstly, we tried to decide which Slovenian choral achievements to present to the participants and how to do it, and then who and what from abroad to present to the Slovenian choral public, e.g. renowned mentors, ensembles, interesting music programmes and lectures. In the second phase, we tried to determine how to complement the music ideas – how to connect choral activity with other areas of life and give it a chance to come alive outside the entirely musical framework. We made parallels with sport, photography, economy, science, etc. It seemed particularly important to draw up a programme so interesting that our singers and conductors would feel that they should not miss it out despite it being held in the middle of summer holidays. We are pleased to see that we managed to achieve just that.

We cannot avoid the question of how the new virus and everything that followed affected the programme?

UBP: If we discussed this one month ago, I would say 20. (Laughing) Today my opinion is slightly different and everything seems calmer, so I would say it is a 9. Let me say that Mihela and I are an important part of the project, but we have a phenomenal core team behind us. We have been going through the preparations in this relatively long period of three years together, encouraging each other. We had to face some difficulties and make very tough decisions that had to be harmonised within our team and then with all the other important stakeholders and co-financers. This is how we tried to keep the momentum going and sustain the belief that we are creating a project in which we believe, despite the major changes that took place. I would say that, considering all these changes, we have been »sprinting a marathon« all the time.

MJ: We knew that the process would be very challenging, but without the additional complications brought by the epidemic, which has paralysed the cultural sphere in particular. The twelve-member team, which managed to bring the project to the point where other JSKD co-workers and volunteers from Slovenia and abroad started assisting with the preparation, has carried out remarkable work. The project is incredibly demanding and, even since the end of registration period this February, I would assess it somewhere around 10, if not more, because of constant changes, adaptations, and the consequent lack of time … it also varies from day to day and individual parts of the team. However, the number would be significantly higher without our amazing colleagues – all team members are enthusiasts with a positive attitude!

Considering your vast experience with managing cultural projects and events, you could definitely foresee that the festival would be demanding in terms of organisation and programme. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you assess the actual complexity of this project?
impossible to plan the festival based on the information given by the competent authorities and we reached a point where we had to cancel the additional part of the programme. We were the most affected by the cancellation of ateliers, the very core of the festival, which would be attended by 2,600 registered singers from Slovenia and around 30 other countries. The uncertainty over the rules and the risk were simply too high. We also had to cancel several special projects. Nevertheless, the concerts of the invited groups will take place at amazing locations in the centre of Ljubljana, one part of the programme was moved online and the other part will take place in a hybrid form – by implementing it live in Ljubljana and streaming it to the audience online.

How did the situation affect the organisation?

UBP: Organisational ventures are much more complex than they were before the epidemic. The implementation scenarios, which we played out over and over again, shattered to pieces in front of our eyes. The wish of everyone involved, the participants and organisers alike, was to attend the festival healthy and also stay that way going home. For this reason, we will take care of all the conditions that will be required in a given situation. In practice, this means that all venues will be adequately prepared and we will follow all the guidelines of the National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ) and other institutions. At the same time, we will do our best to make the performers feel as good as possible so that they can carry out their programme in a relaxed manner.

There must be some bright sides from the organisational perspective and in the final programme regardless of the obstacles you had to face.

What are the reactions of choral public from Slovenia and abroad?

UBP: We are deeply honoured by so many positive vibrations through all the responses that we regularly receive, especially from abroad. The public is letting us know that we are being supported in these difficult times trying to organise such events. Many colleagues from international choral festivals and competitions, who know what we are going through, are positively surprised that we keep on going, noting that, if they were us, they would have cancelled it altogether long ago.

MJ: This is the crucial quality of the team: to seek a solution to every problem with enthusiasm, perseverance and determination until we are 100% sure that we have done our best before giving up.

How will you bring the festival closer to the wider, non-professional public?

UBP: People, their understanding and support make us hopeful. In any case, it was a unique experience to tirelessly keep hope alive for the summer and create a new story to revive singing. Now I have a feeling that we can create anything.

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## DAILY SCHEDULE

### EUROPA CANTAT TV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Programme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00-9.00</td>
<td>Virtual Foyer: Virtual helpdesk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.45-9.00</td>
<td>Good morning show</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00-10.00</td>
<td>Reading sessions: Ficta Edicions - Editorial de música catalana (ES)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00-10.15</td>
<td>Introduction to Open Singing &amp; Slovenia promo</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.15-11.15</td>
<td>Open singing: Jan Schumacher (DE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15-11.30</td>
<td>Choral journeys</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30-12.30</td>
<td>Discovery atelier: Jim Daus Hjernøe (DK): The Intelligent Choir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30-13.00</td>
<td>Virtual Foyer: Lunch offer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.00-15.00</td>
<td>Pulse 1: Gal Faganel (SI): Beyond Talent – Career Development for Musicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.00-15.15</td>
<td>Daily reportage</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.15-16.15</td>
<td>Pulse 2: Ambrož Čopi (SI): Young Slovenian Composers</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.15-16.30</td>
<td>EC &amp; Choral world</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.30-17.30</td>
<td>Pulse 3: Jim Daus Hjernøe (DK): Tech session—presenting tools and methods for online learning and rehearsing (e-learning, online live rehearsals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.30-17.45</td>
<td>Until we meet again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.45</td>
<td>Music clips</td>
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<tr>
<td>19.00</td>
<td>Virtual Foyer: Opening online reception</td>
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</table>

### LIVE CONCERTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Programme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18.00</td>
<td>Special projects: Familyvision song event</td>
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<tr>
<td>21.00</td>
<td>Special projects: Opening Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>00.00-24.00</td>
<td>CHORAL PHOTO PROMENADE (1 July – 1 August)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The updated schedule and programme available at the europacantat.jskd.si and the EC FB page.

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<tr>
<td>8.00-9.00</td>
<td>Virtual Foyer: Virtual helpdesk</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.45-9.00</td>
<td>Good morning show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00-10.00</td>
<td>Reading sessions: International Federation for Choral Music / Shireen Abu-Khader (JOR): Approaching choral music of the Levant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00-10.15</td>
<td>Introduction to Open Singing &amp; Slovenia promo</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.15-11.15</td>
<td>Open singing: Jan Schumacher (DE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15-11.30</td>
<td>Choral journeys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30-12.30</td>
<td>Discovery atelier: Kim Nazarian (US), Katarina Henryson (SE): Breathing life into music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30-13.00</td>
<td>Virtual Foyer: Lunch offer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.00-15.00</td>
<td>Pulse 1: Urša Šivic (SI), Tomaž Simetinger (SI): Slovenian folk music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.00-15.15</td>
<td>Daily reportage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.15-16.15</td>
<td>Pulse 2: Fanni Eckhardt (HU), Elke Wünnenberg (DE): Singing as an elixir of life: Singing Hospitals and Singing with people with Aphasia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.15-16.30</td>
<td>EC &amp; Choral world</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.30-17.30</td>
<td>Pulse 3: Jim Daus Hjernøe (DK), Petra Limon (NL): Live rehearsal with Jamulus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.30-17.45</td>
<td>Until we meet again</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.45</td>
<td>Music clips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.00</td>
<td>Virtual Foyer: Evening offer</td>
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### LIVE CONCERTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.30-11.30</td>
<td>Special projects: Sing to Slovenia</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30-12.00</td>
<td>Open singing LIVE: Rahela Durič (SI/AT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>Special guests: Tenebrae</td>
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<td>Open singing LIVE: Jan Schumacher (DE), Rahela Durič (SI/AT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.00</td>
<td>Special guests: Postyr</td>
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<tr>
<td>00.00-24.00</td>
<td>CHORAL PHOTO PROMENADE (1 July – 1 August)</td>
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### DAILY SCHEDULE

#### EUROPACANTAT TV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Segment</th>
<th>Channel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00-9.00</td>
<td>Virtual Foyer: Virtual helpdesk</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.45-9.00</td>
<td>Good morning show</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00-10.00</td>
<td>Reading sessions: Federazione Nazionale Italiana Associazioni Regionali</td>
<td>wonder.me</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00-10.15</td>
<td>Introduction to Open Singing &amp; Slovenia promo</td>
<td>wonder.me</td>
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<td>10.15-11.15</td>
<td>Open singing: Jan Schumacher (DE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15-11.30</td>
<td>Choral journeys</td>
<td>wonder.me</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30-12.30</td>
<td>Discovery atelier: Tine Fris-Ronsfeld (DK): Icebreakers</td>
<td>wonder.me</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30-13.00</td>
<td>Virtual Foyer: Lunch offer</td>
<td>wonder.me</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00-15.00</td>
<td>Pulse 1: Zvezdan Pitošek (SI): Neuroscience and arts: what art does</td>
<td>wonder.me</td>
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<td>to the brain</td>
<td>EC TV</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.00-15.15</td>
<td>Daily reportage</td>
<td>EC TV</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15.15-16.15</td>
<td>Pulse 2: Inge Breznik (SI), Damijan Močnik (SI): An inspiring choir</td>
<td>EC TV</td>
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<td></td>
<td>system in Slovenian schools and Choir pyramid in St. Stanislav’s</td>
<td>EC TV</td>
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<td>Institution</td>
<td>EC TV</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.15-16.30</td>
<td>EC &amp; Choral world</td>
<td>EC TV</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.30-17.30</td>
<td>Pulse 3: Jim Daus Hjernæe (DK): Presentation of a LoLa performance</td>
<td>EC TV</td>
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<td></td>
<td>connecting musicians between Ljubljana and The Royal Academy of Music</td>
<td>EC TV</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aarhus/Aalborg, Denmark</td>
<td>EC TV</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.30-17.45</td>
<td>Until we meet again</td>
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<th>Guest</th>
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<tr>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>Special guests: Singer Pur</td>
<td>Slovenian Phil.</td>
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<tr>
<td>00.00-24.00</td>
<td>CHORAL PHOTO PROMENADE (1 July – 1 August)</td>
<td>Trivoli City Park</td>
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Virtual Foyer: Virtual helpdesk

8.00-9.00

Virtual Foyer: Virtual helpdesk

8.45-9.00

Good morning show

EC TV

9.00-10.00

Reading sessions: Carus-Verlag (DE) / Jan Schumacher (DE): Easy-to-master contemporary music. A repertoire session with new scores from Europe

EC TV

10.00-10.15

Introduction to Open Singing & Slovenia promo

EC TV

10.15-11.15

Open singing: Jan Schumacher (DE)

EC TV

11.15-11.30

Choral journeys

EC TV

11.30-12.30

Discovery atelier: Katarina Šter (SI): The (un)known vocal world of the Gregorian chant

EC TV

12.30-13.00

Virtual Foyer: Lunch offer

wonder.me

14.00-15.00

Pulse 1: Jaka Levstek (SI): Silicon Harmonies – What can choir leaders learn from high-tech startups?

EC TV

15.00-15.15

Daily reportage

EC TV

15.15-16.15

Pulse 2: Presenting the Winners of European Award for Composers 2020/2021, Moderator: Jeroen Beckers (BE)

EC TV

16.15-16.30

EC & Choral world

EC TV

16.30-17.30

Pulse 3: Anthony Leach (US): Gospel music taught by rote

EC TV

17.30-17.45

Music clips

EC TV

19.00

Virtual Foyer: Dinner offer

wonder.me

LIVE CONCERTS

17.00

Listen to Slovenia: The Slovenian Philharmonic Choir, Gary Graden (SE), Josep Vila i Casañas (ES)

Cankarjev dom

19.00

Special projects: EuroChoir, Bernie Sherlock (IE), Yuval Weinberg (DE/IL)

Cankarjev dom

21.00

Listen to Slovenia: St. Stanislav Girls’ Choir Ljubljana, Helena Fojkar Zupančič (SI)

Cankarjev dom

00.00-24.00

CHORAL PHOTO PROMENADE (1 July – 1 August)

Tivoli City Park

The updated schedule and programme available at the europacantat.jskd.si and the EC FB page.

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Some people might think that Europa Cantat Festival is of competitive nature, but it is not. At its core it is all about connecting, exploring, learning and sharing. When singers step out of their comfort zones (or rehearsal spaces) and stand next to unknown singers, they face a challenge. But this is the path to growth!

The past year has changed everything we always took for granted. Due to the health measures, the educational part of the festival, which is also the biggest part of the programme, will go ahead in a virtual form and will be available to anyone interested in a certain topic.

Europa Cantat TV will be available on the website www.europacantat.jskd.si and on Europa Cantat Festival’s YouTube channel.

We will launch the programme in the morning with an introductory speech and an overview of the daily programme and continue with presentations of scores. Various music publishers will present their new score editions.

Open singing is one of the most popular parts of the festival day. This is neither a rehearsal nor a concert, just singing to everyone’s satisfaction. We will sing songs from the festival Songbook. The live broadcast will feature an ad hoc choir and conductor Jan Schumacher at the studio.

Discovery ateliers will start around noon. The purpose of ateliers is to present not only different choral styles, but also less visible genres and techniques. This time you will get the chance to learn about throat singing and Gregorian chants.

Afternoons on Europa Cantat TV will revolve around the PULSE Programme – every day various experts from all around the world will hold three one-hour lectures.

How can you watch Europa Cantat TV? The tab will be available on the website www.europacantat.jskd.si and you will be able to access all the content for free! New knowledge awaits!

**EUROPA CANTAT TV SCHEDULE**

**DATE:** Saturday morning, 17 July, until Thursday afternoon, 22 July  
**VENUE:** on europacantat.jskd.si  
**CONTENT:** free of charge

»Registration for active participants« – what does it mean? Lecturers will be with you via Zoom Webinar, which enables communication with participants in form of a chat. Active participants are all those who wish to ask a question, express opinion, tell about your experience, give an example, … Active participation is possible at Reading Sessions and all PULSE programme sessions.

I only want to watch/listen. Do I have to register as well? No, in this case you don’t need to do anything. Just be on EC TV on time when your »show« starts.

So that everyone who cannot come to Ljubljana because of the pandemic can interact with others, meet old friends, make new ones, pose questions to the lecturers and much more, a virtual foyer of the Europa Cantat Ljubljana 2021 will be open 24/7 on wonder.me. Anybody involved in the event, live or online, can enter the foyer, schedule a meeting with friends, or simply have a look at who else is there.

**DAILY PROGRAMME:**

8.00–9.00: Virtual Helpdesk  
12.30–13.00: Lunchtime programme  
19.00–20.00: Evening programme

17 July 2021 at 19:00: Online opening reception  
22 July 2021 at 19:00: Online closing reception

More on: wonder.me  
A more detailed programme and the link will be published on europacantat.jskd.si.
WORKSHOPS – EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

DISCOVERY ATELIERS
PULSE
READING SESSIONS
OPEN SINGING
6 ONE-HOUR WORKSHOPS

Do you seek a different programme each morning? Visit our discovery ateliers, explore stylistically varied aspects of choral music and learn about less common genres and techniques.

One-hour discovery ateliers will take a hybrid form: with the conductor and some singers present in Ljubljana and everybody else singing along to the choir sound on the free online Europa Cantat TV.

DATE: every day 17–22 July, 11.30–12.30
VENUE: online Europa Cantat TV
TICKETS: free, more on europacantat.jskd.si

SATURDAY, 17 JULY
11.30–12.30
THE INTELLIGENT CHOIR
Jim Daus Hjernøe (DK)

The Intelligent Choir refers to his musical philosophy of training choir conductors to allow and inspire choristers to share responsibility for the musical process. The concept includes a pedagogical and artistic methodology with vocal painting as the headliner as well as ear training, theory, and improvisation.

Jim Daus Hjernøe (DK), professor of Rhythmic Choir Conducting at the Royal Academy of Music in Denmark (RAMA), is the head of RAMA Vocal Centre, which is recognized internationally as the leading European centre of rhythmic choir conducting education. He has focused on improvisational vocal art since 2002 and developed the innovative and revolutionary methodology »The Intelligent Choir« with Vocal Painting as one of the headliners. The Intelligent Choir refers to his musical philosophy and concept of training choir conductors to allow and inspire choristers to share responsibility for the musical process.

KATARINA HENRYSON (SE)

Kim Nazarian (US), is a world renowned performing Grammy-nominated jazz artist, educator and clinician. Besides her work as a sought-after solo vocalist, she has been performing all over the world with the vocal group New York Voices (NYV) for more than 30 years. She is a jazz voice teacher via Skype for Vocal Jazz Majors at Ithaca College and she shares her perspectives on music and life as a musician through teaching private students in clinics, workshops, jazz camps and masterclasses, as well as through festival adjudication and guest conducting for singers on all levels in the US and abroad.

KATARINA HENRYSON (SE) is a founding member of the Swedish vocal group »The Real Group«. Since 2016 she has been focusing on creative vocal formats that can best be described as performance arts. She also gives workshops, lectures and concerts. »My artistic theme and my driving force are to work with sonic and visual environments that invite people to communicate with themselves, each other and the space they are in, without a hierarchical structure. To get in touch with the curiosity and hope we possess as individuals as well as groups.«

SUNDAY, 18 JULY
11.30–12.30
BREATHING LIFE INTO MUSIC
Kim Nazarian (US), Katarina Henryson (SE)

Using material from both of their ensemble careers, Katarina and Kim will share their expertise on how to take a 2-dimensional piece of paper and turn it into a living, breathing organism: MUSIC! They will take excerpts from »A Lifetime takes a Lifetime to Fulfill« by Peder Karlsson and »In My Life« (Lennon and McCartney arranged by Darmon Meader) and help 20 singers create something tangible with contour, texture and shape … the use of consonants for rhythm, elision for line, phrasing, dynamics, and stacked vertical vowels for ringing chords are just a few of the elements they will explore. All of these tools will allow the singers to be more expressive, encourage them to listen more, and communicate human emotion through both vulnerability and courage. Join Kim and Katarina as they lift the notes off the page and fill the air with music that is actually alive!
ICEBREAKERS
Tine Fris-Ronsfeld (DK)

Icebreakers are games and exercises that bring people of all ages closer to each other through music, singing and movement. I will share the best icebreakers from my books that you can use directly in your warm ups and rehearsals to improve the musicality and social skills.

Tine Fris-Ronsfeld (DK) is a Danish singer, wellknown throughout the choir and vocal music scene for her work as a singer, composer and arranger for the award-winning experimental vocal group “Postyr” as well as for her work as a singer, arranger and co-conductor of the renowned pop choir “Vocal Line”, with whom she won first prize at The Eurovision Choirpetition in Karnobat (Bulgaria)).

Zvezdana Novaković (SI) will share her personal story and discuss her focus of the past ten years on traditional singing of Balkan and Slavic cultures, which she also researches, performs and teaches. She will cover the essence of folk singing, how to get to the living oral tradition today, how to approach a foreign culture, how to start studying it in an academic setting and apply it on stage, and show you some warm-up exercises.

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Katarina Šter (SI) is a singer, harpist and vocal coach from Northeast Slovenia. By combining traditional folk, jazz, classical and electronic music with performing arts, she creates unique ways of expression. Her voice and musical artistry are influenced by a tradition of Slavic and Balkan cultures. By singing folk songs of her Serbian and Slovenian grandmother, she wants to remind us of ancestors’ traditions. While studying Bulgarian folk singing in Plovdiv, she also learned songs from many respected folk singers. She is an award-winning artist (Grand Prix at the PPA competition (Poland), 1st Prize at the World Music Zeman Fest (Serbia); 2nd Prize at the traditional folk-singing competition in Karnobat (Bulgaria)).

Panda van Proosdij (NL) studied at the Rotterdam Dance Academy in the Netherlands. She has been a teacher at the Codarts Music Theatre in Rotterdam and worked with the Netherlands Female Youth Choir as a movement coach and director. For 13 years, van Proosdij has been working on her method »From Voice & Physique to Choireography«. She gives workshops and masterclasses all over the world and creates Choireography for canons and choirs and schools, professionals and beginners, and hopes everyone can experience the joy of singing. It is his personal goal to combine this fun and playful style with a professional and vocal approach. He propagates his ideas to future conductors and teachers to make singing an important part of our society.

From movement to music. Panda teaches and creates choireography for canons and turns it into an innovative experience of learning music. All the senses will be activated in an organic way while going through the material of 18 brand new canons by 6 young composers from all over the world. In this atelier you will learn 1 or 2 canons of this project produced by Helbling Publishing.
18 ONE-HOUR LECTURES

The educational programme is very diverse and therefore appropriate for anyone: students, conductors, creators, educators and others who are interested in choral music.

With the PULSE programme (formerly known as Conductors’ and Composers’ programme), you can get to grips with the latest topics in the choral world. You are invited to attend one-hour lectures given by professionals from different areas of music, which will be held on the Europa Cantat TV available free of charge on our website. We reached out to musicians, entrepreneurs, doctors of science and physicians – the range of topics is broad because music affects so many different areas of human life. You may be interested in knowing the actual impact of music on the human brain, what does the current musicscape in Slovenia look like, what do musicians need for a good career development? You will be able to find out answers to these questions and so much more in the fascinating and diverse lectures of the PULSE programme.

DATE: every afternoon 17-22 July, 14.00-17.30
VENUE: online Europa Cantat TV
TIKTETS: free, more on europacantat.jskd.si

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<td>Beyond Talent – Career Development for Musicians</td>
<td>Gal Faganel (SI)</td>
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<td>Ambrož Copi (SI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.30-17.30</td>
<td>Tech sessions – presenting tools and methods for online learning and rehearsing (e-learning, online live rehearsals)</td>
<td>Jim Daus Hjernæe (DK)</td>
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<td>Slovenian folk music</td>
<td>Urša Šivic (SI)</td>
<td>Repertoire/Did. approaches</td>
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<td>15.15-16.15</td>
<td>Singing as an elixir of life: Singing Hospitals and Singing with people with Aphasia</td>
<td>Tomaž Simetinger (SI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.30-17.30</td>
<td>Live rehearsal with Jamulus</td>
<td>Fanni Eckhardt (HU)</td>
<td>Repertoire/Did. approaches</td>
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The updated schedule and programme available at the europacantat.jskd.si and the EC FB page. The participants at the concerts must meet the required RVT condition (recovered, fully vaccinated or tested).
**BEYOND TALENT – CAREER DEVELOPMENT FOR MUSICIANS**

Gal Faganel (SI)

This presentation will address many non-musical skills required for a successful self-managed career in music, such as: Developing your image – promotional materials, Online presence – website and social media, Making connections-networking, collaboration, Freelance skills – carving your reputation, Building your audience: self-promotion & marketing, Funding for music projects – grant opportunities, fundraising, sponsorships, Managing time and money.

Gal Faganel (SI) is a versatile award-winning cello performer, an acclaimed teacher and recording artist. With a doctorate from the University of Southern California under the mentorship of Eleonore Schoenfeld, he was previously the principal cellist of the Phoenix Symphony. Since 2010, he has taught at the University of Northern Colorado and collaborated with colleagues of the Colorado Piano Trio. He recently began teaching at the Academy of Music of the University of Ljubljana. At both institutions he developed a new course called Beyond Talent – Career Development for Musicians. He leads workshops and lectures on this topic and is active in mentoring young musicians.

**SLOVENIAN FOLK MUSIC**

Urša Šivic (SI), Tomaž Simetinger (SI)

Slovenia is a small country that lies at a crossroads of different cultures, which is reflected in its folk music. In this course, we will learn about the musical heritage, listen to the oldest recordings and modern folk music, take notice of how singing and playing music changed over time in different regions of Slovenia, and compare folk music in its various forms.

Urša Šivic (SI) Šivic has a PhD in musicology and is employed at the Institute of Ethnomusicology of the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU). She specialises in the theory of Slovenian vocal tradition, focusing on the influence of institutionalised standards on the transformation of traditional singing and the impact other musical genres have on folk music. Throughout the years, she has been cooperating with JSKD and other institutions.

Tomaž Simetinger (SI) is an ethnologist and cultural anthropologist as well as author of numerous professional and academic texts. By studying dance and music in Slovenia and in the wider European area, he unites field and archival research with artistic interpretation as a choreographer, lecturer and teacher that regularly cooperates with JSKD and other institutions.
SUNDAY, 18 JULY
15.15–16.15

SINGING AS AN ELIXIR OF LIFE: SINGING HOSPITALS AND SINGING WITH PEOPLE WITH APHASIA
Fanni Eckhardt (HU), Elke Wünnenberg (DE)

Aphasia is a loss of language, not intellect. Aphasia is frustrating, aphasia is lonely. However, singing can help to regain the ability to speak and to connect with others. What does singing with aphasia look like, what does it sound like? Come and see! Singing is a wonderful elixir of life that can strengthen physical and mental health. The lecture gives an insight into the work of the international network of «Singing Hospitals», founded in 2009 to promote singing in various social fields with healing and health-promoting forms of singing in the health sector.

Singing together with others has always been a passion for Fanni Eckhardt (HU). For six years now, she has been sharing this passion with people with aphasia. She has been working in aphasia rehabilitation as a musician and as a prospective music therapist at the National Institute of Medical Rehabilitation (HU) and at the Hungarian Aphasia Choir (Hangadó Énekegyüttes), founded in 2016. She holds two degrees in Music Education – BA, Énekegyüttes), founded in 2016. She has integrated singing into her clinical work in oncology and psychosomatics since 2004. Since its foundation in 2009, she has been member of the international network «Singing Hospital» and also chairman of the board since 2016. For her conceptual work she received the Hilde Ulrich Foundation Award for Parkinson Research. Her ongoing doctoral work focuses on singing and self-regulation in Parkinson’s patients at the University of Trier (Prof. Dr. Baumann) and in cooperation with the University Medical Center Mainz (Prof. Dr. Groppa). Publication in the new edition of the music therapy encyclopaedia by Decker-Voigt/Weymann, 2020.

Elke Wünnenberg (DE), (psychologist, psychotherapist, music teacher) was born in Essen/Germany in 1975. She has integrated singing into her clinical work in oncology and psychosomatics since 2004. Since its foundation in 2009, she has been member of the international network «Singing Hospital» and also chairman of the board since 2016. For her conceptual work she received the Hilde Ulrich Foundation Award for Parkinson Research. Her ongoing doctoral work focuses on singing and self-regulation in Parkinson’s patients at the University of Trier (Prof. Dr. Baumann) and in cooperation with the University Medical Center Mainz (Prof. Dr. Groppa). Publication in the new edition of the music therapy encyclopaedia by Decker-Voigt/Weymann, 2020.

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SUNDAY, 18 JULY
16.30–17.30

LIVE REHEARSAL WITH JAMULUS
Jim Daus Hjernøe (DK)
Petra Limon (NL)

Live rehearsal with Jamulus (singers singing from different homes), introduced by professor Jim Daus Hjernøe and conducted by Petra Limon.

Jim Daus Hjernøe (DK), professor of Rhythmic Choir Conducting at the Royal Academy of Music in Denmark (RAMA), is the head of RAMA Vocal Centre, which is recognized internationally as the leading European centre of rhythmic choir conducting education. He has focused on improvisational vocal art since 2002 and developed the innovative and revolutionary methodology «The Intelligent Choir» with Vocal Painting as one of the headliners. The Intelligent Choir refers to his musical philosophy and concept of training choir conductors to allow and in-spire choristers to share responsibility for the musical process.

Petra Limon (NL) is a choir leader, workshop leader and music teacher. She holds a masters’ degree in Innovative Choir Leading from the Royal Academy of Music in Aalborg (DK) and a bachelor’s degree in Music in Education. Since November 2020, Petra has gained a lot of experience with the low latency software Jamulus, which enables choirs to sing together online in real time. By sharing her knowledge and organizing webinars, she inspired many other choir conductors to use Jamulus. Petra initiated and co-organized the Dutch online Jamulus choir festival «Vocal Digital», which was streamed live on YouTube.

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MONDAY, 19 JULY
14.00–15.00

NEUROSCIENCE AND ARTS: WHAT ART DOES TO THE BRAIN
Zvezdan Pirtošek (SI)

A growing body of evidence demonstrates that visual arts as well as music have a clear impact on the human brain. The lecture will present the basic anatomy and main processes, relevant for the understanding of this impact (e.g. reward system, focused attention, stress, anticipatory and prediction-related structures of the frontal lobe, limbic system). Next, a demonstration of how a brain disease changed some established artists’ artistic expression will be shown. The last part of the lecture will ask the question about the purpose of arts from the neuroscientific point of view, also focusing on evolutionary theories of art and the brain.

Zvezdan Pirtošek (SI) is a consultant neurologist, Head of the Neurology department at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana (UL), Neurology & Neuroscience Professor and co-founder of the Interdisciplinary International Middle European postgraduate study of Cognitive Sciences, MEI:CogSci, at the Universities of Ljubljana, Vienna, Budapest, and Bratislava. His main research interests include neurodegenerative diseases, particularly Parkinson’s disease and Alzheimer’s disease, along with cognitive neuroscience and agism as a form of discrimination and prejudice. For his contribution in the field of treating dementia, President of the Republic of Slovenia distinguished him with The Order of Merit.
Choral singing has a rich tradition in Slovenian national culture, which is also reflected in the Slovenian educational system. Singing is made possible to all the children through obligatory subject of musical education and via interest activity of choral singing. Musical education and choirs are led by pedagogues with university degrees. Music importantly underpins the curriculum of all schools in St. Stanislav’s Institution, where almost half of the students participate in choral singing. Seven school choirs; 2 alumni choirs; winnings at prestigious competitions, World Symposium on Choral Music, ACDA National Conference, concerts with professional symphonic or-chestras, concerts tours and much more.

Inge Breznik (SI) graduated in 2005 at the Academy of Music of the University of Ljubljana, on the subject »Dimensions of Music Education«. She then in the Faculty of Education in Maribor, and teacher of musical education and choirs. Choral singing has a rich tradition in Slovenian national culture, which is also reflected in the Slovenian educational system. Singing is made possible to all the children through obligatory subject of musical education and via interest activity of choral singing. Musical education and choirs are led by pedagogues with university degrees. Music importantly underpins the curriculum of all schools in St. Stanislav’s Institution, where almost half of the students participate in choral singing. Seven school choirs; 2 alumni choirs; winnings at prestigious competitions, World Symposium on Choral Music, ACDA National Conference, concerts with professional symphonic orchestras, concerts tours and much more.

Inge Breznik (SI), Damijan Močnik (SI)

AN INSPIRING CHOIR SYSTEM IN SLOVENIAN SCHOOLS AND CHOIR PYRAMID IN ST. STANISLAV’S INSTITUTION

Choral singing has a rich tradition in Slovenian national culture, which is also reflected in the Slovenian educational system. Singing is made possible to all the children through obligatory subject of musical education and via interest activity of choral singing. Musical education and choirs are led by pedagogues with university degrees. Music importantly underpins the curriculum of all schools in St. Stanislav’s Institution, where almost half of the students participate in choral singing. Seven school choirs; 2 alumni choirs; winnings at prestigious competitions, World Symposium on Choral Music, ACDA National Conference, concerts with professional symphonic orchestras, concerts tours and much more.

Inge Breznik (SI), Damijan Močnik (SI)

PULSE
The absence of boys in choral singing is a worldwide issue and children's choirs are usually girls' choirs. Conductors think that if they advertise choirs as ‘mixed’ and with the slogan ‘everybody welcome’, the boys will simply appear. But they don't. This lecture discusses ways to approach boys and girls in a choir.

Joakim Olsson Krusse (SE)

Choirs and startups share many similarities. They both operate in significant uncertainty; they exist through passionate members, and they depend on the joyful experience they bring to audiences. Startup leaders have employed digital connectedness to increase their impact and choirs can learn from their stories.

Jaka Levstek (SI)

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Jaka Levstek (SI)

The jury of the European Award for Choral Composers 2020/21 selected the winning pieces and also awarded special mentions, after pieces had been submitted from all over Europe. In category A (works a cappella), the prize was awarded to ‘Amor, io falso’ by Belgian composer Jan Van der Roost, while Hans Helsen received a special mention for his piece ‘Sanctus Amor’. In category B (works with accompaniment), Maarten Van Ingelgem from Belgium won the prize for ‘Autumn Soils’, while Vigdis Hansa Elst received a special mention for her piece ‘How sweet the Moonlight’. Mr. Jeroen Beckers will talk to the winners of the international composition competition.

Jeroen Beckers (BE)

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Jeroen Beckers (BE) studied at the Conservatory of Maastricht, the Lemmens-Institute Leuven and the Conservatory of Utrecht and graduated in Theory of Music, Violin, Viola and Choral Conducting. He is currently the director of all Cantitare choirs (children's choir, youth choir and adult choir) and youth choir ‘De Piccolo's Neerpelt’. With these choirs he attended several international festivals like Europa Cantat Junior Festivals in Nevers and Pärnu, Worcester International Festival for Young Singers, Europa Cantat Festival in Tallinn and the European Festival for Young Singers in Neerpelt. He holds teaching positions at the Academy of Arts in Maastricht, is vice-president of the Flemish Federation for JEROEN BECKERS (BE) Young Choirs (VFJK) and board member of the International Choral Festival Flanders-Genk.
thrilled to be back in 2021!

the Europa Cantat in 2009, and now he is Harrington was there for the singers at renowned choir Zero8 from Stockholm.

1989 helped launch his career as a coach. Becoming a world champion in Barbershop in together with his talented brothers. Becoming how to perfect close harmony singing

Didactic approaches

A special session on integrating two of the important UN sustainable development goals into your work as a cultural professional. This session welcomes several speakers to discuss two main topics: inclusion and environmental sustainability. Through this session, we hope that you will be inspired to discover ways to become a leader on these issues through your own work, and encourage others to do the same. Participation is free, but registration is required as spaces are limited. Register as soon as you can (online registration on shorturl.at/mpBSW). For those who will not be in Ljubljana, the session will be recorded and streamed later.

A BRIEF HISTORY

BARBERSHOP HARMONY – A BRIEF HISTORY
Doug Harrington (US)

The Barbershop style has spread all over the world. Learn about its origin and what makes it unique in its arrangements, vocal techniques and its ever-evolving song choices. Ask Doug Harrington (a 40+ year Barbershopper) questions and get ready to try some Barbershop singing!

MUSICA FEMINA: REPertoire by women composers

Women can compose! Today more female composers are active than ever before. Maria Goundorina, who recorded an entire CD in 2016 exclusively with choral works by female composers, gives an overview of the current status in this lecture and presents selected female composers and some of their works.

MUSICA FEMINA: REPertoire by women composers

Maria Goundorina (BG/DE)

At the tender age of four, Doug Harrington (US) started out as a gospel and country singer with his three older brothers. At 10 he joined the Barbershop Harmony Society and spent the next 10 years learning how to perfect close harmony singing together with his talented brothers. Becoming a world champion in Barbershop in 1989 helped launch his career as a coach. Over the years he has worked with such artists as Rönninge Show Chorus, The Real Group, Margareta Bengtson, Ringmasters and founded, directed and mentored world-renowned choirs Zero8 from Stockholm. Harrington was there for the singers at the Europa Cantat in 2009, and now he is thrilled to be back in 2021!

Ottilia Dorner (HU)

How to use music education to promote equal opportunities? How to spread positive and effective pedagogical methods in schools, where social problems are cumulated? How to use music to strengthen children, and to develop a professional musical community without defining any admission criteria? Empowerment and common achievement: this is Superar. →

Ottilia Dorner (HU)

completed studies in music pedagogy at the Ippolitov-Ivanov Music College and the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory (with Boris Teylin), musicology at the University of Vienna and later at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm with Anders Eby. Her ideals in terms of choral sound have been influenced by these cities and her studies. Since 2010 Maria has been artistic director of Allmänna Sången. Since 2015 Maria has been teaching choral singing at Adolfs Fredrik Musikklasse.

Maria Goundorina (BG/DE) was born in Novosokolniki in Russia and grew up near Moscow, where she started singing in choirs at the age of seven and took up conducting when she was fifteen. She studied conducting at the Ippolitov-Ivanov Music College and the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory (with Boris Teylin), musicology at the University of Vienna and later at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm with Anders Eby. Her ideals in terms of choral sound have been influenced by these cities and her studies. Since 2010 Maria has been artistic director of Allmänna Sången. Since 2015 Maria has been teaching choral singing at Adolfs Fredrik Musikklasse.

LET MUSIC BUILD BRIDGES – INTRODUCTION OF SUPERAR AND CANTANIA CHILDREN’S PROJECTS

Ottília Dorner (HU)

Elisenda Carrasco (ES)

CANTANIA is an educational project with more than 30 years of history. It is developed through the Educational Service of L’Auditori de Barcelona and aimed at primary school children. CANTANIA reaches more than 55,000 children in more than 100 concerts every year. Performances are held in Germany, Belgium, Venezuela, Portugal and Spain.

Cor Infantil Sant Cugat, El Cor Canta, and rects Cantània. In addition, she conducts El Institut de Música de Barcelona and for a semester at the Academy of Music and for a semester at the Apáczai Secondary Academy of Music and for a semester at the Liszt Ferenc Conservatory (with Boris Tevlin), musicology at the University of Vienna and later at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm with Anders Eby. Her ideals in terms of choral sound have been influenced by these cities and her studies. Since 2010 Maria has been artistic director of Allmänna Sången. Since 2015 Maria has been teaching choral singing at Adolfs Fredrik Musikklasse.

Barcelona-born Elisenda Carrasco Ribot (ES), a secondary music school teacher, is a graduate of Orchestral Conducting, Composition and Music Education. She has taught and conducted for over thirty years, thus reaching expertise with choirs, specially children’s and equal voices. In L’Auditori, Barcelona, Carrasco Ribot collaborates with the symphonic-choral programmes and co-directs Cantània. In addition, she conducts El Cor Infantil Sant Cugat, El Cor Canta, and Voxalba, a female chamber choir. Equipped with both dynamism and vision, Carrasco Ribot enthusiastically broadens groups’ musical horizons both technically and sound wise.

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A special session on integrating two of the important UN sustainable development goals into your work as a cultural professional. This session welcomes several speakers to discuss two main topics: inclusion and environmental sustainability. Through this session, we hope that you will be inspired to discover ways to become a leader on these issues through your own work, and encourage others to do the same. Participation is free, but registration is required as spaces are limited. Register as soon as you can (online registration on shorturl.at/mpBSW). For those who will not be in Ljubljana, the session will be recorded and streamed later.

Special Live Event – Shift Culture

This event takes place as part of the SHIFT project (shift-culture.eu) coordinated by the European Music Council and co-funded by Erasmus+. The European Choral Association is a partner in the project and coordinates the theme «inclusion».

PULSE

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SPECIAL LIVE EVENT – SHIFT CULTURE

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Are you interested in new choral music literature? We’re offering you Reading Sessions every day on our Europa Cantat TV - free of charge! Europa Cantat TV will be available on our website. Different Music Publishing Houses from all over Europe will be with us.

**DATE:** every morning 17-22 July, 9.00-10.00
**VENUE:** online Europa Cantat TV
**TICKETS:** free, more on europacantat.jskd.si

### SATURDAY, 17 JULY
**9.00–10.00**
**FICTA EDICIONS – EDITORIAL DE MÚSICA CATALANA (ES)**
**CATALAN CHORAL MUSIC**
Marti Ferrer (ES)

Discover the best choral music from Catalonia by a new generations of awarded and premiered composers: Josep Vila Cañas, Josep Ollé, Joan Magrané, Mariona Vila, Carles Prat, Andreu Diport, among others.

### SUNDAY, 18 JULY
**9.00–10.00**
**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CHORAL MUSIC**
**APPROACHING CHORAL MUSIC OF THE LEVANT**
Shireen Abu-Khader (JOR)

In the frame of the next World Symposium on Choral Music 2023/24 in Doha, Qatar, International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) with Qatar National Choral Association (QNCA) would like to present you a unique educational session. We would like to open to you a fantastic world of Arab choral music. There is a vast wealth of beautiful choral repertoire from Arab countries, but many choral directors feel daunted when approaching it.

This session will provide an introduction to Arabic pronunciation, vocal style, emotional and cultural context by exploring three Arabic vocal pieces. These varied settings present accessible examples of the many different genres, rhythms, scales, and musical styles within Arab vocal music, and are appropriate for multiple voicing and levels of choral ensembles. For each song, we will not only cover historical and musical context but also give participants a chance to delve in this music.

### MONDAY, 19 JULY
**9.00–10.00**
**FEDERAZIONE NAZIONALE ITALIANA ASSOCIAZIONI REGIONALI CORALI – FENIARCO (IT)**
**FENIARCO BOOK CORNER: CHORAL MUSIC FOR THE FUTURE**
Pierfranco Semeraro (IT)

A brief trip through the federation’s publications with proposals for composers and projects for the production of new music.

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<td>Approaching choral music of the Levant</td>
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<td>Feniarco book corner: choral music for the future</td>
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<td>A sampling of Covid-inspired singing-choral projects in Canada… to the future!</td>
<td>Ki Adams, Andrea Rose in David Buley z gosti z vsakega projekta</td>
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TUESDAY, 20 JULY
9.00–10.00

THE SINGING NETWORK (CA)
A SAMPLING OF COVID-INSPIRED SINGING-CHORAL PROJECTS IN CANADA … TO THE FUTURE!
Kí Adams, Andrea Rose and David Buley with guests from each project

Even as the world appears to be getting the Covid-19 pandemic under control, it is not necessarily business-as-usual for the singing-choral arts sector. Choral organizations are still facing difficult decisions about how to sing-rehearse-perform safely, how to minimize risks, how to maintain financial stability, how to recover and/or stay connected with donors/sponsors/audiences, and how to plan the next season. Nevertheless, for some, Covid-19 has inspired them to move beyond what they have always done and has propelled them to do things that they might never have considered prior to the pandemic.

The session includes a live introduction by the Co-Directors of The Singing Network with pre-recorded dialogue and video samples from select Canadian singing-choral projects, followed by dialogue with online participants. The intended outcome of this session is to motivate and inspire ongoing individual and collective singing and choral music-making in a post-Covid world.

WEDNESDAY, 21 JULY
9.00–10.00

CARUS-VERLAG (DE)
EASY-TO-MASTER CONTEMPORARY MUSIC.
A REPERTOIRE SESSION WITH NEW SCORES FROM EUROPE
Jan Schumacher (DE)

After a long break from singing, many choirs are looking forward to getting started again soon. But which repertoire is particularly suitable for quickly achieving high-quality sound results with possibly only a few rehearsals under special conditions?

Jan Schumacher, university music director at Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main, presents a number of contemporary compositions and arrangements that are easy to learn and yet sound refined and attractive. In this way, a choir can quickly grow back together and regain its old strength when starting out anew.

THURSDAY, 22 JULY
9.00–10.00

ASTRUM MUSIC PUBLICATIONS
VIRTUAL SPEED INTERVIEW: SLOVENE CHORAL COMPOSERS – MIDDLE, YOUNG & EMERGING GENERATION
Vito Primožič (SI)
Tomaž Faganel (SI)

Prehistory: The Divje Babe flute, an artifact found in Slovenia, is probably the oldest known musical instrument to date. Medieval: Soon after the creation of the oldest important preserved written manuscripts in Slovene - and the creation of the oldest Latin-script continuous text in any Slavic language (Freising Manuscript, between 972 and 1039) – began to appear the Latin ecclesiastical chant manuscripts (the oldest Slovene monastery is the Cistercian monastery Stična (est. ca. 1132). Renaissance: Jurij Slalko (1456-1522), founder of the Vienna Boys’ Choir in 1498. Jacobus Handl – Gallus (1550–1591) was an important late Renaissance composer. Baroque: Giuseppe Tartini (1692–1770) was born in Piran, Slovenia. And later …

Our presentation tries to describe contemporary choral composer’s creativity in Slovenia with help of interviews with young composers.
The Young Event Management Programme (YEMP) is aimed at young managers, combining an intensive course and learning in the workplace within the Europa Cantat 2021 festival.

YEMP Steering Committee
Zala Horvatič (SI), EC/JSKD
Sonja Greiner (DE), European Choral Association
Iva Radulović (RS), IFCM
Nastja Kacijan Prajnc (SI)
Alberto Palacin (ES)
Anna Bobrikova (RU)

Selected candidates EC Ljubljana 2021
Javier Robledo del Barrio (ES)
Joana Costa (PT)
Clara Muller (FR)
Alberto Martínez Fernández (ES)
Megan Dalen (NL)
Tatjana Maria Wrzuminig (AT)
Jakob Ivčič (SI)
Caius Lee (UK)

What is offered by the YEMP programme?
YEMP involves two-week practical learning at one of the largest choral festivals in the world. Each individual is selected based on the present knowledge and the knowledge they wish to obtain through learning in this field. The programme combines different learning techniques: online learning, workshops and lectures before the launch of the festival as well as practical learning in the workplace during the festival.

Coaches
Iva Radulović (RS) is Operations Manager at International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM). She finished her studies in Belgrade, Serbia, at the Faculty of Music Arts, where she graduated musicology and completed a master’s degree in the same Faculty. She was an Executive director of Jeunesse Musicales Belgrade and Executive Director of the Academic cultural-artistic society »Branko Krsmanovic«. In the international field, she started as a member of the YEMP in 2012. After that, she was a member of the Youth Committee of European Choral Association and participated in organizing some of Europe’s major choral events: Europa Cantat 2012 and 2015, Europa Cantat Junior, Eurochoir.

The festival is enriched by the presence of volunteers, 40 of which are international participants of the Young Faces of the Europa Cantat festival financed by the European Social Fund.

Volunteers are one of the most important groups responsible for implementing the festival as it is. It would be impossible to organise such a large and important event without their help. Due to its scale, the festival provides a variety of workplaces, which is why the number of volunteers continues to be high in this year’s event.

In return for their selfless help, we offered them invaluable experience in participating in an international team, free access to the concerts, adapted schedules, warm meals, numerous special benefits provided by our partner organisations, and a certificate they will obtain at the end of the festival that can be considered as an investment in the future.

You can quickly recognise the volunteers wearing the same festival T-shirts.
Jan Schumacher (DE)

Jan Schumacher (DE) is a music director at Goethe-University, Frankfurt. He teaches conducting at the Darmstadt Music Academy and is the conductor of the award-winning ensemble Camerata Musica Limburg, with whom he was invited to perform at ACDA National Conference, IFCM World Symposium and America Cantat Festival. By 2016, he was a professor of conducting at the College of Church Music in Rottenburg. With his ensembles, he builds extensive repertoires from Gregorian chants to world premieres, from symphonic orchestras to Big Bands, dipping as well into vocal or electronic improvisation. Schumacher holds courses for choirs, orchestras and conductors worldwide. He has served as a jury member for several prestigious competitions and is the editor of many choir books.

Rahela Durič (SI/AT)

Rahela Durič (SI/AT) born in Maribor, Slovenia, studied Choral and Orchestral Conducting at the University of Music in Graz, Austria, and graduated in 2013. Currently she serves as an assistant lecturer for choir conducting under Johannes Prinz at Alma mater. She has received various prizes: the Noel Minet prize for »the promising young conductor« at the International competition for young choral conductors in Turin (2015), first prize, audience prize and prize for the best conductor according to the choir at the International conducting competition Aegis Caminis Koper (2019). She leads various choirs, seminars and social-musical (Supercar, Meet4music) projects in different countries.

OPEN SINGING

Open Singing is a daily collective open-air singing event where EVERYBODY is invited to join in. It is neither a choral rehearsal nor a choral concert in the strictest sense, but rather an open event in which enthusiasts take part freely and for the mere pleasure of group singing.

Open Singing aims to provide both an intensive musical experience and a personal experience of musical success. Pieces compiled for the occasion will be included in the Festival Songbook.

ON THE ONLINE EUROPA CANTAT TV:

DATE: every morning from 10.15 to 11.15 with Jan Schumacher and a small choir
VENUE: live from the Ljubljana EC studio
TICKETS: free, europacantat.jskd.si

LIVE OPEN SINGING:

DATE: Sunday, 18 July, after both »Sing to Slovenia« concerts
VENUE: on Novi Trg Square
TICKETS: free
&
DATE: Thursday, 22 July, at the beginning of the final festival concert of Ringmasters
VENUE: Kongresni Trg Square
TICKETS: included in the concert ticket

The updated schedule and programme available at the europacantat.jskd.si and the EC FB page. The participants at the concerts must meet the required RVT condition (recovered, fully vaccinated or tested).
Musica noster amor is one of the most recognisable compositions by Jacobus Handl - Gallus (1150–1591), an internationally renowned Renaissance composer born in what is today Slovenia.

His collected works are printed in the collections Opus musicum, Moralia and Harmonie morales. The prizes for achievements in Slovenian choral music also bear his name. For decades the Slovenian National Choral Competition Naša pesem (Our Song) and the International Choral Competition Gallus – Maribor, held under the motto MUSICA NOSTER AMOR – MUSIC, OUR LOVE, have been raising his profile, and the fanfare Musica noster amor has become their anthem. It was only natural that we chose it as the anthem of the Europa Cantat Ljubljana 2021, given its popularity and content.

MUSICA NOSTER AMOR
(Extract - Avizo for Europa Cantat Ljubljana 2021)
LIVE CONCERTS

We are happy to announce that the majority of the concerts of invited vocal groups will be held live in Ljubljana! You will enjoy concerts of various genres and topics from foreign and domestic vocal ensembles and groups in three concert cycles:

SPECIAL GUESTS
LISTEN TO SLOVENIA
SPECIAL PROJECTS
### Concert Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY, HOUR</th>
<th>CONCERT</th>
<th>WHERE</th>
<th>COST</th>
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<tr>
<td>SAT, 17 July</td>
<td>18.00</td>
<td>Familyvision song event</td>
<td>Novi Trg Square</td>
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<td></td>
<td>21.00</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony</td>
<td>Kongresni Trg Square</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9.30-11.30</td>
<td>Sing to Slovenia 1</td>
<td>Novi Trg Square</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11.30-12.00</td>
<td>Open singing LIVE</td>
<td>Novi Trg Square</td>
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<td>14.00</td>
<td>Tenebrae</td>
<td>Slovenian Philharmonic</td>
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<td></td>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>Tenebrae</td>
<td>Slovenian Philharmonic</td>
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<td></td>
<td>18.00-20.00</td>
<td>Sing to Slovenia 2</td>
<td>Novi Trg Square</td>
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<td></td>
<td>20.00-20.30</td>
<td>Open singing LIVE</td>
<td>Kongresni Trg Square</td>
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<td>21.00</td>
<td>Postyr</td>
<td>Slovenian Philharmonic</td>
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<tr>
<td>MON, 19 July</td>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>Singer Pur</td>
<td>Slovenian Philharmonic</td>
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<td>19.00</td>
<td>Singer Pur</td>
<td>Slovenian Philharmonic</td>
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<td></td>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>United National Youth Choirs</td>
<td>Cankarjev Dom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>21.00</td>
<td>Perpetuum Jazzile</td>
<td>Kongresni Trg Square</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUE, 20 July</td>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>The Slovenian Philharmonic Choir</td>
<td>Cankarjev Dom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19.00</td>
<td>EuroChoir</td>
<td>Cankarjev Dom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>21.00</td>
<td>St. Stanislav Girls’ Choir Ljubljana</td>
<td>Cankarjev Dom</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED, 21 July</td>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>Megaron &amp; Conservatory of Music and Ballet</td>
<td>Cankarjev Dom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>Ljubljana Chamber Choirs</td>
<td>Cankarjev Dom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>21.00</td>
<td>Ringmasters</td>
<td>Kongresni Trg Square</td>
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**EPIC** - The concerts with all invited ensembles as well as the sessions of the National Youth Choirs and EuroChoir 2021 are part of the project Emerging Professionals: Internationalisation of music careers, coordinated by the European Choral Association and co-funded by the European Union Creative Europe programme.

The updated schedule and programme available at the europacantat.jksd.si and the EC FB page. The participants at the concerts must meet the required RVT condition (recovered, fully vaccinated or tested).
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**FAMILYVISION SONG EVENT**

**DATE:** Saturday, 17 July, 18.00  
**VENUE:** Novi Trg Square  
**TICKETS:** free

Singing in the family circle, be it with your children, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, siblings, or cousins, has not been forgotten in Slovenia. We have prepared a special concert featuring the selected families that will showcase their talents with three songs of different style each. They will truly take over the stage!

**VOCAL GROUP BREZNİK, SLOVENJ GRADEC**

Oskar Dev (1868–1932): ČEJ SO TISTE STEZICE (folksong from Rož, Carinthia)  
Pavel Kernjak (1899–1979): O TEBI SANJAM  
Franc Šegovc (1937): PESEM VEČNA JE (Franc Šegovc)

**FAMILY KOKOT, MARKOVCI PRI PTUJU**

Jacques Offenbach (1819–1880): BAR-CAROLLE (Jules Barbier)  

**QUARTET NAGODE, VRHNIKA**

James E. Moore (1951): AN IRISH BLESSING (Irish traditional)  
Jože Potrebusa (1968) / Quartet Štiglic: BISERI SREČE (Marko Vozelj)

**QUARTET ŠTIGLIC, LJUBNO OB SAVINJI**

Quartet Štiglic: STUDENČEK (Slovenian folksong)  
Pat Ballard (1899–1960): MISTER SANDMAN (Pat Ballard)

**QUARTET STRMOL, TRENTO**

Blaž Strmole (1988): SPOMINČICE (Hungarian folksong)  
Tadej Hrušovar (1947–2020): DANI LJUBEZNI (Dušan Velkaverh)
OPENING CEREMONY

DATE: Saturday, 17 July, 21.00
VENUE: Kongresni Trg Square
SUBSTITUTE VENUE AND HOUR (in the case of rain): Cankarjev dom, Gallus Hall, 21.00
TICKETS: buy online, europacantat.jskd.si

Due to the live Slovenian national TV broadcast, we kindly ask all visitors to take their seats 15 minutes before the start.

The beginning of the great Europa Cantat Festival is upon us and with it, a spectacular opening ceremony on The Congress Square. We will be able to hear and see an intertwining of different bands, musical styles, musicians, already known songs and new songs performed by Slovenian and guest performers. You are kindly invited to an unforgettable event with bell ringers, Slovenian folk songs in new arrangements, classical music and joint singing.

The Choir of St. Nicholas Litija is one of the most prominent Slovenian choirs, which has proven itself in numerous national and international competitions. It boldly undertakes innovative projects, often away from the classical choral repertoire. The choir focuses on education of young singers and the commissioning of new works, thus contributing to the development and promotion of choral singing in Slovenia and abroad.

ARISTTS

Saint Nicholas Choir Litija, conductor Helena Fojkar Zupancič
Vocal group Singer Pur (DE)
Vocal soloists: Katarina Henrysson (SE), Kim Nazarian (ZDA)
Vocal-instrumental group: Zvezdana Novaković (vocal, baraban), Marino Kranjac (vocal, pipe), Sonca Menart, Jasna Žitnik, Davor Jeramom, Jošt Derlink
Mengel bell ringers: Uros Urbanija, Nataša Urbanija, Stane Šimenc, Ana Pisek, Ivanka Koncilja in Marta Mehlle
Fanfare: Matej Kravcar, Dominik Rus, Jure Močilnik, trumpets; Andrej Sraka, Tine Plahutnik, Niko Mir, trombones
String Quintet: Žiga Faganel, Verena Rojc, violins; Roberto Papi, viola, Alja Mandič Faganel, cello; Petar Brčarevič, double bass
Jazz Quintet: Anže Vrabec, piano; Bruno Domiter, percussion; Miha Koren, bass; David Jarh, trumpet; Tadej Tomišč, tenor saxophone
Solo quitar: Miha Meglič

PROGRAMME

Arvo Pärt (1935): KUUS KUUS, KALLKE (Estonian lullaby) | Universal Editions
BELL RINGING MELODIES FROM SLOVENIA
Karol Pahor (1896–1974): PA SE SLIS’ (folksong from Primorska, West Slovenia) | ASTRUM Music Publications
Katarina Henrysson (1964): AJ ZELENA JE VSA GORA (folksong from Bela krajina, South East Slovenia), first performance | Unpublished
Zvezdana Novaković (1985): ONE DVI NARANČE (folksong from Istria, West Slovenia), first performance | Unpublished

Unpublished
Jay Ashby: DA ŽOJA TA BARNERINA (Slovene folksong from Resia Valley, IT), first performance | Unpublished
Lojze Lebič (1934): VISOKI REJ (folksong from Carinthia) | JSKD
Bojan Adamič (1912–1995): MAMS SAZU Ljubljana | POMLAD (N. N.) | JSKD
JSKD

FORMAL SPEECHES
Mr. Carlo Pavese, President of the European Choral Association, and Mrs. Metka Šošterič, Acting Director of JSKD
Mr. Vasko Simoniti, Minister of Culture Mr. Borut Pahor, President of Slovenia and Honorary Patron of the Europa Cantat Ljubljana

Edward Elgar (1857–1934) / John Cameron: IX: Nimrod/Lux aeterna | JWPepper
SOMEBODY TO LOVE (Freddie Mercury), first performance | Unpublished

OPENING CEREMONY

Mr. Raul Talmar, Artistic Director of the previous Festival in Tallinn, Estonia
Mr. Dejan Crnek, Vice-Mayor of the City of Ljubljana

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) / Damijan Močnik: ODA RA-DOSTI (Johann F. Schiller, Slovak translation Pavel Oblak), first performance | Unpublished
SING TO SLOVENIA
CONCERT AND OPEN SINGING

VENUE: Novi trg Square
TICKETS: free

We are preparing a morning and evening concert of Slovenian choirs and guests from Catalonia and Austria on the open stage in Novi trg Square. Pleasant and diverse programs will be performed in the square for all visitors: those who will plan their visit, as well as for all passers-by!

Choirs that have applied to, unfortunately cancelled, festival workshops will perform and share their joy of being able to sing again after a year of silence. With the so-called Open singing, they will certainly pass this joy on to you as well. At the end of each of the concerts, you will be able to learn some new songs from other countries under the guidance of the conductors, for whom the leadership of the singing crowd is an easy task. If you can read the music sheets, we will provide them for you and if not, you will learn some bits by listening.

The event is dedicated to the 30th anniversary of Slovenia’s independence.

SING TO SLOVENIA, 1st part

MIXED CHOIR MAVRICA, VRHNKA
Conductor: Darinka Fabiani
Instrumental quartet Orfej
Solist: Aleksander Škrabar

(Marjan Stare)
Miro Tomassini (1951–2019): Z GORIČKEGA V PIRAN
(Vlado Kreslin)
Mojmir Sepe (1930–2020) / Marko Fabiani (1950): PESEM O POMLADI IN PRIJATELJSTVU
(Dušan Velkaverh)

A Cappella, Rače
Artistic director: Tone Žuraj

(Slovenian folksong from Bila in Resia Valley, IT)
Jakob lež (1927): IGRAJ KOLCE
(folksong from Bela krajina, South East Slovenia)

ACADEMIC CHOIR FRANCE PREŠEREN KRANJ
Conductor: Erik Šmid

Pierre Passereau (1509–1547): IL EST BEL ET BON
(Pierre Passereau)
Katarina Pustinek Rakar (1979): PA KAKO BOM LJUBLILA
(Slovenian folksong)
Aldo Kumar (1954): DAJTE, DAJTE
(folksong from Istria)

VOCAL GROUP OF GLASBENA MATICA LJUBLJANA
Artistic director: Irma Močnik

Thomas Morley (1557–1602) / Wlodzimirz Soltysik: SING WE AND CHANT IT
(madrigal)
John Dowland (1562–1626) / Wlodzimirz Soltysik: COME AGAIN
(madrigal)
povezala Irma Močnik (1970): ZORENJE
(Slovenian folksongs)

VOCAL GROUP SINGERCA, STRAŽA
Artistic director: Jani Lipičnik

Curtis Mayfield (1942–1999) / Jani Lipičnik: IT’S ALL RIGHT
(Curtis Mayfield)
Pentatonix: SING (Pentatonix)
Hilarij Lavrencič (1962): KJE SO TISTE STEZICE
(folksongs from Carniola)

VOCAL GROUP AURORA, LJUBLJANA
Conductor: Janja Drgan Gombač

(folksong from Bela krajina, South East Slovenia)
Andrej Makor (1987): DOBRO JUTRO, MAMICA
(folksong from Dobrepolje)

Special projects

LIVE CONCERTS
CHAMBER CHOIR
MYSSTERIUM, KRANJ
Conductor: Lovro Frelih
Piano: Matjaz Podobnik
Lovro Frelih (1988): PRELEPA JE SEL–ŠKA DOLINA (folsong from Gorenjska) 
John Rutter (1945): WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN (American traditional)

CHAMBER CHOIR MEGARON, LJUBLJANA
Conductor: Damijan Močnik
Damijan Močnik (1967): ŽIVLJENJE (Niko Grafenauer) 
Burt Bacharach (1928) / Hal David (1921–2012) / Anna Cederberg-Orteeg (1958): RAINDROPS KEEP FALLIN’ ON MY HEAD (Burt Bacharach/Hal David)
Jakob Jež (1928): IGRAJ KOLCE (folsong from Bela krajina, South East Slovenia)

SING TO SLOVENIA, 2nd part

EUROCHOR
Conductors: Bernie Sherlock, Yuval Weinberg
Programme to be decided at the time of the festival.

VOCAL GROUP CANTATE DOMINO, KOČEVJE
Artistic director: Franc Štefanič
LEPE STE VE KARAVANKE (Ferry Souvan)
Tadej Horvat, Franc Štefanič:
DAN LJUBEZNI (Dušan Velkavrh)

FEMALE CHOIR TONJA, BOROVNICA
Conductor: Eva Mori
Danilo Bučar (1896–1971): DEČVA V HARTLCU (folsong from Carinthia)
Huddle William Ledbetter (1888–1949) / Moira Smiley: BRING ME LITTLE WATER SILVY (Huddle William Ledbetter) 
Tadeja Vulc (1978): JES BI RAD CIGAJNAR BIL (folsong from Carinthia)

ST. STANISLAV YOUTH CHOIR OF THE DIOCESAN CLASSICAL GYMNASIUM, LJUBLJANA
Conductor: Damijan Močnik
Jacobs Handl - Gallus (1550–1591): HEROES, PUGNATE VIRI FORTISSIMI (N. N.)

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR, AUSTRIA
Conductor: Florian Maierl
Programme to be decided at the time of the festival.

Open singing

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AUSTRIAN NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR, AUSTRIA
Conductor: Florian Maierl
Programme to be decided at the time of the festival.

Open singing
PHENOMENAL TENEBRAE

Conductor: Nigel Short (GB)

DATE: Sunday, 18 July, 14.00 and 17.00
VENUE: Slovenian Philharmonic
TICKETS: buy online, europacantat.jskd.si

Tenebrae is state-of-the-art in the choral world. Usually described with such superlatives as “phenomenal” and “devastatingly beautiful”, this UK choir is one of the world’s leading vocal ensembles. Directed by Nigel Short, their repertoire ranges from Renaissance through to contemporary choral masterpieces. It will be a privilege to hear them live!

PROGRAMME

Alonso Lobo (1555–1617): VERSA EST IN LUCTUM (Officium defunctorum, excerpt)
William Croft (1678–1727) / Henry Purcell (1659–1696): BURIAL SENTENCES (Isa, 11,25-26; Job 19, 25–27; 1 Tim, 6,7; Job, 1,21)
Thomas Tallis (1505–1585): LOQUEBANTUR VARISI LANGUIS (Apd, 2,4)
Thomas Tallis (1505–1585): SALVATOR MUNDI (Anthem for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross)
John Taverner (1444–2013): FUNERAL IKOS (Isabel Hapgood)
Jonathan Harvey (1939–2012): SONG OF JUNE (Wilfred Owen)
Bob Chilcott (1955): BEFORE THE ICE (Emily Dickinson, responsory for Christmas day)
Eric Whitacre (1970): SLEEP (Charles Anthony Silvestri)

POSTYR: WE’RE IN IT TOGETHER

DATE: Sunday, 18 July, 21.00
VENUE: Kongresni Trg Square
SUBSTITUTE VENUE AND HOUR (in the case of rain): Cankarjev dom, Gallus Hall, 21.30
TICKETS: buy online, europacantat.jskd.si

Postyr has become known worldwide for their characteristic and evocative sound. The combination of four gripping voices, sampled beats and heartfelt song writing, makes Postyr’s live performances unique in the international music landscape. We’re in it together is a concert, that will feature newly written songs that circle around the concept of finding a safe haven, a home and a place of inner balance in this chaotic and unpredictable world.

Tine Fris-Ronsfeld, Kristoffer Fynbo Thorning, line Groth, Lucas Tuan Minh Hoang

PROGRAMME

Tine Fris-Ronsfeld / Tine Fris-Ronsfeld, line Groth, Lucas Tuan Minh Hoang, Kristoffer Fynbo Thorning: HOME – OVERTURE
Tine Fris-Ronsfeld / Tine Fris-Ronsfeld in Postyr: UP FOR AIR
Line Groth, Andreas Bech, Kristoffer Fynbo Thorning / Line Groth, Kristoffer Fynbo Thorning: MY FUTURE SELF
Erik Bosio, Kristoffer Fynbo Thorning / Line Groth: PAPER TIGER
Kristoffer Fynbo Thorning / Line Groth: STRIVE TO FLY (LITTLE WING)
Tine Fris-Ronsfeld, TALK

Tine Fris-Ronsfeld / Tine Fris-Ronsfeld, line Groth, Kristoffer Fynbo Thorning: TRAVEL THE WORLD
Tine Fris-Ronsfeld, Line Groth, Lucas Tuan Minh Hoang, Kristoffer Fynbo Thorning / Tine Fris-Ronsfeld, Line Groth, Kristoffer Fynbo Thorning: NO HOME WITHOUT YOU
Björk / Tine Fris-Ronsfeld, Kristoffer Fynbo Thorning: ALL IS FULL
Lucas Tuan Minh Hoang / Line Groth: BROKEN PARTS
Kajsa Vala / Line Groth: BROKEN
Tine Fris-Ronsfeld, Line Groth, Lucas Tuan Minh Hoang, Kristoffer Fynbo Thorning / Tine Fris-Ronsfeld, Line Groth, Kristoffer Fynbo Thorning: WITH YOU
Tine Fris-Ronsfeld, Kristoffer Fynbo Thorning: HOME
Lucas Tuan Minh Hoang / Line Groth: DYBE FODSPOR
SINGER PUR: AMONG WHIRLWINDS

DATE: Monday, 19 July, 17.00 in 19.00
VENUE: Slovenian Philharmonic
TIFFETS: buy online, europacantat.jskd.si

Germany’s leading a cappella group Singer Pur (DE) has been active for more than 25 years and their discography is impressive – 30 CDs, several of which have received awards. A soprano, three tenors, a baritone and a bass – a bit of an unusual combination of voices, right? Nevertheless, it has proven to be their recipe for success. There are no stylistic limitations to Singer Pur’s repertoire as they sing anything performable by voices.

Claudia Reinhard, Soprano
Christian Meister, Tenor
Markus Zapp, Tenor
Manuel Warwitz, Tenor
Jakob Steiner, Baritone
Marcus Schmidli, Bass

COMPOSITIONS OF WOMEN FOR VOICES

Clara Schumann (1819–1896): GONDOLIERA (Emmanuel Gubel) | Breitkopf & Hartel
Stanislaw Stoytcheva (1975): A BIRTHDAY (Christina Rossetti) | Unpublished, ©Stanislava Stoytcheva

IN ONE VOICE: CONCERT OF UNITED NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIRS

Conductor of the united choirs: Māris Sirmais (LV)

DATE: Tuesday, 20 July, 17.00
VENUE: Cankarjev Dom, Gallus Hall
TIFFETS: buy online, europacantat.jskd.si

National Youth Choirs are choirs with excellent young singers selected from a specific region or country. In Ljubljana, we are looking forward to listen to Catalan, Austrian and two Slovenian Choirs, led by renowned Latvian conductor Māris Sirmais. The choirs will rehearse together in Ljubljana for four days and then perform a final concert. They will present the highlights of contemporary Baltic choral music: Pēteris Vasks, Valts Pūce, Jēkabs Jāņevsks and Raimonds Tiguls and some repertoire from choirs’ home countries as well.

CHOIRS

Austrian National Youth Choir, conductors Oliver Stech, Florian Maierl (AT)
Catalan National Youth Choir, conductor Pere Lluís Biosca (ES)

PROGRAMME

Ēriks Ešenvalds (1977): RIVERS OF LIGHT (Charles Francis Hall, Fridtjof Nansen and compilation by the composer after various writings on the northern lights) | Musica Baltica
Valts Pūce (1962): PSALM BUSUNCA (The Book of Psalms)

III. Quaere turbabatur gentes
IV. Dominus pascit me

A SELECTION OF FOLK SONGS FROM THE COUNTRIES OF THE PARTICIPATING CHOIRS, LED BY THEIR CONDUCTORS.
PERPETUUM JAZZILE, VOCAL EXTRAVAGANZA

DATE: Tuesday, 20 July, 21.00
VENUE: Kongresni Trg Square
TICKETS: buy online, europacantat.jskd.si

Perpetuum Jazzile (SI) is known as one of the biggest and most spectacular vocal groups in the world. Recognized by many critics, the vocal orchestra from Slovenia is famous for its strong rhythms, rich harmonies, incomparable creativity, positive energy and a variety of musical genres that the singers create only with their voices. A Perpetuum Jazzile concert is not only a unique music experience for the audience. Perpetuum Jazzile moves their listeners with their magnificent sound that many would not expect from the human voice alone.

Perpetuum Jazzile’s repertoire presents an attractive selection of vocal jazz and popular music. It ranges from Brazilian bossa nova, swing and close harmony styles to funk, gospel, folk and pop. It offers an appealing mix of styles and rhythms, great solos and relaxed, youthful spirit.

THE SLOVENIAN PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

Conductors: Gary Graden (SE), Josep Vila i Casañas (ES)

DATE: Wednesday, 21 July, 17.00
VENUE: Cankarjev Dom, Gallus Hall
TICKETS: buy online, europacantat.jskd.si

The Slovenian Philharmonic Choir, the only Slovenian professional a cappella choir, celebrates its 30th Anniversary this year and is a true promoter of Slovenian music of all time periods. The choir performs a selection of choral pieces from all over the world with the most famous European choral conductors. The concert programme offers less known choral music by contemporary Swedish composers and music with Mediterranean and Latin-American temperament.

ibre-americAn Flavors

Conductor: Josep Vila i Casañas

Josep Vila i Casañas (1966): MISSA SANCTUS-BENEDICTUS (Missale Romanum – Ordinarium Missae)
1. Kyrie | Ficta
Carlos Guastavino (1912–2000): SEIS INDIANAS
1. Gala del día (Arturo Vazquez) | Ricordi Americana
6. Una de dos (Juan Ferreyra Basso) | TRES CANCIONES NEGRAS (Idefonso Pereda Valdés)
2. Canción de cuna para dormir a un negro
3. Canto negro | Peermusic

THE BREATHING OF THE WORLD

Conductor: Gary Graden


LICHT COME (Psalm 42: 1-2, 43: 3-4), 2019 | Faber Music


Xavier Montsalvatge (1912–2002): TRES CANCIONES NEGRAS (Idefonso Pereda Valdés)
2. Canción de cuna para dormir a un negro
3. Canto negro | Peermusic
EUROCHOIR – UNITING YOUNG EUROPEAN SINGERS

Conductors: Bernie Sherlock (IE), Yuval Weinberg (DE/IL)

DATE: Wednesday, 21 July, 19.00
VENUE: Cankarjev Dom, Gallus Hall
TICKETS: buy online, europacantat.jskd.si

Celebrate Europe through choral singing – EuroChoir is a unique choral event organised by the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat every year in a different country. Initiated in 1982, EuroChoir offers an opportunity for young singers to get together for 8 days and rehearse a challenging programme with two renowned conductors, improve their vocal skills with a vocal trainer and present the results of their work in public concerts. This special choir project, which will take place in Slovenia this year, aims to promote European choral music among young singers and encourage cultural exchange within Europe.

Under the direction of conductors Bernie Sherlock and Yuval Weinberg, Eurochoir will present an exciting programme, evoking the world of magic and make-believe through Schafer’s Magic Songs, Gjeilo’s Unicornis Captivator, Buchenberg’s Magic Spells and Vasks’ Mate Saule.

The concert programme is a selection from the programme of their singing week in Ljubljana from 11 to 21 July.

Piano: Jelena Boljubas (SI)

ST. STANISLAV GIRLS’ CHOIR LJUBLJANA

Conductor: Helena Fojkar Zupančič (SI)

DATE: Wednesday, 21 July, 21.00
VENUE: Cankarjev Dom, Gallus Hall
TICKETS: buy online, europacantat.jskd.si

This is one of the most internationally recognisable Slovenian choirs at the moment, their performances include interesting stage presentations of compositions. They were chosen to perform at two of the most internationally recognisable events for choral experts – the IFCM World Choral Symposium 2017 and the ACDA 2018 National Conference (one of the five non-American invited choirs).

Piano: Urška Vidic (SI)
Coreography: Tanja Pečenko (SI)

SHAREING MY TRUE SELF

Damjan Močnik (1967): BOG DAJ, BOG DAJ (Slovenian folksons from Bela krajina, South East Slovenia) | ASTRUM Music Publications

AIMEE SAVAGE: PRADOŽIVETJA (biblical passages, Hildegard of Bingen and fragments of verse by Slovenian poets) 2021, first performance | ASTRUM Music Publications

Eriks Ešenvalds (1977): ONLY IN SLEEP (Sara Teasdale) | Musica Baltica

Paul Caldwell, Sean Ivory: AIN’T NO GRAVE CAN HOLD MY BODY DOWN (gospel) | Earthsong

Matti Hyökki (1946): ON SUURI SUN RANTAS AUTIUS (Finnish folksong) | Fennica Gehrman

Pentatonix / Mark Brymer: SING! (Pentatonix) | Hal Leonard

Co-funded by the European Union Creative Europe Programme.
MEGARON CHAMBER CHOIR & CHAMBER CHOIR OF CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AND BALLET LJUBLJANA

Conductors: Damijan Močnik (SI), Ambrož Čopi (SI)

DATE: Thursday, 22 July, 17.00
VENUE: Cankarjev Dom, Gallus Hall
TICKETS: buy online, europacantat.jskd.si

Megaron Chamber Choir unites former students of the Diocesan Classical Gymnasium at St. Stanislav’s Institution in Ljubljana, who had before been active in various choral ensembles and received music education in one or more of the five choirs at the Diocesan Classical Gymnasium. The choir is distinguished by its recognizable rich sound and diverse repertoire and collaborates with many orchestras and guest conductors.

The KGBL Chamber Choir has become one of the most prominent Slovenian choirs and the most eager promoter of new compositions written by the young generation of Slovenian composers.

Programme from the flourishing period of Slovene music in the 19th century to the poetics and timelessness of choral pieces by contemporary Slovenian composers.

Organ: Tone Potočnik

PROGRAMME

MEGARON CHAMBER CHOIR
Conductor: Damijan Močnik

Alojzij Mav (1898–1977):
BODI NAM POZDRAVLJENA (Alojzij Mav) | Založba Družina

Damijan Močnik (1967):
JE ENO DETE ROJENO (medieval Christmas Carol from Carinthia/Austria) | Carus

PATER NOSTER, OM 1/69 (prayer) | ASTRUM Music Publications

P. Hugošin Sattner (1853–1934):
MARJA, ČE GLEDAM TVOJ MILI OBRAZ (Elizabeta Kremžar) | Ed. Družina

Josip Klemenčič (1892–1969):
POGLEJE-TE, DUŠE! (Carinthia, 1st half of the 19th century) | Ed. Družina

Benjamin Ipavec (1829–1908):
EJ, TEDAJ... (Ljudmila Prunk – Utva) | ZKDS/JSKD

Anton Nedvěd (1829–1896):
NAZAJ V PLANINSKI RAJ (Simon Gregorčič) | ZKDS/JSKD

Emil Adamič (1877–1936):
ČE TI NE BOŠ MOJ (folk text) | ZKDS/JSKD

Vilko Ukmar (1905–1991):
SKICA NA KORCETU (Srečko Kosorel) | ZKDS/JSKD

Odar Dev (1868–1932):
STOJI HAR-TELE ZAHRAIEN (folk song from Carinthia) | ZKDS/JSKD

Pavle Merkš (1927–2014):
INJEN ČEUA (Slovene folksong from Resia Valley, IT) | ASTRUM Music Publications

Damijan Močnik (1967):
KOROŠKA LJUBEZEN (folk songs from Carinthia) | ASTRUM Music Publications

Emil Adamč (1877–1936):
KOLO (folk song from Bela krajina, South East Slovenia) | ASTRUM Music Publications

KOMORNI ZBOR

KONSERVATORIJA ZA GLASBO IN BALET LJUBLJANA
Conductor: Ambrož Čopi

Andrej Makor (1987):
POMELJUMYA, 2020

I. Ghospodi Isauye Khristye (5th century prayer)

II. Spasenje sodelal | ASTRUM Music Publications

Tadeja Vule (1922–2008):
SINE SOLE NIHIL SUM (from Sundials), 2019 | Unpublioshed, ©Tadeja Vule

Uroš Krek (1922–2008):
MLINI ŽIVLJENJA (Tea Rovšek Witzemann), 1984 | JSKD

Lojze Lebič (1934):
UROK (folk texts), 1986/2019 | JSKD

Klara Mlakar (1999):
IZHE KHERUVIMI (orthodox hymn), 2021, new composition | ASTRUM Music Publications

Čr Sojar Voglar (1976):
BOGORODITSE JIEVO (prayer), 2020 | ASTRUM Music Publications

Tine Bec (1993):
DELIVER ME O LORD (from the Office of the Dead), 2019 | ASTRUM Music Publications

Matej Kastelic (1994):
SALVE REGINA (new composition), 2020, new composition | ASTRUM Music Publications

Tadeja Vule (1922–2008):
SINE SOLE NIHIL SUM (from Sundials), 2019 | Unpublioshed, ©Tadeja Vule
EUROPA CANTAT FINALE WITH RINGMASTERS QUARTET, MASTERS OF BARBERSHOP MUSIC

DATE: Thursday, 22 July, 21.00
VENUE: Kongresni Trg Square
SUBSTITUTE VENUE AND HOUR (in the case of rain): Cankarjev dom, Gallus Hall, 21.30
TICKETS: buy online, europacantat.jskd.si

All four members of Ringmasters quartet studied and grew together out of the rich soil of Swedish choir tradition. After forming in the fall of 2006, they already won the International Collegiate Quartet Contest in Nashville only one and a half years after. In Portland (2012), Ringmasters were recognised as the best barbershop quartet in the world and are doing shows all over the world, enthralling the audience that hasn’t even heard of barbershop before.

Jakob Stenberg, Tenor
Rasmus Krigström, Tenor
Emanuel Roll, Baritone
Didier Linder, Bass

The Ringmasters concert will take you on a journey from barbershop classics, through Simon and Garfunkel to the Beatles and Elvis Presley. A barbershop performance on a whole new level!

OPEN SINGING
Conductor: Jan Scumacher (DE)

The final event of this year’s Europa Cantat will begin with a short open singing led by Jan Schumacher (DE). The open singing takes place without any prior preparation of the participants.
Slovenians are known for their love for singing and a rich choral tradition, which is why it comes as no surprise that the festival runs with the slogan SING WITH SLOVENIA. The festival’s organising team, which was formed at the Public Fund of the Republic of Slovenia for Cultural Activities, used the strength and authentically connective role of choral music as the guiding principles in their work. The concert is music to your ears and also a feast for the eyes. Performing and experiencing music, the backstage and choral social life is truly fascinating. A small part of this diverse world is reflected in the photographic exhibition CHORAL PHOTO PROMENADE, which will be displayed in the beautiful Jakopič Promenade in Tivoli Park from 1 July to 1 August 2021. The exhibition, which is an artistic adventure in itself, doubles as an enticing invitation to attend the concerts.

It was created on the basis of an international competition, which was open from 1 March to 19 April 2021. The purpose of the competition was to bring the choral world closer to the wider public through a visual language, but specifically to encourage vocal ensembles to create clever and unique choral photographs. The participants could send up to sixteen photographs from four categories (up to four for each category): Past/retro/vintage, On the stage, Backstage and Promo. The first photographs from abroad were received in less than a week from the start of the competition. At the end, the entries came from 30 countries: Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Hong Kong, Croatia, Ireland, Italy, Israel, Canada, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Germany, the Netherlands, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the UK and the USA. A total of 1020 photographs from 154 participants arrived, of which 80 were from Slovenia. The entries were submitted by authors themselves or by cultural societies and other organisations which sent the works of extra 145 photographers.

The majority of photographs were entered to the On the stage category featuring special stage and lighting designs, formations and close-ups, particularly physical and facial expressions of emotion. Latvian photographer Valdis Ošiņš, for example, submitted a photograph from the 2018 Latvian Song and Dance Festival with 12,000 singers. The festival is an important quinquennial event in Latvian culture, which has been held since 1873. It is on UNESCO’s list of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity along with similar festivals from Estonia and Lithuania.
Nearly as much photographs were sent for the categories Backstage and Promo. They depict picturesque stories of preparation, emotion and sociability, and clever formations in cultural environments. Let’s take a look at an example of a promo photograph (and also a stage photo) by Swedish photographer Tina Axelsson, who got a shot of a vocal performance, improvisation and meditation in a vineyard on the island of Gotland. Rehearsals can be pretty fun and you could almost hear the laughter from the photo by Jana Jocif, who caught the Grudnove Šmikle Choir on camera.

After ten days of intense application and photo reviews, the works were sent to the commission for assessment and selection. It took eight hours for the jurors Monika Ivančič Fajfar, Nataša Kovica and Branimir Ritonja to make the final selection. Whenever they struggled, they asked the festival’s programme manager Mihela Jagodič for help. She also provided explanations for certain photographs. They narrowed the selection down to 145 photos, but only 69 made it to the shortlist. In addition to the selected works, the exhibition will offer a glimpse at the Slovenian choral history with the oldest and the most monumental vocal ensembles. The jury also decided to set up an online version of the exhibition, which will feature other excellent photographs from the wider selection of entries.

The love for singing is echoed by the selected works. Visit the Jakopič Promenade in Tivoli Park and take a look at the exhibition until 1 August!
VENUES

KONGRESNI TRG SQUARE
Kongresni (Congress) trg Square is an historical Baroque piazza uniting some of the city’s most beautiful buildings and popular attractions—yet it’s best known as a place to relax. Built in 1821 just a street over from the main area of old town, the peaceful square and verdant Star Park (Park Zvezda) that sits in its middle offer locals and visitors a quiet place to eat, read, and soak in views of the city’s iconic hilltop castle.

CANKARJEV DOM
Slovenia’s main cultural and congress centre, Cankarjev dom (named after Slovenia’s greatest writer, Ivan Cankar) is annually visited by half a million art lovers, congress delegates and social event attendees. Since 198, Cankarjev dom attracted more than sixteen million visitors, it annually hosts around 18,000 different performers, including top-class artists who enjoy worldwide renown.

NOVI TRG SQUARE
Novi (New) trg square is one of the oldest squares in Ljubljana, mentioned already in 13th century. Nowadays the Novi Trg Square represents the gentry part of Ljubljana, marked by palaces and the seats of important institutions as well as the masterpieces of renowned Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik. It sits in the “golden triangle” of special venues on the left bank of the River Ljubljanica – the Križanke Open Air Theatre, the City Museum of Ljubljana, and the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

SLOVENIAN PHILHARMONIC
The site of today’s beautiful Slovenian Philharmonic building on the Kongresni trg Square was for decades dominated by the old »Stanovsko« – the State Theatre. It burned down completely in 1887. Later, the restored building was inaugurated in 2001, while on 8 January 2003, on the three hundredth anniversary of the first documented performances, the newly installed organ resounded in the Great Hall for the first time.
Residents, as well as numerous visitors, claim Ljubljana is the city tailored for anyone. Despite being classified as a medium-sized European city, it preserves the friendliness of a smaller town, while offering everything found in large capitals.

The atmosphere in Ljubljana is relaxed and reminiscent of the Mediterranean. Proof of this is the abundance of outdoor cafés, especially near the banks of the Ljubljanica, which are the favorite destinations of everybody looking to relax while mingling and enjoying the scenery.

The ancient city centre is always bustling with activity. All year round, Ljubljana provides a rich cultural offer, including many events. During the warmer months, several admission-free concerts are held, along with street performances and other happenings.

Ljubljana boasts an extraordinary culinary offer, combining traditional recipes, locally grown organic food, the influence of the Mediterranean and modern techniques of the resident chefs. Also excellent are Slovene wines, characterised by pronounced natural aromas.

The awarding of the title of European Region of Gastronomy 2021 is further proof of the great culinary strides made by Slovenia and its capital in the last few years.

Ljubljana is located in the very centre of Slovenia. The natural sights and globally renowned landmarks, such as Bled and the Postojna Cave, the Alps of Slovenia, Karst and the coast are virtually at your fingertips.

The folks’ tale says that SLOVENia, a green land in the heart of Europe, is full of beauties and so diverse only because these beauties are connected among them through love.

It is really unusual that four large natural geographic and cultural landscapes coexist in such a small geographic area – the Alps with the two-thousand-metre-high mountains, the Mediterranean with the magic of the sea and the tradition of salt panning, the Pannonian plains with hundreds of thermal springs and the Karst with the exciting subterranean world. In preservation of nature, Slovenia is one of the most sustainably conscious countries in the world – protected areas cover almost half of the country.
SLOVENIA – EUROPEAN REGION OF GASTRONOMY 2021

Slovenia was awarded the European Region of Gastronomy 2021 in recognition of the country’s efforts to support a high quality of life, sustainable living, and sustainable development of gastronomy. You will also be able to get a taste of this project at the Europa Cantat Ljubljana 2021. Culinary tourism, which supports local self-sufficiency, connects rural and urban areas, and emphasises the importance of a healthy diet, will play a role in the culinary experience of our festival.

All shades of green paint the Slovenian forests, hills, vineyards and fields that converge with charming towns. Pure drinking water, which is a constitutional right in Slovenia, and fresh seasonal crops are always at anyone’s fingertips. Thanks to high-quality ingredients and outstanding chefs, among which Ana Roš is one of the best chefs in the world, Slovenia is a European Region of Gastronomy 2021. The nature’s creativity is recognised on every step in the culture and lifestyle, since we tap one foot to the urban’s beat and the other one to the countryside’s beat.

Two million Slovenians feel Slovenia and its nature, which is often sung about in music. In addition, indeed, singing in a choir is the largest recreational cultural activity in Slovenia, therefore we are proud that busy and lively Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia and Green European Capital 2016, is hosting the Europa Cantat Festival.

More info: www.slovenia.info
SPEAK WITH SLOVENIA – USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

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<td>Hello!</td>
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<td>Cheers! / Bless you!</td>
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<td>Bon appetit!</td>
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<td>wine</td>
<td>vino</td>
<td>You sing very beautiful</td>
<td>Zelo lepo pojes</td>
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<td>love</td>
<td>ljubezen</td>
<td>I like you</td>
<td>Všeč si mi</td>
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<td>zajtrk</td>
<td>Where are you from?</td>
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<td>How are you?</td>
<td>Pa drugač?</td>
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<td>lekarna</td>
<td>Sing with love!</td>
<td>Poj z ljubeznijo</td>
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<td>bolnišnica</td>
<td>You’re kiddin!</td>
<td>Ne se hecat!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>doctor</td>
<td>zdravnik</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you speak English?</td>
<td>Govorite angleško?</td>
<td>Tell me a joke, please.</td>
<td>Povej en vic, prosim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I sing tenor/bass/soprano alto</td>
<td></td>
<td>Come with me.</td>
<td>Prida z mano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My name is...</td>
<td>Moje ime je</td>
<td>Will you follow me on IG?</td>
<td>Ti lahko sledim na IG?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where can I find a bus/taxi?</td>
<td>Kje naj najdem avtobus/taksi?</td>
<td>Will you confirm me as a friend on FB?</td>
<td>Me boš potrdil/potrdila za prijatelja na FB</td>
</tr>
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Europa Cantat Ljubljana 2021
JSKD – Republic of Slovenia
Public Fund for Cultural Activities
Štefanova 5, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
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Europa Cantat Festival

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<td>Študent</td>
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European Music Festival for Young People Neerpelt (Belgium)
Festival of Songs, Olomouc (Czech Republic)
Florilège Vocal de Tours (France)
Golden Gate International Choral Festival (USA)
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