



# 4<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CHORAL CONDUCTORS COMPETITION "AEGIS CARMINIS",

October 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 2025, Koper, Slovenia

Organizers: Academic sociality of University of Primorska,

Supporters: Public Fund of the Republic of Slovenia for Cultural Activities (JSKD, Municipality Koper, Astrum Music Publications, University of Primorska, Music school Koper, Slovenian Philharmonic Choir, St Angela Girls' Choir

The competition is open for choral conductors born after October 20<sup>th</sup>, 1985.

Competition is organised in two categories:

**Category A – Choral conductors (3 rounds),**

**Category B – Children choir conductors (1 round).**

Conductors can apply for one or both categories.

**Deadline for applications: (Early bird August 25<sup>th</sup>) September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Announcement of accepted candidates: September 7<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**Official language of the competition is English and Slovene.** (Official translator (English to Slovene) will be provided by organizers for Category B - Children choir conductors).

**Competition is open to the public (except the afternoon rehearsal with the choir for the final concert).**

## STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION IN BRIEF:

### Category A – Choral conductors (three rounds)

#### **Monday. October 20<sup>th</sup> 2025**

2:00 pm Arrival, registration.

2:30 pm Drawn by lot for I Round.

4:00 pm **Competition: I. round** - Rehearsal with Girls' Choir of the Music school Koper.

8:00 pm Drawn by lot for II. Round.

#### **Tuesday. October 21<sup>st</sup> 2025**

4:00 pm **Competition: II. Round** - Rehearsal with Emil Komel Mixed Youth Choir.

8:00 pm Announcement of competitors for finals. Drawn by lot for finals.

#### **Wednesday. October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025**

3:00 pm **Competition: III. Finals** / part 1 - Rehearsal with VIKRA Chamber Choir.

8:00 pm **Competition: III. Finals** / part 2 - Public concert with VIKRA Chamber Choir.

### Category B – Youth choir's conductors (one round)

#### **Wednesday. October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025**

8:00 am Arrival, registration.

8:45 am Drawn by lot for competition.

10:00 am **Competition, Rehearsal** (Children's Choir of the Music school Koper).

## ROUNDS OF THE COMPETITION

### CATEGORY A – CHORAL CONDUCTORS

#### I. ROUND

Monday, 20. 10. 2025 at 4 pm

Rehearsal with **GIRLS' CHOIR OF THE MUSIC SCHOOL KOPER** (Conductor Maja Cilenšek)

Max 8 participants

Each participant conducts the compulsory piece (no rehearsing) and rehearses and rehearses for 15 minutes two of 4 contemporary compositions, drawn by lot.

#### List of compositions:

##### Compulsory piece:

**Andrej Makor** (1987)

BOGORODITSE DEVO (Liturgy of Vespers) for SAA and piano - 2022

Ed. *Astrum*

##### Composition for rehearsal:

**Pavle Merkuš** (1927–2014):

UNA BOTTIGLIA (Roberto Piumini) from Semi di suono

SEMI DI SUONO (Roberto Piumini) from Semi di suono

IL SILENZIO (Eleonora da Ros) - 2004

**Ambrož Čopi** (1973)

MISSA AMORIS / MASS OF LOVE for SAA and piano - 2023

- Gloria

Ed. *Astrum*

## DEMONSTRATIVE CHOIR



The Koper Music School Girls' Choir is a group of girls who have been together for a long time. They started singing in the children's or youth choir, and the oldest ones have been singing under the direction of Maja Cilenšek for more than 15 years. The girls love to join creative forces and create new artistic worlds together. The choir has been a guest at several choral festivals in Italy, Austria and Slovenia. The choir competed for the first time in an international competition in 2012 and came 2nd in Rimini, Italy. In the same year it took part in the international competition "Varsovia Cantat" in Warsaw and won 1st prize in the category of girls' choirs.

He also achieved excellent results in July 2015 at the International Competition "Incanto Mediterraneo" in Milazzo, in September 2017 at the International Baltic Sea Choir Competition in Latvia and in October 2019 at the International Competition "Flanders" in Belgium, where he won 1st place in the category of women's choirs and a special mention for the best choir of the whole competition. The choir is proud of its first performances of works by renowned Slovenian composers such as Uroš Rojko, Ambrož Čopi, Bojan Glavina, Tadeja Vulc, Matej Bonin and Andrej Makor.

## II. ROUND

Tuesday, 21. 10. 2025 at 4 pm

**Rehearsal with Emil Komel Mixed Youth Choir** (Conductor David Bandelj)

Max 8 participants

Each participant conducts the compulsory composition (no rehearsing) and rehearses for 15 minutes two of 4 contemporary compositions, drawn by lot.

### List of compositions:

#### Compulsory piece:

**Marij Kogoj** (1892–1956):

TRENUTEK (Josip Murn)

ZKOS / JSKD RS

#### Compositions drawn by lot:

**Bruno Bettinelli** (1913–2004):

AVE VERUM - 1983

**Roberto Brisotto** (1972):

CREDO - 2018

*Manuscript*

**Andrej Makor** (1987):

ANGELUS AD PASTOREM (Lukas 2, 10-11) - 2015

*Ed. Astrum*

**Štefan Mauri** (1931-2014)

BALADA (Srečko Kosovel)

JSKD RS

## DEMONSTRATIVE CHOIR



The **Emil Komel Mixed Youth Choir** represents the most mature choral group in the study plan of the Emil Komel Slovenian music education center in Gorizia (Italy). Since 2013, it has been directed by David Bandelj, with whom he has obtained several prizes in various national and international competitions. Of note is the victory at the National Polyphonic Competition in Arezzo in 2018, the excellent result at the following International Polyphonic Competition also in Arezzo in 2019, the first prize in the national competition *Canto oltre la paura* in 2020, the gold medal, a third prize ex aequo, and two special prizes at the

Slovenian national competition *Naša pesem* in Maribor in 2022. The choir has held concerts in several concert seasons, many times with the orchestra, also performed classical repertoire such as Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Bach's *Magnificat*, and Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass*. It has also recorded two CDs and has participated in master classes with eminent experts (Stephen Connolly, Stojan Kuret, Petra Grassi, etc.), collaborated with exceptional soloists, and has been part of numerous first performances of contemporary composers (Tadeja Vulc, Patrick Quaggiato, Hilarij Lavrenčič, Roberto Brisotto, Andrej Makor).

### III. FINALE

Wednesday, 22. 10. 2025 at 3 pm

**PART 1 - Rehearsal with VIKRA CHAMBER CHOIR** (Conductor Petra Grassi) without jury and public  
3 participants

Each participant has 70 minutes time for rehearsal (no jury) to prepare compulsory piece (for all the participants) and two of six other compositions drawn by lot.

#### **List of compositions:**

##### Compulsory piece:

**Federica Lo Pinto** (1997):

OH, COME TO ME IN DREAMS (Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley) - 2023

##### Compositions drawn by lot:

**Pavle Merkú** (1927–2014):

MADRIGALI DELLA BUONA MORTE

II. Piu rapido, piu breve (Carlo Betocchi)

*Pizzicato*

**Knut Nystedt** (1915-2014):

O CRUX (Venantius Fortunatus)

*Hinshaw Music, Inc*

**Arvo Pärt** (1935):

NUNC DIMITTIS (Lucas 2, 29-32)

*Universal Edition*

**Charles Hubert Hastings Parry** (1848-1918):

SONGS OF FARWELL

IV. There is an old belief (John Gibson Lockhart)

*CPDL*

**Alfred Schnittke** (1934-1998):

THEREE SACRED HYMNS

I. Bogoroditse Devo

III. Otche nash

*Musikverlag Hans Sikorski*

**Nana Forte** (1981):

O SACRUM CONVIVIUM - 2015

*Gehrmans Musikförlag*

## **PART 2 - Public concert with VIKRA CHAMBER CHOIR**

**Wednesday, 22. 10. 2025 at 8 pm**

Each participant performs three compositions, rehearsed in the afternoon.

### **DEMONSTRATIVE CHOIR**



The VIKRA Chamber Choir was founded in 2014 through the meeting of experienced singers and musicians under the direction of Petra Grassi, a renowned choral conductor and winner of numerous choral competitions. The choir operates under the auspices of the Glasbena Matica in Trieste. Its members are Slovene and Italian singers from both Slovenia and Italy, representing both nationalities. Since its founding, VIKRA has performed works for equal and mixed voices, ranging from the Renaissance repertoire (with the addition of countertenors) to Romantic and contemporary compositions. The ensemble takes pride in numerous premieres and works dedicated specifically to the choir by

composers such as Bec, Bonato, Brisotto, Durighello, Lo Pinto, and Quaggiato. In 2022, VIKRA took part in the 59th edition of the Cesare Augusto Seghizzi International Choral Competition, where it not only won the Grand Prix but also secured first prizes in the Renaissance, Romantic, and Contemporary music categories. The choir also received special awards for Best Conductor, Best Chamber Choir, and for the Most Artistically Significant Music Program. With this achievement, VIKRA became the first choir from Italy to be awarded the prestigious Seghizzi Grand Prix. Among its many achievements in Italy, VIKRA has won: First prize at the 51st National Choral Competition Trofei Città di Vittorio Veneto (2017) First prize, Grand Prix, and Special Prize at the 16th Regional Choral Competition Corovivo (2017) First prize at the 34th National Polyphonic Competition Guido d'Arezzo (2017) First prize, Grand Prix, and Special Prize at the 10th National Competition for Children's and Youth Choirs Il Garda in Coro (2018) At the 8th thematic concert series Sozvočenja (2018) held at the Slovenian Philharmonic, the choir received the award for the Best Artistic Project. VIKRA regularly collaborates as a laboratory choir in choral seminars (Glasbena Matica, JSKD Nova Gorica, Conservatory of Trento) and organizes masterclasses with renowned experts in the choral field. It served as the laboratory choir for the international conducting competition Aegis Carminis, held in Koper in the summer of 2021. In the same year, VIKRA participated in a project conceived by the Pinacoteca di Brera, culminating in an audio recording of the operetta Fischreise by Andrea Melis, based on the children's book of the same name by Tom Seidmann-Freud. In September 2023, the choir accepted an invitation from the prestigious La Piana del Cavaliere International Music Festival and performed at the opera theatre in the enchanting city of Orvieto. That same year, the choir was invited to perform in the distinguished program of the Pavarotti-Freni Theatre in Modena, achieving great success with both the audience and critics. The concert was later repeated in Trieste and at the Cultural Centre in Nova Gorica, where it was included in the theatre's 2024 subscription series. The same program was also performed within the subscription series of the Kinogledališče Tolmin in the Soča Valley. Perhaps the most emblematic cultural milestone was in Sarajevo, where the choir performed in June 2024 at the invitation of the UNFPA (United Nations) and the Italian and Slovenian Embassies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. VIKRA's singers also sing in various prestigious choirs across Europe, including: the World Youth Choir, the Slovenian Philharmonic Choir, the Academy of Music Choir Ljubljana, the KGBL Choir, the Italian National Youth Choir, the Regional Youth Choir of Friuli Venezia Giulia, EuroChoir, the Vocal Group Gallina, La Reverdie, and many others.

## **CATEGORY B – CHILDRENS' CHOR CONDUCTORS**

**Wednesday, 22. 10. 2025 at 10 am**

**Rehearsal with CHILDRENS' CHOIR OF THE MUSIC SCHOOL KOPER (Conductor Maja Cilenšek)**

Max 6 participants

Each participant conducts the compulsory composition (no rehearsing) and rehearses for 15 minutes two compositions, drawn by lot.

### **List of compositions:**

#### Compulsory piece:

**Nana Forte (1973):**

JADRO (M. J. Lermontov - Mile Klopčič) for SMsA a cappella

*Ed. JSKD RS*

#### Compositions drawn by lot:

**Marij Kogoj (1892–1956):**

DEČEK IN SINIČKA (Karel Širok)

CICIFUJ (Fran Žgur)

SVETI JURIJ (Fran Žgur)

*Zveza slovanskih učiteljskih društev v Italiji, Trst 1924*

**Klara Mlakar (1999)**

MAREC - SUŠEC (Slovenian proverb)

*Ed. Astrum*

**Tine Bec (1993)**

PALINDROM I.

*Ed. Astrum*

**Andrej Makor (1987)**

JADRNIČARJI (Srečko Kosovel)

*Ed. Astrum*

## **DEMONSTRATIVE CHOIR**



The Childrens' choir of Music school Koper was founded by Maja Cilenšek in 2004. It has won several prizes and recognitions at national and international competitions. It has also worked with renowned Slovene and foreign musicians and has been invited to various festivals both in Slovenia and abroad (Koper, Ljubljana, Graz, Chiavenna, Padova, Trieste, Bergamo). The singers are especially proud of a number of premiers of musical compositions by Slovene composers, such as Uroš Rojko, Ambrož Čopi, Bojan Glavina,

Matej Bonin and Andrej Makor. On the 10th anniversary of the choir, a CD with the title *Pesmi na dlani* was released by the RTV Slovenia Publishing and Record Label. The choir has won four top awards in competitions. It regularly participates as a demonstration choir in the Aegis carminis competition for choral conductors.

## THE JURY:

### 1. Members of the jury and work of the jury

The jury will consist of 5-7 esteemed members, choral music experts from Slovenia and from abroad. Every member of the jury will evaluate the conductor with a numerical estimate of up to 100 points in each Round. Considered when evaluating: **the manual technique of the conductor, concept of the rehearsal with the choir, interpretation, contact with the choir.**

### Category A, Mixed Choir Conductors Competition

**The points from 1<sup>st</sup> Round and 2<sup>nd</sup> Round shall be added together. The top three candidates will participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round - Finals of the International Conducting Competition Aegis carminis 2025.**

**The performance in the finals will consist of the evaluation of the jury and the choir.  
Namely in the ratio of the jury 80%, the choir 20%.**

### 2. The declaration of the results for Category A, Mixed Choir Conductors Competition

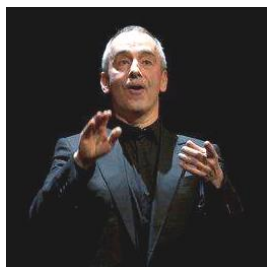
The names of the participants for the 3rd round will be announced **two hours after the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> round.** The results of the competition will be publicly announced **at the Prize-giving Ceremony of the International Youth Choir Festival Aegis carminis** on Wednesday, October 22<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The decisions of the jury are final. Appeals are not possible.

### 3. The declaration of the results for Category B, Children's Choir Conductors Competition

The results of the competition will be publicly announced **at the Prize-giving Ceremony of the International Youth Choir Festival Aegis carminis** on Wednesday, October 22<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The decisions of the jury are final. Appeals are not possible.

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## PRESIDENT OF THE JURY:



**STOJAN KURET**

(Slovenia - Italy)

Conductor of Vocal Academy Ljubljana, EGP Winning Choir

Stojan Kuret born in Trieste (Italy), Stojan Kuret graduated from Academy of Music of University of Ljubljana and finished piano studies at the Giuseppe Tartini Conservatory in Trieste, where he has been teaching since 1983. He served as the artistic director of APZ Tone Tomšič Choir of University of Ljubljana for 10 years. With them, as well as with the Ljubljana Vocal Academy, he made notable international artistic achievements (five grand prizes in Tours (1999), Varna (2001), Gorizia (2001), Maribor (2002), and Arezzo (2009), and three-time finalist and two-time winner of the European Grand Prix for Choral Singing in Arezzo (2002) and Varna (2010)). In 1984 he received the Gallus commendation from the State of Slovenia for his exceptional musical achievements as well as an honour from the city of Ljubljana for his artistic direction of the APZ Tone Tomšič Choir. He directed RTV Slovenia Chamber Choir (a national radio and TV choir) for two years and also led the Italian Youth Choir for two seasons since January 2007. In September 2011, he received the prestigious Guidoneum Award in Arezzo for his successful and creative work with Ljubljana Vocal Academy, and in 2012 he was bestowed upon the Prešeren Foundation Award, the greatest national cultural accolade in Slovenia. In 2017 he received the Golden Plaque, the highest recognition of the Public fund for cultural activities of the Republic of Slovenia, for his creative and successful work for choral development in the national choral music.

## JURY MEMBERS:



### **TOH BAN SHENG**

(Singapore)

Artistic Director, Conductor, Composer, Editor,  
Founder of Resonance of Singapore Ltd.

Toh Ban Sheng is Singapore's homegrown conductor that paves the road less travelled. From a physicist to a selftaught musician to one of the most awarded conductors with seven Conductor's Prizes in Europe, he has been invited to adjudicate, conduct, or teach in some 25 countries. Known for his artistry, he is one of few who has also judged in international choral conducting and choral composition competitions. He obtained two master's degrees in Choral Conducting and Voice from the USA with the support of a National Arts Council Bursary. Toh has since been recognized as an eminent conductor and educator with an illustrious track record, having garnered eight Grands Prix, numerous Category Champions and Jury Prizes, and some 70 gold awards. In recognition of his artistic achievements and contributions, Toh was conferred the Young Artist Award (2006) by the National Arts Council and the Honorary Member (2016) by the Choral Directors Association of Singapore. Since assuming Artistic Directorship, the annual International Choral Festival Orientale Concentus has grown larger and more established than ever before. To build a stronger Singapore through music, he founded in 2022 Resonance of Singapore Ltd., the first non-profit organisation helmed by professional ensemble.

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### **MARCO ANTONIO DE PAZ**

(Spain)

Conductor of El Leon de Oro and L'Acadèmia Vocal CdM

Marco Antonio de Paz is considered as one of the most daring and creative conductors today, Marco Antonio García de Paz (Luanco, Asturias) is the main conductor and founder of the choir "El León de Oro", with which he has performed throughout Spain, Europe, Africa or USA and titular conductor of the Young Choir of Andalusia since 2019. Since 2024 he is the director of L'Acadèmia Vocal CdM in Valencia. From 2021 to 2024 he was also the main conductor of the RTVE Choir, with which he continues to work regularly. He has more than 60 national and international awards. Marco Antonio is regularly invited to conduct numerous professional choirs such as the Choir of the Community of Madrid, Coro de Madrigalistas de Bellas Artes de Ciudad de México or the National Choir of Spain. As a renowned teacher, he has taught at the Milano Choral Academy and the Conservatory of Music in the Principality of Asturias. He has recently conducted the Córdoba Orchestra, the Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra, the Oviedo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Spanish Radio and Television Orchestra and the Andalusian Youth Orchestra. He regularly premieres new works and makes recordings for record labels such as Hyperion, Naxos or RTVE Música.

**RONI SUGIARTO**

(Indonesia)

Conductor of St. Angela Choir, Artistic Director for the Saint Angela Children and Youth Choir Festival and Satya Dharma Gita International Choir Festival.

Roni Sugiarto is one of the leading conductor of children and youth choir in Indonesia. He is known for his award-winning choir, Saint Angela Choir, where he promotes genuine, expressive and beautiful appropriate singing for children and youth. With SAC, he has attained international achievements in Hangzhou, Japan, Rome, Florence, South Korea and Tolosa, Spain. In 2023, he won the Grand Prix of the 5th Tokyo International Choir Competition 2023. His vocal and conducting education is taken under the tutelage of Joseph Kristanto and Avip Priatna. On 2009-2010, he got scholarship from German Government (Goethe-Institut) to further studying conducting through “Conducting Workshop for Orchestra” programme in Bangkok, Thailand under the baton of Gudni A. Emilsson (Tubingen, Germany). He had also joined as active participant at several vocal and conducting masterclasses from Jonathan Velasco (Philippines), Julie Spitill (Australia), Marcus LaPratt(USA), and Martin Nagashima Taft (Denmark). Roni is currently acting as the Music Director of Paduan Suara Mahasiswa ITB Bandung and PSM SDG FH Undip Semarang, and as the Artistic Director of Saint Angela Children and Youth Choir Festival and the Satya Dharma Gita National Choir Festival. He has also adjudicated several international and national choir competitions/festivals, as well as being active in leading choral and conducting workshops.

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**PETRA GRASSI**

(Slovenia - Italy)

Conductor of Vikra Chamber Choir

Petra Grassi is one of the most interesting and awarded European choral conductors of her generation. She has graduated with highest honors and distinction in Choral Conducting from the Conservatory of Trento, where she now teaches choral conducting and choral composition. She has received the Choir's Prize for Best Conductor at the World Choral Conducting Competition (Hong Kong, 2019) 1st Prize at the “Zvok mojih rok” Choral Conductors Competition in (Ljubljana, 2016), 3rd Prize at the International Conductors Competition organized by the European Choral Association (Turin, 2016), and 1st Prize at the “Le mani in suono” Conducting Competition Arezzo). With the choirs she has conducted, she has won first prizes at national and international competitions. From 2016 to 2020, she served as Principal Conductor of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Youth Choir. With the VIKRA Chamber Choir, she won the Grand Prix of the 59th “C. A. Seghizzi” International Choral Competition in Gorizia, as well as the Best Conductor Award. She is the regular guest conductor of the semi-professional DEKOR Chamber Choir in Ljubljana. For three years, she served as co-artistic director of the Italian Youth Choir (2020–2022). She has been a guest conductor of the Slovenian Philharmonic Choir. She is regularly invited to serve on international juries for choir and conductor competitions. She has been honored with the Golden Emblem of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia, the Prešeren Award for her international work under the patronage of the Presidents of Italy and Slovenia, and recently received the prestigious Pavle Merku Award.



**MICHAEL JOSEPH BARRETT**

(South Africa)

Acclaimed composer, arranger and conductor of the University of Pretoria (TUKS) Camerata

**Michael Joseph Barrett** is an internationally acclaimed conductor, educator, composer, and choral clinician. He was the conductor of the University of Pretoria (TUKS) Camerata and a full-time faculty member in choral conducting at the University of Pretoria Department of Music from 2013-2025. Since April 2025, he has been appointed as a Research Associate at the University of Pretoria. His choirs have received numerous national and international awards, including winning the prestigious Grand Prix of Nations for Best Mixed Youth Choir in Riga, Latvia, in both 2014 and 2017. The Camerata has also performed at the World Symposium of Choral Music in Barcelona, Spain (2017), and recorded six critically acclaimed albums. In March 2025, the Camerata performed as a Headline Choir at the American Choral Directors Association National Conference in Dallas, Texas. As a composer and arranger, Dr. Barrett has over 40 works published by Santa Barbara Music Publishers and Walton Music (USA). His work spans across the globe, with recent engagements including conducting the Texas All-State Choir (TMEA 2024), the Missouri All-State Choir (MMEA 2022), and the Florida ACDA High School Honor Choir (2019).

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**CO-JURY MEMBER for SLOVENIAN PHILHARMONIC CHOIR AWARD**



**SEBASTJAN VRHOVNIK**

(Slovenia)

Professor at choral Conductors department at Ljubljana Academy of Music  
Artistic director of *Slovenian Philharmonic Choir*

Sebastjan Vrhovnik after completing the High School of Music and Ballet (general theory major, 1997; singing, 2003), in 2004 he enrolled at the Academy of Music of the University of Ljubljana, majoring in music pedagogy. He graduated with honors under the mentorship of Marko Vatovac, and also completed his master's studies with honors at the University of Music and Visual Arts in Graz in the class of Johannes Prinz. As an associate professor of choral conducting, he is employed at the Academy of Music of the University of Ljubljana, at the same time he leads various choral conducting workshops at home and abroad and appears as a member of expert juries at Slovenian and international magazines and competitions. He currently works as the conductor of the Slovenian Philharmonic Choir and the Mixed Choir of Glasbene matica Ljubljana. In the past, he collaborated with the Chamber Choir of RTV Slovenia, the Maribor Opera Choir, the female vocal group ČarniCe, and the Slovenian Children's Choir. Choir of the Slovenian Philharmonic and Chamber Choir DEKOR. He led the Mixed Choir Cantemus from Kamnik, the Ecce Vocal Group, the Teachers' Choir of Slovenia Emil Adamič, the APZ Tone Tomšič of the University of Ljubljana and the Mixed Choir Obala Koper. With the latter, he recorded several CDs and received many first places and special awards at various national and international competitions. His concert work with choirs is distinguished by his excellent knowledge of vocals and expressive musicality, his interpretations are characterized by a special softness and fusion of choral sound.

## PRIZES:

### DIPLOMAS:

All the participants will receive a diploma of participation.

### AWARDS:

#### CATEGORY - A / CHORAL CONDUCTORS

### PRIZE OF THE SLOVENIAN PHILHARMONIC CHOIR (Slovenia)

*At the proposal of the jury and representative of the Slovenian Philharmonic Choir Conductor Sebastjan Vrhovnik, the first-placed conductor (or other two finalists) in the A-category can be awarded a prize - a performance with the Slovenian Philharmonic Choir in the 2026/27 season.*

1. PLACE, 1.000,00 €, the festival plaque and practical award,
2. PLACE, the festival plaque and practical award,
3. PLACE, the festival plaque and practical award.

#### CATEGORY (special) - B / CHILDREN CHOIR CONDUCTORS

### PRIZE OF THE ST. ANGELA CHILDRENS' CHOIR (Indonesia)

*At the proposal of the jury and representative of the St Angela Childrens' Choir conductor Roni Sugiarto, the first-placed conductor (or second or third-placed) can be awarded a prize – a performance with St. Angela Choir in 2027.*

1. PLACE, 600,00 €, the festival plaque and practical award,
2. PLACE, the festival plaque and practical award,
3. PLACE, the festival plaque and practical award.

### OTHER SPECIAL PRIZES:

The jury can award:

- a special prize to the **most perspective young conductor** (born after October 1995) of the competition in A and B category.
- a special prize **for well-thought-out pedagogic approach with the choir** (B category - children choir conductors),
- a special prize for **the most inspiring** conductor,
- a special prize **the best performance of a compulsory composition** (A category - Finals),
- a special prize to a foreign conductor for **the best performance of a Slovenian piece** (A category - Finals),

*By prepositions of the jury, additional prizes may be awarded.*

### THE PRIZE OF THE CHOIR

for the most charismatic choral conductor at the Final concert of the 4<sup>th</sup> international Choral Conductors competition "Aegis carminis" 2025, chosen by the **VIKRA Chamber Choir** (practical prize).

## SLOVENIAN PHILHARMONIC CHOIR



Slovenian Chamber Choir was re-established in 1991 as an association of special social importance. This choir has been operating under the auspices of the Slovenian Philharmonic since 1998. The choir was led by Mirko Cuderman for two decades. Since 2012, Martina Batič, Borut Smrekar and Gregor Klančič have respectively served as its artistic directors, and the leadership of the choir was taken over by Sebastjan Vrhovnik in October 2024.

In addition to the most prominent Slovenian conductors, the choir has also been conducted by many renowned international artists, such as Eric Ericson, Tõnu Kaljuste, Grete Pedersen, Kaspars Putniņš, Günther Theuring, Riccardo Muti, Valery Gergiev, Peter Dijkstra, Risto Joost and Stephen Layton, who has served as the principal conductor of the Slovenian Philharmonic Choir since the 2024/25 season. As part of its subscription series, the choir prepares concerts of a cappella and vocal-instrumental music, as well as regularly collaborating with the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra in the performance of vocal-instrumental works. As the only professional concert vocal ensemble in Slovenia, the choir devotes a great deal of attention to the preservation of the Slovenian musical heritage, while increasingly also performing abroad. Since 2016, the Slovenian Philharmonic Choir has been a member of the European Network of Professional Chamber Choirs TENSO.

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## SAINT ANGELA CHOIR



Officially established since 2010, Saint Angela Choir is a school based choir from Bandung, Indonesia. Under the direction of Roni Sugiarto, Saint Angela Choir has participated in various international competitions and concerts such as in China, Japan, Italy, South Korea and Spain. Saint Angela Choir is the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize winner of the 49<sup>th</sup> Tolosa Choral Contest, which is a part of the European Grand Prix of Choral Singing, and the Grand Prix Winner of the 5<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Choir Competition 2023. Winner of World Grand Prix, Rimini 2024.

Saint Angela Choir has also worked with some well known conductors : Haruko Kuwabara, Maria Theresa Vizconde Roldan, Jude B Roldan, Mark Anthony Carpio, Basilio Astulez Duque, Darius Lim, and Josu Elberdin to name a few. Saint Angela Choir is currently representing Indonesia as a member of the Young Voices of the World, which is an association of children's and youth choirs around the world. In order to promote children and youth's choral singing in Indonesia, Saint Angela Choir has arranged 3 editions of Saint Angela Children and Youth Choir Festival since 2014.

## SCORES:

Participants get the scores in pdf after application. They will get scores published by Astrum, Ed. JSKD RS and manuscripts for free, other scores should be bought by themselves. For more informations please write to [conductors@aegiscarminis.si](mailto:conductors@aegiscarminis.si)

## FEES, ACCOMODATION AND MEALS

### Application fee:

**50 EUR** (non-refundable), to be paid upon the application (when we receive your application, we will send you the documents needed to pay the application fee).

### APPLICATIONS

Deadline for applications: **September 4<sup>th</sup> 2025**.

Required documents:

By email ([conductors@aegiscarminis.si](mailto:conductors@aegiscarminis.si)):

- CV (biography),
- An interesting photo in high resolution,
- Recommendation letter of the conducting professor or a reputable choral expert or the national choral organisation in your country.

By WeTransfer or downloaded on YouTube to ([conductors@aegiscarminis.si](mailto:conductors@aegiscarminis.si)):

- A recording of a concert and a rehearsal - the choir conducted by the competitor. The conductor has to be clearly seen, not only from far away. The recording should be at least 15 minutes long. Recording day may not be prior to October 20<sup>th</sup> 2021.

### Accommodation and travel expenses:

Participants will have to cover the cost of the accommodation. several hotels, pensions and hostels are available. All participants of the competition have to cover their own travel expenses.

### Photos, recordings

All audio and video rights belong to the organizer of the competition. The participants do not receive any compensation for their performance, but they do receive recordings and photos.

## MASTERCLASS, WORKSHOPS

**St. Francis Concert Hall, Koper**  
**Monday, 20. 10. 2025 at 10:30 am**

**ONE CHOIR (Singapore)**  
Lecturer **Ambrož Čopi**

JOINT EVENING CONCERTS
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*... to inspire and connect*

Postojna Music School

Thursday, 17. 4. 2025 at 8 pm

**GIRLS CHOIR "DETSKA KITKA" (Bulgaria)**

Conductor Yana Deliradeva

**APZ UNIVERZE NA PRIMORSKEM (Slovenia)**

Conductor Jan Gorjanc Daniso

Ursulin Church, Ljubljana

Friday, 25. 4. 2025 at 7:30 pm

**UNIVERSITY SINGERS (USA)**

Conductor Shane Lynch

**KGBL CHAMBER CHOIR (Slovenia)**

Conductor Ambrož Čopi

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St. Francis Concert Hall, Koper

Monday, 20. 10. 2025 at 8 pm

**ONE CHOIR (Singapore)**

Conductor Lim Ai Hooi

**GIRLS' CHOIR OF MUSIC SCHOOL KOPER (Slovenia)**

Conductor Maja Cilenšek

St. Francis Concert Hall, Koper

Tuesday, 21. 10. 2025 at 8 pm

**EMIL KOMEL MIXED YOUTH CHOIR (Italy)**

Conductor David Bandelj

**UNIVERSITY OF PRIMORSKA GIRLS' CHOIR (Slovenia)**

Conductor Jan Gorjanc Daniso

St. Francis Concert Hall, Koper

Wednesday, 22. 10. 2025 at 8 pm

**VIKRA CHAMBER CHOIR (Italy)**

Conducted by three finalists

**MUSIC SCHOOL KOPER CHILDRENS CHOIR (Slovenia)**

Conductor Maja Cilenšek