

## FESTIVAL PROGRAM

Thursday 18.04.2024. / 09.05.2024.

17:30 Meeting with the Organization team in front of the restaurant in the Resort Belvedere, Vrsar  
19:30 Walking parade from the Resort Belvedere to the concert venue  
20:00 Gala Opening Concert in the Church of ST. Mary by the sea, Vrsar

Friday 19.04.2024. / 10.05.2024.

10:00 Excursion to Rovinj, singing and sightseeing  
18:30 Evening concerts of friendship in Vrsar and Poreč

Saturday 20.04.2024. / 11.05.2024.

10:00 Vocal workshop for all participants in the Resort Belvedere  
11:00 Boat trip from Vrsar to the Lim bay  
14:00 Round table, discussion of all presidents and choral conductors  
18:00 Show concert in the Concert hall Spomen dom in Pazin

Sunday 21.04.2024. / 12.05.2024.

10:00 Sightseeing Vrsar  
13:00 Farewell greetings



MAISTRA



SREDIŠNJA ISTRA  
Izborna Istra

VRSAR  
inspirira

Dear friends of choral music,

Welcome to the spring edition of FAKS festival – Festival of amateur cultural creation 2024. dedicated to the beauty of choral music. Festival is taking place in Croatia, beautiful cities in Istria such as Vrsar, Rovinj and Pazin. FAKS festival is a festival of art and cultural lovers, festival of friendship, connection between local and international performers, connection with local and international audience, festival of inspiration, innovation, new modern creation, festival that celebrates artwork of amateurs and culture itself. In nine years, FAKS festival became a meaningful and important event for all its participants, primarily because it gives people the opportunity to test their abilities, to believe in themselves. Therefore, all participants are presenting their tradition, their cultural heritage as well as their rituals and habits in spirit of promotion of the topics high on the agenda of Europe. The language of the choral music is easy to understand and clear to everyone, it helps to convey emotions and experiences, and it is an expression of freedom, positive energy and inspiration. I would like to thank Maistra Hospitality Group, Touristic board of Rovinj and Touristic board of Vrsar for their support. In the name of FAKS festival team, I wish to all participants a creative success, overcoming all difficulties and tireless energy in reaching new horizons, new heights for the benefit of world's culture!

President and artistic director  
FAKS festival



13 Corali unite - Associazione corale "Gioacchino Rossini" e coro "Citta' di Mirandola"



14 Robert Fuchs Kirchenchor, Frauental, Austria



15 Gemischter Chor Griffen, Völkermarkt, Austria



16 Ensemble Femminile Il Focolare, Trieste, Italy



17 Women's klapa "Teranke", Pula, Croatia



18 Folklore Group Pazin, Pazin, Croatia

13 Choir "Gioacchino Rossini" was born in 1887; it's one of the oldest Italian Choral Society. Among its ranks began his choral activity Luciano Pavarotti, an internationally renowned tenor. The choir performed in the presence of Princess Diana of England and noteworthy are the performances with Mirella Freni and the traditionals Easter and Christmas concerts. Since 2007 the choir is directed by M° Luca Saltini, with the collaboration of M° Lucio Carpani.

Choir „Citta' di Mirandola“ was born in 1994 and from 2020 it has merged into the Cultural Association "Amici della Musica" APS of Mirandola. It's a choir of opera tradition. Since September 2014 the choir is directed by M° Lucio Carpani. These two choral realities come together on the occasion of FAKS Sing Festival, renewing their historic collaboration.

14 The Robert Fuchs Choir from Frauental, Austria, was established in 1974 as the 'Kirchenchor Frauental' from a community singing group formed in 1969. In 1997 the choir adopted the name of 'Robert Fuchs' (1847 - 1927) in remembrance of the Frauental born composer. The choir, under the expert leadership of Oskar Lenz since 1974, perform a variety of religious, classical and traditional folk songs, in German and other languages, at Church celebrations and musical gatherings. These include a Latin Mass at Easter and Christmas, accompanied by a small orchestra. The CD 'Zund an ein Licht' is an example of the choir's yearly Advent performance. During the Covid pandemic Oskar Lenz composed the Mass 'Missa Corona', which was successfully premiered in 2022. The choir presently consists of 40 members, who rehearse weekly in Frauental church hall.

15 The mixed choir „Gemischter Chor Griffen“ consists of 36 singers - 27 women and 9 men. Thanks to the great commitment of the choir director Gerti Proßegger, the choir rehearses for 2 hours once a week and is able to fulfill the cultural mission of a rural singing community very well. The choir likes singing Carinthian and Slovene folk songs, spiritual songs, modern songs and songs from all over the world. For decades, the choir has been particularly interested in the exchange with choirs and small groups from the Alps-Adriatic region. In the course of the choir's 70-year existence, there were many opportunities for the choir members to get to know foreign countries and cultures together. Numerous trips both at home and abroad provided the opportunity to do so. This year they are celebrating this 70 year jubilee with concerts in nearby churches and concert halls.

16 The name of the Ensemble Femminile Il Focolare is intended to evoke the warmth and intimacy of a family. The choir was founded in 2000 by a small group of women who loved music and singing. Over the years, under the direction of the choirmaster Giampaolo Sion, a passionate music lover and student of Giuseppe Radole, the choir has given numerous concerts in Italy and abroad and taken part in many international festivals, always receiving enthusiastic comments for its interpretation and repertoire. Every year, the Focolare organizes two events that have been part of the USCIFVG 's programme "Nativitas" for many years: "Atmosfera di Natale", a Christmas festival which is taken place for the 24th time this year, and "Canti intorno al Focolare", which is now in its 12th year.

17 Women's klapa Teranke was founded in 2002 and has continued to work as a part of the Wind Orchestra from Pula ever since. Ever since that time, the Teranke klapa has fostered traditional a cappella singing, Istrian traditional songs, remakes of popular songs and artistic songs with contemporary adaptations. Teranke klapa has won many awards and recognitions at festivals in Croatia and other countries. Klapa Teranke has 7 enthusiastic members who stand for the respect of traditional a capella singing. The artistic leader of klapa Teranke is Sveto Popović.

18 Folklore Group Pazin is an amateur association that has been active for about sixty years, counts around 70 members of all ages and operates in several sections. The vocal section of Folklore Group Pazin has been formed in September 2021 and is the newest section of the Group. Although newly formed, the vocal section already had numerous performances. As part of their activities, they promote and nurture folk heritage, and although they emphasize the folk songs of the Istrian peninsula, in their repertoire they also have songs from other parts of the Republic of Croatia. The artistic director of the vocal section of Folklore Group Pazin is music and solo singing teacher Orijana Vozila.

VRSAR-ROVINJ-PAZIN-POREČ

9th  
F A K S

Sings 2024.

INTERNATIONAL  
CHORAL  
FESTIVAL  
CROATIA



18.-21.04.2024./09.-12.05.2024.



F A  
K S

FESTIVAL AMATERSKOG  
KULTURNOG STVARALAŠTVA  
FESTIVAL OF AMATEUR  
CULTURAL CREATION



**1** *Mixed choir "Roženice" Pazin* was founded in 1979. Till the end of 2002 the Choir was led by maestro Nello Milotti, recognized Istrian educator, composer and conductor. Since 2003, the artistic leader is Ines Kovačić Drndić. The choir won several domestic and international prizes. They proudly celebrate 45 years of continuous and successful work. The Choir's repertoire is focused on the works of Istrian composers and those based on the Istrian scale, but also works from Croatian and foreign composers from all periods of music art, spirituals, lyric and modern music. Their most recognized project is "Vjeruj u ljubav" where they present popular music with orchestra and special guests in the big concert hall in Pazin.



Mješoviti pjevački zbor "Roženice"  
Pazin, Croatia

**2** *The female choir "Mendule" from Vrsar* was founded in 1996. "Mendule" especially promote the musical heritage from Istria and Primorje-Dalmatian regions, as well as the works of classical music and entertaining Croatian and worldwide music. They regularly perform at cultural and tourist manifestations, where there are often included as organizers of various cultural events in Vrsar. „Mendule“ have been performing throughout Croatia and most of the European countries, proudly promoting the tradition and customs of their region.



Ženska vokalna skupina "Mendule"  
Vrsar, Croatia

**3** *The Trichiana Polyphonic Choir* was established in 1983. Currently the choir is directed by Maestro Stefano Bittante and is composed of 23 choir members. It has a repertoire of both popular and sacred and liturgical music. In 2013 the choir celebrated its 30th anniversary with a great concert in Trichiana, on the occasion of the Literary Prize "Trichiana Paese del libro", held by the choir and orchestra "In Musica Gaudium" of Oderzo, directed by Maestro Battista Pradal. In 2016 and 2018 the choir participated in the FAKS Festival in Croatia.



Coro Polifonico di Trichiana  
Trichiana, Italy

**4** Founded in 1982, *the Czech Boys Choir Boni Pueri* is one of Europe's leading ensembles, carrying on the tradition of a choir that has been active in the Metropolitan Chapter of St Vitus in Prague since 1252. The present choir, which has 200 members ranging in age from 4 to 19, has performed more than 3000 concerts not only in the Czech Republic, but also on tours in Japan, the United States, Canada, South Korea, China, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, France, Monaco, Germany, Poland, Austria, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, Italy and the Vatican.



The Czech Boys Choir Boni Pueri,  
Hradec Králové, the Czech Republic

**5** *The Bartók Béla Girls' Choir* was founded in 1973 with the participation of grammar school girls specializing in music and singing. The objectives of the ensemble were to keep alive and cherish the Hungarian choral music traditions of the 19th and 20th centuries along with delivering high quality and authentic performances of Bartók's and Kodály's choral works composed for girls' choirs. The best pieces of the choir's repertoire have been recorded on six discs. They have toured across all Europe from the south of Italy to over the Arctic Circle as well as from the coasts of the Atlantic Ocean to Transylvania.



The Bartók Béla Girls' Choir,  
Pécs, Hungary

**6** *The choir "Lavanda"* started its activity in March 2005. First it was a vocal group and later became a Female choir. Today it's a Mixed choir with 23 amateur singers who cure different kind of music and in its repertoire. The choir takes part in various manifestations all over Croatia but also Slovenia, Italy and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The choir has been awarded several times and invited to take part in some TV programs. The choir collaborates with other societies and groups. Since 2009. the choir has been guided by Mr. Branislav Ostojić, ethnomusicologist.



Mješoviti pjevački zbor "Lavanda"  
Novigrad, Croatia



Mješoviti pjevački zbor "Korona"  
Umag, Croatia



The Women's Faculty of the University of Pécs,  
Hungary



Zbor Umjetničke škole  
Poreč, Croatia



Mješoviti pjevački zbor "Joakim Rakovac",  
Poreč, Croatia



Close Harmony Friends  
Nitra, Slovakia



Ženska vokalna grupa "Kajda"  
Mače, Croatia

**7** *Korona choir from Umag* was founded in 2002. The tradition nurtured by the choir from the very beginning are the songs covers and four-part singing of traditional folk songs. Choir's repertoire includes entertaining, sacred, artistic and revolutionary songs, as well as Christmas pieces. Since its beginnings choir performed at different competitions and festivals throughout Croatia, Slovenia, Italy and Czech Republic. Choir Korona also performed at international choirs competitions in Karlovac, Osijek and Šibenik, where they won bronze plaques in a very tight competition. For more than 15 years choir Korona is led by professor and ethnomusicologist Branislav Ostojić.

**8** *The Women's Faculty of the University of Pécs* has a long history. The choir was conducted by Pál Dobák, István Várdai, Valér Jobbágy, Judit Magay and Attila Kertész, and from 2020 it will be led by Tibor Hoffner and Laura Antal. The choir is composed of Hungarian and foreign students of piano, guitar, vocal singing, musicology and vocal music. The choir was part of the university mixed choir for a few years, during which time it was an active participant in several oratorio and opera performances. The leaders of the ensemble are committed to the cultivation of local cultural values, and they prefer to perform works by contemporary composers from Pécs and Hungary. In October 2022, at the VoceMagna International Choir Competition in Zsolna, they returned home with a silver medal in their category and won a special prize for their performance of Sándor Balatoni's composition Szivárvány havasán. On 1 September 2023, at the City Day Concert of Pécs, the ensemble performed together with the Pécs University Choir and the Pécs University Symphony Orchestra at the Kodály Centre in Pécs, where they gave the world premiere of János Vajda's Fragments.

**9** *The members of the Poreč Art School Choir* are students from 4th to 6th grade. The singers in the choir practice singing in unison and part-singing in Croatian and foreign languages. Over the last years the choir has had many memorable performances and concerts in Croatia. They are active in the community with performances at award ceremonies and charity concerts, as well as singing for the elderly at the nursing home in Poreč. They attended many important choral events in Zagreb at the Croatian Musical Institute and Maksimir park, where they had the opportunity to sing with other choirs from the country. Also, every year they participate in a choral event "Mali Kanat" in Pazin.

**10** *The mixed choir Joakim Rakovac* was found in 1979. Over the past four decades, hundred of members has been filled with enthusiasm for singing skills and love for music in the remarkable achievements that Choir achieved in that period. The Choir was and remained the backbone of the amateur music in the area of Poreč. Their artistic leader is prof. Đeni Dekleva Radaković.

**11** *Close Harmony Friends* was founded in 1990 in Nitra, Slovakia. At first, the group was centering its repertoire around gospels and negro spirituals. Later with new technology they were able to add beatbox/vocal percussion and bass. This led to more opportunities and opened more possibilities to create in different genres such as pop, rock, jazz, or bossa nova. The group is made of 9 singers and they have travelled all around the world with their music, visiting over 20 countries on 5 continents. Their a cappella show is full of energy, passion for music, and good vibes.

**12** *The female vocal group "Kajda"* comes from Mač, where they were brought together by their love for folklore in the KUD "Ljudevit Gaj". They have been singing independently since 2004. They collaborate with many famous Zagorje musicians such as Ivica Pepelko, Andrija Kos, Gordana Ivanjek, Renata Kos and many others. They represented the Krapina-Zagorje county at the state small vocal competitions where they were highly rated.