

FESTIVAL PROGRAM

Thursday 20.04.2023. / 11.05.2023.

17:30 Meeting with the Organization team in front of the restaurant of the Resort Belvedere, Vrsar

19:30 Walking parade from the Resort Belvedere to the concert

20:00 Gala Opening Concert in the Church of St. Mary by the sea, Vrsar

Friday 21.04.2023. / 12.05.2023.

10:00 Excursion to Rovinj: singing and sightseeing

Evening concerts of friendship in Vrsar, Rovinj, Poreč and Funtana

Saturday 22.04.2023. / 13.05.2023.

10:00 Vocal workshop for all participants by the pool in the Resort Belvedere

11:00 Boat trip from Vrsar to the Lim bay

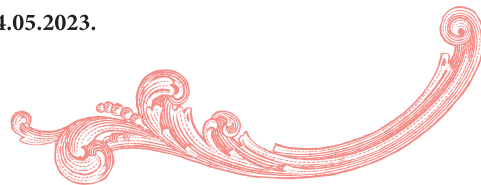
14:00 Round table, discussion of all presidents and choral conductors

18:00 Show Concert in the Concert hall Spomen dom, Pazin

Sunday 23.04.2023. / 14.05.2023.

10:00 Sightseeing Vrsar

13:00 Farewell greetings



Dear friends of choral music,

Welcome to the spring edition of FAKS festival in 2023., dedicated to the beauty of choral music. FAKS festival is a festival of art and culture lovers, festival of friendship, connections between local and international performers, connections with local and international audience, festival of inspiration, innovation, new modern creation, festival of celebration of artwork of amateurs and culture itself. FAKS is taking place in Croatia, beautiful cities in Istria, such as Vrsar, Pazin, Pula, Funtana, Poreč and Rovinj. In seven 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, Vedras Company, Touristic board of Vrsar, Touristic board of Rovinj and Touristic board of Central Istria 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!



Ines Kovačić Drndić

President and artistic director
FAKS festival



15 The "Šćedryk" music ensemble, which operates within the framework of the Ukrainian community of the City of Zagreb is a vocal-instrumental ensemble of a chamber composition that performs Ukrainian contemporary, traditional and folk music. The compositions are primarily performed vocally by four voices, but in the repertoire there are also compositions accompanied by guitar, percussion and accordion. The members of the ensemble are representatives of the Ukrainian community of the City of Zagreb, joined by new Ukrainian people who were forced to leave their homes due to the war and found temporary accommodation in Croatia.

16 The choir dasVOK was created as a school choir in order to interpret more demanding choral literature with more experienced singers in a smaller format. The beginnings and the rise of dasVOK are inextricably linked to the charismatic music teacher Irmi Schuller, who was able to inspire year after year, generation after generation for choral singing - in concerts as well as in scenic productions. From this point of view it is almost logical that her successor, the current choir director Astrid Pal, learned the manual, oral and artistic skills of singing and choir conducting from her. dasVok - select is a small group consisting of members of the choir dasVOK. Since the participation at the choir festival was decided at very short notice, only the small group dasVOK - select will join the choir festival FAKS 2023.

17 The female vocal group "Kajda" comes from Mače, 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.

18 Citta' di Mirandola was born in 1994 like a non-profit cultural association, with study, practice and diffusion of choral singing purposes. From 2020 it has merged into the wider Cultural Association "Amici della Musica" APS of Mirandola. It's a choir of opera tradition, whose history is rich in concert performances and productions of CDs. Since September 2014, under the guidance of M^o Lucio Carpani, the choir has been renewing its lyrical tradition and its concert commitment with new collaborations.

19 The University Choir of Pécs was founded in 1997. Since September 2014 the leader of the choir is Liszt-award holder conductor Prof. dr. Tamás Lakner. In December 2014 the choir performed Handel's Messiah in Pécs and in Croatia. The choir was the proud host and official choir of the 19th Europa Cantat held between 24 July and 2 August 2015 in Pécs. In the summer of 2017, 18. the choir is doing a two-week concert tour in China. Prof.dr. Tamas Lakner professor of choral conducting at the University of Pécs, teaching Kodály methodology. He won 64 prizes at different international choir competitions with his choirs.

20 I lirici Metro was born in 2014 and takes its name from the Centro Artistico Metroart, the place where it meets for rehearsals. The repertoire ranges from sacred music to opera, operetta, musicals, as well as including pop and ethnic songs. The operatic profession of the director, Elisa Luppi, has led the choir to perform in real theatrical shows, experiencing the emotion and beauty of singing on stage.

21 The Bridge Chorus is a UK based amateur choir, made up of representatives from Roath Community Choir in Cardiff, Wales and City Voices in Bristol, England to form the Bridge Chorus: there is a long bridge between the two countries linking the cities of Bristol and Cardiff. Ben Pinnow is the Musical Director for both choirs and has conducted the Bridge Chorus who have performed at the FAKS festival on 2 previous occasions in 2018 and 2019. They all enjoy singing and love sharing some of our favorite songs with audiences in their home countries and abroad.

VRSAR-ROVINJ-PAZIN-FUNTANA-POREČ

7th
F A K S
Sings 2023.

INTERNATIONAL
CHORAL
FESTIVAL
CROATIA



20.-23.04.2023./11.-14.05.2023.



FESTIVAL AMATERSKOG
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2022-2023

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 42 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" (translated: Believe in love) where they present popular music with orchestra and special guests in the big concert hall in Pazin.



1
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-Dalmatia 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.



2
Ženska vokalna skupina "Mendule"
Vrsar, Croatia

3 **The men's choir "MAJ" from Kranj** performs choral and popular music by Slovenian and foreign authors at their performances in their own country and abroad. Parts of their performances are enriched with instrumental accompaniment of their own instrumental group and adaptations of popular and own compositions. The Choir has been rejoicing its public with beautiful and carefully selected repertoire for more than 26 years. They enjoy inviting other singing and music groups to its annual concerts organized in May and December in Kranj as well as take part at other festivals in Slovenia and abroad. The fifth season is led by the conductor Mr. Andrej Zupan.



3
MOPZ Maj
Golnik, Slovenia

4 **The Lipnica Mixed Choir** has been operating under the auspices of the Kamna Gorica Cultural and Tourist Association since 2004. It has approximately 20 singers. It is currently led by choirmaster Andrej Zupan and chaired by Polona Zalokar. In its varied history, the choir has performed a variety of performances, themed concerts, solo concerts, guest appearances at home and abroad. It is also presented every year at the regional magazine of choirs. The choir's repertoire is constantly expanding: domestic and foreign choral classics, sacred, gospel...



4
MPZ Lipnica
Kamna Gorica, Slovenia

5 **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.



5
Coro Polifonico di Trichiana
Trichiana, Italy

6 **Chamber ensemble "Koralisti Sv. Franje"** continues the tradition of the famous Scale cantorum, which has operated in the St. Francis monastery since the 18th century by singing on the liturgical celebrations. The choir consists of singers of different age who share a love for singing, while the repertoire is composed of local and famous world composers.



6
Koralisti Sv. Franje
Rovinj, Croatia

7 **The choir Comodo operates at Gymnázium Chomutov.** To be more precise we have succeeded in „Eeuropes Muziekfestival voor de Jeugd“ in belgian Neerpeltu, „Slovakia cantat“ in Bratislava or „Canco Mediterrania“ Barcelona. COMODO have participated multiple times in Sommerfilharmonie project in german Chemnitz where we joined various european singers to create a large musical ensemble performing in Germany as well as Czechia. The choir co-organizes an international choir festival „Jirkovský Písňovar“, focusing on popular choir music. The choirmasters are Mary and Lubos Hana, the graduates of Choral Conducting at University of J. E. Purkyně v Ústí nad Labem.



7
COMODO Gymnázium Chomutov
Chomutov, Czech Republic



8
Coro Bernina
Villa di Tirano, Italy



9
Mješoviti pjevački zbor "Lavanda"
Novigrad, Croatia



10
Mješoviti pjevački zbor "Korona"
Umag, Croatia



11
Zbor Umjetničke škole
Poreč, Croatia



12
Dječji zbor OŠ "V. NAZOR - SE"
Rovinj, Croatia



13
Mješoviti pjevački zbor "Joakim Rakovac"
Poreč, Croatia



14
Close Harmony Friends
Nitra, Slovakia

8 **The Bernina choir of the province of Sondrio** was born in Villa di Tirano (Province of Sondrio, Valtellina, Lombardy) on September 29, 2010. It already has a good curriculum of concerts and meetings to which it has been invited to represent the Valtellina (Lombardy Region) from the point of view of singing and choral tradition, collaborating and performing with many other groups from different parts of Italy and Switzerland. Every year it organizes some fixed appointments like "Cori di Classe" with the participation of youth choirs from the territory of the province of Sondrio, "Bernina Choral Review" , "Concert of the Immaculate Conception" and "Santo Stefano concert". Since March 2017 the Choir has been directed by Maestro Elia Corvi.

9 **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.

10 **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.

11 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.

12 Children's choir from music department of the Primary school "**V. NAZOR**" - SE "**V. NAZOR**", Rovinj - Rovigno, was created in 2013 under the leadership of conductor Ester Knezović. The choir performs regularly at numerous performances like at the opening of the competition organized by the Croatian Parliament of Culture, the city assembly of the city of Rovinj, the international choral festival in Rovinj - FAKS and many other events. In their repertoire, they cherish the traditional songs of Istria and Kvarner and many other folklore songs of other countries. Likewise, their repertoire includes covers of domestic and foreign popular songs. Since 2017, the choir has been working under the direction of maestro Danijel Dražić.

13 The mixed **choir Joakim Rakovac** was founded in 1979. Over the past four decades, hundreds of members has been filled with enthusiasm for singing skills and love for music in the remarkable achievements that Choir archived in the period. The choir was and remained the backbone of amateur music in the area od Poreč.

14 **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.