



# XXVI МЕЖДУНАРОДНИ ДЕТСКО-ЮНОШЕСКИ ХОРОВИ ПРАЗНИЦИ „ДОБРИ ВОЙНИКОВ” ШУМЕН 8 – 9 АПРИЛ, 2021

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и 90 години от рождението на проф. Венета Вичева

Фестивалът се провежда под патронажа на Кмета на Община Шумен

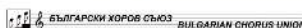
ONLINE EDITION



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## XXVI DOBRI VOINIKOV INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHORAL GALA DAYS SHUMEN 8 – 9 APRIL 2021

*The Gala Days are held under the patronage  
of the Mayor of the Municipality of Shumen*





MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE  
NATIONAL CHILDRENS PALACE  
BULGARIAN CHORAL UNION  
MUNICIPALITY OF SHUMEN  
MUNICIPAL CHILDRENS COMPLEX "ANASTAS STOYANOV"



## XXVI Dobri Voinikov International Children and Youth Choral Gala Days Shumen

2021

### Participants

First concert on 8.04. 2021 (Thursday) from 19.00 in the  
You Tube channel of the Municipality of Shumen



- Bodra Pessen children`s choir - Shumen, Bulgaria. Conductor Denitsa Uzunova, pianist Zhaneta Katzarova



- Dobri Hristov Children`s Choir- Varna, Bulgaria. Conductor Galina Stanisheva, pianist Bilyana Eneva



- St. George the Victorious Choir- Ruse, Bulgaria. Conductor Mina Vlaykova, pianist Bozhena Ivanova



- Children and youth choir SYMBOL of Romanian Patriarchate - Bucharest, Romania. Conductors: deacon Jean Lupu and Luminița Guțanu Stoian



- Rodna Pesen children`s choir – Pernik, Bulgaria. Conductor Dimitar Kostantsaliev, corepetitor Romyana Hristova



- Choir to 91. German language high school "Prof. Konstantin Galabov " – Sofia, Bulgaria. Conductor Krassimira Tsutsumanova



- Pueri Cantores St. Aegidien – Braunschweig, Germany. Conductor Bernhard Schneider



- Children`s Choir "Danube Waves" – Ruse, Bulgaria. Conductor Vesela Todorova, pianist Gergana Vicheva



- Children`s choir "Rassvet" at DMSH "Vesna" in the name of A.S. Ponamarev – Moscow, Russia. Choir director Dmitrieva Tatiana, choirmaster Elena Fitzner



- OHANA Youth Chamber Choir – Sofia, Bulgaria. Conductor Dimitar Kostantsaliev, accompanist Mariela Kostantsalieva



- MORAN Choir and the Israeli Vocal Center association – Izrael. Conductor Naomi Faran



- **The Detska Kitka Choir – Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Conductors: Zlatina Deliradeva, Yana Deliradeva**



- **St. Florianer Sängerknaben – Austria. Choirmaster Markus Stumpner. Pianists: F. Eschelmüller, F. Farnberger**

**Second concert on 9.04. 2021 (Friday) from 19.00  
in the You Tube channel of the Municipality of Shumen**



- **Children-Adolescent Chorus “Bulgarian Nightingale” – Sofia, Bulgaria. Conductor Neolina Pelova, pianist Nadezhda Tsankova**



- **Talasanche children’s choir – Sofia, Bulgaria. Conductor Dimitar Kostantsaliev, accompanist Mariela Kostantsalieva**



- **Carmen Argessi Choir - Pitesti, Arges, Romania. Conductor Cornelia Ionescu, pianist Radu Titi**



- **Bodra smyana choir – Sofia, Bulgaria. Conductor Alexander Cochkov, accompanist Iva Georgieva**



- **Mixed Children and Youth Choir “Zvanika” – Pleven, Bulgaria. Conductor- Ivanka Deliyska, pianist Magdalena Nacheva**



- **Youth mixed choir of the music school “Josif Marinković” - Zrenjanin, Serbia. Conductor: Zorica Kozlovački, pianist Mina Damjanov**



- **Milka Stoeva Children’s Choir – Burgas, Bulgaria. Conductor Svetla Stoeva, pianist Miglena Slavova**



- **The Plovdiv Boys’ Choir – Plovdiv, Bulgaira. Conductro Milka Toledova, pianist Julia Petrova**



- **Aurelius Sängerknaben Calw - Calw, Germany. Conductor Bernhard Kugler**



- **Vocal formation “Morski pesachinki” – Burgas, Bulgaria. Conductor Milena Dobрева**



- **Vocal ensemble “Fortissimo” - Burgas, Bulgaria. Conductor Milena Dobрева**



- **New World Singers at Columbus Children’s Choir - Columbus, Ohio,USA. Conductor Jeanne M. Wohlgamuth, pianist Chad Baker**



- **The Bulgarian National Radio Children’s choir – Sofia, Bulgaria. Conductor Venecia Karamanova, piano- accompaniment Svetlana Ananievska**



# ***BODRA PESSEN CHILDREN'S CHOIR***

***SHUMEN, BULGARIA***

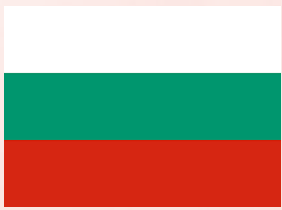


**The BODRA PESSEN** children's choir Shumen, Bulgaria was founded in 1963 by prof. Veneta Vicheva. Now the art director and conductor of the choir is Denitsa Uzunova, a follower of Professor Veneta Vicheva. Pride for the town of Shumen and our country was brought by the plenty awards and medals of the choir from national and international festivals and competitions: "Bella Bartok" in Debrecen, Hungary; "Guido D'Arezzo" - Arezzo, Italy; Neerpelt, Belgium, where the choir received the highest possible award in the extra category - "Summacum laude"; "Prof. Georgi Dimitrov" - Varna, Bulgaria; Antalya, Turkey (Cum Loude); "MOSCOW SOUNDS" 2010 - GRAND PRIX; Grand Prix International Choir Festival "Chernomorski zvutsi" - Balchik; 2018 GRAND PRIX of the Ohrid Choir Festival, Macedonia. In 2015 choir "Bodra pessen" has been awarded by the European choir federation at the European Union with the title of "European culture ambassador"; in 2016 with the "Award of Shumen for art and culture"; In 2016 Award of the Bulgarian National Radio "Musician of the Year".



**Denitsa Uzunova** is a student of prof. Vicheva. She works at the Municipal Children's Complex, Shumen as a conductor of "Bodra pessen" choir since 1995. She completed Conductors Workshops with Professor Boris Tevlin (Russia), prof. Helen Gee (France), Dr. Larry Wyatt (USA), prof. Marin Chonev and Maestro Krikor Chetinyan (Bulgaria), prof. Erwin Ortner (Austria).

Denitsa Uzunova received the First Prize in the Third National Competition for teachers working in extracurricular activities; wins highest award - the special prize of the Ministry of education and Science; won the National Prize "Teacher of the Year" and the Shumen Municipality Award for Contribution to Cultural Development. Denitsa Uzunova is the author of articles on topics related to choral art.



# ***DOBRI HRISTOV CHILDREN'S CHOIR***

***VARNA, BULGARIA***



**Dobri Hristov Children's Choir** at the Center for Personal Development Support – Municipal Children's complex, Varna is one of the first Bulgarian children's choirs founded in 1952 – 1953 by the famous educator and conductor Veselin Ivanov. Since 2016 the conductor of Children's choir "Dobri Hristov" – Varna is Galina Stanisheva. The choir has received diplomas and awards from International Festivals in Belgium - Neerpelt, France - Belfort, Switzerland - Montreux, Czech Republic - Prague, Germany - Wolfenbüttel, Macedonia - Ohrid, Riva del Garda - Italy, Poznan – Poland, Thessaloniki-Greece.



Through his participation in National Forums, he has won diplomas statuettes and plaques from festivals in Sofia, Yambol, Plovdiv, Razgrad, Balchik, Shumen, Haskovo, Svishtov, Targovishte. Over the years, various creative projects have been implemented; collaboratively with the Symphony Orchestra conductor of which is Prof. Milko Kolarov, with the PIF group, the Danube Waves Children's Choir and the Hannover College Academic Mixed Choir – USA. In 2019 Dobri Hristov Children's Choir was honored with the Jordan Kamdzhakov Foundation Award, presented at the XI Festival of Female and Girl's Choirs Prof. Lilia Gyuleva, Targovishte. For its contribution to the musical art, the Children's Choir was awarded with a Golden Lyre by the Union of the Bulgarian Musicians and Dancers



**Galina Stanisheva** graduated her higher education in the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv with a degree of Music Pedagogy. She specialized classical singing in the class of Prof. Valentina Alexandrova and studied conducting with Assoc. Prof. Krikor Chetinyan. In 1993, she began working at the Municipal Children Complex - Varna as a vocal pedagogue and teacher of musical theory in Varna Children and Adolescents Opera, and as vocal pedagogue in Children's Choir Dobri Hristov. As a part of the team of Varna Children and Adolescents Opera she has worked for the realization of a major part of the presented performances. Together with the team of Children's Choir Dobri Hristov she works on her preparation for participating in many concerts, festivals and competitions in Bulgaria, France, Italy, Macedonia, Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Greece etc. In 2013, she received the price of the Municipal Children Complex - Teacher of the Year. In 2015, she graduated Master Class for Choral Conductors in Plovdiv, led by Assoc. Prof. Krikor Chetinyan. Since 2016, she is a conductor of Children's choir "Dobri Hristov" - Varna. For her contribution to the musical art, Galina Stanisheva was honored with a Silver Lyre by the Union of the Bulgarian Musicians and Dancers.

***PHOTOS: ROSSEN DONEV***



# ***CHOIR "ST. GEORGE THE VICTORIOUS"***

***RUSE, BULGARIA***



**Choir "St. George The Victorious"** was created on November 1, 1993 in the city of Ruse by the conductor Mina Vlaykova. Its choristers are from different schools. In 2001-2006 the choir is a part of the Ruse Opera and Philharmonic Society. Participates in opera performances, cantata and oratorio works, concerts with the Ruse Philharmonic, solo concerts, appears at competitions, festivals. From 2008 until today, the choir is part of Municipal Youth Center Ruse.



The choir maintains a rich repertoire, which always includes Eastern Orthodox music. It has won 6 gold medals, diplomas, certificates, plaques from national and international participations, 2 special awards from the Minister of Defense of Bulgaria, 2nd place in Neerpelt, Belgium, a special award from the festival "Bydgoszcz Music Impressions" Poland, and a special "Poetry in Music" Jury Award from Seghizzi Gorizia, Italy.

Concert tours: Giurgiu-Romania, Budapest-Hungary, Linz-Austria, Thessaloniki-Greece, Germany, Belgium, Poland and everywhere enjoys the applause of the audience. Since 2012 Choir "St. George The Victorious" is the initiator and main organizer of the festival "Choral Meeting St. George the Victorious Ruse"



**Mina Dragneva-Vlaykova** was born in the town of Dobrich, Bulgaria. In her hometown she studied at a mathematics high school, sang in the world-famous children's choir of Mr. Z. Mednikarov, studied piano, solfeggio, harmony. She graduated from the Music Academy in Plovdiv. From 1980 to 1987 is a conductor in the choral school of Z. Mednikarov, where she also created a boys' choir. At the same time she is the chief conductor of the mixed choir "Black Sea Sounds" Balchik, with which she won a gold medal at the Sixth Republican Choir Festival. In 1987-1990 she is teaching solfeggio, scholastic choir and isconducting the choir of the music school in Stara Zagora. In the interval 1991-2001 she was an assistant conductor in the mixed choir "Danube Sounds" in Ruse. 1993 founded a choir of Ruse boys "St. George the Victorious" Since 2008 until now, Mina Vlaykova is the conductor of the formations of the Children's and Youth Choir "St. George The Victorious" at the Municipal Youth Centre Ruse, Bulgaria.





# MORAN CHOIR ISRAEL

**The Moran Youth Choir** includes 45 young singers ages 12-18 and is based in Israel.

During its three decades of activity, the Moran Youth Choir has made enormous musical and educational achievements. The choir won several competitions, participated in international festivals, sang with leading orchestras and performed original compositions of the best Israeli composers.

The choir repertoire includes classical choral music as well as Israeli traditional Jewish music, original modern Israeli music, and folklore music of diverse local and international ethnic groups.

The choir is regularly featured on the most prominent stages in Israel. Performances include singing with The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, The Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon LeZion, The Israel Chamber Orchestra, The Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra and more.

The choir is invited to perform at national ceremonies and to represent Israel in International special events such as the Peace Talks - Oslo 1994 and the Presidents Conference -

Jerusalem 2008. World tours included competitions, workshops, festivals, and special events in Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, USA, Canada, Russia, Spain, Slovenia, Scandinavia, South Korea, Bazel, Paris, and more.

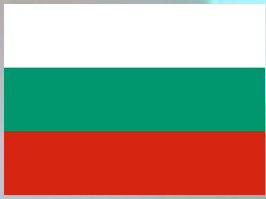


## NAOMI FARAN

Mrs. Faran is the founder of the Moran Choirs and has been its conductor since 1986. She is a graduate of The Buchmann-Mehta School of Music, Tel Aviv University.

**Mrs. Faran** is frequently invited to judge in prestigious competitions and was awarded Outstanding Conductor prize at the first International Choir Competition in Israel.

Mrs. Faran has given advanced conducting master classes in Israel, as well as at International symposiums in Slovenia, Denmark, Hong-Kong, China, South Korea, Italy, Spain, and more. Her vision is expressed through successful results. Five generations of choirs ages 6-60 are educated with choral music; two of them have gained international recognition as professionals. Her vision is also manifested in innovative projects that combine musical excellence with community involvement, believing in the power of music. Each choir is involved in the community. The singing becomes a mean to create enjoyment and a feeling of equality among populations with special needs. This special model was presented at conferences and symposiums around the world.



# *RODNA PESEN CHILDREN'S CHOIR*

## *PERNIK, BULGARIA*



As birth year of this choir we can considerate the 1962/1963 season when Evgeniya Papancheva formed a new choir named Rodna pesen (Native song). In 1976 Zoya Vidas stood at the conductor's stand. The choir has been successful and won many prizes in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Italy, France, Germany, the former Soviet Union and others. Since 1991 Rumyana Hristova is the accompanist of the choir. Also Dobrina Aladzhova and Boyka Ognyanova were conductors.



Since 2011 the choir's conductor is Dimitar Kostantsaliev. In 2014, under his direction the renewed children's choir won 3rd prize at the Music and Sea Choir Festival in Paralia, Greece, in 2014; 1st prize at the International Ohrid Choir Festival, Macedonia, in 2016, in the category of children's choirs; Grand-Prix in the category for children's choirs and 2nd prize for Sacred Music at the 16th International Choir Festival Moscow Sounds in 2018.



**Dimitar Kostantsaliev** graduated from the Academy of Music and Dance in Plovdiv in 1988. He studied piano, composition and choral conducting. In 1994, he specialized composition at the State Academy of Music in Sofia. He began his musical career as an accompanist in the Slavic Unity choir in the town of Gorna Oryahovitsa. In 1986-1988 he leded the Women's Chamber Choir in the town of Asenovgrad. In 1992 he formed the TALASAMCHE Children's Choir and in 2016 he founded the OHANA Youth Chamber Choir. In 2004, he became a member of the Union of Bulgarian Composers. Since 2011 he is the conductor of the Rodna Pesen Children's Choir, Pernik. He is an author of symphonic, chamber, choral, solo, popular and children's music. He created 13 musicals and over 500 children's songs. In 2007 the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria awarded him for high results and contribution to the development of Bulgarian culture. In 2019, the Municipality of Pernik awarded him for significant contribution and merits in the field of culture. As a composer and conductor, he won numerous international and national competitions awards.





# **THE CHOIR OF 91ST GERMAN LANGUAGE HIGH SCHOOL "PROF. KONSTANTIN GALABOV" SOFIA, BULGARIA**



**The choir of 91st German language high school "Prof. Konstantin Galabov"** consists of students from

8th to 12th grade.

It was revived in 2010 with the idea to restore the traditions of choral singing in high school and to attract more young people to master choral music. Since its inception, the team has participated in various school and community events. It regularly takes part in the Festival of Orthodox Chants and Spiritual Songs "Osanna vav Visinite", held in



the church of "St. Paraskeva", Sofia, as well as in the German-Bulgarian Christmas Bazaar. The choir regularly carries out creative exchanges with ensembles from Germany and Austria. In 2016, the ensemble premiered the music of the German-Bulgarian musical "Parkwächterkönnennichtzaubern" in Germany and Bulgaria. The music was written by the composer Filip Pavlov and the original German text by Mechtild von Schönebeck. Since 2010 the choir has been conducted by Krasimira Tsutsumanova.



In 2005 **Krasimira Tsutsumanova** graduated from South-West University "Neofit Rilski" in Blagoevgrad with a Bachelor's degree in Music Pedagogy. In 2010 she obtained her Master's degree in Choral Conducting from New Bulgarian University in the class of Venetsia Karamanova. In 2013 she did her specialization in Choral Conducting in the National Academy of Music "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov" under the supervision of Prof. Teodora Pavlovich.

From 2007 to 2011 Krasimira Tsutsumanova worked as a choirmaster in the choir formation "Children of Orpheus". Since 2017 she has participated in the Festival "Osanna vav Visinite" as the leader of the choir studio "Choir Knowledge".

In 2020 Krasimira Tsutsumanova defended her PhD thesis "Children's musical in the works of Bulgarian composers from the second half of the XX and the beginning of the XXI century. (Problems with vocal interpretation by children performers)".





# *PUERI CANTORES ST. AEGIDIEN*

*BRAUNSCHWEIG, GERMANY*



## **The Pueri Cantores St. Aegidien**

Braunschweig were founded in 2005. Meanwhile the choir is grown to 60 members, boys and girls. From the age of 10 it is possible to become a Pueri-member, younger singers come together in the Pre-Choir and in the Childrens-Choir. All in all there are over 300 girls and boys singing in the "Singschule St. Aegidien". The Pueri Cantores were travelling for concerts to Salzburg,



Munich, Krakau (Poland), Stockholm and Granada. They take part in great oratories, too, f.e. Bach's Christmas oratory, Mendelssohn's "Paulus", and Händels St. Cecil's Ode and "Jephtha". Usually the Pueri Cantores sing in the services of St. Aegidien, which is the catholic main Church in Brunswick.



Born in 1955, **BERNHARD SCHNEIDER** studied concert solo organ (in the class of Diethard Hellmann), music education, and Catholic sacred music at the Hochschule für Musik in Munich. A scholarship granted by the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes enabled him to pursue post-graduate studies in organ with André Luy in Lausanne (diploma: Premier Prix de la Virtuosité, 1982) and with Marie- Claire Alain in Paris (diploma: Premier Prix d'Excellence, 1983). Schneider completed his training as an active participant in masterclasses imparted by L. F. Tagliavini and N. Danby. From 1982 to 1986, Bernhard Schneider held the post of titular organist at the pilgrimage basilica in Altötting, Bavaria. In 1983, he was appointed to teach solo organ performance and improvisation at his alma mater.

Since 1986 he has been Regional Church Music Director and Organ Consultant of the Hildesheim diocese, as well as church musician at the Church of St. Aegidien in Braunschweig, where he directs the cathedral choir, alongside which he founded a choral academy and a chamber choir in 1993. In 2002, he initiated the church's own vocal school, where children and adults are introduced to sight singing and vocal technique. Schneider also taught liturgical organ performance and technical organ expertise at the School of Music and Theatre in Hannover from 1988 to 2004. Schneider has performed in Germany, Austria, Spain, and Switzerland. In concert series he has performed the complete works of César Franck, J. S. Bach, Max Reger, Mendelssohn, R. Schumann, Julius Reubke, J. Brahms, Maurice Duruflé, Franz Liszt, Charles-Marie Widor, Alexandre Guilmant, and Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach. His wide range of artistic activities is documented in a great number of recordings for radio broadcast as well as for CD, along with over 300 organ recordings on YouTube.



# ***CHILDREN'S CHOIR "DANUBE WAVES"***

***RUSE, BULGARIA***



**The children's choir "Danube waves"** is established in 1947. Currently the choir consists of two groups: one preparatory and one for concerts. The concert group includes 35 girls and boys at the ages from 11 to 17. The children's concert group includes about 25 children. Since 1992 the choir-master is Mrs. Vessela Todorova. The repertoire of the choir is highly varied. It includes compositions written by Bulgarian and foreign composers from different styles and periods.



Under the direction of Vessela Todorova the choir has taken part and won numerous prestigious awards among which: "Kibela" Lifetime Achievement Award - Razgrad, Bulgaria, 2008; 1-st prizes from the International choir festival "Zvuchit Moskva" in Moscow, 2006; "Friends of Bulgaria" - 2011; "Giuseppe Zelioli" Leko, Italy; 2016; Music and Sea Festival - Paralia, Greece, 2015. Grand Prix of the 12th International Choir Competition "Maestro Zahari Mednikarov" in Albena Resort in June 2015. 1-st prize and a nomination "The Future of Europe" from the International choir festival in Balchik and many awards from the festivals in Nushatel, Switzerland; Kantonigros, Spain; Istanbul, Turkey and "Prof. G. Dimitrov", Varna, Bulgaria.



**Vessela Todorova** graduated the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv where she was in the classical singing class of prof. Valentina Alexandrova and in the choral conducting class of the famous Bulgarian choir-master and pedagogue Krikor Chetinyan. She also studied orchestral conducting in the class of professor Ivan Spasov. These teachers heavily influenced her later development as a musician. Since 1992 she is the choir-master of "Danube waves" choir in her home town Ruse. Under her direction the choir has taken part in numerous prestigious festivals in Bulgaria and abroad. Mrs. Vessela Todorova is recipient of the Golden Badge of Ruse Municipality on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the choir. In the 32nd edition of the choral competition "Prof. Georgi Dimitrov", Varna 2010, she became the recipient of the special award "Best conductor of Bulgarian children's choir", established by dr. Garret Jenkins. In 2011 she received a special award for her work on the project - "Danube waves" choir - the need to be part of great art".



# CHILDREN'S CHOIR "RASSVET"

DMHSH "VESNA" - A.S. PONOMAREV

MOSCOW, RUSSIA



**Children's choir "Rassvet"** was established in 2018 as part of the famous Children's choir school "Vesna", named after A.S. Ponomarev. In this choir sing children from different ages, who cannot yet sing in the senior choir "Vesna". For its two-year of existence, the choir has achieved many successes: in 2019 the choir reached the second round of the competition of the Mayor of Moscow in the field of culture and arts in the section "Choral Singing"; in 2020 the choir became a First Degree Laureate in the XVIII International Competition "Moscow Sounds". They are also Laureates in the online competition "Premonition of Christmas" and "Patroness of Diligence" (St. Petersburg), "About Russia to Sing" (Moscow) and in the competition for Christmas songs (Daugavpils). Rassvet Choir participates in many annual choral concerts inside and outside the school.



**Tatiana Dmitrieva** is a graduate of the children's choir school "Vesna". She is a student of the world-famous choir conductor A. S. Ponomarev. In 1992 she graduated from the Nizhny Novgorod National Conservatory "M. I. Glinka".

Today Tatiana Dmitrieva leads the children's choir "Rassvet" and the chamber choir "Mart-Akord", which is a winner in many international competitions.

Tatiana Dmitrieva is a Laureate of the Grant of Moscow in the field of science and technology and in the field of education. She is also a Laureate of the President's Award. Every year she participates in the jury in Moscow, All-Russian and international competitions.



# OHANA YOUTH CHAMBER CHOIR

*SOFIA, BULGARIA*




**OHANA Youth Chamber Choir** was established in 2016 by the composer and conductor Dimitar Kostantsaliev as a natural follow-on their singing and theater activities in the Talasamche children's vocal and theater group. The diverse repertoire of the formation includes youth pop music, Slavonic church chants, classical and folk songs, popular music. This Formation continues the tradition of the Talasamche Children's Vocal-Theatral Formation and skillfully combines song,

dance and theater in its musical performance "The stars of Venice at the foot of Vitosha". The performance has been awarded prizes from national competitions for music and performing arts. OHANA Youth Chamber Choir won numerous awards (as a laureate, Grand-Prix and 1st place winner) at international choral music forums in the Czech Republic, Russia, Croatia, Moldova and Latvia.




**Dimitar Kostantsaliev** graduated from the Academy of Music and Dance in Plovdiv in 1988. He studied piano, composition and choral conducting. In 1994, he specialized composition at the State Academy of Music in Sofia. He began his musical career as an accompanist in the Slavic Unity choir in the town of Gorna Oryahovitsa. In 1986-1988 he led the Women's Chamber Choir in the town of Asenovgrad. In 1992 he formed the TALASAMCHE Children's Choir and in 2016 he founded the OHANA Youth Chamber Choir. In 2004, he became a member of the Union of Bulgarian Composers. Since 2011 he is the conductor of the Rodna Pesen Children's Choir, Pernik. He is an author of symphonic, chamber, choral, solo, popular and children's music. He created 13 musicals and over 500 children's songs. In 2007 the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria awarded him for high results and contribution to the development of Bulgarian culture. In 2019, the Municipality of Pernik awarded him for significant contribution and merits in the field of culture. As a composer and conductor, he won numerous international and national competitions awards.





# **CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHOIR SYMBOL OF ROMANIAN PATRIARCHATE BUCHAREST, ROMANIA**



**The “Symbol” Choir** was founded on September 18th, 1990 by professor Jean Lupu, under the high patronage, and with the blessing of Patriarch Teoctist, the former Head of the Romanian Orthodox Church.

The Symbol Children’s and Youth Choir of the Romanian Patriarchate has been a constant presence in the cultural and artistic life, both in Romania and abroad.

The Symbol Choir has diversified repertoires, including folklore work, Byzantine music, choral works of Romanian and foreign composers, but also Romanian and universal classical music, Christmas carols, Holy Matrimony songs and also Baptism etc.

“Symbol” has performed on the most prestigious scenes all over the country: the Palace Hall, the Radio Hall, the Romanian Athenaeum, the Opera House, the Music Academy, the Houses of the Parliament, the Cotroceni Palace, as well as in various churches and cathedrals from all over Romania. An emphasis should be stressed on the fact that The “George Enesco” National Philharmonic includes at least one concert of the “Symbol” choir every year.

The Symbol choir took part in international festivals and competitions, and received awards in Karditsa-Greece (1st Prize), Cantonigros-Spain (1st Prize), Chisinau-The Republic of Moldova (1st Prize), Noyon-France(2nd Prize), Bydgoszcz-Poland (2nd Prize), Vienna-Austria (1 Golden Medal and 1 Silver Medal), Varna-Bulgaria, Ohrid – Macedonia( 1st Prize), Preveza-Greece( 2 Gold Medals and 1st Prize), Venice-Italy (2 Gold Medals and 1 Silver Medal to Grand Prix ) and held concert tours in Greece, France, Belgium, The Republic of Moldova, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Russia, Spain, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Bulgaria and Canada.

The choir’s discography is also extremely impressive and extensive, counting over 100 choral works recorded for the National Radio Station, in Kardex, 16 LP’sp, other 17 CD’s and also a video cassette. On May 9, 1999 the “Symbol” choir had the honour of singing in the Holy Mass in the presence of Pope John Paul II. In 2017 the choir won the first edition of the National Contest “Gala of the Excelsior Awards”, being nominated to represent Romania at the “Eurovision Choir 2019”.

**Professor Jean Lupu**, the founder and also the choir conductor, has graduated the Orthodox Theological Seminar in Craiova, the “Radu Greceanu” high school in Slatina and later the National Music Academy in Timisoara and Bucharest. His activity and works include numerous articles about music, the book "Educating The Problematic Musical Hearing" and collections of songs for children and grown-ups, as well as textbooks for secondary school, high schools and the Pedagogical High School. He was the coordinator for the group that created the book with CD “The Universal Music Dictionary”



launched in June 2008. He wrote 44 songs for children gathered in the personal volume "Bugs and flowers". For 30 years he was a devoted teacher at the Pedagogical High School in Bucharest and at the same time municipal school inspector in the field of music until his retirement. After 35, 40 and consequently 60 years of choral conducting, professor Jean Lupu was three times awarded the "Patriarchal Cross", the highest distinction that the Romanian Orthodox Church can award somebody for exceptional merits and the he was also made a cleric. The Ministry of Education offered him the title of “outstanding professor” twice and, upon his retirement, the “diploma of excellence”. During the last decade, he has been awarded diplomas of excellence from several national organizations and institutions. In 2020 was decorated by the President of Romania with the Order of Cultural Merit in the rank of Knight.



**Luminița Guțanu Stoian**, Associate Professor, PhD, Director and Main Conductor of the „Symbol” Children’s and Youth Choir, Deputy Conductor of the “Nicolae Lungu” Choir of the Romanian Patriarchate, Conductor and Founder of the “Lyris” Choral Group (formerly known as “Ad Libitum”). She is the first female conductor of the “Nicolae Lungu” Choir of the Romanian Patriarchate. In 2015, she was awarded the “Best Conductor” Special Prize at the International Choral Competition in Preveza, Greece.

2016 and 2017- was included in the Dictionary of Personalities in Romania. 2016- was awarded the Order Sf.Martir Antim Iberia highest distinction of the Romanian Patriarchate by His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel. She is the author of 4 books and of over 60 studies published in national and international specialized magazines.

She has worked with the Romanian Opera in Iași as a guest-conductor (on the premiere of “The Amorous Indies” by Jean Baptiste Rameau, directed by Andrei Șerban, 2012) and as a conductor at the “George Enescu” Festival (2013) and the International Week of New Music (guest-conductor of the “Preludiu” Chamber Choir (at the 23rd, 24th and 25th editions – in 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively).



# *THE DETSKA KITKA CHOIR*

*PLOVDIV, BULGARIA*



The Detska Kitka Choir was founded in 1947, when an enthusiastic group of students, led by the music teacher Anastas Marinkev, decided to form a choir for children and school-age students in Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second largest city.

It was known as The Plovdiv young Pioneer's Choir till 1969. In 1970 the then conductor Georgi Samardzhiev and the assistant conductor Zlatina Deliradeva, together with the singers, decided to give it a new name: The Detska Kitka.

Zlatina Deliradeva became the choir's general artistic director in 1972. Under her skillful guidance the choir won numerous awards from prestigious competitions all over Bulgaria, as well as in Slovenia, Hungary, the Netherlands, Spain, Germany, Belgium and the Czech Republic.

In 2003 Yana - Zlatina's daughter - started work with the Detska Kitka as an assistant conductor, and she took charge of the choir as its principal conductor at 2011.

The choir's biography features more than 50 concert tours in Austria, Belgium, Bosna and Herzegovina, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Serbia, Turkey, Hungary, France, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Sweden, as well as performances at over 20 international festivals.

Today the three ensembles of the Detska Kitka - preparatory, intermediate and concert - consist of a total of 120 girls, aged from 7 to 19, from 35 different schools in the city. There are three more faculty on the team: Sonya Zapryanova (pianist), Nikolina Karmazliyska and Julia Uzunova (vocal coaches).

The Detska Kitka is one of the leading choirs in Bulgaria. It is always abreast of the latest world tendencies in vocal performance and seeks to spread the popularity of choral singing and its underlying beauty.







**Zlatina Deliradeva** was educated at the Bulgarian State Conservatory, where she studied with Prof. Georgi Dimitrov and Prof. Samuil Vidas. Her career began in 1967 when she took up teaching posts at the Secondary Music School and the Higher Institute of Music Teacher Training in Plovdiv. She was appointed as principal conductor of the Detska Kitka girls' choir of Plovdiv in 1972. In the 1970s, 80s and 90s, Mrs. Deliradeva established Detska Kitka as an internationally recognized choral group by winning a number of awards from competitions across Europe, such as those in Celje (Slovenia), Debrezen (Hungary), Arnhem (the Netherlands), Varna (Bulgaria), Cantonigros (Spain), Halle (Germany) and Maasmechelen (Belgium). With Detska Kitka, she also won the Grand Prix of the International Festival for Advent and Christmas Music in Prague (2006), a distinction earned in competition with 63 choirs from three continents.

Zlatina Deliradeva is a Professor of Choral Conducting

at the Plovdiv Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. Between 1999 and 2008, she was the Academy's Vice-Rector of Artistic Affairs and Postgraduate Studies. Prof. Deliradeva is the recipient of the Best Conductor Award from the international choral competition in Celje (Slovenia); the Golden Lyre Award of the Union of Bulgarian Musicians and Dancers, the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture and Radio FM Classic; the St. St. Cyril and Methodius Order; the City of Plovdiv Award for Music, and the Copper Chan Award of the Plovdiv Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. She is an Honorary Citizen of her native Chirpan and the recipient of the Honorary Sign of the City of Plovdiv. Prof. Deliradeva took part in the first edition of the Dobri Voynikov Children's and Youth Choral Festival back in 1971 as the Detska Kitka's leader. She is scheduled to appear at its 26th edition this year.

**Yana Deliradeva** studied choral conducting in Bulgaria with prof. Nikola Lipov and with Prof. Georgi Robev. She completed an M.A. in Choral Conducting with Prof. Joseph Flummerfelt at the Westminster Choir College in Princeton, USA. Between 2000 and 2002 she worked as Assistant Conductor of Princeton's Westminster Conservatory Choir. Yana began work as Assistant Conductor of the Detska Kitka Choir in 2003. She is the choir's Principal Conductor since 2011. Her work with the Detska Kitka Choir aims at building new audiences through exploring new repertoire and collaborating with artists from different fields, while adhering to the tradition of technical and artistic excellence established by the choir's previous conductors. She is also an Assistant Professor of Choral Conducting teaches at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. In 2015, Yana led a conducting workshop at the Let the Future Sing International Youth Choir Festival in Stockholm, Sweden, and became the first recipient of the newly founded Veneta Vicheva Best Conductor Award at the 23rd Dobri Voynikov International Children's and Youth Choir Festival in Shumen, Bulgaria. In 2017 she received an Award for Best Conductor Award at the 7th International Choir Festival Chernomorski zvutsi in Balchik, Bulgaria and the Crystal Lyre Award of the Union of Bulgarian Musicians and Dancers. Since 2018 she's also worked as a vocal coach at the Kids' Academy of the Plovdiv State Opera.





# ST. FLORIANER SÄNGERKNABEN

AUSTRIA



The convent St. Florian located in the heart of Austria (between the music metropolis' Vienna and Salzburg) is not only one of Austria's most magnificent baroque structures, but is also one of the most significant cultural centres. Founded in 1071 the **St. Florian Boys' Choir** is one of the Boys' Choirs with the most tradition in the world. The famous composer Anton Bruckner, who was buried under "his" organ in the convent cathedral, also emanated from the Boys' Choir, as did numerous other great musicians.



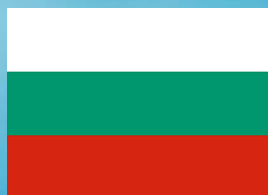
Production of sacred music is still one of the most important functions of the boys' choir. Apart from this, they are also musical ambassadors for Austria everywhere in the world. Throughout the past decade, the choir has travelled all over the world, participating in significant musical festivals (amongst others, the Salzburg Festival, Vienna Festival, Festival d'Aix en Provence) repeatedly cooperating with the famous orchestras (Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Bruckner Orchester ...) and conductors. Franz Welser-Möst, director of the Cleveland Orchestra and former director of music of the Vienna State Opera, is the honorary president of the society "Friends of the St. Florian Boys' Choir".

Soloists of the St. Florian Boys' Choir regularly sing the parts composed for boys (e. g. the "Three Boys" in Mozart's "Magic flute" in great opera houses (Vienna, Salzburg, Linz, Berlin, Verona, Barcelona, Aix en Provence, amongst others) and on CD (Rene Jacobs).



Born in 1991 in Upper Austria, **Markus Stumpner** was a member of the St. Florian Boys Choir from 2000 to 2006, where he soon became one of the leading soprano soloists. As a member of the choir he toured in numerous concerts world-wide. As a soloist, he performed, among other roles, the second child spirit in Mozart's Magic Flute and the leading role, Miles, in Benjamin Britten's The Turn of the Screw in major opera houses (including Berlin, Salzburg and Aix-en-Provence).

After graduating from the Adalbert Stifter Gymnasium (secondary school) in 2010, he studied voice (with Kurt Azesberger) and Choral Conducting (with Georg Leopold) at the Anton Bruckner Private University. Since autumn 2018 he is Choirmaster of the St. Florian Boys Choir, with whom he had worked as a vocal instructor since 2013.



# TALASAMCHE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

*SOFIA, BULGARIA*



**Talasmche children's choir** was formed in 1992. Its creator and artistic director is Dimitar Kostantsaliev – composer and conductor. Its repertoire includes children's pop music, Slavonic Church Chants, classical and folk music as well as contemporary pop music.

The choir enriches the tradition of choir singing with dance and theater skillfully combined with 13 musical and musical performances. Talasmche children's choir participates in co-productions of Musical theater Stefan Makedonski, the National Sofia Opera and the Bulgaria Hall.

The choir promotes new Bulgarian children's songs as part of New Bulgarian music. It participates in charity concerts organized by various public organizations and foundations. Talasmche choir won numerous awards (as a laureate, Grand-Prix and first place winner) at international choral music forums in Spain, Turkey, Italy, Austria, the Czech Republic, Russia, Croatia, Moldova and Latvia.



**Dimitar Kostantsaliev** graduated from the Academy of Music and Dance in Plovdiv in 1988. He studied piano, composition and choral conducting. In 1994, he specialized composition at the State Academy of Music in Sofia. He began his musical career as an accompanist in the Slavic Unity choir in the town of Gorna Oryahovitsa. In 1986-1988 he led the Women's Chamber Choir in the town of Asenovgrad. In 1992 he formed the TALASAMCHE Children's Choir and in 2016 he founded the OHANA Youth Chamber Choir. In 2004, he became a member of the Union of Bulgarian Composers. Since 2011 he is the conductor of the Rodna Pesen Children's Choir, Pernik. He is an author of symphonic, chamber, choral, solo, popular and children's music. He created 13 musicals and over 500 children's songs. In 2007 the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria awarded him for high results and contribution to the development of Bulgarian culture. In 2019, the Municipality of Pernik awarded him for significant contribution and merits in the field of culture. As a composer and conductor, he won numerous international and national competitions awards.



*CHILDREN-ADOLESCENT CHORUS*  
*“BULGARIAN NIGHTINGALE”*  
*SOFIA, BULGARIA*



**Children-Adolescent Chorus**  
**“Bulgarian Nightingale”** was

established 1975 from the notable Bulgarian conductor Prof. Lidia Giuleva and Prof. Emil Ianev as a children's subdivision of women chorus “Hristina Morfova” - Sofia. In the choir sing children and young people aged 4 to 19 and its repertoire consists of works by Bulgarian and foreign composers.



The children's choir has won a variety of laureate prizes and golden medals from national festivals - 5, 6, 7, - Bulgaria., 1st prize from festivals in Moscow - 1980 and 1989, Czech - 1983 and 1985 and Greece - 1994 and 2013. Also has participated in numerous group performances and made independent concerts inside and outside the capital-Sofia.

Has worked on records both with Bulgarian National Radio and Television. Chorus is made up only from kids and adolescence - from 4 to 19 years old, performing a repertoire from Bulgarian and foreign composers.



**Neolina Pelova** has been working as choirmaster and 2nd conductor from 1983 and as a principal conductor from 2007. She has studied and graduated both high school and university in Sofia with specialties Piano and Conducting. As a pianist she is a winner of 2nd prize in Middlebrook, England - 1976 and 5th prize in Senigallia, Italy - 1977. Neolina has taken part with the chorus on numerous concerts inside and outside Bulgaria. Working closely with Nadezda Tsankova, who has been the choir pianist since the establishment.





# *CARMEN ARGESSI CHOIR*

*PITEȘTI, ARGES COUNTY, ROMANIA*



„Carmen Argessi” Choir of Sound Music Art was founded in 2015 and since then it has participated in many national and international contests and festivals. The children from the choir are of different ages and they come from different schools and highscools from Pitești, Argeș county. The repertory of the choir includes folk music, modern music, international pieces.



From the choir's activity, there can be mentioned: Distinction for the Best Children Choir in 2015, given by the Arges County Council, Grand Trophee in „George Sbîrcea” National Choir Contest, 2016, Sfântu Gheorghe, Romania, Second prize in „Emanoil Popescu International Choir Contest”, Pitești, 2017, Second prize in Antonio Vivaldi International Choir Competition, Pitești, 2018, Participation in Balkan Folk Fest, Varna, Bulgaria, 2017, Participation in International Folk Festival „Lihnidos-City of light”, Ohrid, Macedonia - 2017, Participation in Women and Girls Choir Festival „Lilia Gyuleva” Târgovishte, Bulgaria, 2019, Second prize in International Music Competition (online) Belgrade, Serbia, 2020, etc.



**Cornelia Ionescu** is specialized in Contemporary Music Education at the University of Pitești and Transilvania Brașov. She teaches piano lessons at „Dinu Lipatti” Music High School in Pitești. She is the founder and the conductor of Carmen Argessi Children and Youth Choir, choir that participated and was distinguished with many prizes in National and International Choir Competitions and Festivals.



# ***BODRA SMYANA CHOIR***

***SOFIA, BULGARIA***



**The Bodra Smyana choir** at National children`s palace was founded in December 1946 by the famous conductor and music pedagogue Boncho Bochev, who led the choir to his death in 1975. Under his leadership, the choir received worldwide recognition. The numerous concert tours in the world and the prestigious awards are only a material expression of the admiration of the audience.

Lilyana Bocheva continues the work of her father, and under her leadership "Bodra smyana" has established itself as



one of the best children's choirs in the world. After the death of Lilyana Bocheva in September 2005, the conducting was taken over by her long-term collaborator and accompanist Svetla Beshovishka, who worthily continued the tradition of Boncho and Lilyana Bochevi. Since September 2010 Alexander Kochkov is elected to the prestigious position of the choir's Maestro. Under his leadership the choir participated in the production of "La bohème" at the National Sofia Opera, concerts for the National Palace for Children together with the Pioneer Philharmonic, Orthodox music festivals, the "New Bulgarian Music" forum of the "Union of the Bulgarian Composers" in 2012. In the same year the choir was invited to participate in the performance of "Carmina Burana" by Carl Orff together with the Bulgarian Radio Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Emil Tabakov, with enormous success. In the following years, the choir continued its successful participation in numerous festivals, performed together with the Sofia Philharmonic, gave solo concerts, expanded its repertoire and increased the number of its choristers. In 2018 "Bodra smyana" was invited for a solo concert by the Bulgarian community in Budapest, and in 2019 the choir was awarded with the grand prize of the Municipality of Ohrid for its participation in the Days of Bulgarian Culture.



**Alexander Kochkov** graduated the National Academy of Music "Pancho Vladigerov" in the class of Prof. Georgi Robev. He worked with various choirs as a choirmaster and conductor. In 2002 he created the Accent Chamber Choir, with which he won a silver medal at the competition "Sacra Music" - Prague, 2003.

Since 1997 he works in the National Palace of Children as a leader of various children's musical formations, creating concert performances and recordings.

Since 2010 Maestro Kochkov is the conductor of the Bodra Smyana choir.



## **MIXED CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHOIR**

# **"ZVANIKA"**

## **PLEVEN, BULGARIA**



Created in 1984 **Children and youth choir ZVANIKA** and hundreds of girls and boys from Pleven have been a part of the beauty of choral art for 36 years and turning part of their childhood into a real musical fairy tale. Winners of many and increasingly prestigious awards from national and international competitions, including several GRAN PRIX awards.



For the past period, the choir "ZVANIKA" has realized over 1600 concerts, 29 overseas participations in choir festivals and competitions in Europe and Asia. On the occasion of the 35th anniversary and for the high artistic results achieved by the Pleven choir "ZVANIKA" the award GOLDEN LIRA was awarded to SMTD. Creator and current artistic director - Mrs. Ivanka Deliyska



**Ivanka Deliyska** - Creator and current Conductor of the children and youth choir "Zvanika" at CPLR-CRD in Pleven.

For the past 36 years, she has won the children's interest and love for the choral art of hundreds of children from Pleven and the region. It turns the practice room into a real place for creativity and long-term friendships between children and young people of different ages.

In 2005 she published the book Letter to the "ZVANIKA",

Holder of: The honorary plaque of the Parliament, Diploma "Neofit Rilski",

Honorary plaque of the city of Pleven,

Award for the most outstanding music director from the first edition of the National Patriotism Competition in Panagyurishte,

Golden lira of SMTD and others.

Deserving citizen of Pleven.



# YOUTH MIXED CHOIR OF THE MUSIC SCHOOL “JOSIF MARINKOVIĆ” ZRENJANIN, SERBIA



The choir was founded in 1961, when Music school was established. Its members are talented teenage students of High music school “Josif Marinkovic” who are all passionately devoted to music. The conductor of the choir is Zorica Kozlovacki since 2004. The repertoire is very diverse, giving an opportunity to the students so they can learn different styles and genres, and includes original choral songs and choral arrangements of Serbian and foreign composers, both accompanied and a cappella. The choir has been part of cultural life in Zrenjanin, regularly performs at concerts and participates in projects, competitions and festivals in the country and abroad and since 2006. has won 46 awards, most of them are first places and gold medals. The choir are especially proud of the prizes: Gold medal in 2011 – Graz, first place in 20018, 2010 – Neerpelt, gold diplomas as winner of the category 2010 – Bad Ischl, 2012, 2016 – Bratislava and special prize 2018 – Ohrid. Singers are singing directly from the heart and each of performance is full of positive emotions and love that the audience does not leave indifferent.



Conductor **Zorica Kozlovacki**, is a smiling woman in little black dress, who transmits energy and emotions, usually of joy and love. She adores her choir and wants to provoke in its members feelings of love for choral singing and music, and she is good in it! She has a Master of Music degree, Choral Conducting from the Arts Academy in Novi Sad, Serbia. She conducts: Youth mixed choir of the music school Josif Marinkovic, Mixed choir Pannonica, Male vocal ensemble Pannonica and sing first alto in Vocal quartet Vita Brevis. She also writes a blog about choral singing.





# ***THE BULGARIAN NATIONAL RADIO CHILDREN'S CHOIR***

***SOFIA, BULGARIA***



**The Bulgarian National Radio Children's Choir** was established in 1960. The founder of the choir, its artistic director and chief conductor until 2013 was the famous choir specialist Academician Hristo Nedyalkov.

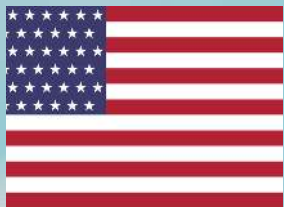
The concert activity of the Children's Radio Choir spreads on four continents: the young Bulgarian singers have performed over 2000 concerts in the most famous concert halls such as Royal Albert Hall - London, Philharmonic Hall - New York, Forbidden City Concert Hall - Beijing, Beethovenhalle - Bonn, Tchaikovsky Hall, Glinka Hall - Moscow, Musikverein - Wien, Dvořák Hall - Prague, Ferenc Liszt Hall and Béla Bartók Concert Hall in Palace of Arts MUPA - Budapest, Suntory Hall - Tokyo, St. David's Hall - Cardiff, Orvis Auditorium - Honolulu, Palacio de Bellas Artes - Mexico, and many other cities in nearly thirty-five countries. In Japan alone, the choir has performed more than 500 concerts. In 2015, the choir was awarded the Honorary Plaque of the National Assembly, as well as the "Golden Pen" Award of Classic FM radio for contribution to the development of Bulgarian culture. In the same year its conductor - Venetsia Karamanova was awarded the "Golden Age" award of the Ministry of Culture with a diploma and seal of Simeon the Great. During the last decade the Children's Radio Choir was awarded many more prestigious awards - a badge of honor of "Bulgaria is you" Foundation for contribution to Bulgarian society and Bulgarian culture; a honorary diploma of Mr. Takashi Koizumi - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Bulgaria /2015/; a diploma of Mr. Taro Kono, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan /2019/ for outstanding contribution to the development of cultural relations, mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Bulgaria. In 2015 the Children's Radio Choir received the high award "Crystal Lyre" in the category of Choral Art of the Union of Bulgarian Music and Dance Artists and Classic FM radio for excellence on home stage during the year, as well as the prize "Ensemble of the Year" in "Musician of the year" ranking for 2016 of Allegro Vivace classical music show of BNR.



Since 2013 up to present days the choir has been led by the longtime conductor **Venetsia Karamanova**. She joined the Bulgarian National Radio Children's Choir as a conductor in 1978. As a former assistant and student of Maestro Nedyalkov, she preserves and successfully continues to develop the inherited tradition.

Venetsia Karamanova was born in 1951 in the town of Ruse. She graduated from the State Musical School "Lyubomir Pipkov"-Sofia, majoring in Piano, and State Musical Academy "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov" with a degree in Choral Conducting and Piano. She was a lecturer in choral conducting at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", New Bulgarian University and National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts "Krastyo Sarafov". In the period 2006-2011 she was the chairman of the Bulgarian Choir Union at the Union of Bulgarian Musicians and Dancers. Venetsia Karamanova has been awarded the "Best Conductor" title four times in Bulgaria and abroad.





# ***THE NEW WORLD SINGERS COLUMBUS CHILDREN'S CHOIR***

***COLUMBUS, OHIO, USA***



## **The New World Singers of Columbus Children's Choir**

Praised as "rare, radiant, and beautiful" by composer Nick Page, the New World Singers of Columbus Children's Choir are no strangers to the public arena.

Conducted by Artistic Director Jeanne Wohlgamuth and comprising students in sixth through twelfth grade, the New World Singers possess the technique and artistry to perform with word-class ensembles such as the Columbus Symphony.

Columbus Children's Choir has had the honor of performing in some of the most prestigious national venues, including the White House. On the international stage, the New World Singers have performed in Germany, Russia, Italy, France, Canada, Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, and Spain. In 2010 and 2019 they were awarded first place in The American Prize in Choral Performance in the youth choir division.

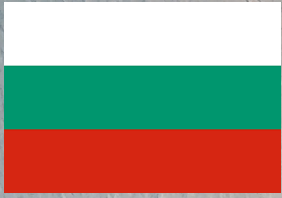
This year marks the 25th season of Columbus Children's Choir. Columbus Children's Choir serves 500+ students and teachers with educational offerings including educator workshops, master classes, clinics, and our longstanding programs for children in kindergarten through twelfth grade—all with the mission of fostering the personal growth of children through meaningful experiences in music education and vocal performance. Columbus Children's Choir is generously supported by the Ohio Arts Council, the Columbus Foundation, Kiwanis Club of Columbus, LCNB Bank, and SBA.



### Conductor **Jeanne Wohlgamuth**

Celebrated for her artistic vision and top-tier choirs, **Jeanne Wohlgamuth** is a champion for choral education. Since beginning her tenure as Columbus Children's Choir artistic director in the spring of 2011, Ms. Wohlgamuth has paved the way for a new and exciting era of the organization. Under her direction the New World Singers received a special invitation to sing with the Vienna Boy's Choir while on a tour of Austria and Hungary in 2017. Beyond tours and accolades, she has expanded community engagement efforts to make Columbus Children's Choir a point of pride for our city. Ms. Wohlgamuth currently serves as vocal affairs chair for the Ohio Music Education Association, and sits on the repertoire and resources committee for the Ohio Choral Directors Association as the community children's choir resource and repertoire chair.

Ms. Wohlgamuth is proud to be the recipient of the Teacher of the Year award from Dublin Jerome High School, Karrer Middle School, Wright Elementary, and Bowen Elementary School in Kentwood, Michigan. She was also honored with the Golden Shamrock Award for Excellence in Education from Dublin City Schools and the Community Champion Award presented by the Dublin Chamber of Commerce. In 2020 she was honored as the Organization of American Kodály Educator's National Teacher of the Year and this year she was nominated into the Jerome High School Hall of Fame. In 2023 Ms. Wohlgamuth will lead her first choral festival/residency at Carnegie Hall with singers from across the United States.



# *CHILDREN'S CHOIR „MILKA STOEVA“*

## *BURGAS, BULGARIA*



**Milka Stoeva Children's Choir** is a representative formation of a choir school at Youth Cultural Center, Burgas city. It was established 74 years ago by the famous conductor, music composer and pedagogue Boris Ibrishimov. Over the years and due to the creative work of its longtime conductor - Milka Stoeva, The Burgas Choir has won a place among the most prominent children's groups in the country. He is the bearer of the best choral traditions since the establishment



of the first children's formations in Bulgaria. Hundreds of Burgas children have passed through the ranks of this ensemble, forming in themselves a love for music and arts. The Burgas Choir has made a huge contribution to the popularization of children's songs. The young singers have recorded more than 400 songs, successfully realizing for more than 30 years, the first of its kind National Children's Song Contest "Sweet - Voiced Lark", where some of the most popular and favorite children's songs in Bulgaria started. Children's Choir "Milka Stoeva" is a winner of many prestigious international awards and prizes from competitions and festivals. He spread the fame of the good Bulgarian choral school in many countries all over the world - Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Poland, Hungary, Germany, Italy, Belgium, France, Spain, Sweden, Russia, Turkey, Greece.



**Svetla Stoeva** is the leader of Milka Stoeva's Choral School and conductor of Milka Stoeva Children's Choir. She graduated from the Bulgarian State Conservatory, Sofia, a graduate of Prof. Samuil Vidas and Prof. Stoyan Kralev. Svetla Stoeva's entire professional career is dedicated to the children's choir and the choral school in Burgas. After the death of Milka Stoeva - the irreplaceable teacher of the Choir "Milka Stoeva", Svetla Stoeva took over the management of the school. Svetla Stoeva was awarded for honorary citizenship of Burgas and other honorary badges of the city for long-term contribution in the field of culture and art.





# *THE PLOVDIV BOYS' CHOIR* *„STEFKA BLAGOEVA“* *PLOVDIV, BULGARIA*



**The Plovdiv Boys' Choir** was established in late 1975, and since 2003 it bears the name of its founder and long-time leader Stefka Blagoeva (1938-2000).

The repertoire includes children's songs, classical and contemporary choral and cantata-oratorio works by Bulgarian and foreign authors, arrangements of Bulgarian folklore, Eastern Orthodox music.

The choir performs actively in Bulgaria and abroad. It participates in concerts with



symphony, chamber, brass and jazz orchestras, in television shows and in operas such as Tosca, Carmen, Hansel and Gretel, Carmina Burana, Attila, Turandot and so on. Under the direction of conductor Milka Toledova, in creative collaboration with Julia Petrova - choirmaster and pianist, the choir has successfully toured and participated in international choral festivals and competitions in: Bulgaria, Italy, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Sweden, Turkey, Greece, Russia, Ukraine and other countries.

**Milka Toledova** has studied at the Dobri Hristov Music High School of Varna and then at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts Professor Asen Diamandiev in Plovdiv.

Between 1979 and 1991 she successively worked as a teacher at Music High School of Shiroka Laka and as a music teacher and teaching trainer at Aleko Konstantinov Primary School in Plovdiv.

Between 1991 and 2019 she was a lecturer at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts Professor Asen Diamandiev. She was awarded the academic prize Medeniat Chan (2005) and the Award of the Rector of AMDFA (2009 and 2017). She is a member of expert groups with the Ministry of Education and Science and participates in educational projects, conducts further trainings for music teachers;



she presides the national committee of the music competition Key of Music, and she is also the author of textbooks in musical education for students in grades 2 to 10 with Izkustva publishing. She began working with the Plovdiv Boys' Choir while she was still a student, initially as solfeggio teacher and conductor of the Little Choir, later as assistant and since 1996 as conductor. Under the direction of Milka Toledova the choir has performed successfully around Bulgaria and abroad, participated in national and international choral festivals and competitions, in opera performances, and has recorded multiple albums.



# VOCAL FORMATION

## "MORSKI PESACHINKI"

### BURGAS, BULGARIA



**Vocal formation "Morski pesachinki"** was created in 2003 and is made up of kids ranging from kindergarten age to students, separated in two age groups. The formation has won many prestigious awards both in national and international competitions. Some of them include: Grand Prix in National competition "Harmony" - Stara Zagora, Grand Prix in National competition "Orpheus spring", Grand Prix in International competition "Trixie" - Albena,

Grand Prix in National competition "Christmas confession" - Kiustendil, Grand Prix in National competition "Road to glory" - Sofia 2020, The Grand Prize for category "Vocal Formations" in National competition "Fifteen tulips" - Hisaria 2020, The Grand Prize for category "Vocal formations" in National competition "BELIEVE, WANT, CAN" - Sofia 2020, Grand Prix in National competition "River notes", Grand Prix in National competition "Song pallete" - Karlovo 2021 and many more. The formation has also held concerts both in Bulgaria and abroad - both in the Czech Republic, as well as in Austria. "Morski pesuchinki" is an irreplaceable part of the cultural life in Burgas. In addition to its four released albums it also has many successful commercial and television music videos. The formation has always impressed listeners with its rich repertoire of various styles - such as bulgarian folkore, pop and rock music.



**Milena Dobрева** was born in the city of Burgas. Graduate of SMU - Burgas, AMTII - Plovdiv, Pop and jazz singing - NMA "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov" and Music Media Technologies and Sound Directing at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". Teacher of pop and jazz singing and piano at Sofia University "Dimcho Debelyanov" and pop and jazz singing and vocal ensembles at NUMSI "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov" - Burgas (from 2011 to 2017). He is also the conductor of the mixed choir "Rodna pesen" at the Municipality of Burgas.

Founder and leader of the Children's Vocal Ensemble "Morski pesuchinki" - winner of prizes in national and international music competitions and festivals. He recorded and released 4 solo albums of the children's band, as well as one of the vocal ensemble "Fortissimo" created and led by her. Composer and arranger of popular and children's songs.

Winner of the First Prize of the competition "Teacher of the Year" of the Republic of Bulgaria - 2008 and the prestigious award "Burg of the Year - 2018", as well as the award for conductor's mastery "Prof. Veneta Vicheva" at the XXV Choir Festival "Dobri Voynikov" - Shumen 2019. She graduated from a Master Class for choir conductors led by Maestro Frieder Bernius - 2019. Founder and conductor of the Fortissimo Vocal Ensemble.



# AURELIUS SÄNGERKNABEN CALW

## CALW, GERMANY



**The boys' choir Aurelius Sängerknaben Calw** has been supervised by its musical director Bernhard Kugler since the spring of 2008.

The choir was founded in 1983 by Hans-Jörg Kalmbach and soon developed into a highly sought-after ensemble. The Aurelius Choir focuses on sacred and secular choral music and performs a-cappella-works and large-scale oratorio compositions

from various musical periods

The choir has worked with renowned philharmonic orchestras (Vienna, Stuttgart, Berlin) and distinguished conductors (Dan Ettinger, Jonathan Nott, Daniel Barenboim and Pierre Boulez).

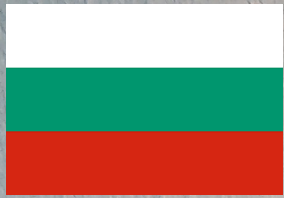
Aurelius has won numerous awards, incl. First Prize in the German Choir competition. The choir has also gained a reputation within the context of boy soloists: the Aurelius soloists regularly sing the trio in Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Magic Flute at major opera houses in Germany and abroad (Berlin, Dresden, Paris, Amsterdam, Madrid), under famous conductors including Sir Simon Rattle und Philippe Jordan.



**Bernhard Kugler** is director and principal conductor of the Aurelius Sängerknaben Calw since spring 2008.

After Bernhard Kugler graduated with a degree in sacred music from the Musikhochschule Stuttgart he was employed as cantor at the St. John's Church in Tübingen. Thereafter he became cathedral cantor in Rottenburg am Neckar as well as principal conductor of the Rottenburg Domsingknaben until 2007.

Bernhard Kugler lectures organ improvisation and choral conducting at the College of Sacred Music in Rottenburg. He is a juror at international choir competitions, and edits and arranges choral and orchestral music as well as compositions for the organ.



# VOCAL ENSEMBLE "FORTISSIMO"

BURGAS, BULGARIA



**Vocal ensemble "Fortissimo" was created in 2014 in Bourgas.**

Polyphonic sound of arrangements of Bulgarian folk songs, pop and rock music inspired the ensemble to participate in the TV format "Game of the Choirs". The next few months led to the deserved first prize, which was followed by the participation in the festival "On Stage" 2016 in Prague. In 2017 they won 1st prize in the category " Chamber choirs" in XXXVIIIth International May Choir Competition „ Prof. Georgi Dimitrov".



There they and the special award of the Bulgarian Choral Union for most attractive participation. July they participated in the European Choir Games and Grand Prix of Nations in Riga, Latvia 2017. they earned the gold medal and the title of winners in the category "Chamber choirs & Vocal Ensembles" along with the big Award Grand Prix of Nations in the same category.

Throughout the course of 2018 "Fortissimo" participated in the World Choir Games in South Africa where they won two gold medals and the champion's title in the "Vocal Ensembles" category.

In 2019 they won again two gold medals during the European Choir Games and Grand Prix of Nations in Gothenburg, Sweden and became finalists during the EBU's competition "Let The Peoples Sing" in Spain 2019, gold medal in "Rimini International Choral Competition" - 2020 and many others. In 2018 the Ensemble released their first solo album, they have had concerts in countries such as the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, Latvia, South Africa and many cities in Bulgaria, of course. In 2018 they won the prestigious award "Ensemble of the year" of the National Radio of Bulgaria.



**Milena Dobрева** was born in the city of Burgas. Graduate of SMU - Burgas, AMTII - Plovdiv, Pop and jazz singing - NMA "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov" and Music Media Technologies and Sound Directing at Sofia University " St. Kliment Ohridski ". Teacher of pop and jazz singing and piano at Sofia University "Dimcho Debelyanov" and pop and jazz singing and vocal ensembles at NUMSI "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov" - Burgas (from 2011 to 2017). He is also the conductor of the mixed choir "Rodna pesen" at the Municipality of Burgas.

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Founder and conductor of the Fortissimo Vocal Ensemble.



**MEMBERS OF THE JURY**  
**FOR**  
**THE AWARD FOR CONDUCTOR'S MASTERY**  
**"PROF. VENETA VICHEVA"**



**Tomislav Vichev** is the nephew of Prof. Veneta Vicheva and in 2015 he established the award for conductor's mastery "Prof. Veneta Vicheva". The award is provided by the Foundation "Prof. Veneta Vicheva" with chairman Tomislav Vichev, and it is awarded at the Dobri Voynikov International Children's and Youth Choral Gala Days.

The first winner of the award is Yana Deliradeva - conductor of the Detska Kitka choir, Plovdiv, Bulgaria; in 2017 was awarded László Durányik - conductor of the AURIN choir from Kecskemét, Hungary, and in 2019 - Milena Dobрева - conductor of VF "Fortissimo", Burgas, Bulgaria.



Tomislav Vichev is a musician, pianist, author of articles and books. He started taking piano lessons at the age of five. Later he studied at the Lyubomir Pipkov Music School in Sofia under the guidance of Ana Ilievska. Until his graduation he participated in many concerts throughout Bulgaria - solo and for piano and orchestra. In 1990 he was admitted to the National Music Academy "Pancho Vladigerov" in the class of Prof. Stella Dimitrova. He also completed a postgraduate qualification in chamber music with Prof. Ventseslav Nikolov.

Participates in many concerts and projects. He works as a pianist at the Musical Theater "Stefan Makedonski" Sofia and in the Sofia Opera. He plays in the musicals "Jesus Christ Superstar", "Sunset Boulevard", "Mama Mia" and others. He has numerous appearances in Japan, South Korea and China. In the last few years he has been actively involved in teaching piano lessons. His methods are suitable for both children and adults.







**MEMBERS OF THE JURY  
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**Theodora Pavlovitch** is a Professor in choral conducting and a Head of Conducting and Composition Department of the Bulgarian National Academy of Music. In her artistic life she has worked with The Bulgarian National TV-choir (1986 -1991) and Vassil Arnaudov Sofia Chamber Choir (from 1991 and recently). Under her baton the choir won prestigious awards at international competitions, took part in many high-level international festivals, in TV and radio-programs, concert tours in 25 countries. Since 2005 Theodora Pavlovitch is also a permanent conductor of the Classic FM Radio Choir.

In 2007/2008 she conducted the World Youth Choir, honoured by UNESCO with the title Artist for Peace, recognizing the WYC's success as a platform for intercultural dialogue through music.



Prof. PhD Theodora Pavlovitch is frequently invited as a member of Jury-panels at a number of international choral competitions, conductor and a lecturer at prestigious international events in 25 European countries, USA, Japan, Russia, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Israel and Argentina. In 2005 she led a Master class for choral conductors in the program of the 7th World Symposium on Choral Music in Kyoto, Japan.

For her artistic achievements Prof. PhD Theodora Pavlovitch has been awarded Golden Century – Star - National Award bestowed by the Minister of Culture of Bulgaria, Golden Lyre by the Union of Bulgarian Musicians, several Special Prizes of the Bulgarian Choir's Union and Classic FM Radio.





**MEMBERS OF THE JURY**  
**FOR**  
**THE AWARD FOR CONDUCTOR'S MASTERY**  
**"PROF. VENETA VICHEVA"**



**Dr. Madlen Batchvarova**, Professor of Music and Director of Choral Programs at Hanover College, Indiana, is a dynamic conductor, clinician, music educator, pianist, singer, and a GRAMMY Award recipient, who is equally adept with classical and multicultural repertoire. She works with undergraduate students teaching conducting, voice, piano, and music history and leads the college choirs.

Under her direction the Hanover choirs have performed and toured in Bulgaria, Austria, New York, Chicago, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois and Indiana.

A native of Bulgaria, Batchvarova completed a master's degree in her home country and another masters and a doctoral degree in the United States.



Dr. Batchvarova has honed her ability to communicate with choirs while performing and recording under the baton of Maestro Robert Shaw and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and Chamber Chorus. She has performed, conducted and presented her scholarly work at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, New York, Musikverein, Vienna; the Palace of Culture in Sofia, Bulgaria; the Royal Academy of Music, London; universities in Spain and Portugal, and at state and division conferences of the American Choral Directors Association. She is a regular member of juries at national and international vocal and choral competitions and festivals in the United States and Europe. With organist David Lamb, Batchvarova has released a piano-organ duet CD, "Duetti Capricciosi," found on amazon.com. She has presented chamber music concert tours in Bulgaria and the United States and has performed as a guest conductor in the United States, Austria, Portugal, Canada and Bulgaria. Batchvarova has served on the Indiana State, the ACDA Central and Midwestern Regions executive boards as Chair of World Music Perspectives and Repertoire and Resources Chair.





**MEMBERS OF THE JURY**  
**FOR**  
**THE AWARD FOR CONDUCTOR'S MASTERY**  
**"PROF. VENETA VICHEVA"**



**Slavil Dimitrov - conductor and composer**

Slavil Dimitrov's musical education began at an early age when he started to play piano, taught by Rositsa Mihaylova in Shumen.

At the same time he started singing at the "Bodrapesen" choir, conducted by Prof. Veneta Vicheva.

He also attended composition lessons with Prof. Alexander Raichev and participated in Prof.

George Uspenski's experimental composition class at the State Conservatory in Odessa.

He is a "Choral Conducting" and "Opera-Symphony Conducting" graduate at the National Academy of Music "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov".

He also studied composition in the class of Prof. Alexander Raichev.

He is a choirmaster of the Academic Choir in Sofia since the beginning of 1992, and from 1994 he

works as a Chief Conductor.

Shortly before graduating, he started working as a conductor in Shumen State Philharmonic, and has been conducting for the past 10 years.

In 2007 he started working as a conductor at the National Opera and Ballet after winning a competition and continued the emblematic choral director Hristo Kazandjiev's work.

An important period in the creative path of Slavil Dimitrov was his appointment as Chief Conductor at the Opera of Ruse (2009 - 2011). Between 2012 - 2014, he worked as a Choral Director at the State Opera and Ballet - Izmir, Turkey, and since 2013 he works as a

conductor in the orchestra. At the same time he began teaching at Yashar University in Izmir, where he established the major "Choral Conducting", the only one of its kind in the

Republic of Turkey.

He has won many local and international awards as a pianist, conductor and composer.

He is also a guest conductor of Symphony Orchestras and Opera Theaters in Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Spain, Germany, Serbia, France, Turkey, Japan.

Since June 2015 Slavil Dimitrov works as Chief Conductor of the National Philharmonic Choir "Svetoslav Obretenov". In October 2018 he became a chairman of the Bulgarian Choral Union.





**XXVI Dobri Voinikov International  
Children and Youth Choral Gala Days are held  
under the patronage of the Mayor of Shumen  
Mr. Lubomir Hristov.**

**This edition of the choral festival we will dedicated to  
90th anniversary of prof. Veneta Vicheva – the creator of  
Dobri Voinikov choral holidays,  
and the 50th anniversary of the festival!**



**Prof. Veneta Vicheva (1931-2013)** is a prominent Bulgarian choir conductor, who studied in the class of Prof. Georgi Dimitrov. She is a longtime conductor of the mixed choir "Rodni Zvutsi" Shumen, creator and conductor of the children's choir "Bodra Pessen" Shumen, founder of the specialty "Music Pedagogy" at the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski", initiator of the Dobri Voinikov International Children and Youth Choral Gala Days. She is Honorary citizen of Shumen, Dr. Honoris Causa of the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski", winner of many awards.

