



2nd
FLORENCE
Fun & Music
FESTIVAL
colours of the world

FUN 2019

30 June – 2 July



2nd Florence Fun & Music Festival
colours of the world

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CARLA GIOVANNA ZANIN

Founder & CEO



After the strong success of eight editions of *Florence International Choir & Orchestra Festival* and four editions of *Music FESTA Florence*, in 2018 the **Florence FUN & MUSIC Festival - colours of the World** was born, a special event dedicated in particular to youth groups from all over the world, now in its second edition. With sincere emotion and great enthusiasm I give my warmest welcome to all participants. Florence, one of the most important cities worldwide for its artistic and musical heritage, will host in its sumptuous palaces, stunning churches and breathtaking squares the young musicians which will perform during the 3 days program.

Florence FUN & MUSIC Festival has been awarded by the Municipality of Florence for its high quality and reliability and it got the Patronage by the Mayor of Florence Dario Nardella. This recognition is proof of the heavy work and professionalism that we put on every day in our Festivals.

Dear Musicians, I thank you for helping to make our Festival more and more magnificent and I hope you can take home an unforgettable experience!

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FEDERICO BARDAZZI

President & Artistic Director



It's really a big pleasure to give my warmest welcome to the musicians participating in the second edition of Fun & Music Festival – colours of the world, a new initiative realized by the Florence International Choir Festival, in the wonderful city of Florence, point of reference for its history and its importance for its beauty, art and culture. I believe in the evolving relation of music with the marvelous venues of the concerts, such as the charming Church of Ognissanti, Badia Fiorentina, and the magnificent Santissima Annunziata in the heart of Florence, bringing our minds towards harmony. I wish that this experience will help all of us to build bridges of friendship through Music between different people, nations and continents. I wish also that we will be able to bring at home, after the Festival, our joy to make music together! This will be a real development of the ideals of Florence in the Renaissance that have positively influenced the all world!

Participant Groups



PARTICIPANT GROUPS

BOYS CHOIR ISKRA (Russia)
Conductor Elena Vorobeva

LETIZIA DEL BASSO (Italy)

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY DISTRICT
HONORS CHORUS** (USA)
Conductor Alicia Graham

**JOYFUL ANTHEM
GOSPEL CHOIR** (Italy)
Conductor Dario Passanante

OVERBAND (Italy)
Conductor Stefano Rapticavoli

SENZATÒN (Italy)
Conductor Nicola Angiolucci

Programme

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PROGRAMME

30 JUNE	21.00	Church of Ognissanti OPENING CEREMONY
1 JULY	10.00	Auditorium Portinari COMPETITION
	21.00	Basilica of Santissima Annunziata CONCERT
2 JULY	16.30	Auditorium Portinari AWARD CEREMONY
	20.00	Badia Fiorentina FINAL CELEBRATION CONCERT

Venues

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CHURCH OF OGNISSANTI

The Church of Ognissanti (All-Saints Church), is a Franciscan church located on the piazza of the same name in central Florence. Founded by the lay order of the Umiliati, the church was dedicated to all the saints and martyrs,

known and unknown. It was completed originally during the 1250, but almost completely rebuilt around 1627 in Baroque-style by the architect Bartolomeo Pettirossi. Ognissanti was among the first examples of Baroque architecture to penetrate this Renaissance city. Its two orders of pilasters enclose niches and windows with elaborate cornices. To the left of the façade is a campanile of 13th and 14th century construction. The Umiliati, by the dedication and probity of the lay brothers and sisters, gained a reputation in Florence, and dedicated works of art began to accumulate in their severely simple church. For example, Giotto's celebrated Madonna and Child with angels (circa 1310) was painted for the high altar. Recent cleaning of the Crucifix in the left transept has led this work to be attributed also to Giotto. Fifteenth-century frescoes by Domenico Ghirlandaio and Sandro Botticelli were preserved in the nave; Botticelli is buried in the church near his beloved Simonetta Vespucci. In the Vespucci chapel, a fresco by Domenico Ghirlandaio with his brother David, depicting the Madonna della Misericordia protecting members of the Vespucci family (circa 1472), is reputed to include the portrait of Amerigo Vespucci as a child. When Amerigo found a bay in the actual Brazil, he named to "San Salvatore di Ognissanti", in portugues "San Salvador de Todos os Santos": this is the origin of the name of the city of Salvador and Bahia de Todos os Santos.



AUDITORIUM PORTINARI

The auditorium Portinari of the Ente Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze has ancient origins and was part of the Hospital of Santa Maria Nuova together with the adjacent building of the Notary Archives in the historical center of Florence,

a stone's throw from the Duomo. Neo-medieval architecture and decorations characterize it, as does the stone facade dating back to the same period. In the mid-'70s it was purchased by Cassa di Risparmio, renovated and used as an Auditorium thanks to a wide-ranging publicizing project in terms of programs and instrumental combinations supported by the Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze Foundation. In 1975 the great organ designed by Maestro Clemente Terzi was installed, the only one in central Italy in a non-religious place. For a large part of the year virtuosic concerts from Italy and foreign countries alternate at the auditorium, making it one of the flagships of the art and music culture of Florence, such as the "Wednesday Music Ente CRF" and the International Organ Music Festival.



BASILICA OF SANTISSIMA ANNUNZIATA

The Basilica of the Santissima Annunziata was built in 1250 as a chapel outside the walls surrounding Florence. Over the centuries it has been enlarged to its present proportions. Its entrance is through a fifteenth-century arcade designed

by the famous architect Michelozzo, which helps to outline the shape of the square in front, Piazza Santissima Annunziata, together with the portico of Ospedale Degl'Innocenti made by Brunelleschi.

The interior, rebuilt in the seventeenth century consists of a single aisle with chapels on each side. The decoration of the coffered ceiling attributed to Volterrano is as magnificent (1664) as the tribune of the choir covered by a hemispherical dome designed by the great architect Leon Battista Alberti (1444).

On the left after the entrance there is the temple of the Santissima Annunziata designed by Michelozzo and built around a fourteenth-century fresco with the theme of the Annunciation and considered as being miraculous by the popular tradition. At the presbytery there is the Chapel of the sculptor Giambologna that he transformed for his burial in 1598.



B A D I A F I O R E N T I N A

In this site there was the Church of Santo Stefano "of the people" which is mentioned already in 960 when it was sold from a private to Willa of Tuscany mother of the Marquis Ugo of Tuscany who gave the order in 960 to build the Benedictine abbey called

Badia Fiorentina. (badia means abbey). The abbey was founded in 978. Ugo, become Marquis of Tuscany, increased the donations of his mother with great munificence. In 1285 the church underwent a radical rebuilding in Gothic style by Arnolfo di Cambio, who changed its orientation with the apse towards via del Proconsolo. The church had three naves and its appearance was very colorful: it had a coloured ceramic floor, older than today's baptistery, and which still survives beyond today's coffered ceiling; moreover, he had begun to decorate his fresco walls. The church is also linked to Dante's memories: here, Dante Alighieri saw Beatrice Portinari for the first time, during a mass. Later Boccaccio held the famous readings of the Divine Comedy in this church. The cuspidate tower with hexagonal base (1310-30) is a famous point of the city profile and stands between the towers of Palazzo Vecchio and Bargello. For centuries its bells have punctuated hours throughout the city. In 1307 the bell tower was demolished in half to punish the reluctant monks to pay a city tax, but it was however restored early in 1330. Its current height is about 70 meters. In the following centuries, the Benedictine abbey saw periods of decadence alternating with periods of renewed splendour. Numerous Renaissance-style works of art embellished it: in addition to the sculptures of Mino da Fiesole and Bernardo Rossellino, the Art of Judges and Notaries which had its headquarters in the nearby building in Via del Proconsolo and sometimes used the abbey for meetings and public functions, had commissioned the great Masaccio for frescoes. The interior of the church, further transformed also in the eighteenth century, presents an overlap of styles and structures. The hall is dominated by a sumptuous carved wooden ceiling, built by Felice Gamberai (1631).

On the left wall, above the monument to Ugo of Tuscany, in the choir is preserved the valuable canvas of the Assumption and saints by Giorgio Vasari (1568). Despite the changes undergone over the centuries, the Abbey has kept intact within the complex the charming Cloister of the Oranges built between 1432 and 1438 by Bernardo Rossellino. On the upper floor of the cloister there is a cycle of frescoes on the life of St. Benedict. At the moment it has again the function of a monastery with the arrival of the religious Community of the Monastic Fraternities of Jerusalem.



Concerts

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**30
JUNE**

21.00

Church of Ognissanti
OPENING CEREMONY

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY DISTRICT
HONORS CHORUS**

Conductor Alicia Graham

LETIZIA DEL BASSO

BOYS CHOIR ISKRA

Conductor Elena Vorobeva

JOYFUL ANTHEM GOSPEL CHOIR

Conductor Dario Passanante

**1
JULY**

21.00

Basilica of Santissima
Annunziata
CONCERT

BOYS CHOIR ISKRA

Conductor Elena Vorobeva

LETIZIA DEL BASSO

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY DISTRICT
HONORS CHORUS**

Conductor Alicia Graham

2
JULY

20.00

Badia Fiorentina

FINAL CELEBRATION
CONCERT

OVERBAND

Conductor Stefano Rapicavoli

BOYS CHOIR ISKRA

Conductor Elena Vorobeva

LETIZIA DEL BASSO

SENZATÒN

Conductor Nicola Angiolucci

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY DISTRICT
HONORS CHORUS**

Conductor Alicia Graham

Competition

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COMPETITION

Board

CARLA GIOVANNA ZANIN
Founder & CEO

FEDERICO BARDAZZI
President & Artistic Director

Jury Members

Permanent Chairman of the Jury
JÜRGEN PARTAJ

ESTER CASTRIOTA

1
JULY

10.00
Auditorium Portinari
COMPETITION

10.00
Category B2 Mixed Youth Choirs up to 21 years
FAIRFIELD COUNTY DISTRICT HONORS CHORUS

10.20
Category A2 Children Choirs up to 16 years
BOYS CHOIR ISKRA

10.40
Category G Sacred Music
FAIRFIELD COUNTY DISTRICT HONORS CHORUS

11.00
Category B Instrumental and Vocal Music
LETIZIA DEL BASSO

Biographies

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CARLA GIOVANNA ZANIN
Founder & CEO



Carla Zanin has worked for over twenty-five years in the live performance sector and specifically in classical and choral music and drama. At first she was the organizational manager and then went into project management, marketing and communications. She conceived and founded **Opera Network Firenze** and at present she is its President and legal representative, an institution skilled in opera productions and in the training of young talents and professionals in all the art performances. Thanks to her long activity in musical marketing and communication by creating innovative and responsible methods for supporting the production of live performances, without the excessive use of public money, she conceived and developed the Opera Network Project, a complex network system over which operas can be produced with the cooperation of numerous partners who are directly involved; at the moment the partners are some of the most important performing Arts Academies and Theatres such as Salzburger Landestheater, Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze, Fondazione Zeffirelli, Teatro Verdi di Pisa, Fondazione Festival Pucciniano, Accademia LABA di Firenze, Fondazione Cerratelli, Biblioteca Marucelliana, Università per Stranieri di Perugia, Conservatorio di Musica Gesualdo da Venosa di Potenza, Conservatorio di Musica Puccini di La Spezia, Hebei Normal University, Inner Mongolia Normal University, Sichuan Normal University, Teatro Goldoni di Livorno, Fondazione Carnevale Viareggio and many others. So many opera productions were staged with this system, the first one was in September 2013, Henry Purcell's "The Fairy Queen".

She is the President of the *Opera Network International Italian Center* founded together with Federico Bardazzi and Paolo Bellocci, specialized in the issuance of certifications of knowledge of the Italian language to foreign students. She is the General Manager of the Ensemble San Felice, with whom she takes part in the research and programming of musical projects in Italy and abroad. Particularly she manages teaching/training projects supported by European Union. She is artistic consultant of the project: "La Musica nella Divina Commedia di Dante". She was the project consultant of Teatro Metastasio di Prato for the training sector. Since 2012 she was the founder and the Chief Executive Officer of the **Florence International Choir Festival** and she realized the launching of the first edition, focusing particularly on marketing and communications, executive management, public relations and relations with the authorities. In the last eight years she is dedicating with passion and care to the realization of the three FICF brand Music Festivals.

The following are the most important recent activities: Throughout the year 2011 she was Marketing and Development consultant for the Associazione Maggio Fiorentino Formazione which is the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Training Academy. In 2008 and 2009 she was the cultural consultant to the UN for the development programme UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) concerning international cooperation in the Maghreb region. In 2009 she organised a music and theatre atelier in Fès (Morocco) as part of the project entitled "La représentation culturelle et artistique de la femme dans la zone euroméditerranéenne". Carla Zanin was production director for three editions (in 2007, 2008 and 2009) of the Magna Graecia Teatro Festival, the theatre event held among the archeological sites in the Calabria Region - Italy.



FEDERICO BARDAZZI
President & Artistic Director

Federico Bardazzi specialises in Early and Baroque Music, he is primarily active as a director in operatic repertoire, from its origins to Händel, Gluck, Mozart, Rossini and Puccini.

Having trained as a cellist with Andrè Navarra in Siena and Paris, he studied chamber music with Piero Farulli and the Quartetto Borodin, composition with Carlo Prospero e Roberto Becheri, Gregorian chant with Nino Albarosa and Johannes Berchmans Göschl, choral conducting with Roberto Gabbiani and Peter Phillips, orchestral conducting at the Accademia Chigiana with Myung-Whun Chung.

He conducts the Ensemble San Felice, a vocal and instrumental group whose repertoire ranges from Medieval to contemporary music, with whom he has performed to great acclaim across the world.

Devoted for many years now to the Bachian repertoire, through the Ensemble he has conducted all of the great Kirchenmusik and all of the instrumental concerts. He has conducted Händel's Messiah in numerous concerts in Italy and Europe.

He usually offers, as well as a new version of Mozart's unfinished Requiem, rare pages and masterpieces of seventeenth-century music: Girolamo Frescobaldi, Francesco Maria Stiava, Dietrich Buxtehude, Jeronimo de Carrion, François Couperin, Michel-Richard Delalande, John Dowland. In 2005 in particular he presented three oratorios by Giacomo Carissimi at the Queen Elisabeth Hall in London and, also in London, in May 2008 he conducted the music for the first staged performance in modern time of Händel's Rodrigo, directed by Luciano Alberti, at the Lufthansa festival of baroque music. This production was presented in 2009 at the Teatro della Pergola in Florence, where in 2011 he directed Claudio Monteverdi's *Il Vespro* for the Amici della Musica di Firenze, which was recorded as an audio CD by Brilliant Classic.

His research programmes in Medieval music have met with great success across Europe: *Nigra sum sed formosa* Cantigas de Santa Maria, *La Sibilla del reno* Hildegard von Bingen, the liturgical drama drawn from Florentine codices *Quem queritis*, Francesco Landini *Laudi e Contrafacta* nella Firenze del Trecento, *Musica per San Zanobi* nella Firenze del Trecento. Within this frame he is currently curating *La musica della Commedia*, an important work on the music of Dante Alighieri's masterpiece, which takes place through concerts, conferences and multimedia productions.

Federico Bardazzi has been the Director of the Maggio Fiorentino Formazione's courses from 2008 to 2014. In his role as training coordinator he has realised higher specialized training courses and projects funded by the European Social Fund. All his artistic and technical projects at the lyrical Theatre have been developed in collaboration with some of the main Tuscan musical institutions, such as: Teatro Verdi of Pisa, Festival Pucciniano of Torre del Lago, Teatro Metastasio of Prato, with which he is currently collaborating for other projects. This experience leads to the creation of Opera Network, originally funded

together with Carla Zanin, whose objective is to assist in the development of lyrical productions, in collaboration between institutions of different natures, with the aim of encouraging and assisting young artists in the early stages of their careers in developing their professional profile and career path. Some of the most successful projects, all conducted by Federico Bardazzi, have been: Purcell's *Fairy Queen* (Teatro Goldoni, Florence 2013), Pergolesi's *Flaminio* (Teatro Verdi of Pisa 2014). Two forthcoming productions are: Alessandro Scarlatti's *Il trionfo dell'Onore* and Gazzaniga's *Don Giovanni* (Teatro Verdi, Pisa 2015). Moreover, the season 2016/2017 will see Galuppi's opera in collaboration with Landestheater of Salzburg, under the direction of Carl Philip von Maldegem.

Federico Bardazzi is artistic director of In-canto gregoriano - Incontri Internazionali di Firenze, a project devoted to the philological study and musical interpretation of the early liturgical repertoire, and member of the senior committee of AISCGR (Associazione Internazionale Studi di Canto Gregoriano).

He is also President of the del Florence International Choir Festival, which, every year, brings together hundreds of choristers from all around the world, in a kermesse of high human and musical value.

Being aware of the high potential that the East represents for both the Italian University as well as for the Artistic and Musical Higher Education system, he is the funder and leading member, within the project *Turandot*, in collaboration with the Università per Stranieri of Perugia, of a project of cultural, linguistic and musical training for Chinese students.

He has been giving courses on Gregorian chant and Medieval monody at the University of Florence and he has been invited all around the world to lead Masterclasses. 2014 has been a particularly fruitful year, whose highlight have been the World Symposium of Choral Music in Seoul and the Israel Choir Conductor Association in Jerusalem.

Recordings by the Ensemble San Felice – whose concerts have been transmitted by Rai, Swiss, German and Polish radio and the BBC, which has devoted one special on his performances – ranges from the Medieval to the operatic repertoire, and sees him not only in his role of conductor, but also of baroque cellist, gamba and fiddle player, for record labels such as Brilliant, Tactus, and Bongiovanni.

Federico Bardazzi is Professor of Chamber Music and Baroque Music at the State Conservatory Puccini di La Spezia.



JÜRGEN PARTAJ
Permanent Chairman
of the Jury

Jürgen Partaj was born in Vienna into a family of music enthusiasts and so came into early contact with the Austrian choral scene. He studied violin with Eva Bru and attended master classes with Christian Altenburger and Ernst Kovacic. Initially he was active purely in the field of classical music in solo, chamber music and orchestral projects but his concert activity gradually shifted towards crossover. His musical career is complemented by performances with Oscar winner Glen Hansard, concerts as a guest musician in various international performing groups, several CD productions, broadcasts on international TV and radio stations as well as the musical direction at festivals and theatre productions, among others in the framework of the Wiener Festwochen. Besides his musical activities Jürgen Partaj graduated in law with a focus on arts law and founded a music agency in 2000 that specialized in international orchestral and choral tour management.

Jürgen Partaj had the opportunity to work with outstanding musicians such as Elina Garanca, Julian Rachlin, Joe Zawinul, Randy Newman, Lalo Schifrin and with choral conductors such as Erwin Ortner, Robert Page and Simon Carrington.

Jürgen Partaj was founder and director of the contemporary music festival at Schloss Ebelsberg before he founded the "Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival" in 2007 together with the Association Via Musica – a festival for youth choirs and youth orchestras from all over the world. As intendant and artistic director, he annually creates over 200 music events in seven European countries.

The festival annually offers concerts, competitions, workshops and intercultural exchange events for around 2.000 participants, among others in the Musikverein (Golden Hall), the Konzerthaus, St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Imperial Palace, the Vienna City Hall and the University of Music as well as in Prague's Smetana Hall. With the establishment and the artistic direction of the youth choir "Neue Wiener Stimmen" in 2010 Jürgen Partaj was able to make a lasting impression in his hometown.

Despite its short existence the Neue Wiener Stimmen can already look back on tours in Austria and abroad, CD and DVD recordings, performances in the most important concert venues in Vienna, at the Life Ball, at the EXPO 2015 in Milan and acclaimed projects with the RSO Vienna, the Swiss Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Max Steiner Orchestra.

Jürgen Partaj is working with the Austrian Composers Society and is much sought after as a jury member of international music competitions.

ESTER MARIA CASTRIOTA
Jury Member



She graduated in singing and in vocal chamber music at the "L. Cherubini" of Florence.

She perfected with Daniel Ferro, Anastasia Tomaszewska in the opera repertoire, with Jill Feldman in the Baroque repertoire, with Dalton Baldwin, Liliana Poli, Julia Hamari, in the liederistic and contemporary repertoire.

As a soloist and in chamber formations, she is a guest of concert seasons and shows in Italy and abroad (Friends of Music of Modena, Florence, Ravenna-Festival, G.A.M.O. of Florence, IUC of Rome, Sinfonia en Perigord etc.). She collaborates with various ensembles: Arte-Musica (Gesualdo da Venosa, IV book of madrigals), Artemisia Chapel (C. Margherita Cozzolani, Vespri), ASEivoci (C. Monteverdi, Selvamoral and spiritual).

She plays roles in Orpheus of Monteverdi (Ravenna, Alighieri Theatre), Dido and Aeneas of Purcell (Florence, Palazzo Vecchio), Erminia sul Giordano by Michelangelo Rossi (Pistoia), in the Folksongs of Luciano Berio in scenic form (Parma Teatro Studio), in La Bohème (Rome).

She gets the III prize in the Valentino Bucchi contest "Il canto nel '900" (Rome 1996).

She recorded for Dynamic, Tactus, Edipan, Esperia labels.

She is Professor of Singing at the "L. Cherubini" of Florence.

Groups



BOYS CHOIR ISKRA

Conductor Elena Vorobeva

Elena Vorobeva is a graduate of St.-Petersburg Music Conservatory by speciality "Choir Conducting". She is Artistic Director & Conductor of Saint-Petersburg "Boys Choir Iskra".

The Saint-Petersburg "Boys Choir Iskra" was founded in 1994. The repertoire includes both Russian and European classics, contemporary pieces, Russian sacred music and folk songs.

"Boys Choir Iskra" has performed in Great Britain, Germany, France, Holland, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia.

"Boys Choir Iskra" became the Prize-winner: 1st place of 45th International Choral Competition "C.A.Seghizzi-2006" (Italy); "Très bien Choir" of International Choral Festival "Montreux-2005 and 2009" (Switzerland); 1st place of 61st Llangollen International Eisteddfod-2007 (Great Britain); 1st place of International Youth Music Festival "Bratislava-2010 and 2014" (Slovakia); 2nd place of 1st Florence International Choir Festival-2012 (Italy); Grand Prix of International Music Competition "We for the Peace-2016" (Moscow, Russia); 1st place of 10th International Choral Festival "Kammertoon-2016" (Tallinn, Estonia); 2nd place of International Youth Music Festival "Bratislava- 2018" (Slovakia).

Elena Vorobeva is Artistic Director & Conductor of Saint-Petersburg "Boys Choir Iskra" Aleksandr Filatov is pianist-accompanist of choir. He is a graduate of St.-Petersburg Music Conservatory by speciality "Piano".





LETIZIA DEL BASSO

Letizia Del Basso was born in Florence in 2001. She has been taking guitar lessons since she was 9 and she has been guitarist of her school orchestra for many years, making several performances. She has been also taking singing lessons from 2016 and started to sing covers and to create her own music.

Inspired by pop, rock and country music, she composed music and words of her first songs in the last years.

In 2016, 2017 and 2018 she took part to rock marathons and public concerts organized by her music school.

In 2018 she attended the Tour Music Camp founded and lead by the famous composer Mogol.

She was selected and took part to the 2017 iPOP! summer edition in Los Angeles and was finalist at 2019 Umbria Voice Festival. In 2018 she was awarded with the first prize as songwriter in Lucrezia Balatri singing contest and in Florence Fun and Music Festival.

Official Website:

<https://letiziadelbasso.wixsite.com/letiziadelbasso>

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**FAIRFIELD COUNTY DISTRICT
HONORS CHORUS**
Conductor Alicia Graham

Ms. Alicia L. Graham is currently a choral instructor and Related Arts Department Chair at Fairfield Middle School in Winnsboro, SC. She has worked in the public school system at the middle and high school levels for over 20 years. She was the Teacher of the Year for Fairfield Middle School and a member of the South Carolina Department of Education Teacher Leadership Program. Ms. Graham serves as the choral director of the Fairfield Middle School and Fairfield District Honors Chorus. She is the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports) Coach and works with teachers and students to develop strategies and rewards for positive behaviors displayed in the school. A Coloratura soprano, Ms. Graham is the owner of her own music academy, AKAPPELLA School of Music where she teaches private voice and piano lessons. She has served as Minister of Music for Zion Baptist Church, Columbia, South Carolina for over 20

years. A gifted vocalist and choral director, Ms. Graham is known for developing raw talent, displaying a quality unified sound, excellent tone, and building blend. Through her affiliations with the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina (BEMCSC) and Congress of Christian Education, Ms. Graham has served as Head Musician, pianist, and youth clinician. Ms. Graham obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music with a voice concentration from South Carolina State University, Masters in Education degree with an emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix, and a Worship Degree from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary. She is affiliated with several community and music organizations such as the NAACP, MENC, The American Choral Directors Association, a member of SCEA, as well as being a proud member of the Gamma Nu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc.

The Fairfield District Honors Chorus of Winnsboro, South Carolina was founded in 2009 to showcase the talents of students in sixth through twelfth grades. The auditioned group of students are required to maintain a grade point average of C or higher with consistent positive behaviors to perform. The students enjoy performing and traveling locally, nationally, and internationally to share their love of music with others. FDHC has performed five years consecutively at the Disney Performing Arts Stage at Walt Disney World - Orlando, Florida. Others performances have included the "Celebrating Music Through the Ages" and "It's Showtime" Dinner Theaters, Education Rocks Teacher of the Year Celebration, SC Middle School Association annual convention, Rock Around the Clock Festival, the "Songs of the Season" WLTX-TV 19, King Day at the Dome - South Carolina NAACP, and the "Rock the Boat" Carnival Cruise Line to the Bahamas for two years.

On March, 2018, the Fairfield District Honors Chorus performed at Carnegie Hall with the New York Invitational Music Festival. This esteemed Chorus is under the direction of Alicia Graham.





JOYFUL ANTHEM GOSPEL CHOIR

Conductor Dario Passanante

Born in 1993, Dario is a powerful young director, with a passion for choral music since he was a child. Thanks to his tenor voice, to which his passion for gospel music is mainly due, he has sung in many polyphonic choirs focusing on sacred and religious music as well as in gospel choirs. University studies brought him to Siena in 2013, where he founded and is still conducting "the joyful anthem gospel choir", of which he is also president. Dario has created the Siena gospel project and collaborates with GTM Ministries, a no profit organization based in the United States, which spreads gospel message through music mission trips. He has attended many gospel workshops and is in touch with numerous directors of gospel choirs both in Italy and abroad.

Our choir was born in Siena in October 2013, out of the will of a group of friends who decided to put into practice their love for singing gospel music, with the common aim of staying together. Since 2015 the choir has carried out what's called "Siena's gospel project": a yearly event consisting in a gospel workshop supported by international artists and attended by choristers from all over Italy, staging a charity concert with a unique voice. Our artistic mission is telling a different way to sing [to] God, a new method of interpreting religious musical mixture of voices, joy and sounds overwhelming both listeners and singers.





OVERBAND

Conductor Stefano Rapicavoli

Self-taught drummer, he studied percussion at Fiesole School of Music. His career as drummer starts in 1985 in many lyrical, symphonic and chamber orchestras. The interest for improvisation makes him collaborate, since the early Eighties, with different National and International musicians of the jazz framework.

In 1998, he founded the band Hovercraft Ensemble, with which he made the CDs "Zig Zag"

(Silence, 2000) and Est Pop. Omaggio a Bela Bartok in 2003. Since 2002 he is the Director of the big bands Sunrise Jazz Orchestra. Since 2013 collaborates with the Electronic Music Centre Tempo Reale of Florence. In 2015 he formed the sextet MUX, with which he recorded the CD "Viale Redi Blues", made for the record label Dodicilune Records.

The history of the Over Band dates back to 2013, when at the Atheneum Musicale Fiorentino a group of friends decided to study and make ensemble music under the guidance of Maestro Stefano Rapicavoli.

Over the years the band's formation has undergone some changes, but the protagonist is always the desire of learning, playing and having fun. Recently the Over Band also performed at the Hard Rock Café in Florence.





SENZATÒN
Conductor Nicola Angiolucci

Nicola Angiolucci was born in November 1970 in Florence. He studied piano since he was 8 and graduated in 1997 at the Lugi Cherubini conservatory in Florence. He's also graduated in music teaching and music technologies at the same institute and obtain the first level composition degree at the Siena music college. He's graduated in sound engineering at the R.A.I. school of Florence. He studied Jazz music with Massimo Buffetti, Mike Nock, Leonardo Volo and Michele

Papadia, and Choir conducting with Fiorella Cappelli, Maria Ida Tosto and Nicola Conci. Since 1991 he alternate the activities of piano teacher, musician in a large number of bands, choir conductors and sound engineer. He's actually the keyboardist of Killer Queen, Italian queen tribute, and the conductor of Senzatòn and ensemble Divin choir.

The choir was born in 2003 from an idea of the prof. Manuela Bazzoli and since the begin it was conduct by Nicola Angiolucci. In the first time it was only a college choir for teachers and students, but in the last ten years it's open at a large number of people, like ex students, friends, boyfriends and girlfriends and now wives and husbands of the old student. In more than 15 years the choir takes part at many reviews, event and win two national competition. In 2015 is selected to represent the Tuscany in the "Pianeta Galileo" project. The Senzatòn sang in a lot of very prestigious places like Mandela forum, Obihall, Verdi theatre, Puccini teatre and many others.



International Competition of Choral Composition Ennio Morricone 2019

The FICF is enhanced by a prestigious new initiative. A choral composition competition where the famous Maestro Ennio Morricone, honorary Academy Award winner, will nominate the best composition that will be the obligatory piece in the category M - Modern and Contemporary Music and it will be premiered during the next Florence International Choir & Orchestra Festival.

The winning composer will be member of the international jury on the Florence International Choir Festival.



RESULT OF FIFTH EDITION 2019

1st Prize:

VELJKO NENADIĆ (Serbia)
Haiku

JURY

ENNIO MORRICONE



Ennio Morricone in his house in Rome with the Diplomas of the winners just personally signed, together with the Board of FICF Federico Bardazzi and Carla Zanin.

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