

Verona 21 April 2008

## PRESS RELEASE

The First International Children's Choirs Competition has just finished at Malcesine on Lake Garda (Verona) which took place from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2008. The event, promoted by the "Il Garda in Coro" Association presided over by Renata Peroni, took place in the parish church of S. Stefano in Malcesine and had choirs competing from all over the world (Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Slovenia, Estonia and Italy). Thirteen choirs in all took part and the final winners in the Secular Music category were "Do-Re-Mi" directed by Anne Paasuke. The children in this choir were from Haapsalu (Estonia) and won thanks to the fresh interpretation that they brought to their singing. They did not perform any the worse for having one of the lowest average ages of any choir in the competition (all the choristers in the competition were born after 1992) and their singing and presence showed great involvement, as did their programme which included a piece by Maestro Enrico Miaroma (Colle di Lana) who, together with Maestro Orlando Dipiazza, was the artistic director of the Competition. The Jury was composed of I-Chieh Lin (Taiwan), director of the Camera di Taichung Choir, Maria Dal Bianco (Italy), director of the Coenobium Vocale di Piovene Rocchette Choir, and Stojan Kuret (Slovenia) from Trieste who, amongst other duties, awarded the first prize in the Sacred Music Category to Slovenian choir Mladinski, from the city of Velenje. The Mladinski choir also came second in the Secular Music category where it was necessary to sing a work by a contemporary Italian Composer and an unaccompanied piece. The third prize in the Secular Music category was awarded jointly to the Children Choir "Brevis" from Croatia and the Lithuanian choir from the city of Klaipedia. The Prize for best choir director went to Slovenian Matjaz Vehovec and for best up and coming director to the Croatian Antoaneta Radocaj. The prize awarded by Feniarco (the Federation of national regional choral associations) of euros 700 was given to the Slovenian Mladinski choir for the best performance of a work by Orlando Dipiazza.

The Artistic Director, Enrico Miaroma, was particularly satisfied with the level of entrants to the competition "The overall standard was very good with some exceptionally good choirs from Eastern Europe. Fewer choirs were present from host nation Italy (in fact, 3, Gaiamusica di Valenza, Children's Choir Fran Venturini from Trieste and the Children's choir of Foggia) but they showed great intrepidity and courage being part of this international competition.

The numerous presence of choirs from Eastern Europe highlights the various musical cultures of individual countries. "Abroad, choir participation forms an integral part of school life which allows these countries and choirs to compete at high levels" explains Miaroma who is looking forward to more choirs from the rest of Europe competing in the Second International Competition to be held in Malcesine in April of 2010.

Apart from UNICEF and the Town Council of Malcesine many other institutions and bodies supported this competition: The Veneto District, The Verona Province, the Lago di Garda Consortium, the Malcesine Piu Institution, the Garda Community, the Business Association of Verona and the Hoteliers and Businesses Association of Malcesine.

The next International Competition for Children's Choirs is expected to be held between 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April 2010, while the fifth National Competition will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

Results of the Competition and further information are being constantly updated and are available from the Association website [www.ilgardaincoro.it](http://www.ilgardaincoro.it)

Sacred Music Category – First Prize	Mladinski Pevski Zbor Glasbene Sole Fran Korun Kozeljski – Velenje – SLOVENIA
Sacred Music Category – Second Prize	“Viva Voce” Choir from the Balys Dvarionas Music School – Vilnius – LITHUANIA
Sacred Music Category – Third Prize	Not awarded
Secular Music Category – First Prize	Do-Re-Mi Children’s Choir – Haapsalu - ESTONIA
Secular Music Category – Second Prize	Mladinski Pevski Zbor Glasbene Sole Fran Korun Kozeljski – Velenje – SLOVENIA
Secular Music Category – Third Prize Awarded jointly to:	Children Choir “Brevis” – Osijek – CROATIA And Vyduno School Children’s Choir – Klaipeda – LITHUANIA
Best performance of a work by a living Italian composer	Mladinski Pevski Zbor Glasbene Sole Fran Korun Kozeljski – Velenje – SLOVENIA: Matjaz Vehovec
Best up and coming director	Children Choir “Brevis” – Osijek – CROATIA: Antoaneta Radocaj - Jerkovic
Best choral programme	“Viva Voce” Choir from the Balys Dvarionas Music School – Vilnius – LITHUANIA for their programme in the Sacred Music Category
Choir that achieved highest marks throughout the competition	Mladinski Pevski Zbor Glasbene Sole Fran Korun Kozeljski – Velenje – SLOVENIA
Choir with the lowest average age	Children’s Choir “Fran Venturini” from Domio San Dorligo della Valle – Trieste – Italy
Choir coming from furthest away	Do-Re-Mi Children’s Choir – Haapsalu - ESTONIA