

## JURY: 2.Grieg International Choir Festival



### **Prof. ÉVA KOLLÁR - HUNGARY**

Prof. Éva Kollár is the head of the Music Teacher's and Choral Conductor's Faculty of the Liszt Ferenc Music Academy Budapest /State University of Music. She obtained her degree at this Institution, and in 1997. Prof. Kollár is the founder of the Budapest Monteverdi Choir. For 32 years this ensemble has been awarded many prizes, both home and internationally. Prof. Kollár is the president of the Hungarian Choral Society (KOTA), the Vice-president of the Hungarian Kodály Society. Member of the Music Commission of AGECE and advisor of the Europa Cantat Music Commission. She is a member of musical jury at home and abroad. She was the conductor of the Eurochor-Agece in Budapest, the Atelier-Chef in Marktoberdorf as well as in Barcelona at the Europa Cantat Festival in 2003. She was the founder and the organiser of the International Competition of Young Choral Conductors in Budapest at the Liszt Ferenc Music Academy /in cooperation of the KOTA, the Europa Cantat and the AGECE/. In 1994 the „Liszt Ferenc-Prize” was given to her by the Hungarian State.

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### **ZIMFIRA POLOZ - KAZAKHSTAN/CANADA**

Zimfira Poloz, choir conductor, educator and voice specialist. She is an Artistic Director and conductor of the High Park Choirs in residence of the University of Toronto, and an Artistic Director of the Hamilton Children's Choir.

Prior to moving to Canada she founded and served as a Director of the first Choir School in Kazakhstan, which trained 450 children and employed 35 teachers. She was also an Artistic Director and Conductor of the Children's Choir, known as “Koktem”. Under her direction, Koktem participated in festivals throughout Europe, winning the Grand Prix for National Competitions on numerous occasions. The choir was awarded the Golden Diploma and the Category prizewinner at the Budapest International Choir Competition. Only 4 choirs, including

Koktem, were selected from 250 to perform at the Opening Concert of the bicentennial Schubert Festival in Vienna. For all her achievements she was granted an Honoured Representative of Education of Republic of Kazakhstan. As an adjudicator she has been a jury member of numerous international choir competitions in Germany, Italy, Austria, South Korea and an adjudicator and member of the Choir Olympics.

### **Prof. MAGNAR MANGERSNES - NORWAY**

Prof. Magnar Mangersnes has been cantor at Bergen Cathedral since 1971. Since 1970 Mangersnes has taught at the Grieg Academy (University of Bergen, Department of Music, formerly Bergen Music Conservatoire), where he was appointed professor of choral direction in 2003. Mangersnes has held numerous courses and seminars and served on juries for national and international choral competitions. He is widely acclaimed for his work with Bergen Domkantori (Bergen Cathedral Choir, founded by Mangersnes in 1971) and Bergen Oratoriekor (Bergen Oratorio Choir), which he has directed since 1969. He is musical director of the annual Festival of Church Music at Bergen Cathedral (Kirkemusikkdagene), which he founded in 1997



### **ACÁMA FICK - SOUTH-AFRICA**

Acáma Fick has become synonymous with South African choral life for the past three decades. Her main inspiration in the choral sphere came from Philip McLachlan, doyen of South African choral life and, since 1989, from the legendary Swedish maestro, Eric Ericson. Apart from performing, broadcasting and recording numerous works from the international repertoire, she has always acknowledged the talents of South African composers. With her various choral groups she premièred approximately sixty South African choral works. Innovative programming, attention to musical detail and vocal technique, beauty of tone and artistic integrity became hallmarks of Fick's choral leadership. In South Africa ms Fick serves regularly on the judging panels of national and international choral festivals and competitions as well as of post-graduate examinations in choir conducting.

In 2006 Acama Fick was the recipient of two major awards. For her outstanding accomplishments and contribution to music in South Africa over many years, she was presented with the Parnassus music award by Stellenbosch University. In addition, the South African Academy of Science and Art bestowed on her the Honorary Medal for Music, its most prestigious recognition and acknowledgement for artistic achievement in South Africa.



### **Romāns Vanags - LATVIA**

Since 1987 Romans Vanags (born on the 19th of August, 1960) has been the chief conductor and artistic director of the Jāzeps Mediņš Music School boys' choir as well as professor at the arts' school. A graduate of Emils Darzins' specialized music college and of the Department of Choir and Orchestra Conducting of Jazeps Vitol's Latvian State Conservatory in Riga (currently named - Latvian Music Academy). He received diploma in choir conducting as well as in music pedagogy. In addition, he masters symphonic orchestra conducting. In 2003 he received professional master's degree in music. Romans Vanags' professional work has been connected with conducting and pedagogy.

Romans Vanags has been the chief conductor of teachers' choir named "Vanema" for years (1984-2004) and since 1990 he has been the principal conductor of the Latvian University female choir named "Minjona". Romāns Vanags is currently (2005) the head of department of the Latvian Music Academy's Conducting Department in Riga. He has been the organizer of various courses for conductors in numerous countries around the world and also judge member of many international choral competitions. He has also been appointed as one of the chief conductors of the Latvian Song Festival (in 1993, 1998, 2001 and 2003) and the Youth Song Festival (in 1995, 2000 and 2005) as well. Since 2004 Romans Vanags is the chairman of the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO on the Latvian Song and Dance Festival affairs. The choirs conducted by Romans Vanags have won numerous awards at international competitions and made concert tours all over the world.

