



KGBL CHAMBER CHOIR, Ljubljana (Slovenia)

Ambrož Čopi, Conductor

Maša Prah, Assistant Conductor

Lara Oprešnik, Pianist

ABOUT CHOIR

The **KGBL Chamber Choir**, under the direction of Ambrož Čopi, is an ensemble of approximately 40 dedicated singers from the Conservatory of Music and Ballet Ljubljana. The choir brings together young vocalists who are committed to refining their vocal technique, exploring a wide and demanding range of choral repertoire, and achieving the highest standards of artistic performance. Renowned as one of the foremost ambassadors of the younger generation of Slovenian composers, the KGBL Chamber Choir has in recent years commissioned and premiered numerous works by leading Slovenian and international composers, including Lojze Lebič, Tadeja Vulc, Damijan Močnik, Črt Sojar-Voglar, Peter Šavli, Andrej Makor, Tine Bec, Matej Kastelic, Klara Mlakar, Jan Triler, and Federica Lo Pinto. Through its performances, the choir actively promotes contemporary choral music both in Slovenia and abroad.

The choir has garnered prestigious awards at many national and international competitions. These include 2nd and 3rd prizes at the International Choral Competition in Tallinn (Estonia, 2015), the Grand Prix in Moscow (Russia, 2016), 1st prize at the Slovenian National Choral Competition Naša pesem in Maribor (2016), and 2nd prize at the International Choral Competition Gallus in Maribor (2017). In the same year, the choir won 1st prize in the Polyphony category and 2nd prize in the Folklore category at the International Choral Competition in Tolosa (Spain). Later achievements include 1st prize at the Cork International Choral Festival (Ireland, 2019), a Gold Award at the World Choir Festival in Hong Kong (2021), and in 2023, two Gold Awards, a category win, and the overall “Choir of the World” title.

The choir has successfully presented concert tours and appeared at festivals across Europe and Asia, including performances in Stockholm (Sweden), Borja, Ordizia, Getxo, and Doneztebe (Spain), Basel (Switzerland), the Taiwan International Choral Festival (2018 and 2023), Beijing (China), MITO Festival (Italy), Voices of Spirit in Graz (Austria), Florilège Vocal de Tours (France), the Budapest Choral Festival (Hungary), Festival Laureates in Provence (France), Il Polifonico (Italy), and concerts in Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and Singapore (2024). The choir has collaborated with various orchestras in major concert productions, including Mozart’s Requiem (Budapest), Mendelssohn’s Elijah (Taipei), Brahms’s German Requiem (Ljubljana), and Fauré’s Requiem (Ptuj). It has served as a demonstration choir at the Aegis Carminis International Conducting Competition (2019, 2021, 2023) and in Preveza, Greece (2025), as well as in masterclasses in Arezzo, Italy (2023) and Preveza, Greece (2019).

The choir has released three CDs — Credo, Timeless, and Ubi caritas et amor — which showcase its artistic diversity and expressive musicality.

ABOUT CONDUCTOR



Ambrož Čopi is known as a composer, conductor, lecturer, and artistic director of the Aegis Carminis International Youth Choir Festival in Koper. Since the beginning of his teaching career, he has encouraged the creativity of his students in the field of choral music and has become a mentor to the youngest generation of Slovenian composers. His original compositions, recorded on five CDs, regularly grace stages around the world. Čopi has led numerous Slovenian choirs to exceptional achievements in both national (16 gold plaques) and international competitions (29 first places). He has been awarded several times for outstanding performances and as the best conductor. He currently conducts the KGBL Chamber Choir and the Ave Chamber Choir, which are among the most prestigious Slovenian choral ensembles. In 2014, in addition to the prestigious national award, the Prešeren Fund Award, he received the Gallus Plaque, the highest Slovenian award in the field of musical activity. He is regularly invited as a jury member to choir competitions around the world, actively participates in seminars and master classes in choral music for conductors and composers, and offers his expertise as a lecturer.

ABOUT PIANIST



Lara Oprešnik is a pianist, composer, and pedagogue, currently working as an assistant at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana and as a collaborator in interdisciplinary STEAM projects at the University of Ljubljana. She is active as a soloist, chamber musician, writer and performer in contemporary and cross-disciplinary artistic projects. She received her education in Velenje, Ljubljana, Graz, and Berlin, completing her master's studies with highest distinction (*summa cum laude*). She has performed with leading orchestras including the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra, the RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra, and the Vienna National Symphony Orchestra, with whom she performed Scriabin's Piano Concerto at the Vienna Musikverein. She appears regularly at major festivals in Slovenia and abroad and collaborates in a wide range of artistic projects, including work with the KGBL Chamber Choir. Her recordings for RTV Slovenia include Saint-Saëns' *The Carnival of the Animals* as well as contemporary Slovenian repertoire. She is the recipient of numerous international awards, including first prizes at competitions such as TEMSIG, Augustin Aponte (Tenerife), Valsesia Musica, and the Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe Competition, as well as the Prešeren Student Award for her performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1. As a composer, she writes for diverse ensembles, with her works published and awarded internationally, including editions by Bogataj Publishing House. Her artistic work bridges music, science, and other art forms, reflecting a deeply expressive and interdisciplinary approach to contemporary musical practice.

JAPAN TOUR
PROGRAMS
AUGUST, 21 – 25, 2026

YOKOHAMA FESTIVAL, MINATOMIRAI HALL (20 MIN)	22.8.2026
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Klara Mlakar (1999) CHERUBIC HYMN (Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom) – 2021	6:10
Sergej Khvoshinsky (1957) BOGORODITSE DEVO (Gospel of Luke 1:28,42) – 2009 <i>Soloists: Maruša Brenčič in Maša Prah</i>	3:30
Federica Lo Pinto (1997) SOLEIL (different authors) – 2022 <i>Soloists: Petra Kodba, Gorazd Ambrožič, Liza Knez</i>	4:30
Jakub Neske (1987) MIRONCZARNIA (Miron Białoszewski) – 2014	4:10

Total:	18:20

YOKOHAMA FESTIVAL, MINATOMIRAI HALL (40 MIN)	23.8.2026
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Gustav Holst (1974-1934) NUNC DIMITTIS (Song of Simeon) – 2015	3:40
Francis Poulenc (1899-1963) SALVE REGINA (Marian Antiphon) – 1941	4:40
Tine Bec (1993) LAUDATE DOMINUM OMNES GENTES (Psalm 116: 1-2) – 2019	3:30
Eriks Ešenvalds (1977) O SALUTARIS HOSTIA (Thomas Aquinas) – 2009 <i>Soloists: Petra Kodba in Sara Rozman</i>	3:40
Matej Kastelic (1994) TEBE POEM – 2022	3:30
Andrej Makor (1987) POMILUI MYA – 2020 I. Ghospodi Iisusye Khristye II. Spaseniye sodelal	4:10
Krištof Strnad (199) KRESNIK (folk texts, Tone Pavček) – 2026 <i>Soloists: Maruša Brenčič, Petra Kodba, Maša Prah</i>	5:30
Matej Kastelic (1994) OPEN ROAD (Heart Sutra, Walt Whitman, William Shakespeare) – 2026 <i>Soloist: Maruša Brenčič</i> <i>Small group: Sara Rozman, Maša Prah, Nika Zarja Čopi, Klavdija Miklič in Eva Majcen</i>	6:00
Tadeja Vulc (1978) SINE SOLE NIHIL SUM (texts from Sundials)- 2019	5:20

Total:	40:10

Andrej Makor (1987) POMILUI MYA – 2020 I. Ghospodi Iisusye Khristye II. Spaseniyе sodelal	4:10
Sergej Khvoshinsky (1957) BOGORODITSE DEVO (Gospel of Luke 1:28,42) – 2009 <i>Soloists: Maruša Brenčič in Maša Prah</i>	3:30
Gustav Holst (1974-1934) NUNC DIMITTIS (Song of Simeon) – 2015	3:40
Francis Poulenc (1899-1963) SALVE REGINA (Marian Antiphon) – 1941	4:40
Eriks Ešenvalds (1977) O SALUTARIS HOSTIA (Thomas Aquinas) – 2009 <i>Soloists: Petra Kodba in Sara Rozman</i>	3:40
Ambrož Čopi (1973) MISSA LAETITIAE (Mass ordinary) – 2023 I. Kyrie eleison II. Gloria III. Sanctus IV. Benedictus V. Agnus Dei	15:00
Jakub Neske (1987) MIRONCZARNIA (Miron Białoszewski) – 2014 <i>Soloists: Eva Majcen, Blaž Kobal</i>	4:10
Krištof Strnad (199) KRESNIK (folk texts, Tone Pavček) – 2026 <i>Soloists: Maruša Brenčič, Petra Kodba, Maša Prah</i>	5:30
Federica Lo Pinto (1997) SOLEIL (different authors) – 2022 <i>Soloists: Petra Kodba, Gorazd Ambrožič, Liza Knez</i>	4:30
Eric Whitacre (1970) LUX AURUMQUE (E. Esch, / C. A. Silvestri) – 2000 <i>Soloist: Sara Rozman</i>	4:10
Matej Kastelic (1994) OPEN ROAD (Heart Sutra, Walt Whitman, William Shakespeare) – 2026 <i>Soloist: Maruša Brenčič</i> <i>Small group: Sara Rozman, Maša Prah, Nika Zarja Čopi, Klavdija Miklič in Eva Majcen</i>	6:00

Total: 59:10