

The Polyphonic Association of Ravenna

Curriculum and description

The choir was founded in 1965 under the presidency of Renato Notturmi for the purpose of disseminating the folksong of Romagna. Later toward the end of the seventies the choir oriented towards classical polyphony from the fifteen hundreds to modern times.

The choir has been directed by: Greca Maria Greco, Giuseppe Montanari, William Galassini, Bruno Zagni (1989-2001). Since 2002 it has been under the direction of Elena Sartori.

The prestigious concert activity of the choir has taken it to the major Italian and European cities, as representative of Ravenna in choral competitions and on the occasion of international events (France, England, Spain, Greece, Russia, Poland, Hungary, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium and Germany).

It has recorded concerts for *Radio Catalana*, the French national network *RF3* and the Greek network. It has had the honour of singing at the parliament of Strasburg in a concert recorded by *RF3* and broadcasted by *Eurodiffusione*.

Within the sphere of the Ravenna Festival 2004 it gave the first modern performance in Italy of the "Missa Sancti Josephi" by Johann Christoph Pez (1716), broadcasted in its entirety by the Vatican Radio.

On 28 and 29 June 2008 the choir's annual concert activity included two concerts in Linz (Austria) receiving the acclaim of the public and critics.

In May 2009 the choir will go on tour in Germany starting in Munich, (Kunstmuseum and other locations yet to be determined) under the auspices of the Italian Cultural Institute in Germany.

Since 1990 it has been a guest of the Ravenna Festival.

At the moment the choir consists of about thirty members who, not being professional musicians, devote their time to this activity as amateurs.

Elena Sartori **Orchestral Director**

Born in Ravenna, after receiving a diploma in pianoforte and some years of intense concert work with chamber ensembles she obtained a further diploma in Organ and Composition with maximum marks and honours and then graduated in Music history again with maximum marks and honours. From 1993 to 2000 she spent a long period of further study abroad at the conservatory of Basle, the Mozarteum of Salzburg and the "Accademia Bach" of Stuttgart taking master classes with meritorious results under Daniel Chorzempa for organ and Helmut Rilling for choral and orchestral conducting.

She gives concerts throughout the world as organist and as choir director and conductor. She has been a guest, among others, at the following locations and international festivals: The Vascello Theatre in Rome, CRT of Milan, the Baroque Festival of Viterbo, the Municipal Theatre of Ferrara, Festival delle Colline Torinesi, Società del Quartetto of Varese, the Music Academy of Florence, Ente Filarmonico per il Mezzogiorno, the Toscanini Foundation of Parma, the S. Felice Academy of Florence, L'Orfeo City of Spoleto, Lucca City of Organs, Piemonte in Musica, the Deutsches Museum of Munich, the Cathedral of Ottobeuren, the International Organ Festival of Warsaw, the Chapter Theatre of Cardiff, Journées Européennes du Patrimoine Musicale of Lyons, the Musical Weeks of Wallenhorst (Germany) Music in St. Andreas in Cologne, the Tomar Festival (Portugal), Festival of the city of Carcassonne (France), the Stuk Theatre of Leuven (Belgium), Festival City of Vacz (Hungary), the Sophiensaele of Berlin, the Bitez Festival of Belgrade, the Mess Festival of Sarajevo, the Musical Programmes of the Faculty of Musicology of Kyoto University, Hiroshima and Tokyo (Japan).

Since 2002 she has been the director of the Choir of the Polyphonic Association of Ravenna and artistic director of the historic International Organ Music Festival of S. Vitale. The choir director for the first modern performance of the opera Sancta Susanna by P. Hindemith conducted by Riccardo Muti for the Ravenna Festival 2005.

Choir director for Orpheus and Eurydice by Gluck (stage direction by Graham Vick) for the opera and Ballet Season of the theatres of Ravenna, Ferrara, Modena, Pisa and Reggio Emilia in 2007.

Her performances have been broadcasted by the BBC, RAI Radio 3 Suite, Vatican Radio, Serbian Radiotelevision and New York Cathedral – Magalhaes Music (C.E.M.A.T Federation).

As soloist and director she has recorded: G.B. Martini: Requiem and Missa Solemnis (Tactus); Le Livre Anonyme d'Orgue de Limoges (La Bottega Discantica); Domenico Scarlatti: Stabat Mater, Messa di Madrid and Messa La Stella (Tactus); in the process of being completed a recording of the Opera Omnia for Organ by Gregorio Strozzi.

She has been invited to hold master seminars and courses in choral music at the Music Festival of Monte San Savino (Arezzo), for the Croatian Academy Organum Histriae and the Wesleyan University and Berkley (United States).

In 2008 she performed in the following locations, among others:

The Palladium Theatre in Rome; the Alighieri Theatre in Ravenna; Linz Cathedral; The National Opera theatre of Zagreb; International St. Blasien Festival (Fribourg, Switzerland); Filharmonia Baltika (Danzig and Zarnowiec, Poland); the International Music Festival of Tallin (Estonia), and in 2009 at the Philharmonic Academy of Saint Petersburg and the Lahti Festival (Finland).