



CORINFESTA

6th INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CHOIRS

**Artistic Direction:
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Under the patronage of FENIARCO





SIXTH INTERNATIONAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION FOR CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CHOIRS *CORINFESTA*

1. The **Associazione Emiliano Romagnola Cori** (A.E.R.CO.), with the support of the **Ministry of Culture** and under the patronage **of the Emilia-Romagna Region** and **FENIARCO**, announces the Sixth International Composition Competition for Children's and Youth Choirs *CORINFESTA* with the aim of creating new material to be widely disseminated.
2. Participation is open to composers of any nationality.
3. The Competition is divided into two Sections:

Section A: *Toward Polyphony*

- a. Two white voices (SS or SA), no *divisi*;
- b. a cappella or with piano accompaniment and any small percussion and/or body percussion;
- c. of a maximum duration of 3 minutes;
- d. the text chosen may be sacred or profane, in Italian (including dialectal) or English or Latin, attaching the Italian translation; if profane, it must be suitable for the age of the singers to whom this Section refers. It will also be possible to choose one of the texts suggested in the section 'good texts for good music' (*);
- e. the difficulty and general setting of the piece should keep in mind the pedagogical teaching context of a boys' choir;
- f. it is desirable to use tools suitable for the inclusion of diversity and disabilities (LIS, sonorizations, ...). It will be the composer's responsibility to illustrate with a bullet point or summary-discursive legend the choices made.

Section B: *In many voices, a school of life*

- a. three youth voices (SSA or SAT or SABr), no *divisi*;
- b. a cappella or with piano accompaniment and any small percussion and/or body percussion;
- c. of a maximum duration of 5 minutes;

- d. the text chosen may be sacred or profane, in Italian (including dialectal) or English or Latin, attaching the Italian translation; if profane, it must be suitable for the age of the singers to whom this Section refers. It will also be possible to choose one of the texts suggested in the section 'good texts for good music' (*).
 - e. it is desirable to use tools suitable for the inclusion of diversity and disabilities (LIS, sonorizations, ...). It will be the composer's responsibility to illustrate with a bullet point or summary-discursive legend the choices made.
4. Each candidate may submit a maximum of two entries (one for each Section or two for a single Section). Submissions will be made exclusively through the appropriate online form (<https://form.jotform.com/aercobologna/corinfesta>) no later than midnight on **31/08/2025**.
 5. The participation fee is 25 euros for each piece submitted.
 6. Each score must be submitted in PDF format. The composer's name should not appear on the score. The AERCO office will receive the scores and send them to the members of the jury. The identity of the composers will be made known by the AERCO office only after the judging phase is completed. The following will also be enunciated and/or uploaded on the online form: *a.* one's personal information (first name, last name, address, phone number, e-mail address); *b.* one's resume; *c.* a statement that the submitted pieces have never been published and/or awarded; *d.* any source of the literary text; *e.* permission to use and publish for any protected literary texts from the author or publisher or whoever owns the rights; *f.* any notes for performance; *g.* mp3 file, obtained from MIDI of the score
 7. The jury will consist of five composer and choral conductor members. These are their names: *John Rutter* (UK), *Tullio Visioli* (Italy), *Claudio Ferrara* (Italy), *Roberto Berzero*, (Italy), *Gyöngyösi Levente* (Hungary). The judgment will be final and unappealable.
 8. Evaluation criteria will be: *a.* quality of textual treatment; *b.* overall artistic impact; *c.* executability: compositional attention to vocal and perceptual requirements.
 9. The following prizes will be awarded:

First runners-up (one for each Section)

- Cash prize of 1,500 euros (one thousand five hundred euros);

- public and multimedia performance, within 8 months of the announcement of the winners, by two choirs of international significance;

- winners will be '*composer in residence*' for AERCO throughout 2026. AERCO will select 4 choirs (primarily from among its members), who will have the opportunity to commission the winners to write a piece dedicated to their choir. AERCO will pay the winning composers a sum of 500 euros for each commission;

- winners will be ex officio jury members of the 2027 edition;

- Publication, with permission of the authors, by AERCO;

- Diploma.

Runners-up (one for each Section)

- Cash prize of 600 euros (six hundred euros);

- public and multimedia performance, within 8 months of the announcement of the winners, by an Italian or foreign choir;

- Publication, with permission of the authors, by AERCO

- Diploma.

Third runners-up (one for each Section)

- Publication, with permission of the authors, by AERCO;

- Diploma.

For all scores submitted

- All songs entered in the competition, except those chosen for publication with a publishing house or with AERCO, if authorized by the composers, will be posted on www.corinfesta.it available to choirs, so as to be disseminated as new repertoire; they will also constitute repertoire from which to draw for the special category of the 'City of Riccione National Choral Competition' (www.coroallegrenote.it).

10. The jury reserves the right to report other compositions in addition to the winners, as well as the two (one for each Section) with the best treatment of strategies for inclusion and the two (*) (one for each Section) with the best use of suggested texts. The composers of the reported pieces will receive a certificate of mention.

11. Participation in the Contest implies full acceptance of these rules.

(*) Special Mention: *Good Lyrics For Good Music*

The Artistic Director selected seven poetic compositions (five in Italian, two in English) in order to submit to the composers the importance of choosing 'good lyrics for good music'; To make contact with the authors of the lyrics, write to aercobologna@gmail.com

Corale
(Roberta Gallo)

Se verrà la nota uguale
In un canto circolare
Senti onde come al mare
Provi anche a improvvisare.
Voci e luci brillan alte
E le stelle son sorelle
Delle voci in coro belle.
Nel silenzio ampio o breve
Trova spazio canto lieve
Il respiro corde vibra
Ai coristi suono dona.
Piano o forte, ben legato
gesto denso o ben ritmato
timbri d'aria variopinta
Voci e gioia son dipinti.

Le domande dei bambini
(Sabrina Giarratana)

Le domande dei bambini sono fiamme
Per accendere le menti dei più grandi
Sono fuoco sempre ardente per le
mamme
Se non hai una risposta ti domandi
Le domande dei bambini fanno luce
Mentre rendono la mente più tenace
Le domande dei bambini fanno chiaro
Perché vogliono sapere sempre il vero
Le domande dei bambini fanno grandi
Se non hai una risposta ti domandi.

Ti chiameranno per nome
(Laura Anfuso)

Non sarai più quello cieco,
quella sorda, quello matto,
quella obesa, quello malato
o quella drogata
Ti chiameranno per nome
Non sarai più una disabilità,
una categoria,
né un gruppo,
né una tipologia
Ti chiameranno per nome
Non sarai più quello che non hai,
né solo ciò che superficie sporge
Ti chiameranno per nome
Non sarai più l'etichetta
che umana dignità muore
Ti chiameranno per nome
Sarai Persona
sarai ciò che sei
sarai l'unicità
che vita nasce
Ti chiameranno per nome
Sarai dentro e fuori
sarai anche oltre
Finalmente ti chiameranno per nome

Girotondo di gioia
(Alessandra Gioia)

Sia Amore un girotondo di gioia,
come bambini a cui accade
felicità senza tempo.
Sia Amore una carezza
che non conosce rancore,
come neve che scende
fra canti che innalzano
gratitudine al Cielo.

Piero il malcontento

(Lina Shwarz)

Dice Piero, il malcontento:
"Oh se zero fosse cento!
Oh se il vuoto fosse pieno,
e se il molto fosse meno!
Oh se il lungo fosse corto,
e se il vivo fosse morto,
e se il buio fosse chiaro,
e dolcissimo l'amaro!
Oh se il sol fosse la luna,
e la luna mezzaluna!
Oh se il caldo fosse gelo,
se la terra fosse il cielo,
se la terra fosse il mare...".
Piero, Piero, lascia andare,
lascia il mondo come sta!
Chi lo dice, chi lo sa
se saresti più contento
se lo zero fosse cento,
e se il vuoto fosse pieno,
e se il molto fosse meno?
E se il lungo fosse corto,
e se il vivo fosse morto,
e se il buio fosse chiaro,
e dolcissimo l'amaro?
Lascia il sol, lascia la luna,
a ciascun la sua fortuna,
lascia ognuno alla sua sorte;
morte è vita, vita è morte,
terra è cielo e terra è mare,
a sapersi contentare!...

Fable

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

The mountain and the squirrel
Had a quarrel;
And the former called the latter "Little
Prig."
Bun replied,
"You are doubtless very big;
But all sorts of things and weather
Must be taken in together
To make up a year
And a sphere.
And I think it's no disgrace

To occupy my place.
If I'm not so large as you,
You are not so small as I,
And not half so spry.
I'll not deny you make
A very pretty squirrel track;
Talents differ: all is well and wisely
put;
If I cannot carry forests on my back,
Neither can you crack a nut."

The Months

(Sara Coleridge)

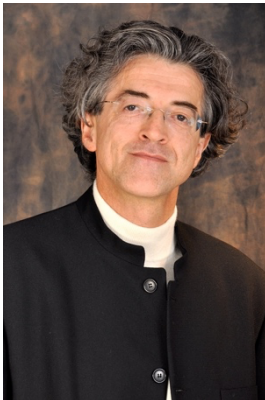
January brings the snow,
makes our feet and fingers glow.
February brings the rain,
Thaws the frozen lake again.
March brings breezes loud and shrill,
stirs the dancing daffodil.
April brings the primrose sweet,
Scatters daisies at our feet.
May brings flocks of pretty lambs,
Skipping by their fleecy dams.
June brings tulips, lilies, roses,
Fills the children's hand with posies.
Hot July brings cooling showers,
Apricots and gillyflowers.
August brings the sheaves of corn,
Then the harvest home is borne.
Warm September brings the fruit,
Sportsmen then begin to shoot.
Fresh October brings the pheasants,
Then to gather nuts is pleasant.
Dull November brings the blast,
Then the leaves are whirling fast.
Chill December brings the sleet,
Blazing fire, and Christmas treat.

The Jury



John Rutter (UK) - President

Born in London, he studied at Highgate School together with John Tavener. He also studied music at Clare College of the University of Cambridge, an institution where he was later appointed professor of first organ and then choral conducting from 1975 to 1979. In 1981 he founded the Cambridge Singers choir, which he continues to direct to this day and with which he has recorded an extensive repertoire of sacred music (including his own compositions), specifically with his own record company, Collegium Records. He lives near Cambridge and is often called upon to conduct other major professional and amateur choirs and orchestras around the world. Rutter's compositions are predominantly aimed at choral music of the a cappella motet genre, but also of a more structurally complex nature with extensive works such as the Gloria and Requiem. In 2002 his version of Psalm 150, commissioned for the Queen's Golden Jubilee, was performed for Thanksgiving Mass at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Rutter also composed a work for young people called Bang! His compositions are published mainly by Oxford University Press but also by his music publishing house Collegium. Rutter's music clearly shows influences from the contemporary English and French choral tradition, as well as those from pop music and the U.S. choral tradition. Although he has often composed and conducted religious music, Rutter told the U.S. television program 60 Minutes in 2003 that he is not a particularly practicing person, but receives particular inspiration from the spirituality of sacred verses and prayers. The 60 Minutes episode, which aired a week before Christmas 2003, focused on Rutter's wide popularity among choral groups in the United States, Britain and other countries, and on his composition Mass of the Children ("The Mass of the Children"), composed after the untimely death of his son Christopher, a young student.



Roberto Berzero (Italy) - Jury Member

Roberto Berzero has been a tenured teacher of Choral Conducting and Choral Composition at the Conservatory of Alessandria. His educational background is rich and varied: he graduated in Piano, Choral Conducting and Choral Music, Conducting and Composition, also deepening his study of Baroque Singing. Throughout his career, he has combined teaching in conservatories - having won the competition for tenure - with intense musical activity. He has collaborated with prestigious institutions such as the Teatro alla Scala and the Minipolifonici of Trento, both as conductor and singer, and has also taught at various educational institutions. As a composer, he has won numerous national and international awards. Among his most appreciated works are the *4 Major Antiphons of Our Lady* for mixed choir from 4 to 9 voices, recorded on the CD *Mater Christi*. In 2020 he won first prize in the National Composition Competition "*Europe is like an orchestra, music has no borders,*" in memory of Maestro Ezio Bosso, with *Salve Europa!* for soprano soloist and large orchestra. This competition was announced by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Department for European Policies and the Ministry of University and Research. The following year, in 2021, he received another first prize at the N.O.T.A. Music International Competition thanks to the trilogy of lyrics *Carminiella mia*, composed for soprano, bass-baritone and piano. In 2022 he was awarded first prize at the *F. M. Pagano* for the lied *Amici e patrioti addio*, written for baritone and instrumental ensemble. 2023 was a particularly successful year: he was awarded first prize at the 5th *Corinfesta* International Composition Competition (AERCO) with *L'acqua e l'uomo*, for children's choir and instrumental ensemble; second prize at the *CANTICO* International Competition (ANDCI) with *Cantico delle creature* for mixed a cappella choir (6 voices); and, in the same competition, first prize in special mentions with *Cantico di frate sole* for women's a cappella choir (4 voices). Also in 2023, at the *ARCOVA* Composition Competition, he won first prize with *Fantasia* for children's choir and instrumental ensemble, another first prize with *Brutti sogni* for a

cappella women's choir (3 voices), and a special mention for *Ave Maria*, composed for children's or women's choir (3 voices). The year 2024 also opened with new awards. He won second prize at the *Musiche nuove dalla Livenza* Competition (Contrà Camolli) with *Il bosco magico* for children's choir and instrumental ensemble and the selection of his composition *Il mondo è vibrante* for the ANDCI National Choir, written for mixed a cappella choir (4 voices). Finally, at the *Seghizzi* International Composition Competition, he won first prize and the *Seghizzi* Trophy with *A Christmas Carol* for female a cappella ensemble (6 voices), as well as a second prize with *Luna d'argento* for male a cappella choir (4 voices).



Tullio Visioli (Italy) - Jury Member

Tullio Visioli, composer, choir director, recorder player and singer, was born in Cremona, Italy. He is a lecturer in *Musicology and Music Didactics* in Rome, at the Lumsa University, in *Pedagogy of Children's Vocality* in Ravenna, at the Master's Degrees in *Artistic Vocology and Clinical Vocology* and, in Rome, for the Master's Degree in *Pedagogy of Expression* at Roma 3. He directs the Children's Choir and teaches *recorder* in Rome at the Scuola Popolare di Musica di Testaccio. He conceived in 2006 and directs for the ASL of Centocelle (Rome) the integrated choir *Voc'incòro* and, since 2014 he has activated, together with a team of specialists, the choir *Mani Bianche Roma*, inspired by Venezuelan experiences (Abreu System) of integration between deaf and hearing people. Active in writing new musical repertoires for children and young people, he has published compositions intended for children's choir, youth choir and recorder, condensing his pedagogical vision in the books *VariAzioni, elementi per la didattica musicale* (Anicia 2004) and *Il Baule dei suoni* (Multidea 2011). A trainer and speaker at conferences and study days on music pedagogy, choral music, music composition and phoniatrics, since 2018 he has been among the founding members and promoters of the Association *Jazz Goes to School*. He is currently writing a study text dedicated to children's voice and choral singing.



Gyöngyösi Levente (Hungary) - Jury Member

Born in 1975 in Cluj/Kolozsvár (Romania), **Gyöngyösi Levente** studied at the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest under Professor György Orbán. He graduated on May 5, 1999, with his first opera, *The Stork Calif*. He has composed a vast number of choral works for renowned Hungarian and international choirs, including the Pro Musica Girl's Choir (Hungary), the Stellenbosch University Choir (South Africa) and the Iowa State University Choir (USA). Her choral compositions are particularly popular in Japan and the United States, as well as in South Africa and the Philippines. In addition to choral music, he has composed four symphonies (the third of which was commissioned and performed by the Budapest Festival Orchestra), four masses, a *Piano Concerto*, a *Flute Concerto*, a *Piccolo Concerto*, the *Passion according to St. Luke*, and the *Christmas Oratorio*. His most important work, the opera-musical *The Master and Margarita*, was performed at the Hungarian State Opera in 2021. In 2023 he was awarded the title of Artist Emeritus of Hungary by the Hungarian State.



Claudio Ferrara (Italy) - Jury Member

Claudio Ferrara was born in Santiago, Chile, on April 6, 1990. In the U.S. he attended the *Music Theory and Composition* school course, and upon his return to Italy he obtained an old-school diploma in Composition at the Conservatorio di Santa Cecilia in Rome. At the same conservatory he also obtains a bachelor's degree in "Maestro Collaboratore al Pianoforte" and a two-year specialist degree in "Vocal and Sacred Repertoire Direction," both with highest honors. He studied jazz at the Saint Louis School of Music in Rome, and singing under the guidance of countertenor Mario Bassani. In the guise of cantor he has been part of numerous Roman choral ensembles and has some commercial recordings to his credit (*Brilliant Classics* and Edizioni Paoline) as well as being a founding member and first tenor of "Prima Prattica Ensemble," a vocal quintet specializing in Renaissance repertoire. As a conductor of orchestra and choir, he has performed on various occasions. Prominent among them is the conducting of the Youth String Orchestra of the Santa Cecilia Conservatory at the Christmas Concert of the Chamber of Deputies on December 20, 2020. For his main activity, that is, as a composer, he has received numerous awards: he has currently received dozens of prizes and honorable mentions among national and international competitions (Guido d'Arezzo, Seghizzi, Turolfo, Bobbio Sacra, Preveza, Vincenzo Amato, Alma Dantis, etc.), counting him among the most recognized emerging composers in the Italian choral scene. His works are frequently performed in Italy and abroad in public concerts and included as compulsory pieces in choral singing competitions (Guido d'Arezzo, Seghizzi...). He is also the recipient of numerous commissions for the creation of new choral music. His works have been published by Feniarco, Arcopu, Tactus records, Aldebaran Editions, PH Publishers, Sonitus Edizioni, Diaphonia Edizioni. He is frequently invited to serve on juries of national and international composition competitions. He has also received several awards for his vocal chamber and symphonic music. He is currently a tenured professor of music at the "Italo Calvino" Grade I secondary school in Rome. As the son of an Italian diplomat, and because of his childhood spent abroad, he is fluent in English and French in addition to Italian. www.claudioferraracomposer.com.

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