

## COMPETITION JURY

### CHAIRMAN OF THE JURY

#### **WIOLETTA MIŁKOWSKA (Poland)**



Professor with post-doctoral degree Wioletta Miłkowska runs the class of choral conducting. She has graduated from the Instrumental and Pedagogical Department of F. Chopin Academy of Music, Branch in Białystok. She has also finished the Postgraduate Studies in Master Choral singing in Bydgoszcz. Her activities with UMFC started in 1990. In the years 2012-2016 she held the position of the Head of Choral Conducting Unit, and between 2016 and 2020 she was a member of the University Research Board. Then in 2020-2024 she has become a member of the Artistic Discipline Board in UMFC.

She has been a conductor and an artistic leader of choirs in Białystok: the Technical University Choir, the District Police Headquarters Choir, the Pronar Choir, giving concerts in Europe, Canada and the USA, winning many prizes at festivals and competitions and being invited to jury boards of national

and international choral contests.

Wioletta Miłkowska is also involved in research activities, especially in funeral musical pieces. Her scientific results and conclusions have been presented in a dissertation entitled "Requiem in the creations of Polish composers". She is an authoress and a scientific editor of various book publications and articles concerning Polish choral art.

She has been a head and a co-organizer of various national and international scientific conferences such as "The national current in the artistic output of Polish composers", "Between the unknown and the forgotten. Polish music in the light of new discoveries", "In the circle of Polish choral singing", "Orthodox music. The traditions and the presence."

For the last 30 years W. Miłkowska has been an animator of the youth choral movement in Podlasie District. In the years 2006-2014 she was an activities coordinator in the All-Polish project for development of school choirs "Singing Poland" presenting the image of functioning of school choral ensembles in her publication called "Białystok in 'Singing Poland'" (2011). For a few years she has been performing with children and youth choirs within her own educational-artistic project called "Singing Białystok". She is also a co-founder of the International Choir of the Baltic Sea with which she puts in practice her artistic ambitions.

Awarded with the prizes of Rectors of Białystok Technical University and of UMFC, honored with the Medal of National Education Committee and the Statue for Heart-Smart Teachers, for her achievements she was decorated with the Medal for Merits for Polish Culture, and the Medal for Merits for UMFC. In 2017 she received the Artistic Prize of the Białystok President, in 2018 – the Award of Gloria Artis by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, in 2020 – the Knight's Cross of the Polonia Restituta Order for the merits in development of art and culture.

## MEMBERS

#### **MARA MARNAUZA (Latvia)**



Professor, PhD at the Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Music Academy. She is a chief conductor at the Latvian Song Festival, at the Baltic States' Student Song Festival Gaudeamus, and a chief conductor of choirs of Dobeles and Saldus districts. M. Marnauza is the founder, conductor, and artistic director of the winners of international choir competitions – the female choir Balta (1999) and the chamber choir Fortius (1985).

M. Marnauza has gained recognition as a conductor in many choir festivals and competitions, concerts and masterclasses in Germany, USA, China, South Korea, Switzerland, Austria, Netherland, Belgium, Great Britain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Finland, Lithuania, Estonia, Belorussia, Ukraine, Poland, Russia, Czech Republic.

She has been a jury member of the Interkultur International Anton Bruckner Choir Competition (2013, Linz, Austria) and the 8th World Choir Games (2014, Riga, Latvia), IV International Choir Competition Voices for Peace (2019, Perugia/Assisi, Italy); Estonian Female Choirs Competition (2018, Tallinn, Estonia), Choir Competition of Germany (2018, Freiburg, Germany); International Festival Riga Symphony (2018, Riga, Latvia), Latvian Choir Competition etc.

M. Marnauza published a monograph Conducting Methodology (2012), choir music CDs, DVDs – Silence; Balta. Pearls; Peteris Vasks. Our Song; Latvian Choral Music; The Loving Ones; Sparks of Jazz; Meditatio Adventus; Sparks of Light; Upwards; The Day is Dawning etc.

### **SERHII SAVENKO (Ukraine)**



Chief Choirmaster of Mykhailo Vodyanyi Odesa Academic Theater of Musical Comedy, PhD, Associate Professor of the Antonina Nezhdanova Odesa National Academy of Music, Knight of the Order of Saints Cyril and Methodius and Cultural Diplomacy, Artistic Director and Conductor of the Ave Musica Amateur Choir.

head of the Odesa regional branch of the NPO "Union of Musicians of Ukraine", President of the PO "Ukrainian Choral Association", member of the National All-Ukrainian Music Union, laureate of international and all-Ukrainian competitions, member of the international jury.

### **RASA GELGOTIENĖ (Lietuva)**



Art director and conductor of Vilnius University choirs „Gaudeamus“, „Virgo“ and „Pro musica“, laureate of many international choir competitions.

Associate Professor of The Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre (LMTA), author of three books on choir conducting ("Magic of the Choir", Notes of the Choir Conductor ", Conversations with Vaclovas Augustin").

President of the The Lithuanian Choral Union.

Conceived and chief conductor of the musical educational project "Classics for everyone".

Jury member of many international competitions

### **DANGUOLĖ AUKSELIENĖ (Lithuania)**



Education - Lithuanian Academy of Music, Conductor of Choirs. Qualification - Expert. Current position- Leader and conductor in Vocal studio of Lithuanian (Sostinės) Youth Center in Vilnius.

Member of Lithuanian Choral Union, Lithuanian Music Union, committee in one of the largest music events in Lithuania “Festival of songs”. Committee was responsible for the selection of music pieces for the event for choirs and youth ensembles, Chairperson of the jury in the popular vocal ensemble competition "Silver Voices" in Lithuania. Facilitated a lot of seminars for conductors and music teachers, seminars in Germany (Bona), China (Xiamen,) Switzerland (Basel Music Academy) and many more.

Lifetime achievements and awards: Arranged a lot of music pieces, Lithuanian folk songs. Received many gratitude certificates from the President of Lithuania and other Government institutions for her contribution to and for cherishing Lithuanian music. Prestigious awards

“Golden birds” winner in the category of “International shining star” recognized by Lithuanian National Culture Centre - best choir conductor and best choir; “Golden birds” winner recognized by Lithuanian National Culture Centre -to best choir conductor and best choir for several years in a row 2021; The best children choir and conductor in 2022 (Lithuanian Choral Union); The best children choir conductor in 2021 (Lithuanian National Culture Centre); Director of the, first vocal ensembles concert in the largest song and dance festival in Lithuania "Vardan tos" in 2018; Founded and conducted children and youth choir “KIVI”, ever since 1997; Many first-place awards as well as Grand Prix awards and wins in many international competitions such as in Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Lithuania, Great Britain, Germany, Spain, Latvia, China (Olympic Champion jazz category World Choir Games), Austria, South Korea, Japan, USA, Macedonia, Belgium (Olympic Champion children category World Choir Games) , France. Annual award of „Gold Disc“(Lithuanian Music Union). Category - Best performer of the year 2022.

Secretary of the Jury Emilija Medutė (Lithuania)