



GLASBENA MATICA

MUSIC SCHOOL & CA



VIKRA

CHAMBER CHOIR



PETRA GRASSI

CONDUCTOR & ART.DIR.

VIKRA Chamber Choir

Curriculum vitae

VIKRA Chamber Choir was founded in 2014 from a gathering of experienced singers and musicians under the direction of Petra Grassi, a renowned choral conductor and winner of numerous competitions. The choir operates under the auspices of the Glasbena Matica in Trieste, and its members include singers from both Slovenia and Italy, representing both nationalities. Originally formed as an equal-voice ensemble, VIKRA has evolved in recent years to focus primarily on mixed-voice repertoire. Its vast repertoire now spans from Renaissance polyphony—enhanced by the presence of a countertenor—to the most innovative Romantic and contemporary musical languages.

In 2022, VIKRA participated in the 59th edition of the Seghizzi International Choral Competition, where it not only won the Grand Prix but also took first prize in the Renaissance, Romantic, and Contemporary music categories. The choir also received special awards for Best Conductor, Best Chamber Choir, and for the Musical Program of Highest Artistic Merit. With this achievement, VIKRA became the first Italian choir to be awarded the prestigious Grand Prix Seghizzi.

Among its many successes in Italy, VIKRA has won:

- First prize at the 51st "Città di Vittorio Veneto" National Choral Competition (2017)
- First prize, Grand Prix, and Special Prize at the 16th "Corovivo" Regional Choral Competition (2017)
- First prize at the 34th "Guido d'Arezzo" National Polyphonic Competition (2017)
- First prize, Grand Prix, and Special Prize at the 10th "Il Garda in Coro" National Competition for Children's and Youth Choirs (2018)
- At the 8th Sozvočenja (2018) thematic concert series held at the Slovenian Philharmonic, the choir received the award for Best Artistic Project.

Established as a prominent voice and laboratory for contemporary choral music, VIKRA is the dedicatee of numerous works and has premiered pieces by acclaimed composers such as Bec, Bonato, Brisotto, Durighello, Lo Pinto, Naci, and Quaggiato. The choir also collaborates regularly in choral seminars (Glasbena Matica, JSKD Nova Gorica, Conservatory of Trento) and organizes masterclasses with renowned experts. It participated as a laboratory choir in the Aegis Carminis international conducting competition (2021) and, in the same year, in a project by the Brera Art Gallery, which culminated in the audio recording of the operetta Fischreise by Andrea Melis. This June, VIKRA will take part in an artistic residency for the Ravenna Festival, at the invitation of Artistic Director Anna Leonardi.

This significant participation adds to a busy calendar of high-level performances. In September 2023, the choir performed at the La Piana del Cavaliere International Music Festival in Orvieto and at the prestigious Teatro Pavarotti-Freni in Modena, with further performances in Trieste, the Nova Gorica Cultural Center (2024 season), and the Kinogledališče Tolmin. Perhaps the most emblematic cultural milestone was in Sarajevo, where the choir performed in June 2024 at the invitation of the UNFPA (United Nations) and the Italian and Slovenian Embassies in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

VIKRA singers also perform in various prestigious choirs across Europe, including: the World Youth Choir, the Slovenian Philharmonic Choir, the Choir of the Academy of Music in Ljubljana, the KGBL Choir, the Italian Youth Choir, the FVG Regional Youth Choir, EuroChoir, Vocal Group Gallina, La Reverdie, and many others.

Petra Grassi is one of the most interesting and award-winning European choral conductors of her generation. She has received numerous awards in conducting competitions: the Choir Prize for Best Conductor at the World Choral Conducting Competition (2019) in Hong Kong, 1st Prize at the Zvok mojih rok competition (2016) in Ljubljana, 3rd Prize at the ECA International Competition (2016) in Turin, and 1st Prize at the Le mani in suono competition (2015) in Arezzo.

After graduating in Piano and Music Pedagogy at the Trieste Conservatory, she graduated with honors in Choral Conducting from the Trento Conservatory, where she now teaches. With the choirs she has directed, she has won only first prizes at both national and international competitions, frequently receiving the Best Conductor award (Maribor, Vittorio Veneto, Arezzo, Malcesine, Corovivo, Sozvočenja, Bad Ischl, Olomouc). From 2016 to 2020, she served as Chief Conductor of the FVG Youth Choir. With VIKRA Chamber Choir, she won the Grand Prix of the 59th Seghizzi International Choral Competition.

She was selected for the young conductors' group within TENSO (the European network of professional choirs) and is a regular guest conductor of the semi-professional choir DEKOR in Ljubljana. For three years, she was co-artistic director of the Italian Youth Choir (2020–2022). She is a member of the Artistic Committees of FENIARCO and Leading Voices – Tallinn 2025 and is regularly invited to serve on international juries (Cork, Spittal, Arezzo, London, Madrid, Maribor...). She has been awarded the Golden Emblem of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia, the Prešeren Award, and the prestigious Pavle Merku Prize.

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