

Rome, May 28, 2024

Press Release

IV International Choir Meeting in the Vatican The Choirs meet Pope Francis

**On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Choir of the Diocese of Rome
June 7-8-9, 2024 – Vatican City**

Choirs from all over the world will gather once again in the **Vatican** from **June 7 to 9**. The event, promoted by the **Choir of the Diocese of Rome** to celebrate the **40th anniversary of its founding**, is organized by **Nova Opera** and sponsored by the **Dicastery for Culture and Education** and the **Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music**. As in previous editions, the event will take place in **Paul VI Hall** and the **Papal Basilica of St. Peter**.

The **International Conference**, moderated by **M° Mons. Marco Frisina**, composer and founder of the Choir of the Diocese of Rome, will open on **Friday, June 7**, and will feature renowned experts in sacred and liturgical music from around the world. **Prof. M° Robert Mehlhart**, Dean of PIMS, will discuss musical education; the applications of sacred music for papal liturgies will be introduced by **M° Mons. Marco Pavan**, Director of the Pontifical Sistine Chapel Choir; **Pr. Franz Karl Praßl**, former President of the Austrian Commission for Sacred Music, will address Gregorian chant from a historical and liturgical perspective; **M° don Fabio Massimillo**, composer and liturgist, along with **M° H. J. Botor**, composer, choir director, and organist, will delve into liturgical-musical animation. There will also be **workshops** directly involving the musicians and choristers present, thanks to the contributions of **M° Fabrizio Barchi**, Professor and Choir Director, and **M° Emanuele Faiola**, Deputy Director of the Choir of the Diocese of Rome.

The highlight will be the private **Audience that Pope Francis** will grant to all participants in **Paul VI Hall** on the morning of **Saturday, June 8**.

On the afternoon of **Saturday, June 8**, also in **Paul VI Hall**, the **grand Choir Concert** will take place: all **the singers present will be arranged in the Hall according to the four vocal parts** and, singing together with the **300 members of the Choir of the Diocese of Rome**, will form a single great polyphonic choir. All the Choristers will be accompanied by over **80 musicians from the Nova Opera Orchestra** and will be conducted by **Mons. Marco Frisina**. The musical program includes the most representative pieces of classical and contemporary sacred music tradition. For the occasion, a new piece, "Christ is my hope," has been composed and will be performed for the first time at the Concert, along with a medley that encapsulates the most significant pieces from the first 40 years of the Choir founded by Mons. Frisina in June 1984.

The three-day event will conclude on **Sunday, June 9**, with the Holy Mass in the **Papal Basilica of St. Peter**, presided over by **Cardinal Mauro Gambetti** and animated by all the singers. At the end of the Celebration, all the choristers will gather in St. Peter's Square to pray the Angelus with the Holy Father.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8 – Choir Concert in Paul VI Hall

6:00 PM GRAND CHOIR CONCERT

Concert performed by the **Choir of the Diocese of Rome** together with the **Grand Choir of the Chorales**, accompanied by the **Nova Opera Orchestra**, conducted by **Mons. Marco Frisina**, with the active participation of all the singers present, arranged by vocal parts in the sections of the Hall.

Inno Pontificio (C. Gounod)

Open the doors (M. Frisina)

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (J. S. Bach)

In nomine Jesu (M. Frisina)

Ave Maria (L. Perosi)

Pacem in terris (M. Frisina)

Laudate Dominum (W. A. Mozart)

Soloist: Chiara D'Acunto

La via dei martiri (M. Frisina)

Soloist: Rossella Mirabelli

Jubilate Deo (D. Bartolucci)

Medley 40 anni di CdR (M. Frisina)

Soloists: Paola Cecchi, Gianni Proietti

Gloria (A. Vivaldi)

Salmo 150 (M. Frisina)

Soloists: Mariangela Topa, Rossella Mirabelli, Matteo Vizzani, Emanuele Tibelli

Hallelujah (G. F. Haendel)

Regina Coeli (M. Frisina)

Christ is my hope (M. Frisina)

World premiere

Jesus Christ you are my life (M. Frisina)

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