

ENSEMBLE VERSUS, choir (CZE)

The chamber choir Ensemble Versus was formed in 2003 in cooperation with the Department of Musicology (Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Brno). Its repertoire consists exclusively of sacred music composed during the 16th (Josquin Des Pres, Pierre de la Rue, Jacobus Vaet, Robert Parsons) and 20th centuries (Francis Poulenc, Maurice Duruflé, Alain De Ley, Bohuslav Martinů, Benjamin Britten, Petr Eben, Ivan Hrušovský). Its musicological background enables the ensemble to perform its own transcriptions of 16th century music. A special place in its repertoire is occupied by compositions composed specifically for Ensemble Versus. The selection of compositions for each of the frequent performances given in Brno and surrounding localities is determined according to the current liturgical period. The repertoire of the ensemble is thus assorted into thematic units, such as Advent, Christmas, Lent or Easter. In addition to its own concert activities, the choir took part in the XVII. International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music in Prague in 2007 (golden range) and in the 51st Festival of International Choral Art in Jihlava in 2008 (silver range, an overall fourth standing in the competition of chamber choirs). Perhaps its most significant accomplishment is having participated in the Smetana's Days Festival in Plzeň (February 2009), where the choir (then consisting of 12 singers) in cooperation with the chamber orchestra Concertino Notturmo Praga and a soloist quartet conducted by Andreas Kröper performed Antonio Salieri's Piccolo Requiem and the famous Requiem D minor by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. In 2009 the choir (currently made up of 16 singers) joined Ensemble Opera Diversa, an association of professionally trained musicians active in Brno. Its choirmaster is Vladimír Maňas, Assistant Professor in the Department of Musicology at the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, and a member of Schola Gregoriana Sancti Michaeli.