

Zgodovina / History:

Prva zamisel o združevanju mladinskih zborov je vzniknila leta 1935, v Društvu pevovodij mladinskih zborov v Slovenskih Konjicah. Leta 1946 se je ideja udejanila v prvem množičnem koncertu mladih pevcev, poimenovanem "Praznik mladinske pomladi". Jurče Vreže, ki je prevzel vlogo prvega dirigenta edinstvenega množičnega koncerta, je pred Prothasijevim dvorcem v Celju vodil 3000 mladih pevcev. Ustvarjen je bil I. Mladinski pevski festival. Pevska manifestacija je v letih 1946 do 1961 začela preraščati lokalni značaj. Leta 1960 so prvič nastopili zbori iz mest bivših jugoslovanskih republik, leta 1963 pa je prireditev privabila tudi mlade pevce iz tujine, festival je postal bienalnega in tekmovalnega značaja. Leta 1969 je 8. Mladinski pevski festival k množičnemu koncertu na Muzejskem trgu pritegnil tudi tuje zборе, kar se je obdržalo vse do današnjih dni. Leta 1989 so se začele krhati nekoč tako močne vezi med narodi in narodnostmi Jugoslavije. Nihče pa vendarle ni slutil, da festivala, napovedanega za leto 1991, ne bo. Začela se je vojna na območju nekdanje Jugoslavije. Nadomestno leto za preloženi festival je bilo 1992, nastopili so zbori iz Slovenije, Hrvaške, Makedonije, Poljske, Češke, Slovaške, Bolgarije in Madžarske, zborom iz Bosne in Hercegovine je prihod preprečila vojna vihra. Tujina se je odzvala maloštevilno in boječe. "A zbori, ki so nastopili, so peli sproščeno, skupno petje množičnega zbora je bilo eno samo sponatno veselje, pozdravljanje gostujočih zborov, dirigentov, predsednika Republike Slovenije ... To je bilo resnično evropsko vzdušje", se nastopov iz tega leta spominja György Mihalka, dolgoleten sodelavec festivala. Festival, ki je potekal v novi državi Sloveniji je, neprijetnim okoliščinam navkljub, opravil pomemben premik. Svojemu nazivu je uradno dodal predpono Mednarodni mladinski pevski festival. V času od leta 1992 je bilo izvedeno deset festivalov. Vabilu za sodelovanje so se poleg slovenskih zborov odzivali tudi zbori iz Evrope, ponovno so prepevali mladi iz Italije, Nemčije, Avstrije, Hrvaške, Makedonije, Srbije, Portugalske, Rusije, Litve, Češke, Slovaške, Madžarske, Irske, Belarussije, Ukrajine, Romunije, Bolgarije, Poljske, Estonije, Švedske, Velike Britanije in Izraela. Zbore in zborovodje so od leta 1997 spremljali ugledni člani žirije: Edvard Goršič, Tomaž Faganel, Jernej Habjanič, Damijan Močnik, Dragica Žvar, Martina Batič (Slovenija), Vladimir Kranjčević (Hrvaška), Venno Laul (Estonija), François-Xavier Delacoste (Švica), Johan van Bouwelen, Johan Duijck, Benoît Giaux (Belgija), Zsuzsanna Graf (Madžarska), Karl Zepnik, Johannes Rahe (Nemčija), Malcolm Goldring, Joy Hill (Velika Britanija), Bo Johansson (Švedska) in Corrado Margutti (Italija).

Festival, ki ga ustvarjamo od leta 1946, še vedno živi. Ker zna prisluniti utripu časa. Ker je zasnovan tako, da ni negiben, ampak se spreminja z generacijami.

The first idea of uniting youth choirs dates back to the year 1935, by the initiative of The Youth Choirs Choirmasters' Association from Slovenske Konjice. In 1946 the project was carried out as the first open singing concert of young singers, called "Praznik mladinske pomladi" (The holiday of youth spring). Jurče Vreže, who took over the part of the first conductor of the unique open singing concert, took the lead of 3000 young singers in front of the Prothasi Mansion in Celje. The first Youth Choir Festival was created. Between 1946 and 1961 the event started exceeding its local character. In 1960, the choirs from several cities of the former Yugoslav republics performed for the first time and in 1963 the event, now becoming competitive and organised every two years, attracted young singers from abroad. In 1969, the 8th Youth Choir Festival attracted choirs from abroad to open singing at the Muzejski trg, which has become a tradition up until now. In 1989, once strong connections between nations and nationalities of the former Yugoslavia began to blunt. No one had the premonition that the festival, scheduled for 1991, will not take place. The war in former Yugoslavia started. The substitutional year for the postponed festival was 1992, with choirs from Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Hungary. The arrival of the Bosnia and Herzegovina's choir was prevented by the war. The foreign countries responded in a smaller number and with fear. "The performing choirs were singing in a relaxed atmosphere, the joint singing was spontaneously joyful, with great approval of the foreign choirs and conductors and the president of the Republic of Slovenia... It was a real European atmosphere." Those are the memories of György Mihalka, a collaborator of many years of the festival. The Festival, now taking place in a new country, Slovenia, has made an important move, due to all the unpleasant circumstances. It has officially become the International Youth Choir Festival. Since 1992 ten festivals were organised. The invitation was accepted by Slovene choirs as well as other European choirs, and young people from Italy, Germany, Austria, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia, Portugal, Russia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Ireland, Belarus, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Estonia, Sweden, Great Britain and Israel, were singing in Celje again. The choirs and choirmasters were accompanied by distinguished members of the jury: Edvard Goršič, Tomaž Faganel, Jernej Habjanič, Damijan Močnik, Dragica Žvar, Martina Batič (Slovenija), Vladimir Kranjčević (Croatia), Venno Laul (Estonia), François-Xavier Delacoste (Switzerland), Johan van Bouwelen, Johan Duijck, Benoît Giaux (Belgium), Zsuzsanna Graf

(Hungary), Karl Zepnik, Johannes Rahe (Germany), Malcolm Goldring, Joy Hill (Great Britain), Bo Johansson (Sweden) and Corrado Margutti (Italy).

The festival which is created by us since 1946 is still very much alive. It follows the pulse of the time, and it is planed as a festival, changing with generations.