

*JJ Fest!*

*CHORAL SIBELIUS COMPETITION*

*8.- 11.11.2024*





Jean Sibelius: «Music begins where the possibilities of language end»  
The International Culture Association in Turku in collaboration with Finnish company SEM Consulting as well as The Union of Russian Composers invites singers and musicians from all over to celebrate a festival of music JSFest. Come and join us in Turku and celebrate with us this international festival of choral, vocal and instrumental music! Every year in November we welcome again the participants from all over the world for the International Competition, dedicated to Jean Sibelius. The JSFest concept includes the Competition as the main part of the event but also allows concerts and manifold encounters between the participants. Participants from around the globe will again have the chance to discover the beauty of the Northern country, combined with an international music event, dedicated to Sibelius. All concert and competition venues as well as accommodations and other event locations in Turku are situated within walking distance. Here participants will meet, celebrate, play music and sing together and get to know other nations and their traditions.

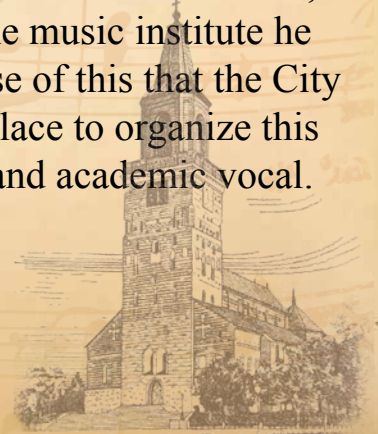
One of the most important things for the artist and his heirs: keeping up the musical spirit. Following this intension, I would like to warmly welcome you to our festival JSFest. With all my heart, I wish all participants a beautiful, inspiring and successful time in Turku! Take a chance on the opportunity to get to know new people and continue together with us the musical tradition of Jean Sibelius! Good luck at the competition! I hope and I wish that you can show your best performance. I wish all competitors, organizers and supporters but above all the audience an exciting competition!

President of the International Culture Association in Turku, Finland  
Svetlana Myhkyrä





«Jean Sibelius is one of those composers who express the character of the Finnish people by their music truthfully and effortlessly», wrote the critic K. Flodin about the remarkable Finnish composer in 1891. The creativity of Sibelius is not only a bright page in the history of the music culture of Finland, but his popularity as a composer has reached far beyond his native land. His most prosperous creative period was between the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century — a time of growing national liberation and revolutionary movements in Finland. At the time, the small state was a part of the Russian Empire and tested by the moods of an epoch of social changes preceding a storm. It is remarkable that in Finland, as well as in Russia, this period created a significant rise in the growth of nationalistic art. Sibelius composed in various genres. He wrote seven symphonies, symphonic poems, three orchestral suites, a concert for a violin with an orchestra, two string quartets, piano quintets and trios, chamber vocal and instrumental works, music and drama performances, but his greatest talent lay in symphonic music. In Finland Sibelius played and plays an important role: he is recognized as the quintessential national composer, a symbol of greatness of the country. During his lifetime Sibelius received honours rendered to few artists. There are streets, parks and an annual music festival named after him, and the music institute he studied in was renamed as the Sibelius Academy. It is because of this that the City of Turku, which houses the Sibelius Museum, is a perfect place to organize this international competition of choruses, instrumental music and academic vocal.



*The Twelfth  
International  
JSFest Choral  
Competition*

*8.-11.11.2024*



# Contestants of the Twelfth International JSFest Choral Competition

## PAIDEIA CHOIR

Seoul, Korea

**Conductor:** HO JEA KIM

**Accompanist:**

Yuri Choi & Mim Chul Shin



PAIDEIA CHOIR is founded in July 2007, It is a choir composed of women to practice passion and devoted love for education from PAIDEIA, the etymology of Greek educational ideology and humanities, which is the etymology of teaching ideal citizens with humanities literacy. Most are composed of teachers, but they perform on various stages with various members who love music. So far, we have performed 10th regular performances and 60th large and small performances and we played Haydn's Tempobelli with the orchestra. we have won gold, bronze, and best prizes for three consecutive years at the Taebaek (Chuncheon) National Choir Competition, the best prize at the 2nd Minister of National Defense Military Song Choir Competition, a silver prize at the Daegu World Choir Competition, and grand prizes at the 1st Boryeong National Choir Competition and the 38th Chuncheon National Choir Competition, receiving official recognition for their skills once again.

In 2018, the level of Korean choral music was promoted through a Korean-Chinese teacher choir exchange at the Taicang Cultural Center in Hangzhou, China, and in 2022, it is contributing to the development of music education through an MOU agreement with the 'Seoul Elementary and Secondary School Choral Arts Education Research



# Bupyeong-gu Women's Choir

Incheon, South Korea

**Conductor:** Sung-Min Lim

**Accompanist:**

Sin-Ae Lee



The Bupyeong Women's Choir is a purely amateur choir composed of women residing in Bupyeong-gu, Incheon.

Since its establishment in 2000, it has won awards at 16 national competitions, starting with the Grand Prize at the Incheon Choir Festival that same year.

The choir serves as a cultural ambassador for Bupyeong-gu, promoting the region through performances and competitions both at home and abroad.

With its beautiful tone and high level of skill, it is recognized as one of the top amateur choirs.

## Cool Choir

Pocheon, South Korea

**Conductor:** YU JIN CHO

**Accompanist:**

Se Kwang Hyen



We are a small team, so we are focusing on voice blending and intonation. And we are working on reinterpreting Korean folk songs and world classical pop songs through modern arrangements.



# SEMANJA Chorale

Ranau, Malaysia

**Conductor:** Le Roy Clovito Julius



SEMANJA Chorale is a vibrant middle school choir made up of passionate young singers who bring energy and creativity to every performance. Their journey in music is a blend of learning, collaboration, and artistic expression, with each member contributing to the rich harmonies and dynamic performances that define the group. Under the guidance of dedicated mentors, the choir explores a diverse repertoire that spans traditional, classical, and contemporary genres. SEMANJA Chorale focused not only on musical excellence but also on fostering a sense of community and teamwork among the students. Their performances are a testament to their growth as young artists, displaying both technical skill and emotional depth. With every song, SEMANJA Chorale brings their youthful spirit and enthusiasm to life, creating memorable musical experiences for their audiences.



# Kong Halmae Choir

Yeongju, Korea



It was founded in august 2018 with 28 members. the average age is 75.

In september 2019, we won the Minister of Culture and Tourism Award at the National Competiton of North Gyeongsang Province at the happy Village Contest.

currently, there are 16 people and are performing in Yeongju and Buseok.

We usually sing trot choral songs, but for the first time, we challenged a new choral song.

**ORGANIZATION**  
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