



choir plus one



Choral concerts usually present a selection of a cappella works or large-scale vocal and instrumental forms. It is also common to combine the sound of the choir with the organ or piano. The unique **'choir plus one'** programme consists of rarely performed works for **choir accompanied by a single instrument** - in this original case, however, it is **harp, cello and guitar**.

Also interesting and unusual is the combination of different musical traditions – English and Spanish, styles – from Gregorian chant to flamenco, as well as the use of English, Polish and Spanish lyrics. The largely secular nature of the concert is also particular.

The occasion for presenting the programme is the 30th anniversary of the Collegium Musicum UW, which falls in the 2024/2025 season.



Programme:

Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

A Ceremony of Carols Op. 28

arrangement by the composer **for mixed 4-voice choir and harp** [25']

UW Collegium Musicum Chamber Choir

Aleksandra Meisner – harp

Andrzej Borzym junior – conductor

Andrzej Borzym junior (*1979)

***Spanish Diptych* (lyrics: Grzegorz Białkowski)**

for 5-voice mixed choir and cello [14']

UW Collegium Musicum Chamber Choir

Bartosz Koziak – cello

Andrzej Borzym junior – conductor

Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco (1895–1968)

***Romancero Gitano Op. 152* (lyrics: Federico Garcia Lorca)**

for 4-voice mixed choir and guitar [25']

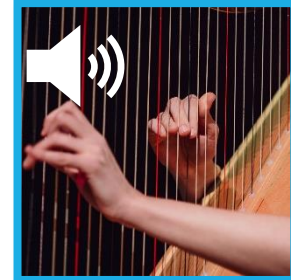
UW Collegium Musicum Chamber Choir

Leszek Potasiński – guitar

Andrzej Borzym – conductor



A Ceremony of Carols Op. 28 - a work by English composer **Benjamin Britten** composed in 1942 to Middle English carol texts. The use of elements of Gregorian chant and medieval and 16th-century poetry foreshadows Britten's later major works, which allude to medieval morality plays. The impressionistic atmosphere of the work is created by the unusual cast, referring on the one hand to traditional English boys' choirs, but at the same time using the harp as an accompanying instrument in place of the traditional organ. Dance motifs and contrapuntal elements appear in individual movements.



In 2022 **Andrzej Borzym junior** created a cycle of pieces to the contemporary poetry of **Grzegorz Białkowski** (1932-1989), physicist, philosopher, poet, oppositionist, Rector of the University of Warsaw 1985-1989. The selections included poems with a humanist and philosophical overtone, alluding to a fascination with The South ('Toledo', 'Alhambra' from the 1968 volume 'Unwinding from the Source'). The result was the '**Spanish Diptych**', which bridges the gap between conventional sacred works and folk or popular music. In the musical layer, the composer made use of Spanish motifs, combining them with an impressionistic form and exploiting the well-known possibilities of the cello.



Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Italian-American composer of film music, operas, songs and instrumental works, created in 1951 the cycle '**Romancero Gitano**' to poems by **Federico García Lorca**. The 9 songs from the collection 'Poema del Cante Jondo' express the apotheosis of Andalusia, a tribute to the world of the local gypsies, their life and freedom. The piece is arranged for choir and guitar, using classical flamenco playing and typical Andalusian musical motifs.



Chamber Choir Collegium Musicum UW was founded in 1994 by faculty, staff and alumni of the University of Warsaw. It is a free academic association, giving amateurs a chance to perform music at a professional level.

The choir performs in Warsaw – at the University and other places as well as all over Poland and takes part in many important musical events: *Dramma per Musica* Festival , *Thursday Music Meetings* at the National Philharmonic, BACH 200 UW, *Universitas Cantat* in Poznań, International Stars Festival in Międzyzdroje. He has also collaborated with the Polish Composers' Union, the Royal Castle in Warsaw, the Fryderyk Chopin Society, and has appeared on Polish Radio and Polish Television.

The *a cappella* repertoire of Collegium Musicum UW consists mainly of Polish music - old and contemporary, as well as 16th/17th-century Italian, Spanish and English music. One of the choir's specialities is the Polish carol repertoire, enriched with old Polish and many foreign songs. The choir's vocal and instrumental repertoire includes works by Bach, Handel, Buxtehude, Telemann, Hasse, Charpentier, Lotti, Zelenka, Purcell, Mozart, Haydn and Faure. Particularly appreciated by audiences are entertainment programmes in choral arrangements by Andrzej Borzym with songs by Jeremi Przybora and Jerzy Wasowski, as well as Agnieszka Osiecka.

The choir has collaborated with excellent orchestras – including the Royal Baroque Ensemble, Altberg Ensemble, Il Tempo, Polish Radio Orchestra, Kukla Band – and outstanding musicians of all styles and specialities: Olga Pasiecznik, Jakub Józef Orliński, Anna Radziejewska, Lilianna Stawarz, Marek Toporowski, Krzysztof Herdzin, Henryk Miśkiewicz and many others. The CMUW discography counts 13 titles, including Polish and world premieres of contemporary works, as well as guest participation in recordings by Polish artists. The ensemble has already given concerts in 17 countries on 4 continents, including Chile, Egypt, South Africa, Georgia, France, Spain, Germany, Norway, Russia, Italy, Iceland and Ukraine.





Andrzej Borzym – graduate of the Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw in Professor Henryk Wojnarowski's class in choral conducting. In the 1983/1984 season he was assistant artistic director of the National Philharmonic Choir in Warsaw. He was the conductor of the Cantio Polonica Choir (1984-1989), the University Academic Choir (1989-1999), the Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Philharmonic Choir (1996-1998) and since 1994 he has led the Chamber Choir of the Collegium Musicum UW. As a double bass player, he has collaborated with many Warsaw theatres, as well as with artists associated with the author's song genre. He is an educator, composer and arranger, particularly valued for his rare ability to adapt jazz and pop songs for choral voices. He has been honoured with, among others, the Award of the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Poland and the Medal of the University of Warsaw.

Andrzej Borzym junior – conductor, composer and arranger, graduate of conducting at the Chopin Academy of Music; he also studied composition. Since the beginning of his professional path he has been strongly associated with choral music. He is the founder (2009), manager and vocalist of the Tempus Vocal Quartet, specialising in early music. Since 2001, he has been the second conductor of the Chamber Choir of the Collegium Musicum UW. In the years 2005-2007 he led the KIK Chamber Choir *Ars Cantata*, in the years 2012-2016 he was the director of the Vocal Ensemble of the Warsaw Chamber Opera. He has collaborated with many orchestras in Poland and abroad, among which are: NOSPR, Sinfonia Varsovia, Toruń Symphony Orchestra, Elbląg Chamber Orchestra, National Philharmonic Orchestra, Sinfonia Iuventus, Slovenian National Opera Orchestra, Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, orchestras of many national philharmonics. As a conductor and respected arranger, he has had the opportunity to work with many prominent jazz and pop musicians. His compositional output includes dozens of works, mostly vocal, as well as music for theatre performances and films.



Aleksandra Meisner – harpist, graduate of the UMFC in the class of Professor Zuzanna Elster. She also completed studies in cultural studies at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University. She is currently a student at the Chopin University of Music Doctoral School and a harpist with the Jerzy Semkow Polish Sinfonia Iuventus Orchestra.

Bartosz Koziak – cellist, graduate of the Chopin University of Music, where he studied under Kazimierz Michalik and Andrzej Bauer, receiving his diploma with honours. He also studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris in the class of Philippe Muller. Laureate of many competitions, including the 3rd Witold Lutosławski International Cello Competition in Warsaw (1st prize, 2001), the Isang Yun Competition in Tongyeong, South Korea (2nd prize), the Mykola Lysenko Competition in Kyiv (2nd prize), the 11th International Contemporary Chamber Music Competition in Kraków (1st prize). A valued chamber musician and soloist, he has collaborated with, among others, Kaja Danczowska, Elżbieta Stefańska, Anna Maria Staśkiewicz, the National Philharmonic Orchestra, the National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonia Varsovia, Sinfonietta Cracovia, Orchestra Sinfonica Siciliana, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo, Münchener Kammerorchester, Prague Philharmonic, National Orchestra of Ukraine, Youth Orchestra of Armenia, with conductors Krzysztof Penderecki, Jan Krenz, Antoni Wit, Gabriel Chmura, Volodymyr Sirenka. He has been invited to important festivals, including Warsaw Autumn, Young Euro Classic in Berlin, L. van Beethoven Easter Festival, Musica Polonica Nova, Music Festival in Łańcut, Chopin and his Europe, „East meets West” in South Korea. He is a professor at the F. Nowowiejski Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz.

Leszek Potasiński – guitarist, graduate of the Chopin Academy of Music (diploma with honours) in the class of Marcin Zalewski, he also studied with Jose Luis Rodrigo at the Real Conservatorio Superior de Música de Madrid. He is the winner of many awards, including 1st place at the 4th National Classical Guitar Performance Competition in Łódź (1979), 1st place at the Guitar Interpretation of Spanish Music Competition in Warsaw (1985), Prix d'Honneur de la Ville at the 'Guitares en Saubestre' Festival in Arthez-de-Bearn, France (1988), and the 'Guitar Top' award of the Guitar and Bass magazine in the flamenco guitar category (1993). He has performed solo recitals in concert halls in Poland and many European countries, also at many prestigious guitar festivals. As a chamber musician he has co-founded ensembles: Trio Voyage with Anette Maiburg (flute) and Włodzimierz Gula (double bass), Solo Tres with Beatriz Blanco (vocals, cuatro) and Marek Walawender (guitar), a quartet with Dorota Szczepańska (soprano), Tomasz Strahl (cello) and Mirosław Feldgebel (piano), and duets with many guitarists. She is a highly regarded pedagogue and has been a professor at the UMFC since 2013.

- We always determine fees after individual negotiations. We issue VAT invoices.
- We are open to any suggestions for musical collaboration.
- For more information and our recordings:

www.cm.uw.edu.pl

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We look forward to working together!

Chór Kameralny Collegium Musicum Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego (The University of Warsaw Collegium Musicum Chamber Choir)

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