



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **The 10th “Giuseppe Zelioli” European Festival of Youth Choirs from 4th to 8th July in Lecco**

**With eleven European choirs – A rich programme of concerts in Lecco and in 16 other venues  
in Lombardy**

*Lecco, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012* – **The “Giuseppe Zelioli” European Festival of Youth Choirs, the event promoted by the “Harmonia Gentium” musical association of Lecco under the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Culture Commission and the Lombardy Region, which will be held in Lecco from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> July, celebrates its tenth anniversary this year.**

This rendez-vous of great musical and cultural value will bring to the city on Lake Como no fewer than **11 youth choirs from all over Europe**, thus contributing, through music, to creating a concrete exchange of experience and cultures between all those who represent the present and the future of our continent.

The work by the Festival jury in recent months has been particularly intense, to select, from the many applications, the 10 choirs which will be joined – as is tradition – by a further choir invited by the organizers. Moreover, the now consolidated standard of excellence that the Festival has reached in its nine years allows the organizers of this festival of a European dimension to make choices of quality from the artistic point of view.

This has transformed the “Giuseppe Zelioli” European Festival of Youth Choirs over time into a fully-fledged expressive laboratory that can bring the young generations closer to artistic practice, accentuating its educational dimension and developing its function as a place of synthesis and experimentation, in a window wide open on to young talents.

The choirs taking part in this tenth festival come from France (Bordeaux), Germany (Essen), Italy (Seregno), Lithuania (Kaunas and Klaipeda), Latvia (Kuldiga), Poland (Warsaw), Czech Republic (Prague), Ukraine (Odessa) and Hungary (Nyiregyhaza). The guest of honour will be the Jitro Choir, from Hradec Kralové (Czech Republic), the winner of the 2010 edition: this choir will have the task of opening the Festival, with the **Inaugural Concert at 9.30 p.m. on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July in the Basilica of San Nicolò in Lecco**, after the opening ceremony which will be held in Piazza Garibaldi with the raising of the flag and the performance of the European Anthem, to be followed by a procession through the city centre.

The programme of the week will be particularly rich in concerts and performances in Lecco.





**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 9.00 p.m.** at the **Basilica of San Nicolò** there will be the **Gala Concert** by the choirs of Odessa, Nyiregyaza, Essen, Kultiga and Prague.

The following evening, **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 9.00 p.m.**, again in the **Basilica of San Nicolò in Lecco**, it will be the turn of the **Gala Concert** by the choirs of Bordeaux, Klaipeda, Seregno, Kaunas and Warsaw.

**On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July, at 8.30 p.m.**, all the choirs will gather on the lake shore in the city and from there go in a procession through the streets of the centre to Piazza Garibaldi where they will perform in a **Concert of European Folklore**.

Lastly, on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July, at 11.30 p.m.**, the **Solemn Mass concluding the Festival** will be held in the **Basilica of San Nicolò**, during which all the choirs will perform collectively the Solemn Mass in F Major Op. 41(1914) with 4 mixed voices by Giuseppe Zelioli and motets by various composers, with the participation of the Youth Ensemble of Udine (brass) and Massimo Borassi (organ), conducted by Maestro PierAngelo Pelucchi.

If the heart of the Festival is the city of Lecco, **five provinces of Lombardy** (in addition to Lecco, Bergamo, Como, Monza/Brianza and Sondrio) will also be able to appreciate the qualities of these prestigious European choirs during the week, thanks to a rich programme with **no fewer than 16 concerts** in the following towns: Arosio (CO), Barzio (LC), Bergamo, Brugherio (MB), Dolzago (LC), Erba (CO), Garlate (LC), Mandello Lario (LC), Mariano Comense (CO), Menaggio (CO), Missaglia (LC), Nova Milanese (MB), Seregno (MB), Sirone (LC), Sondalo (SO) and Varenna (LC).

Lastly, there are two institutional rendez-vous: on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 11.00 p.m.**, the conductors of the choirs will be received at **Palazzo Lombardia by the President of the Region, Roberto Formigoni**. The following day, **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July, at 12.15 p.m. at the Town Hall of Lecco**, the **Mayor Virginio Brivio** will greet the choir conductors on behalf of the city.

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