



Anyone interested in hosting a performance of Cantores Minores is kindly requested to contact:

Cantores Minores Choral Association

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We are also on:



www.facebook.com/cantoresminorespolska



www.youtube.com/cantoresminores



Joseph A. Herter

Honorary Conductor – Founder of Cantores Minores

Born of Polish descent in 1945 in Detroit, he is a graduate of the School of Music at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He continued his studies in choral conducting at Westminster Choir College with Robert Shaw, and in orchestral conducting at the Berkshire Music Institute in Tanglewood with Seiji Ozawa and Kurt Masur. He served as Director of Music at several Roman Catholic parishes in Detroit.

Having settled in Poland in 1974, he initially worked as Director of Music at the American School of Warsaw, subsequently developing a career as guest conductor with the Polish National Opera in Warsaw, Teatr Rozrywki in Chorzów and numerous symphony orchestras, including the Warsaw Philharmonic.

In 1990, he founded the Cantores Minores Choir of St John's Archcathedral in Warsaw.

Thanks to a grant from Ars Musica Polonia in Los Angeles, he has done extensive research into the life and music of the Polish composer and pianist Zygmunt Stojowski (1870-1946). Herter's "Zygmunt Stojowski: Life and Music" was published by the Polish Music Center at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles in 2007. He has received awards and distinctions from the Polish Ministry of Culture, the Polish Singers Alliance of America, the Polish Union of Choirs and Orchestras, and the Polish Senate.



Ryszard Gieros

Honorary President of the Board – Founder of Cantores Minores

Born in Drohiczyn in 1944. In his school and student years, he was a keen sportsman, with a special interest in volleyball and sabre fencing. He was runner-up in the national junior fencing championships. In 1970 he graduated from the University of Technology in Warsaw and developed a fine career in civil engineering and as a building surveyor. He has received numerous awards for his professional achievements. One of the founders of Cantores Minores, he served for many years as President of the Board of the Cantores Minores Choral Association.

Cantores Minores

Male Choir of St. John's Archcathedral



Henryk Grocholski
President of the Board
of the Cantores Minores
Choral Association.

He started his musical education studying the cello at the Emil Młynarski Primary Music School in Warsaw. Having joined Cantores Minores in 1991, he has been its member since, performing as a soloist, accompanist and assistant conductor. He is currently a Ph.D. student at the Department of Law and Administration of Warsaw University and a founding partner in the law firm 'Nobilis Partners Graboś Gładysz Grocholski Lenartowicz'. He is also President of the Main Board of the Polish Nobility Association, editor-in-chief of the periodical 'Verbum Nobile' and a Board Member of the Foundation of the Order of Malta Warsaw – Poland. He holds the Bronze Cross of Merit and the 'Cultural Merit' Badge. In 2016, he took over as President of the Board of the Cantores Minores Choral Association.



foto. Jacek Poremba

Cantores Minores was founded in 1990 by Joseph A. Herter, with the help of Ryszard Gieros and Alfred Stefankiewicz. Almost from the very beginning, it has been affiliated with St. John's

Archcathedral in Warsaw. In addition to singing at the celebrations of Sunday Mass, the Choir has performed with many Polish symphony orchestras, including the Warsaw Philharmonic and Sinfonia Varsovia, as well as with such foreign

orchestras as The Academy of the London Mozarteum, Orchestre des pays de la Loire and Berliner Symphoniker. Foreign tours have taken the Choir to over 20 countries in Europe and the United States. It has won numerous awards at international choral competitions, including those in Lecco, Italy (1997), Moscow (2000), Prague (2002, 2003, 2004), Międzyzdroje, Poland (2004) and Warsaw (2013, 2015, 2016). In the autumn of 2016, it won First Prize at the 12th Varsovia Cantat International Festival (in the chamber choirs category).

Highlights in the activities of the Choir have included a concert at the Vatican's Sala Nervi televised by Rai Uno and broadcast live by Eurovision (2000)

and a concert in Strasbourg to mark the European Day of Cultural Dialogue, shown by the French TV cable station Mezzo in almost 40 countries (2008). In 2012, six members of the Choir were invited to perform with the internationally famous jazzman Bobby McFerrin in Warsaw.

Cantores Minores is a member of the Polish Union of Choruses and Orchestras and of the Polish branch of Pueri Cantores, an international federation of church choirs originally established for boys and men.

The year 2016 saw changes in the Choir's organizational structure. Ryszard Gieros was replaced by Henryk Grocholski, a long-time member of the Choir, as President of the Board of the Cantores Minores Choral Association.

Another long-time member of the Choir Franciszek Kubicki took over the post of conductor. Jakub Szafranski is his assistant.



foto. Jakub Kumiński



foto. Szymon Adamczyk

Franciszek Kubicki
Conductor of Cantores Minores

He studied piano and percussion at the Emil Młynarski Primary Music School in Warsaw and continued his musical education at the Department of Musicology of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, where he specialized in organ and piano performance. He also graduated from a postgraduate course for artists and amateurs at the Department of Management of Warsaw University. He served as an organist at the Parish of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Mother of the Church in Warsaw, where he founded and conducted the Coro Mater Ecclesiae Mixed Choir. He was also a member of the Musica Sacra Choir at St. Florian's Cathedral in Warsaw. He works closely as piano accompanist with the European Foundation for the Promotion of Vocal Art.

He joined Cantores Minores in 1990 and has performed as a soloist, accompanist and assistant conductor. In 2016, he assumed the duties of the choir's chief conductor.

Jakub Szafranski
Assistant conductor of Cantores Minores

He has graduated from the Grażyna Bacewicz Music School and the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, gaining the diplomas in trumpet performance, directing small ensembles and choral conducting. He is currently continuing his education as a student of Paweł Łukaszewski's composition class at the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music. He won First Award at the 57. Tadeusz Baird Competition for Young Composers (2016). In 2012 he founded the Foyer Vocal Ensemble, serving as its music director and conductor. He also works as an assistant conductor of the Academic Choir of the Warsaw School of Economics.

Joseph Herter received the title 'Honorary Conductor – Founder of Cantores Minores' and Ryszard Gieros – 'Honorary President of the Board – Founder of Cantores Minores'.

The Choir sings during the 11:00 a.m. Mass at St. John's Archcathedral every fourth Sunday of the month as well as during major church holidays. It also performs at religious ceremonies in other churches, as well as at various cultural events.

The Choir has a broad repertoire including Gregorian chant, a cappella sacred works (for Lent and Advent, Passion songs, Christmas carols), sacred compositions with the accompaniment of organ and other instruments, as well as patriotic and popular songs.