



Image: Szymon Adamczyk

Cantores  
Minores 30  
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CANTORES  
Archikatedralny Chór Męski

## Cantores Minores Male Choir of St. John's Archcathedral

The Choir was founded in 1990 by Joseph A. Herter, with assistance from Ryszard Gieros and Alfred Stefankiewicz. Almost since the very beginning, it has been affiliated with St. John's Basilica in Warsaw, initially as a boys' choir. It has performed with many Polish and foreign symphony orchestras. Foreign tours have taken the choir to over twenty countries. It has won numerous awards at international choral competitions. In 2016, Franciszek Kubicki succeeded Joseph Herter as conductor of Cantores Minores.

In recent years the choir has scored several notable successes, including:

- First Prize at the 12th 'Varsovia Cantat' International Competition (2016);
- Grand Prix and First Prize at the Sacred Song Festivals in Grójec (2017, 2018, 2019);
- Second Prize at the 'Cracovia Cantans' International Competition (2017);
- Grand Prix and First Prize at the 4th 'Carmen Fidei' International Choral Competition in Łomża (2017);
- First Prize (Golden Diploma) in the chamber choir category at the 27th Festival

of Advent and Christmas Songs in Prague (2017);

- First Prize at the 'Sacrosong' International Festival of Religious and Patriotic Songs in Otwock (2018);
- Golden and silver diploma at the 5th 'Cantu Gaudeamus' Choir Competition in Białystok (2021).

The choir has a broad repertoire including Gregorian chant, a cappella sacred works (for Lent and Advent, Passion songs, Christmas carols), as well as patriotic and popular songs. It also performs at religious cer-

emonies in other churches and at various cultural events. The choir sings at St. John's Basilica during Mass every fourth Sunday of the month as well as during major church holidays. Cantores Minores is a co-founder of the Polish Section of the International Federation of Pueri Cantores. In 2018, The choir released a CD featuring a selection of Christmas carols (CM 001).



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### **Franciszek Kubicki** **Conductor**

He is a graduate of the Department of Musicology at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, where he specialized in organ and piano performance. He also completed a postgraduate course for artists and cultural promotion 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 Choir. He was also a member of the Musica Sacra Choir at St. Florian's Cathedral in Warsaw. 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. He received the Best Conductor Award at the 27th Festival of Advent and Christmas Songs in Prague (2017). He is the holder of the Bronze Cross of Merit and the Honorary Badge of Merit for Polish Culture.

### **Henryk Grocholski** **President of the Board of the** **Cantores Minores Choral Association**

He started his musical education studying the cello at the Emil Młynarski Music School in Warsaw. Having joined Cantores Minores in 1990, he has been a member ever since, performing also as a soloist and accompanist. He is currently working towards his doctoral degree at the Department of Law and Administration of Warsaw University and is a founding partner in the law firm 'Nobilis Partners Graboś Grocholski Lenartowicz'. He is also active as a publisher of books on history and as a Board Member of the Foundation of the Order of Malta Poland. His distinctions include the Bronze Cross of Merit and the Honorary Badge of Merit for Polish Culture.

### **Jakub Szafrąński** **Assistant conductor, composer**

He is a graduate of the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, where he gained diplomas in composition (the class of Paweł Łukaszewski), choral conducting (the class of Ryszard Zimak) as well as in performance (trumpet). In 2017, he joined the faculty of his alma mater. In addition to his work for Cantores Minores, he directs the Female Choir of the Warsaw School of Economics and is an assistant conductor of the School's Academic Choir. He won First Prize at the 57th Tadeusz Baird Competition for Young Composers (2016) and several other awards at composers' competitions in Poland and abroad. His works have been performed by leading Polish and foreign ensembles, including the New Music Orchestra, the proMODERN vocal sextet, The Poznań Chamber Choir, The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge, and Kammerchor Hannover.

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

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