

## PRESS RELEASE

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## European Award for Choral Composers 2017/18 - Results

### Jury selects three winners from choral compositions submitted from all over Europe

On September 20<sup>th</sup> 2017 the Jury of the European Award for Choral Composers, comprised of Jonathan Rathbone (UK, chair), Ivo Antonigni (CH), Ágnes Erdélyi (HU), Cecilia Martin-Löf (SE), Raul Talmar (EE) with the advice of Jan Schumacher (DE), chair of the Music Commission of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat, chose the winning compositions of the 2017/8 edition.

The European Award for Choral Composers is the continuation of the “Golden Tuning Fork” Award, organised by AGECE over many years, and was first organised by the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat (ECA-EC) in 2011/2012. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 2017/18 member organisations of ECA-EC were again invited to submit compositions for the following categories: 1. a cappella choir, 2. choir and instruments, with a maximum of 3 works per category to be submitted by one organisation.

**51 compositions** from 41 composers were submitted to the competition by 17 member organisations in 16 European countries, a clear increase in comparison with the previous edition. 38 compositions were submitted in category 1, 13 in category 2.

#### **In category 1 (a cappella) the jury decided to share the prize among two winning composition:**

- “Cantate Domino” (2012) for male choir, composed by Balatoni Sándor (HU \*1983)
- “Mesedoboz” (2015) for female choir, composed by Peter Tóth (HU \* 1965)

#### **In category 2 (with instruments) the Jury chose one winning composition:**

- “Jubilate Deo” (2012) for female choir, 2 violins and small percussion instruments, composed by Gyöngyösi Levente (HU \* 1975)

All three compositions were submitted by the Hungarian Association for Choirs and Orchestras (KÓTA), the jury received anonymous scores and was not aware of the nationalities of the scores with Latin text.

The winning composition were awarded 300 EUR each and will be performed at the festival EUROPA CANTAT XX in Tallinn, Estonia, between July 27<sup>th</sup> and August 5<sup>th</sup> 2018 by one of the guest as part of a special evening concert.

The next edition of the European Award for Choral Composers will be organised in 2020, with the winning compositions being performed in the Festival EUROPA CANTAT XXI in 2021.



**European Award for Composers 2017/2018 - Details on the winning scores and composers**

**Winners of Category 1:**

- **"Cantate Domino"** , for male choir, composed by Balatoni Sándor in 2012, (Not published)

**Sándor Balatoni** was born in 1983 in Pecs, Hungary. He studied composition at the Conservatory of Pecs with Istvan Gyorffy. Since 2014 he has been the titular organist and choir director of the Heart of Jesus Church in Pecs and since 2016 he has been an assistant professor at the University of Pecs at the organ and choral conducting department, teacher at the Imre Eck art school. He has won a number of composition prizes in Hungary and beyond and his works has been performed in several European countries, in the United States and in China.



- **"Mesedoboz"** (Tale-box), for female choir, composed by Peter Tóth in 2015, consists of three parts title "Kobold a polcon" (The kobold on the shelf), "Csengős bárány" (The bell and the lamb, and "Gurul a gurula" (Perpetuum mobile). It was published by Kontrapunkt Zeneműkiadó Kft ([kontrapunktmusic@gmail.com](mailto:kontrapunktmusic@gmail.com)) , 1118 Budapest Villányi út 83-85, Hungary

**Peter Tóth** was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1965 and completed his studies at the Béla Bartók Conservatory as a double major in percussion and composition, where his teachers were Oszkár Schwartz and Miklós Kocsár. In 1985 he was admitted to the Franz Liszt Academy of Budapest, where he earned his degree in composition (1990), studying with Emil Petrovics. He is currently Dean of the School of Music at the University of Szeged and holds a position at the Hungarian Academy of Arts. Péter Tótz has composed sound tracks to numerous movies. H is music is regularly performed in Europe, North America and throughout the world.



**Winner of Category 2:**

**"Jubilate Deo** for female choir, 2 violins and small percussion instruments was composed by Gyöngyösi Levente in 2012. It was published by Kontrapunkt Zeneműkiadó Kft ([kontrapunktmusic@gmail.com](mailto:kontrapunktmusic@gmail.com)), 1118 Budapest Villányi út 83-85, Hungary

**Gyöngyösi Levente** was born in Cluj-Napoca, Transylvania in 1975. He moved to Hungary in 1989 and studied composition and piano at the Bartók Conservatory with István Fekete Győr and Katalin Schweitzer. In 1993 he started studying at the composition department at the Liszt Academy with György Orbán, from where he graduated in 1999. He is now working as a freelance composer.

He has won a number of awards with his compositions which are performed by choirs in Hungary and beyond.

