

THE HEAD OF THE JURY



Krzysztof Olczak, a composer and accordionist of the middle generation, professor at the Academy of Music in Gdańsk. His compositional interests mainly include chamber music, as well as electronics and live electronics techniques using computers. He performs as an accordionist and is also interested in teaching at primary and secondary school level, conducting numerous seminars and meetings with accordion teachers. He studied music at the Instrumental Department of the Academy of Music in Warsaw (accordion) under Lech Puchnowski, and then at the Academy of Music in Gdańsk (composition) under Eugeniusz Głowski. He is a laureate of accordion and composition competitions. As an accordionist, he has performed a number of world premieres. He has also made many recordings, mainly of new music. In recent years, his discography as a composer has been enriched with a number of CDs: with an accordion concerto (Dux), a flute concerto (Dux), solo and chamber accordion music (Dux),

a composition for soprano and chamber orchestra (Dux), electroacoustic music (Requiem Records), and chamber music (Odradek). Since 1979, Krzysztof Olczak has been professionally associated with the Academy of Music in Gdańsk, where he works as a professor, currently heading the Department of Composition.



Ene Kangron, Head of the Continuing Education Centre of the Estonian Academy of Music (EAMT) since 1998 to the present, lecturer of choral conducting (1986-2003), Head of Music Education Department and conductor of the Female Choir of the EAMT (1991-1994), Estonian National coordinator for European Association for Music in Schools – EAS (2003-2021), EAS board member (2009-2015), President of the IMuO Academic Committee since 2016, chair of Estonian National Music Olympiads (2002-2024).



Rūta Girdzijauskienė is a Professor at Lithuania Academy of Music and Theatre, and president of the Lithuanian Music Teachers' Association. She is a national coordinator of the *European Association for Music in Schools (EAS)* and board member of *European Network for Music Educators and Researchers of Young Children (EuNET MERYC)*. For many years she was a secondary school teacher and leader of a children's choir. She actively contributes to international projects, publications, and policy discussions shaping contemporary European music education. Her research interests lie in the fields of research methodology, didactic of music education, musical creativity, vocal pedagogy and teacher education.



Pepy Michaelides holds a BMus (Hons) and MMus from the University of London, U.K. majoring in Historical Musicology, Analysis and Piano Performance, with further postgraduate studies in Music Education at the University of London (IoE) with Keith Swanwick. She has extensive teaching experience in secondary and tertiary education. Furthermore, she devises music education seminars and workshops for teachers and youth in Cyprus and abroad. Currently she coordinates music subjects in Cyprus Music Schools. She has been serving on national and European music curricula committees, various music examination and/or competition boards, music advisory teams, as well as music conference and project coordinating committees. Pepy has been involved with the International Music Olympiad since 2018, preparing students for 2018 and 2022 and serving on the organising/academic committee for the IMO in Cyprus in 2024. Her research interests include creativity, composition, neuroscience and music education, singing and wellbeing, teacher education, and intercultural education.



Branka Rotar Pance is Professor at the Department of Music Education at the Academy of Music (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia). She gives lectures on music didactics in the Bachelor's and Master's programs and supervises doctoral students. Her research activities focus on working with gifted students, musical creativity, competitions in music education, ICT in music education, motivation of the music teachers, lifelong learning, arts and cultural education, and the history of Slovenian music pedagogy. She serves as the coordinator of the International EAS Student Forum. She is the coordinator of the Slovene Music Olympiad and a jury member at the International Music Olympiads. She also works as a reviewer and editor.



Jiřina Jiřičková is a Czech music educator, choral conductor, and researcher. She is Assistant Professor at the Department of Music Education, Faculty of Education, Charles University in Prague, where she also serves as Vice-Dean for Student Affairs. Alongside her university teaching, she works at an elementary school, engaging with learners from childhood through young adulthood. She directs a childrens and youth choir. Her pedagogical focus lies in integrative and joyful approaches to music teaching, emphasising voice, movement, and creativity. She regularly leads teacher training courses and methodological workshops and has presented her work nationally and internationally. Jiřičková is a Chair of the Society for Music Education of the Czech Republic, a Vice-Chair of the Czech Orff Society, and a Vice-President of the Czech Music Council. She also organised the Czech Music Olympiad and publishes research on music pedagogy and choral practice.



Dace Kravale is an experienced Latvian music educator, lecturer, and dance and movement therapist with a strong interdisciplinary background in arts, education, and well-being. She holds multiple master's degrees in education sciences, arts, and healthcare, reflecting her broad academic and professional expertise. She currently serves as Deputy Head for Extracurricular Activities at the National Secondary School of Arts (Janis Rozentāls Art School) and is a board member of the Latvian Association of General Education Music Teachers. Dace actively contributes to teacher professional development by delivering lectures on

educator well-being, creativity, and interdisciplinary teaching approaches. With over 30 years of experience as a music teacher in preschool education and at the children's vocal studio "Momo," she has developed extensive expertise in vocal training and early music education. She is also the author of several song cycles and an experienced concert director, creating and leading artistic productions. Her professional experience includes teaching at various educational levels, developing national educational content, and working as a guest lecturer at the Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music. She has served as a jury member in national vocal competitions, including "Balsis," demonstrating her expertise in evaluating musical performance and artistic expression.



Marc Lohse is a pianist and educator based in Mannheim, Germany. He holds a Master's degree with highest honors in Classical Piano from the Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with Prof. Dr. Inesa Sinkevych. Currently, he pursues the *Konzertexamen* at the State University of Music and Performing Arts Mannheim with Prof. Rudolf Meister and Ok-Hi Lee, with whom he previously studied during his Bachelor's. Formative were collaborations in Lied with Prof. Axel Bauni from the Berlin University of the Arts and music theory with Prof. Dr. Reiko Fütting in New York City. A scholarship holder of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, Marc has won numerous prizes. He's a laureate of the Lillian-Fuchs-Chamber-Competition in New York and the Concerto Competition of the Talent Summer Courses in Brescia, Italy. Marc made recordings for radio and television stations and has given concerts across Europe and North America. As an

educator, Marc enjoys passing on his love for music to students of various ages and backgrounds. After having taught at the Bronx Conservatory of Music, he has served as faculty at the Municipal Conservatory in Frankenthal since 2024. Frequently he acts as a juror, most recently at the German Jugend Musiziert competition.



Kamil Cieřlik, Graduate of the Stanisław Moniuszko Academy of Music in Gdańsk in the composition class of Prof. Krzysztof Olczak (diploma with honours in 2015). His compositions have won many prizes and honorable mentions in national and international composers' competitions, including the 1st prize in the 1st National Krzysztof Penderecki Composers' Competition in Sopot for the piece *Music for Strings* (2011); 1st prize in the national competition 'This Bell Tolls for the Fountain' for the piece *Opowieści Fontanny Heweliusza [Tales of Hevelius' Fountain]* (2016); 3rd place in the 2nd stage of the International Composers' Competition for the Opera *The Man from Manufaktura* (2016–2017); 1st Prize in the National Competition for a Tczew Christmas Carol entitled *Christmas carols bridges* for the song *Carol of Tczew* (2025). The composer's works have been performed at concerts in Poland and abroad, e.g. in

Lithuania, France, and Austria. Since 2017, he has been the Artistic Director of the music event for Gdansk seniors entitled Benefit Concert of Maturity and has been a lecturer of the Academy of Music in Gdansk. Since September 2020, he has been the deputy dean of the Department of Conducting, Composition, and Theory of Music of that academy.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE 7. IMuO Sopot/Poland



Gabriela Karin Konkol, Professor of Music Education at the Faculty of Choral Conducting, Church Music, Arts Education, Eurhythmics and Jazz at the Stanisław Moniuszko Academy of Music in Gdańsk, Poland. Certified piano teacher. The author of the *European Integration – Bologna Process. Implications for Music Education* monograph and of several dozen scientific articles/chapters in the field of music education. Member of the Editorial Board of two journals: *Školski vjesnik – Journal for Pedagogic Theory and Practice*, *The International Journal of Music Education*. Invited lectures/workshops in many European countries as well as in Israel, Russia, Turkey and the US. Jury member of international music competitions and Olympiad. Elected European Association for Music in Schools board member (2009-2013). EAS National Coordinator. Member of the IMuO Academic Committee. Awarded many times for her scientific, artistic and educational achievements.

THE JURY SECRETARY



Michał Kierzkowski, PhD, Honoured with the *Meritorious for Polish Culture* distinction and the *Bronze Cross of Merit*, he serves as an assistant professor and dean of the Faculty of Choral Conducting, Church Music, Artistic Education, Eurhythmics and Jazz at the Academy of Music in Gdańsk for the 2016–2020, 2020–2024, and 2024–2028 terms. From 2012 to 2016, he held the position of vice-dean of the same faculty. In 2012, he defended with distinction his doctoral dissertation at the Institute of Psychology of the University of Gdańsk. He is the author of the scientific monograph *Musical Development of the Preschool Child* (published in 2012), as well as numerous articles, studies, and book chapters in the field of developmental music psychology.