

The **Cum Iubilo** choir, founded in 1998 by its current conductor and artistic director, Giovanni Scalici, has as its goal the promulgation of the sacred choral repertoire of various historical periods, from Gregorian chant to modern forms of experimentation with the language of vocal composition, with the awareness that such a tradition represents a living, invaluable artistic heritage and an inexhaustible source of cultural and human enhancement.

The choir has been active on the Sicilian musical scene in numerous concert seasons, at festivals, cultural and religious events, national and international conferences, at the invitation of public institutions, musical associations, scientific institutions, cultural associations and humanitarian movements. Of great significance were its participation in the 45th *Week of Sacred Music* of Monreale (2002), in the *Organ Festival* of San Martino delle Scale (2004), in the 380th *Festino of Saint Rosalia* in Palermo (2004), in the 6th International Festival of Polyphonic Choruses *Cantare Amantis est* in Salerno (2004) and, in the role of "laboratory chorus", in the 1st *Master Class in choral teaching and practice for chorus members and choirmasters* held by G. Mazzucato in Palermo (2004). The choir has also recorded the first volume of the sacred works of I. Sgarlata on behalf of the Institute of Religious Sciences of Monreale. In 2007 the choir has presented, as a first modern-day performance, unpublished Gregorian pieces transcribed from codices of the Historical Diocesan Archive of Palermo.

The choir came in first at the 1st National Choral Competition *Lorenzo Gagliardi* (Catania, 2004), at the 1st National Polyphonic Competition *City of Polizzi Generosa* (2007) and at the 12th National Competition *B. Albanese Prize* (Caccamo, 2007), where, in addition, it was awarded the *City of Caccamo Prize* and the *Artistic Prize*. At the 6th National Festival of Sacred Choral Music *Alessandria in Music* (Alessandria della Rocca, 2007) it was awarded the *Technical Prize* for the best participating choir. At the 4th National Choral Competition *City of Porto Empedocle* (2003) and in Polizzi Generosa (2007) the choir won the *A.R.S. Cori* prize, awarded to the best participating Sicilian choir by the Regional Association of Sicilian Choruses.

Lately the choir has continued to pursue its own education and training through the promotion of meetings and courses with national and international experts such as G. Mazzucato (vocal style, technique and interpretation) and A. Turco (Gregorian chant).

Within the main choir, and under the direction of the same choirmaster, there is the *Cum Iubilo* women's vocal group, which specializes in the performance of the Gregorian repertoire. Its recent performances include the *Proprium* of the

Mass *In Conceptione Immaculata Beatae Mariae Virginis* and the first modern-day performance, in Palermo, of the *Cum Iubilo* Mass, *in alternatim*, by G. B. Fasolo.

Both the main choir and the women's group have always met with widespread popular success and have won the approval of specialized critics.

In 2006 the musical association *Coro Cum Iubilo* was founded, to enhance the artistic and cultural education of the choir and to promote the development and the circulation of the choral repertoire.