



The Hanseatic Way: A Musical Journey Through a Shared Past



Ensemble *Canto Fiorito*, Vilnius, Lithuania

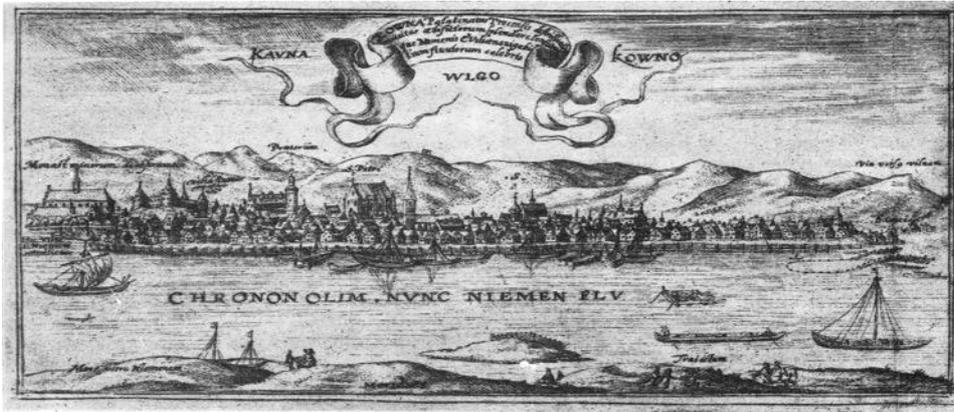
“The Hanseatic Way: A Musical Journey Through a Shared Past” is a cultural cooperation project between early music ensembles *Canto Fiorito* from Vilnius, Lithuania, and *Musica Antiqua Salzburg*, Austria, in collaboration with *ERP Music* management company from Tallinn, Estonia.

The project aims at raising interest of contemporary society, and particularly the young generation, in the phenomena of the Hanseatic League and providing insight into its culture.

The activities will include 8 concerts featuring some of the best music created in the League's countries in the XVI-XVII c.c., and educational and audience development events taking place in 7 Hanseatic or related countries – Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Germany, Austria, United Kingdom, Norway, and Poland.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

The Hanseatic League (also known as the *Hansa*) was a commercial and defensive confederation of merchant guilds and their market towns. It dominated maritime trade in the North and Baltic Seas between 1300 and 1700, with trade routes that extended from London to Tallinn, enabling vast commercial and cultural exchange. The capital of the *Hansa* was the German city of Lübeck, with countless member cities spread across modern-day Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Belarus and England. The League reached its zenith in the XV and XVI century and began to decline in the second half of the XVII century.



The XVII th century panorama of Kaunas – the city of the Hanseatic League

CONCERT PROGRAMME

Spotting on historical phenomena of the Hanseatic League, this project aims at raising interest of the contemporary society in a shared European cultural heritage and attracting new early music audiences, particularly, children and youth. A specially developed concert program represents composers from each Hansa country in a simulated journey through space and time - the XVI-XVII centuries, which were the most significant times in the activities of the League. The programme includes widely known composers such as Hyeronimus Praetorius (1560-1629), Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672), William Byrd (1539/40-1623), Thomas Tallis (1505-1585), Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621), and outstanding, however, less known European composers like Bartłomiej Pękiel (1601-1670), Giovanni Battista Cocciola (fl. 1610-1620), Johann Valentin Meder (1649-1719), etc.

PERFORMERS

The project is performed by Lithuania based ensemble *Canto Fiorito*, with its artistic leader Rodrigo Calveyra, a renowned cornett and recorder player, and the Austrian early music ensemble *Musica Antiqua Salzburg*, the major early music ensemble of the city. Both ensembles specialize in renaissance-baroque music, ensuring historically informed recreation and performance of music from the Hanseatic League. Five voices of *Canto Fiorito* are complemented by five historical wind instruments of *Musica Antiqua Salzburg* in a perfect combination, typical to the music of those times, completed by organ's basso continuo.



Canto Fiorito and Musica Antiqua Salzburg

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The concerts will be supplemented with educational and audience development activities.

- **Special application for smartphones and live broadcasting of concerts**

To gain interest of younger public and raise the quantity of listeners and countries directly affected by this project, 8 concerts of the project will be broadcasted through a specially developed application for smartphones. The application was created and tested by the project partner – Estonian company *ERP Music*. During the first tests the broadcasting reached listeners in 16 countries.

- **Presentation of Hanseatic music through flash-mobs in public spaces**

On the eve of each concert the ensembles will present a piece from the programme in a form of a flash-mob – a surprising performance in a public place. It will establish a direct encounter with new audiences; each flash-mob will be filmed and broadcasted via social media.

- **Involvement of children into production of a video screened during concerts**

Children from the countries of the project will be invited to participate in the competition of artworks on the historical pictures of the Hansa cities of their country. The selected pictures will become the part of the video to be screened during the concerts.

- **Multimedia presentations and meetings at schools**

Before a concert the artistic leader of the project will meet children at their schools and talk about the culture and history of the Hanseatic League with the help of multimedia presentations and live musical examples.



Artistic leader Rodrigo Calveyra in an educational project for young audience

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