



## ASSOCIAZIONE AMICI CORO MANOS BLANCAS DEL FRIULI ONLUS

### MANOS BLANCAS CHOIR OF FRIULI

The story of the **Manos Blancas Choir** starts in 1999 in Venezuela by means of Naybeth Garcia and Johnny Gomez, teachers and assistants in the music school of Maestro José Antonio Abreu: theirs is the idea of applying the “El Sistema” method for children affected by cognitive and sensorial deficiencies, introducing it in the National System of Youth and Children Orchestras of Venezuela, created by Maestro José Antonio Abreu 35 years ago.

On **January 30<sup>th</sup> 2010** the **Nonino Prize** is awarded to the **Manos Blancas Choir of Venezuela**, a choir where children and adolescents suffering all sorts of disabilities, interact integrating with orchestras and choirs of all kinds and levels. It is a miracle coming from “vibrations of the soul that gives: joy and dignity to creatures marked by a different destiny and opens the heart of who listens!”

On such occasion the **Nonino Family**, involved by this “miracle” **creates the Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli, for Claudio Abbado**, the first Italian choir and also the first outside Venezuela.

On June 14<sup>th</sup> 2010 Giannola, Cristina, Antonella, Elisabetta and Benito Nonino found the **Association Amici del Coro Manos Blancas del Friuli Onlus** (Friends of the Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli Onlus Association), with the clear aim of giving the children of Friuli the same chances of Venezuelan children, involving the greatest number of disabled children, in particular those affected by cognitive, visual and hearing deficiency, with learning difficulties, motor disabilities and autism, with the aim of approaching them to music. This gives birth to a continuous collaboration with Naybeth Garcia and Johnny Gomez with the aim of promoting and spreading their experiences and knowledge in order to encourage them to support the birth of Choirs Manos Blancas all over the Italy.

Until today's date in Italy three more Choirs Manos Blancas have been born: two in Lombardy and one in Rome and this makes us hope that very soon many more will be born, possibly one in each Region!

The **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** – with its seat at Associazione Genitori della Nostra Famiglia (Parents of Nostra Famiglia Association) di San Vito al Tagliamento PN in Via della Bontà 7 – avails itself of the indispensable presence of teacher Giulia Santarossa.

*... “Everybody thinks that to join a choir you need hearing and voice. But it isn't true. The children of the Manos Blancas Choir, which means white hands, have found their place in the educative orchestras of their Country, Venezuela, even if they cannot hear and speak, even if they have motor disabilities or learning difficulties or if they are affected by autism. They have learned music with their heart and, if they have no voice, they sing with their hands wearing white gloves. They express rhythmically any musical piece, describe poetic geographies, and follow the rhythm of vibrations. Their “song of signs” is joy and care, it is the right to express themselves, it is the possibility to take part in other people's life.” José Antonio Abreu*

“Los Manos Blancas” have conquered their country with the slogan: “we too are Venezuela”.

We are sure that the children of the Choir “Manos Blancas of Friuli” soon will be able to say: “we too are the world!”



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### Prizes received by the Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli:

The **Nonino Prize 2010** is given to Naybeth Garcia and Johnny Gomez for creating the Manos Blancas Choir of Venezuela and marks the debut of the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli**, formed by children of the Nostra Famiglia of San Vito al Tagliamento directed by Naybeth Garcia in collaboration with the Piccolo Coro Artemia directed by Denis Monte – Percoto (UD).

**August 31, 2010** the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** directed by Naybeth Garcia receives the **Golden Opera Award for solidarity – Oscar of Opera** – Arena of Verona.

**June 8, 2011** the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** receives the **Premio Archinto Disarmo Per La Pace COLOMBE D'ORO** - Roma.

**October 12, 2024** the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli**, together with other personalities, receives the **32<sup>nd</sup> international Award 'San Francesco e Chiara d'Assisi'** for the dialogue among peoples and their cultures.

Until today's date the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** consists of around twenty children, multi-ethnic boys and girls, some coming from the Nostra Famiglia and some from the neighboring villages. The repertoire includes songs taken from Verdi's operas as:

- Va Pensiero
- Libiamo

Many in the language of Friuli:

- O Hai Preat La Biele Stele
- Stelutis Alpinis

Besides folk songs of several Regions of Italy, among which:

- O Sole Mio

### Participation in events:

**October 18, 2010** on the occasion of the delivery of the **awards for work** – a Concert at the **Giovanni da Udine Theater** – the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** directed by Paola Garofalo in collaboration with the **Piccolo Coro Artemia** directed by Maestro Denis Monte performs at the important event.

**November 6-7, 2010** At the Concert at the Olympic theater of Rome, within the manifestation **Mani Bianche per Stentore**, the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** directed by Paola Garofalo and Paola Casonato in collaboration with the **Piccolo Coro Artemia** directed by Maestro Denis Monte takes part in the event: on this occasion the **Manos Blancas Choir of Rome** debuts for the first time with the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli**.

**January 29, 2011** on the occasion of the **Nonino Prize**: the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** directed by Paola Garofalo in collaboration with the **Piccolo Coro Artemia**, children's choir, directed by Maestro Denis Monte and the **Choir** directed by Cristiano Dell'Oste takes part in the event and, as a homage to the **150 years of Italy**, they perform with the song *Erano in Mille* and *Va Pensiero* by Giuseppe Verdi.

**May 7, 2011** the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** directed by Paola Garofalo and Paola Casonato takes part in the concert at the **Loggia dei Lanzi – Florence** – at the manifestations for the **1<sup>st</sup> Festival of Europe**. They perform in collaboration with the **Piccolo Coro Artemia** directed by Maestro Denis Monte and the **Manos Blancas Choir of Rome**.



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**June 10, 2011** the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** directed by Paola Garofalo and Paola Casonato takes part in the concert of Teglio Veneto (VE) at the cultural manifestation **ETICA-MENTE**.

**June 2011** the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** directed by Paola Garofalo and Paola Casonato in collaboration with the **Piccolo Coro Artemia** directed by Maestro Denis Monte takes part in the manifestation **Marelba** with a performance at **Portoferraio**.

**September 2011** the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** directed by Paola Garofalo and Paola Casonato performs at the celebrations for the **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Voluntary Organization “Il Noce”** at Casarsa della Delizia (PN).

**October 2011** the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** directed by Paola Garofalo and Paola Casonato performs at the **Auditorium Zanon in Udine** for the **tenth anniversary of the Association A.B.I.O** in favor of the children hospitalized at the hospital of Udine.

**November 2011** The teacher of the Choir, Paola Garofalo, takes part in the seminar **First Course of Formation for Teachers**, held in **Fiesole** from 18 to 20 November and promoted by the school of music of Fiesole.

**January 28, 2012** on the occasion of the 37<sup>th</sup> Nonino Prize: the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** directed by Paola Garofalo in collaboration with the children's choir **Piccolo Coro Artemia**, children's choir, directed by Maestro Denis Monte and the **Friuli Venezia Giulia Choir** directed by Cristiano Dell'Oste perform the songs *Libiamo* by Giuseppe Verdi and *O Sole Mio*.

**February 25, 2012** in the **Superior Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi** the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** directed by Paola Garofalo takes part in the concert **Voci e Mani in Canto**, accompanied by the children's choir **Piccolo Coro Artemia** of Denis Monte and the **Choir Mani Bianche of Testaccio, Rome**.

**October 8, 2013**, at the **Enel Auditorium in Rome**, the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** conducted by Paola Garofalo and the **Piccolo Coro Artemia** conducted by Denis Monte participate in the concert celebrating 50 years of activity by the **Enelcuore Onlus** association.

**December 15, 2013**, the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** and the **Children's Choir of the “Sistema delle Orchestre e dei Cori Giovanili e Infantili in Italia Onlus”** (System of Youth and Children's Orchestras and Choirs in Italy) participate in the 17th edition of the **Christmas Concert in the Senate Hall**, conducted by Maestro Nicola Piovani with music by Corelli, Bartók, Brahms, Modugno, and Piovani. The concert was broadcast live on RaiUno and RadioTre after Pope Francis' Angelus.

**July 7, 2014**, the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** at the **“Gemelli Insieme”** Concert for the **50th anniversary of the Policlinico Gemelli in Rome**, conducted by Nicola Piovani and presented by Milly Carlucci.

**November 15, 2016**: The **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** has a place of honor among the guests of the beautiful show **“Casa Mika”** on Rai2.

**July 11, 2023**: The **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** at the concert **“Una Basilica per tutti”** (A Basilica for Everyone) in Aquileia, a major event on the occasion of the Patron Saints of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region.

**April 13, 2024**, the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** narrated by Paola Severini Melograni on the occasion of the Third Edition of the **General States of Accessibility in Pesaro**, the Italian capital of accessible culture.

**Activities promoted by the Friends of the Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli Association:**

**In the days 6 – 11 September 2010**, the **Friends of the Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli Association** organizes a free seminar whose objective is the treatment, through the teaching of music, of children, adolescents and



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young people with cognitive, visual and auditory deficiencies, learning difficulties, motor disabilities and autism. Among the participants there are some teachers from Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, and Rome. Some teachers of the school of Testaccio in Rome took part in the seminar and **after this meeting they give birth to the second Italian Manos Blancas Choir!**

From **25 to 30 April 2012** seminar and learning for the children and teachers of the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** at Nostra Famiglia of San Vito al Tagliamento held by:

- Prof. **Naybeth Garcia**, director of the Manos Blancas Choir of Venezuela;
- Prof. **Johnny Gomez**, National director of the program.

### National Associations:

Since the beginning of this year the **Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli** is a member of the **Comitato Sistema delle Orchestre e dei Cori Giovanili e Infantili d'Italia (Committee System of Youth and Children Choirs of Italy)**, born in 2010, led by **Federculture** and by the **School of Music of Fiesole**, whose honorary presidents are **Claudio Abbado** and **José Antonio Abreu**, with the aim of supporting the creation of further realities, of promoting the several initiatives, of creating a common relation with the institutions and, above all, to help the emancipation of **children and young people from hardships, offering them a chance of social redemption through the free access to the study of music.**

**Whoever wants to become a supporter of the Association Coro Manos Blancas del Friuli (Friends of the Manos Blancas Choir of Friuli Association) or have further information on this system can contact the Association.**

Association Amici Coro Manos Blancas del Friuli [manosblancasdelFriuli@nonino.it](mailto:manosblancasdelFriuli@nonino.it)

