

## Presentation of LillCanto

LillCanto is a mixed choir from the small town of Lillestrøm just east of Oslo, Norway. It is an amateur choir, but we still have ambitions of being a quality choir in our own regional area. The choir celebrated its first 25 years in 2008, and a few of the original members are in fact still actively singing in LillCanto. However, today the singers' age span is from mid 20 to early 70.

In recent years we have been between 35 and 40 singers in LillCanto, with the 'normal' majority of female voices. Our conductor is Kai Grinde Myrann. He has a Bachelor degree in composition from the Norwegian Academy of Music, and is also an active singer in the internationally celebrated Norwegian choir Grex vocalis.

LillCanto want to present music from a broad range of musical genres. This can be seen from the types of concerts that we have had the last couple of years, which span from gospel concerts with Magnolia Jazz Band and an opera highlights concert together with soloists from the Norwegian Opera and the local Romerike Symphony Orchestra, but also smaller performances like Christmas concerts, singing during worship in the local church, and giving small concerts to the elderly at local nursing homes. We have also had larger projects leading up to concerts with an historical angle, like in 2007 where the medieval pilgrim trail from Oslo to Nidaros (now Trondheim) was the basis for a production with the local actor Liv Hege Nylund depicting a pilgrim, and in 2005 a concert celebrating the 100 years anniversary of Norway's liberation from Sweden, where we had the famous Norwegian actor Helge Jordal portraying the then Norwegian prime minister Christian Michelsen.

During the years, LillCanto has also made journeys both abroad and in our own beautiful country. Whenever they get the chance, the most senior members of the choir still give enthusiastic recounts of the trip to magical Lofoten in Northern Norway the summer of 1991. Other visits around Norway have been to Trondheim, where we got a chance to sing in the Nidaros Cathedral, to Åsgårdstrand visiting the Edvard Munch museum and to Hamar, with the spectacular museum and cathedral ruins at the Domkirkeodden. As a build up to the 2005 concert, we went to Karlstad in Sweden, the city where parliamentary talks were held leading up to the signing of the treaty making Norway a sovereign state again after being governed by first Denmark and then Sweden for more than 500 years. More recently, in 2008 as part of the choir's 25 year celebration, we went on a five day trip to Weimar and Leipzig in Germany. This trip was staged by our own travel committee, and was a huge success, much thanks to one of the basses being a native German who could establish contact with lots of local cultural institutions. We got to know the famous German intellectuals like Goethe, Schiller, Bach and others. The spring of 2010, as a follow up to our concert "The Sound of Ireland" that took place in Lillestrøm around St. Patrick's Day, we went to Dublin for an extended weekend in order to get an impression of what Ireland has to offer. We had some fantastic days visiting The Green Island, were we got a true feeling of their warm and welcoming atmosphere (and also some Guinness stout) rushing through our veins.