

Mario Fontana

Mario Fontana was born in Locarno in 1963 and has devoted himself to music since his childhood. He started as a self-taught musician, followed by studies in classical guitar and piano. After graduating from the Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana in 1992 with a degree in musical pedagogy, he studied choir direction in the Czech Republic with the directors Alois and Tomas Motyl, Milan Uherek and Dr. Olga Dutkova and later with Eric Ericson.

In 1993, he founded the Coro Calicantus, which has become an artistic and educational point of reference worldwide. He obtained recognition and won first prize awards at Swiss competitions in 2005, 2007, 2013 and at international competitions, such as the Montreux Choral Festival in 2010 and Rimini International Competition in 2015. In 2008, he was invited to the World Symposium on Choral Music in Copenhagen, where the Coro Calicantus was acclaimed "the biggest joy in Copenhagen". In 2015, he won the Lamprecht-Steiger Choral Prize.

His unceasing effort in supporting the younger generations is based on an appreciation of the expressive and human potential of children's choirs. He constantly seeks to improve educational approaches in order to enable a more developed and mature place for music in our daily lives. Hence the eclecticism and rare energy produced by his Coro Calicantus.

Mario Fontana is regularly invited as a lecturer by Swiss and European institutions to present seminars on the methodology of children's singing and as a jury member for Swiss and international choral competitions.