

Cantanima was founded by the Styrian Choral Association in 2004 with the aim of uniting musically talented and especially motivated singers between the ages of 16 and 26 from all over Styria. The singers, who are chosen at an annual audition, work on challenging choral literature during rehearsal days and weekends. It is only possible to maintain high musical achievement through the singers' commitment, the intense phases of rehearsal and additional vocal coaching: the most delicate choral music, performed with precision and balance, partly by memory, but most importantly, always true to the choir's name "sung with soul".

Cantanima has performed successfully at renowned choir festivals such as the "European Youth Choir Festival" in Basel (Switzerland) or "Europa Cantat" in Turin (Italy) and has given a great number of concerts in Austria and its neighbouring countries. The young singers are especially proud of having won numerous prizes at international competitions. In 2011 the choir was awarded the title "Youth Choir World Champion" at the "World Choir Games" in Graz (Austria) and was rewarded with a concert at the opening of the Vienna Festival, performing in front of 50,000 spectators, after having won the competition "Austria Sings". Cantanima's longest tour until this day was in November 2012; the choir travelled to Guangzhou (China) to compete in the "First Xinghai Prize International Choir Championships" and was awarded platinum in the category of mixed choirs. In 2014 the choir competed in the renowned "International Choir Competition" in Spittal an der Drau (Austria) and was awarded a total of three prizes – a first in the category "art song", a second in the category "folksong" and the audience award.

Cantanima was initially conducted by the experienced choir master Franz M. Herzog and Miriam Ahrer until 2010, transmitting their commitment through their work with the singers of this exceptional choir. In 2011 Nataliya Lukina succeeded Miriam Ahrer and in 2013 Sebastian Meixner joined Franz M. Herzog as his assistant. After his tenth year of working with this choir, Franz M. Herzog handed over the entire position as conductor to Sebastian Meixner, who has consequently led the choir since 2014.