



# **7<sup>th</sup> International Johannes Brahms Choir Festival & Competition Wernigerode**

6 – 10 July 2011

Organiser  
City of Wernigerode  
and  
INTERKULTUR Foundation

in cooperation with  
Landesmusikrat Sachsen-Anhalt e.V.,  
Landeschorverband Sachsen-Anhalt e.V.  
im Deutschen Chorverband

and  
Landesgymnasium für Musik Wernigerode

Patronage  
Prime Minister of the land Saxony-Anhalt

and  
Peter Gaffert  
Lord Mayor of the City of Wernigerode

Artistic Committee  
Prof. Dr. Ralf Eisenbeiß  
Gábor Hollerung  
Prof. Dr. Friedrich Krell

Competition Director  
Günter Titsch

## Cordial Invitation

We cordially invite you to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Johannes Brahms Choir Competition & Festival in Wernigerode. Since 1999 the scenic town in the Harz region is characterised by the biennial INTERKULTUR competition and is one of the most beautiful competition places at all. From 6– 10 July 2011, the unique flair of Wernigerode, this enchanting, picturesque town in the Harz region, is sure yet again to delight choirs from all over the globe and make the festival an unforgettable experience.

Wernigerode is both, a competition and a festival place. Apart from the international choir competition in different categories, which are partly dedicated to the German romantic choir music and Johannes Brahms as its prominent composer, numerous encounter concerts will take place on the market square of Wernigerode and its surroundings as well as at atmospheric places in the neighbouring towns.

Thus, we invite choirs and ensembles of all kinds who would prefer not to take part in competition but would like to give concerts in Wernigerode and other regional communities. The festival will provide ample opportunities for groups to perform their repertoires to an interested audience, whether they specialise in choral, orchestral or folk music.

This event offers interested choirs excellent opportunities to learn together and refine their specialist skills. Coaching concerts and rehearsals will meet the desires of many choirs for comprehensive professional and artistic advice and help them to overcome their "competition" inhibitions.

The scenic town of Wernigerode in the Harz region is both proud and pleased to host this prestigious international choir competition once again. As the economic, cultural and tourism centre of the Harz region, it is the ideal setting for such an attractive event.

We cordially invite you to be a part of it!

We look forward to meeting you at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Johannes Brahms Choir Competition & Festival in Wernigerode.



Peter Gaffert  
Lord Mayor of the city of Wernigerode



Günter Titsch  
President INTERKULTUR

# Announcement

## Possibilities of Participation

### I. Participation in the Choir Competition

1. Participation in one or several competition categories

In addition, we offer the following options:

2. Coaching concerts
3. Rehearsals with international choral experts
4. Concerts and performances in Wernigerode and surrounding area

### II. Participation in the Choir Festival (without competition)

1. Concerts and performances in Wernigerode and surrounding area
2. Coaching concerts with evaluation
3. Rehearsals with international choral experts

<p>1. Coaching concerts</p>	<p><b>For competition participants</b> The day before the competition, you will have an opportunity to present your competition programme to the international jury. Then the choir will receive friendly advice on how to improve its interpretation, sound or charisma. All jurors are outstanding choir directors with valuable artistic and pedagogical experience. The diversity of their opinions and approaches promises to be a rich source of inspiration for every participating choir and, just as importantly, has been a trade mark of the artistic and pedagogical expertise of INTERKULTUR competitions down the years. This occasion does not involve any evaluation or preliminary decision regarding the competition proper.</p> <p><b>For festival participants</b> These concerts are aimed at giving choirs the opportunity to gather international experience without the constraints and pressures of competition. The purpose is a friendly but expert exchange on the choir's current artistic standard and interpretive, pedagogical and general artistic advice given by the international jury. All choirs get the chance to perform a programme at these concerts (max. 15 minutes). Each performing choir will receive a certificate of participation and on request an evaluation with the rating "good", "very good" or "excellent".</p>
<p>2. Rehearsals with international choral experts</p>	<p><b>For competition and festival participants</b> There will be an opportunity to hold a rehearsal with one of the international jurors (for choirs taking part in competition, one piece from their competition programme). Again, the aim of this event is to offer choirs stimulating rehearsals in which they can receive valuable artistic ideas and interpretative guidance. The piece must already have been practised by the choir to an extent which makes effective rehearsal possible.</p>
<p>3. Encounter Concerts</p>	<p><b>For competition and festival participants</b> Choirs also have the opportunity to give small or major concerts in churches and at the market square in Wernigerode and other attractive towns around the Harz region. The picturesque mediaeval town of Wernigerode, with its timber-framed houses, and other attractive locations in the Harz region will provide an ideal background and open-minded, interested audiences for this purpose. Groups may prepare concerts approximately 20 minutes long. Longer performances must be cleared with the artistic committee first.</p> <p><b>Please note:</b> A large number of the encounter concerts are planned as open air events. In the event that weather conditions do not allow this, some concerts may be cancelled due to the weather. The organisers will try to organise alternatives but choirs do not have any legal claim to this.</p>

## CHOIR COMPETITION 1. CATEGORIES

### Category A: Difficulty level I

A1 – mixed choirs, A2 – male choirs, A3 – female choirs

<b>A</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>A1 – a piece by Johannes Brahms</li><li>A2 – a piece by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy</li><li>A3 – a piece by Robert Schumann</li></ol></li><li>2. one piece by a composer born after 1873</li><li>3. one piece by a composer who is alive at the time of application</li><li>4. one piece of the choir's own choice</li></ol>
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### Category B: Difficulty level II without compulsory piece

B1 – mixed choirs, B2 – male choirs, B3 – female choirs

<b>B</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. and 2. two choir pieces of different character and from different epochs</li><li>3. one arrangement of a folksong</li></ol>
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### Category C: Chamber Choirs / Vocal Ensembles with compulsory piece

C1 – chamber choirs / vocal ensembles of equal voices, C2 chamber choirs / vocal ensembles of mixed voices

<b>C</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. one compulsory piece<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>C1 – female chamber choirs / female vocal ensembles Johannes Brahms: 2 Werke aus „Zwölf Lieder und Romanzen für Frauenchor a cappella“</li><li>C1 – male chamber choirs / male vocal ensembles Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy: Türkisches Schenkenlied „Setze mir nicht, du Grobian“, op. 50 Nr.1</li><li>C2 – chamber choirs / vocal ensembles of mixed voices Johannes Brahms: Aus „Sieben Lieder für gemischten Chor, op 62“ Nr. 2 – „Von alten Liebesliedern“ <u>oder</u> Nr. 3 – „Waldesnacht“ <u>oder</u> Nr. 5 – „All meine Herzgedanken“</li></ol></li><li>2. one piece by a composer born before 1685</li><li>3. one piece by a composer who is alive at the time of application</li><li>4. and 5. two freely chosen choir pieces</li></ol>
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### Category G: Children's and Youth Choirs

G1 – children's choirs up to 16 years old [S,(S),A,(A)],

G2 – youth choirs of equal voices (girl's choirs up to 19 years old, male youth choirs up to 25 years old),

G3 – mixed youth choirs (up to 25 years old)

<b>G</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. one piece by a composer born before 1873</li><li>2. one piece by a composer who is alive at the time of application</li><li>3. and 4. two freely chosen choir pieces</li></ol>
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### Category S: Sacred Choir Music

<b>S</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. and 2. two sacred choir pieces from different epochs</li><li>3. one sacred composition by a composer who is alive at the time of application</li></ol>
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### Category F: Folklore

<b>F</b>	The ensembles are to perform a folklore programme typical of their home country, which may include a folk scene or a custom traditional in the country or a scene with a choreography from the daily life in the home country of the participants. The singers should wear traditional costumes.
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## Grand Prix Competition for the Johannes Brahms Choir Prize 2011

A B C G S F	<p>Among the category winners, the jury decides which choirs can participate in the Grand Prix competition for the Johannes Brahms Choir Prize 2011. The Jury reserves the right to nominate further choirs for participation.</p> <p><b>Programme:</b> Two freely chosen a cappella pieces which may not be the ones the choir had already performed during their whole competition programme. Those two pieces must be confirmed by the artistic committee.</p> <p>The maximum pure singing time is 8 minutes.</p>
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### Further Category Rules

Category:	A			B			C		G			S	F
Subcategory:	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3	C1	C2	G1	G2	G3		
Number of pieces:	4			3			5		4			3	unlimited
Number of participants:													
minimum:	31	26	26	-			6	8	-			-	-
maximum:	-			-			25	30	-			-	-
Pure singing time:	20 min.			15 min.			20 min.		15 min.			15 min.	15 min.
Pieces with accompaniment (maximum):	1			1			-		2			1	all
Multiple Participation:	<p>Either participation in A or B or C or G            The male or female voices of a mixed choir can also participate in the same category.            (e.g. A1 plus male participants in A2 and/or female participants in A3 etc.)</p>											<p>S und F can be chosen additionally by every choir.            They can be chosen separately as well.</p>	

## 2. Prizes and Awards

According to the evaluation of the jury the following prizes, diplomas and awards can be awarded:

### 2.1. Diplomas:

According to the score bronze, silver and golden diplomas will be awarded. In case the choir does not achieve a diploma it will receive a certificate of participation.

### 2.2. Category Winner:

The choirs with the highest score in each category and a golden diploma become "Category Winner".

### 2.3. Johannes Brahms Choir Prize:

The winner of the *Grand Prix Competition* will receive the

**Johannes Brahms Choir Prize 2011**  
**in the amount of 2000 €**  
**- two thousand Euro -**

### 2.4. Special Prizes:

The jury may award special prizes for outstanding performances and unique presentations.

### 2.5. Conductor's Prizes:

The jury may award Conductor's prizes for excellent conductors.

### 2.6. Audience Prize:

Throughout the entire event, a poll of audiences will be conducted via postal vote to establish the most popular choir among spectators. The choir which receives the most votes will be awarded the audience prize.

## Preliminary schedule

	Wednesday (6 July 2011)	Thursday (7 July 2011)	Friday (8 July 2011)	Saturday (9 July 2011)	Sunday (10 July 2011)
Arrival/ departure	arrival (recommended for choirs with participation in consultation rounds)	arrival possibility			departure after 2 p.m.
rehearsals	rehearsals and stage rehearsals				
coaching	coaching I			rehearsals with international choral experts	
encounter concerts	attractive encounter concerts in Wernigerode and regional communities				
competition			all day (presumably cat. A, G, C)	all day (presumably cat. B, S, F)	
further events		afternoon: big choir parade opening event  evening: opening concert	evening: gala concerts	Grand Prix Competition, prize ceremony and choir party with dance on the market square	morning: closing ceremony
tourism	opportunity for sightseeing tours				

## 3. Artistic Regulations

### 1. Participation:

All lay choirs of any kind are entitled to take part provided they observe the number of persons, the scorings and the age limits of the respective category. With the exception of the conductors, its members must be amateurs, e.g. they must not earn their livelihood by professional singing. A choir may perform with several conductors.

### 2. Original Accompaniments:

Only original accompaniments are allowed. This means that all orchestral or organ reductions, as well as transcriptions of other instruments not designated by the composer, are excluded.

### 3. Instrumental Accompaniment:

In categories in which accompaniment is permitted, an organ (on the opposite side of the altar / stage) and an electric piano (with organ function) will be available in the church. A grand piano will be provided in the concert hall. Other necessary instruments have to be brought by the choir or can be placed at disposal upon request and rental charge.

### 4. Scores:

Five scores of every piece (except for the compulsory pieces) have to be handed in for the jury. One score remains with the organiser after the competition. In case sheet music is not available for category F, a short description written in English or German is allowed. Please note that choral pieces, if they have already been published, may only be sung using the original scores or authorized copies. The organisers ask you not to send in score books but copies (if possible, authorized) instead. The copies will be stamped "Only used by jury during competition" and destroyed after the competition.

All scores have to be existent as hardcopy forms. Scores sent as files (PDF or similar) will not be accepted.

### 5. Compulsory Pieces:

The compulsory piece has to be sung as first piece of the competition programme. Compulsory pieces have to be performed in the original key.

The compulsory pieces can be purchased at: Porfiri & Horváth Publishers – 35415 Pohlheim – Konrad Adenauer Str. 36, Phone: +49 (0) 6403-9784225, Fax +49 (0) 6403-9761249. Please order them for all voices.

An appendix with further information will be sent to you together with the confirmation of receipt and can be downloaded under [www.interkultur.com](http://www.interkultur.com). These are a part of this announcement as well.

## 4. General Conditions of Participation

### 1. Registration:

Deadline for registration to participate in the competition is February 28, 2011 (date of receipt). For early registration by January 15, 2011 (including the application fee and the sending of all documents listed below) an once-off discount of € 50 per choir will be granted.

The following documents must be provided together with the application forms:

- a) The fully completed registration forms (4 pages). When filling in these forms, please use Latin letters.
- b) The proof of bank transfer covering the application fee. The amount payable may also be paid with Visa- or Mastercard (see registration form).
- c) An authentic audio recording (Sound file i.e. MP3, WAV, WMA or CD) with two or three pieces a cappella of your choice, no more than two years old. Please write the titles of the pieces and the date of the recording.
- d) A short biography of the choir.
- e) A photograph of the choir in a form suitable for reproduction (oblong, minimum 12 x 7,5 cm, minimum 300 dpi for computer files), no more than two years old – preferably as file.
- f) A choir must submit a separate page 3 of the application form for each competition category in which it intends to take part. We kindly ask you to make copies of this page in case of participation in two categories.
- g) Five music scores of the freely chosen pieces. Scores sent as files (PDF or similar) will not be accepted.

### 2. Costs:

#### 2.1. Application fee:

To participate in the event, the following application fees have to be paid per choir (ensemble):

- participation in the festival (concerts with consultation and / or rehearsals with experts) each 200 €
- participation in the competition per registered category 200 € (participation in concerts with consultation and / or rehearsals with experts are each considered to be an extra category)

The amount is due without delay on the day of registration and is to be made payable without any deductions to INTERKULTUR. Any banking expenses shall be borne by the choir to be registered. Should participation in the festival be cancelled, the registration fee will not be refunded.

The bank details for registration are as follows:

Account holder: INTERKULTUR  
Name of bank: Deutsche Bank  
Bank code: 513 700 24  
Account number: 0152181  
SWIFT-Code (BIC): DEUTDE DB 513  
IBAN for EU countries: DE06 5137 0024 0015 2181 00  
Purpose : D-1100 + name of choir (please state name in full)

#### 2.2. Event package

For organisational reasons and to grant the choirs optimum conditions, participation in the event is permitted only if the event package including accommodation bookings are made with the agencies authorized by the organiser of the INTERKULTUR event series. This is an exclusive condition and integral part of the conditions for participation.

##### 2.2.1. Services

The event packages includes the following services: participation in the International Choir Competition and Festival, a share in the non-subsidized organisation costs; multilingual organisational staff, programme booklet (one copy per ten persons); participation in encounter concerts; acoustics rehearsals; all entry fees for the festival events, with the exception of certain special events, accommodation in the ordered category.

##### 2.2.2. Length of stay / Accommodation

In order to guarantee the best possible conditions for participation in the competitions a minimum stay of at least four nights is required. Event packages will be provided in the following categories:

<b>First Class</b>	4* hotels in the town centre (double and single rooms with shower and WC)
<b>Standard Class</b>	3* hotels, inns in the town centre and surroundings (double and single rooms with shower and WC)
<b>Economy Class</b>	Accommodation in small guesthouses, possibly divided up between two or more houses (multiple and double rooms, some with en suite shower and WC) and/or basic group accommodation such as youth hostels and equivalent (mostly multiple bed with shared shower and WC) in the surroundings of Wernigerode (up to 30 km radius)

The option dates stated in each individual offer of the authorized agencies are valid for the booking of accommodation. If your firm booking for accommodation is received at a later date you can only obtain available accommodation categories.

Registration is binding for the choir, with regard both to participation in the festival and to the travel services provided by the authorized agencies. Confirmation of the order (deposit invoice) through the authorized agencies constitutes a travel contract in the sense of § 651a BGB (German Civil Code). The General Conditions of Travel (ARB Allgemeine Reisebedingungen) of the authorized agencies shall apply. They are enclosed in each offer. Please read these conditions carefully. Ignorance of these legally valid conditions does not provide exemption from any resulting obligations. The costs to be paid to the authorized agencies for the event package will be due on receipt of invoice on the date of payment stated in the invoice. The relevant bank details for these payments are stated separately on the invoice. We would like to draw your attention expressly to the fact that participation in the festival is only possible if the costs due have been received without deduction before the group travels to the festival location. Otherwise the organisers are compelled to refuse the group's participation in the festival. Any costs incurred due to such action are to be borne by the group.

### **2.3 Travel costs**

Travel is to be organised by the participating choirs (their members and accompanying persons) themselves. Travel costs are to be borne by the participating choirs.

### **3. Language of correspondence**

Only the German and English versions of relevant documents for the event such as announcements, offers etc. are legally binding. You can, however, obtain verbal information in the following languages: French, Italian, Russian, Spanish and Hungarian.

### **4. Liability of the organiser**

INTERKULTUR supports the festival in its function as official organiser and is responsible for the artistic and musical design and the execution of the events. Its liability comprises all organisational matters of the festival, the concerts and special events. Any liability with regard to organiser's liability is expressly excluded. Any liability of such kind would be that of the authorized agencies and/or the management of the respective congress or concert halls, catering and transport companies. The authorized agencies accept liability as travel organiser in the sense of § 651a German Travel Law and on the basis of the „Allgemeinen Reisebedingungen“ (ARB) mentioned above. With his/her signature on the application, the signatory accepts the terms of the "Allgemeinen Reisebedingungen" (ARB) and the organiser's liability for him/herself and for all persons registered.

### **5. Contact address of the organiser**

For any questions concerning the organisation and registration, contact the following address. Please send your application for registration, enquiries, phone calls, facsimile messages and written correspondence exclusively to this address:

INTERKULTUR

7<sup>th</sup> International Johannes Brahms Choir Competition & Festival

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This announcement can also be found under [www.interkultur.com](http://www.interkultur.com) or request a print copy from the organiser. In case of any doubt, the printed German version is authentic and legally binding.