



**World
Choir
Games**

 **2014**
RĪGA LATVIA

July 9 – 19, 2014 · Rīga, Latvia

Let's
SING
in **RĪGA**
2014!

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Participant Information

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RĪGA | 2014

AN INTERKULTUR EVENT

EIROPAS KULTŪRAS GALVASPILSĒTAS NOTIKUMS
AN EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE EVENT



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and **The Rīga 2014 Foundation**

supported by the Rīga City Council and numerous national and international committees and organisations

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of the 8th World Choir Games

as of September 18th, 2012

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Colombia	Edwin Orlando Carrillo	Malaysia	Susanna Saw		Tim Sharp
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Croatia	Branko Stark	Mexico	Gerardo Rábago Palafox	Venezuela	Guntars Gedulis
Cuba	Maria Felicia Pérez	Namibia	Ernst van Biljon	Vietnam	Pham Hong Hai
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Greetings

National traditions meet international diversity

Dear choirs,



It is my pleasure to personally invite choirs from every continent to the largest choir competition and festival in the World!

The 8th World Choir Games will take place from July 9-19, 2014 in Rīga, Latvia! The beautiful host city is rich in choral heritage that served as a powerful force in preserving the identity and self-determination of the Baltic region.

Latvian traditions will welcome international traditions as choirs of the world are greeted by a nation where singing has not only become a symbol of national independence, but where every person holds the songs of their nation deep in their soul. We welcome choirs to unite in peaceful competition to once again prove the motto of World Choir Games, "Singing together brings nations together!"

The many impressive components of the World Choir Games will provide inspiration to choirs as they participate in the festive opening ceremony, parade of nations, celebration concerts, peaceful competitions, educational workshops, and friendship concerts. The full experience will culminate with an emotional awards ceremony which recognises all choirs and the announcement of the Champions of the World Choir Games. The colours of the Games are handed to the next host city at the closing ceremony and the peace bell resounds in joyful ringing.

Rīga, the pulsating capital of Latvia, is the ideal location for its beauty and acoustically sound venues. The beautiful concert halls, churches, the Rīga Arena, and the colossal Mežaparks amphitheatre can mostly be reached by walking. Rīga's historic inner city is an UNESCO World Heritage Site and is the European Capital of Culture in 2014!

Participation in the Games will inspire and encourage international interaction that can forge lifelong friendships and cultural understanding between many nations. To participate in the World Choir Games is an opportunity of the highest honor!

I welcome you to sing together with choirs of the world and celebrate the language that is universal – music!

Welcome choirs of the world to Rīga, Latvia!

Günter Titsch

President of INTERKULTUR and
President of the World Choir Games

Participation Overview

The artistic concept for competition in the World Choir Games is based on experience collected from more than 100 INTERKULTUR international competitions and the previous seven World Choir Games. To ensure your participation will be an artistic success, Interkultur team members are available to assist your organisation throughout registration and on-site at The Games.



A – THE COMPETITIONS

The World Choir Games invites all non-professional choirs of the world to participate. The Games offer fair and realistic competition to experienced competitive choirs as well as choirs with relatively little international experience. The World Choir Games offer **The Champions Competition** and **The Open Competition**. These two competitions allow choirs the opportunity to participate at the appropriate level.

AI – The Champions Competition

The Champions Competition is for choirs with international competitive experience and/or comparable credentials (see AI in the Competition Information booklet).

AII – The Open Competition

In the spirit of „Participation is the highest honour“, choirs, regardless of their present artistic level of achievement, have the opportunity to participate in **The Open Competition** to gather valuable experience in international competition.

A complete description of the competitions can be found in the “Competition Information” booklet.



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B – NON-COMPETITIVE EVALUATION

BI – Evaluation Performance for non-competing choirs

This level of participation is available to choirs who choose not to be placed in competition, but seek to be part of the international experience of the World Choir Games.

Choirs will sing a programme of three pieces for a maximum performance time of 15 minutes before a panel of international experts.

At the conclusion of the programme there will be a brief internal consultation of the panel of choral experts. Finally, the programme is discussed with the choir in an open and amicable atmosphere. Performance coaching and recommendations will be given for future participation in international competitions. The choirs will receive an official World Choir Games certificate of participation.

BII – Evaluation Performance for competing choirs

Prior to World Choir Games competitions, choirs may register to present their competition programme before a highly qualified, experienced international jury. This is an INTERKULTUR tradition which provides a rich source of inspiration through the sharing of diverse opinions and approaches. Choirs who take advantage of this opportunity will receive comments and advice on such elements as interpretation, sound quality and presentation. The experience will have no effect on subsequent competition evaluation.

Evaluation Performances for competing choirs will be planned for July 8 & 9 and 14 & 15, so choirs need to arrive in Riga accordingly.

BIII – Individual Coaching

All participants, whether taking part in the competitions or not, are given the opportunity to participate with their choir in a session with a noted international choir director.

Procedure of Individual Coaching

Choirs interested in making use of this opportunity are required to prepare one piece of choral music. An internationally respected choral music expert will then rehearse the piece with the choir to provide new artistic ideas and impetus. Choirs not participating in the competition are presented a certificate and a recommendation for their future participation in international choral competition.



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C – FRIENDSHIP CONCERTS

In addition to their competitive or non-competitive participation, choirs may perform in a friendship concert with other choirs in public venues in and around the city of Rīga.

These free public concerts provide opportunity for each choir to present musical traditions and costumes of their native land.

Choirs, instrumental groups, and dance companies not participating in any other category may also register to participate solely in multiple friendship concerts.



D – FESTIVAL STAGE CHOIR

The World Choir Games feature large-scale events staged in world class venues capable of televised and live stage production. These shows feature massed stage choirs singing a wide-spectrum of music ranging from great choral-symphonic works to pop music. The artistic committee has final approval on selection of choirs who must rehearse independently and arrive prepared for massed rehearsal.

Mežaparks
July 13, 2014

This concert will be a highlight of the 8th World Choir Games. Under the direction of Romans Vanags, the Latvian Artistic Director of The Games, thousands of Latvian singers will converge with choirs from around the world to raise their voices in harmonious unity in the huge grounds of Mežaparks, a stage normally used to celebrate the Latvian Song and Dance Celebration. The traditional songs of Latvia will be featured along with national vocal music from as far away as South Africa, Indonesia, China and Latin America. Even the audience will be invited to sing along, echoing the World Choir Games slogan “Singing together brings nations together.”

Closing Ceremony
July 19, 2014

In the Closing Ceremony, as flags of the participating countries are assembled and the colors of the World Choir Games are handed to the Mayor of the next host city, the Rīga Arena will become a stage for choral fireworks. A massed choir, especially for the event, joined by soloists and orchestra will perform choral symphonic highlights from Handel’s Hallelujah Chorus to arrangements of current hits. This grand finale is a World Choir Games tradition featuring the “Medley of International Songs”, “Jazz Hallelujah” and “We are the World”.



E – WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

The World Choir Games will also offer workshops and seminars. During these workshops, choirs, conductors, and individuals will be introduced to international choral literature, singing styles, and performance practices. Mixing with other singers, getting instructions from the expert and performing together will open the eyes and ears of the choristers to new choral experiences. A detailed brochure with registration information will be available in summer 2013.



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Event Calendar

of the 8th World Choir Games 2014, Rīga, Latvia

	July 8 Tuesday	July 9 Wednesday	July 10 Thursday	July 11 Friday	July 12 Saturday	July 13 Sunday
		World Choir Games 1 st Part				
	Arrivals					
Official events						ARĒNA RĪGA Award Ceremonies Part I-II 10:00
		ARĒNA RĪGA Opening Event 20:00			ARĒNA RĪGA Award Ceremonies Part I-I 16:00	MEŽAPARKS Open Air Event 20:00
Competitions, Evaluations & concerts	Official rehearsals					
	Non-competitive evaluation					
		Qualification Concerts				
	Evaluation Performances for competing choirs		THE OPEN COMPETITION Cat. 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 09, 012, 015, 016, 018, 023, 024, 025, 027, 029			
			THE CHAMPIONS COMPETITION Cat. C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C9, C12, C15 C18, C23, C24, C25, C27, C29			
			Celebration Concerts	Celebration Concerts		Champions Concert 15:00
	Friendship Concerts					
others		Festival Stage Choir – MEŽAPARKS Final rehearsals and performance in the open air event on July 13				
		Workshops &				

July 14	July 15	July 16	July 17	July 18	July 19	July 20	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
Day off	World Choir Games 2 nd Part						
Departures, arrivals or extension of stay						Departure or later	
Congress of the World Choir council	CENTRE OF RĪGA Parade of Nations afternoon				ARĒNA RĪGA Award Ceremonies Part II-II 10:00		
Day off	RĪGA DOME CATHEDRAL Opening Concert Part II 20:00			ARĒNA RĪGA Award Ceremonies Part II-I 20:00	ARĒNA RĪGA Closing Ceremony 20:00		
Official rehearsals							
Non-competitive evaluation							
	Qualification Concerts						
Evaluation Performances for competing choirs		THE OPEN COMPETITION Cat. 01, 08, 011, 014, 017, 019, 020, 021, 022, 026, 028					
		THE CHAMPIONS COMPETITION Cat. C1, C7, C8, C10, C11, C13, C14, C17, C19, C20, C21, C22, C26, C28					
Celebration Concert		Celebration Concerts	Celebration Concerts		Champions Concert 15:00		
in Rīga and the surrounding area							
	Festival Stage Choir – Closing Ceremony Final rehearsals and performance in the closing event on July 19						
Seminars							

Subject to change!



General Conditions of Participation

GENERAL INFORMATION

Choirs may register for multiple categories of participation (competition, coachings, workshops, etc). The organisers will make every effort to schedule all categories. If it is impossible to accommodate all categories due to scheduling reasons, the fees for those unscheduled categories will be refunded.

For choirs that choose to participate in A, B or D, a performance in one Friendship Concert is free of charge.

A – THE COMPETITION

- Your registration includes** Participation in your chosen competition categories **or** Participation in your chosen competition categories & chosen Evaluation activities.
- Early Bird Registration Fee** If your choir registers on or before September 15, 2013 (completed registration documents and registration fee must be received by midnight EST):
- 1) The registration fee for the first category is 200,- EUR.
 - 2) The registration fee for each additional category and/or evaluation activity is 200,- EUR.
- After September 15, 2013 Registration Fee**
- 1) The registration fee for the first category is 400,- EUR.
 - 2) The registration fee for each additional category and/or evaluation activity is 200,- EUR.

B – NON-COMPETITIVE EVALUATION

- Your registration includes** Participation in an Evaluation Performance **and/or** 2) Participation in an Individual Coaching
- Early Bird Registration Fee** If your choir registers on or before September 15, 2013 (completed registration documents and registration fee must be received by midnight EST):
- 1) The registration fee for your first choice (Evaluation Performance or Individual Coaching) is 200,- EUR.
 - 2) The registration fee for your second choice (Evaluation Performance or Individual Coaching) is 200,- EUR.
- After September 15, 2013 Registration Fee**
- 1) The registration fee for your first choice (Evaluation Performance or Individual Coaching) is 400,- EUR.
 - 2) The registration fee for your second choice (Evaluation Performance or Individual Coaching) is 200,- EUR.

C – FRIENDSHIP CONCERTS ONLY

- Your registration includes** Participation in Friendship Concerts only
- Early Bird Registration Fee** If your choir registers on or before September 15, 2013 (completed registration documents and registration fee must be received by midnight EST) the registration fee is 200,- EUR.
- After September 15, 2013 Registration Fee** If your choir registers on or before December 1, 2013 (completed registration documents and registration fee must be received by midnight EST) the registration fee is 400,- EUR.

D – FESTIVAL STAGE CHOIR

- Your registration includes**
- 1) Participation with the Festival Stage Choir in the concert at the **Mežaparks on July 13, 2014** (Your choir is required to stay in Rīga five nights, from July 9 – 14, 2014).
- or**
- 2) Participation with the Festival Stage Choir in the concert in the **Closing Ceremony on July 19, 2014** (Your choir is required to stay in Rīga five nights, from July 15 – 20, 2014).

Early Bird Registration Fee	If your choir registers on or before September 15, 2013 (completed registration documents and registration fee must be received by midnight EST) the registration fee is 200,- EUR.
After September 15, 2013 Registration Fee	If your choir registers on or before December 1, 2013 (completed registration documents and registration fee must be received by midnight EST) the registration fee is 400,- EUR.

1. REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee must be paid in full and accompanied by the completed registration forms to reserve your participation in the World Choir Games. Any banking fees are the responsibility of the registrant. Please remit the registration fee to the following bank account:

Bank details for wire transfer	Account holder:	INTERKULTUR
	Name of bank:	Deutsche Bank AG
	Address:	Marktplatz 4 D-35392 Gießen
	Bank code:	513 700 24
	Account number:	028 042 001
	SWIFT-Code (BIC):	DEUTDE33HAN
	IBAN for EU countries:	DE59513700240028042001
	Purpose:	LV14+name of choir (please state in full)

2. EVENT PACKAGE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Travel Transportation to the event including the travel expenses is the sole responsibility of the choir members and additional persons. Sightseeing excursions aside from the event are not inclusive and must be booked separately.

**Event Package
Terms and Conditions** It is required that your event package and accommodations be booked through the selected and authorised travel agencies of INTERKULTUR. This is an exclusive condition and is a requirement of the general rules for participation. All included services are described in the authorised travel agency offer.

Event packages are available in the following categories: **Economy, Standard** and **First Class**

To guarantee your organisation's reservation, it is recommended that you take advantage of the early bird registration dates. Registrations received after September 15, 2013 cannot be guaranteed for accommodations in the requested category.

If the registration forms are not filled-in completely, the event package will be booked and automatically invoiced for "standard" accommodations.

**Travel, Accommodation
and Exclusivity Clause**

a) Accommodations and touring services for participants (and accompanying persons) to the **World Choir Games** are available through official travel agents and tour operators authorised as official providers by the organiser, Interkultur. These agents and operators have secured the hotel room allocations in Rīga, as well as the legally required insurance coverage, liability protection and all other requirements. As official providers, the agents and tour operators have the exclusive right to make individual tour offers to participants in the form of a "World Choir Games Event Tour Package". Participants will be provided with a "Participant Information" booklet. The organiser will pass on the choirs' contact information to the official providers.

b) For security and event management, participation in the World Choir Games requires that accommodations for the event are booked exclusively through the selected and authorised travel agents. This is an exclusive condition and is part of the general rules for participation. Exceptions and exemptions must be confirmed in writing by the organising committee. Choral organisations not in compliance with this requirement will forfeit all fees paid and the right to compete in The Games.



c) Registration for the World Choir Games is legally binding for the participant in terms of obligations to the authorised travel agents. A travel agreement becomes legally binding once the travel agent confirms the registration. Registration fees are non-refundable.

d) Participation in the World Choir Games will only be possible if all fees and the World Choir Games Event Package (including agency costs for tourism services) have been paid in full and without deductions. The organiser reserves the right to deny permission to participate in the World Choir Games to any choral organisation not in compliance with these terms. Costs arising out of any such situations will be at the participants' expense.

Liability of the Organiser

INTERKULTUR, supports the World Choir Games 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 the organiser's liability is expressly excluded. Any liability of such kind would be that of the authorised agencies and/or the management of the respective congress or concert halls, catering and transport companies. As travel operators, the authorised travel agents are liable in accordance with the corresponding travel laws and on the basis of the "Allgemeinen Reisebedingungen" (ARB) ("General Conditions for Travel"). With his/her signature on the registration for registration at the World Choir Games, the signatory accepts the terms of the "Allgemeinen Reisebedingungen" (ARB) and the organiser's liability for him/herself and for all persons registered.

Languages of correspondence

The official language of the World Choir Games are English and Latvian. Moderation (participant information, translations) of the events, the printed material and other publications will be produced in these languages. Participants are requested to conduct all correspondence and communication relating to registration or organisation of artistic programmes exclusively in English and /or German.

Please make sure that your choir is accompanied by at least one English-speaking person who can assist with translation.

Official documents are available on the internet at Interkultur.com in the following languages: German, English, Latvian, Spanish, Chinese, Russian. In the event of doubts or disputes, the printed English version is authentic and legally binding.

Subcontracted Services

The organiser reserves the right to award contracts for services other than tourism services to carefully selected and experienced agencies. These agencies will then operate as subcontractors.

Rejection

The organiser reserves the right to reject registrations for artistic or organisational reasons.
If a choir is rejected due to one of these reasons, the registration fee will be refunded.

Pictorial and Sound Recordings

All rights regarding the audio and audiovisual recordings of the event ("Recordings") as well as their exploitation are herewith being granted exclusively to INTERKULTUR by the choir/ artists. All rights granted to INTERKULTUR hereunder may be exploited by INTERKULTUR in perpetuity without any limitation as to time, territory and/or manner of exploitation free of any rights of third parties. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this includes in particular the following exclusive rights in the Recordings which can also be transferred by INTERKULTUR to a third party at INTERKULTUR'S discretion:
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Individual Concerts and Performances

During their stay at the World Choir Games, the participating choirs are not allowed to give further concerts or performances without the organiser's advance approval.

Changes to the Participant and Competition Information

The organiser reserves the right to make changes and amendments to the existing information material and/or the information booklet in the event of unforeseen technical, organisational or artistic circumstances or act(s) of God. The organiser also reserves the right to make changes to the programme contents and schedule.



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Registration

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Deadline for registration to participate in the World Choir Games 2014 is:

Early Bird: September 15, 2013

Final day to register: **December 1, 2013**

All completed documents and registration fees must be received by midnight EST.

REGISTRATION CHECK LIST

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

- All participants**
- ☐ REGISTRATION FORMS DULY FILLED IN
 - ☐ REGISTRATION FEE (Please enclose proof of payment) - The amount may also be paid with Visa or Mastercard (see registration forms).
 - ☐ AUDIO RECORDING: Please send an .mp3, WAV, WMA, or CD with at least three (3) pieces (preferably a cappella) not older than two years. Please write the titles and composers of the pieces as well as the date of recording
 - ☐ SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF CHOIR: Please send the biography in English as an editable text document (e.g. Word)
 - ☐ PHOTOGRAPH OF CHOIR: Make sure that it is suitable for reproduction (landscape format, as a file jpg or bmp, no PDF format, min. 300 dpi, as original min. 12 x 7,5 cm). The picture should not be older than two years.
- Competition and/or Evaluation participants**
- ☐ A separate page of the registration form for each competition category in which it intends to participate (please retain copies for your files),
 - ☐ PROOF OF QUALIFICATION for participation in The Champions Competition of the World Choir Games (certificate, delegation letter, etc.),
 - ☐ MUSIC SCORES OF COMPETITION OR EVALUATION REPERTOIRE: Scores sent as PDF or similar files will not be accepted. Seven (7) for The Champions Competition, five (5) for The Open Competition, three (3) for Evaluation Performance (for non-competing choirs), one (1) for Individual Coaching



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DISCOVER THE RĪGA RAY OF LIGHT!

Rīga has always been a capital of culture and safeguarded its Ray of Light for centuries. Now the time has come for it to shine even more brightly – EU decision-makers have proclaimed Rīga a 2014 European Capital of Culture. There will be almost 200 events for Rīgans and city guests to enjoy during 2014 but there is more than enough culture and fun to be had in Rīga, whenever you visit!



Go to our website www.riga2014.org to check out the highlights of the year-round programme! To stay in touch with the latest news, subscribe to our newsletter!

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Contact address INTERKULTUR

INTERKULTUR

World Choir Games 2014

Ruhberg 1, 35463 Fernwald (Frankfurt/Main) Germany

Phone: +49 (0)6404 69749-25

Fax: +49 (0)6404 69749-29

E-mail: mail@worldchoirgames.com

Internet: www.worldchoirgames.com

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as of December 19, 2013