



Torre del Lago Puccini (Lucca) • Italy
September 30 - October 4, 2015

1st International Choir Festival PUCCINI 2015

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

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AN  INTERKULTUR EVENT

Organizer
INTERKULTUR

In cooperation with
Target Travel di Customized Srl (Italy)

President INTERKULTUR
Günter Titsch (Germany)

Artistic Committee
Prof. Dr. Ralf Eisenbeiß (Germany), director
Prof. Giovanni Acciai (Italy)
Christian Ljunggren (Sweden)

INTERKULTUR Board
Günter Titsch (Germany)
Wang Qin (China)
Stefan Bohländer (Germany)
Prof. Dr. Ralf Eisenbeiß (Germany)

Project Manager
Rossana Toesco (Italy)

Cordial Invitation



Dear friends of choral music,

We cordially invite you to the very warm atmosphere of a special festival, the

**1st International Choir Festival PUCCINI
Torre del Lago Puccini (Lucca)**

September 30 - October 4, 2015

The town of Torre del Lago Puccini in Viareggio in the Tuscan Versilia is a picturesque place to combine choral art and touristic activities.

Puccini lived in this idyllic area for several years and now, every summer, performances of his famous operas take place in the huge open-air theater.

Places like Pisa, whose Leaning Tower can be seen from Torre Del Lago Puccini, or Lucca, Massa Carrara and La Spezia (Liguria) are really fantastic places for those keen on organizing excursions in the surrounding area. With this festival, INTEKULTUR will expand its activities in Italy and thus help attract more interest and demands for such unique festival venues, especially in the Mediterranean regions of Europe. And, of course, our competent INTERKULTUR team will make sure that this festival in Tuscany, like all our events, is a brilliant experience for every choir.

Regardless of whether you intend to participate in friendship concerts or want to be active participants in the competition, you will find an exactly specified program tailored to your needs. We do this in line with our quality seal, the hallmark of each of our INTERKULTUR events.

Günter Titsch
President INTERKULTUR

EVENT SCHEDULE *Subject to Change*

Dates	WEDNESDAY SEP 30, 2015	THURSDAY OCT 1, 2015	FRIDAY OCT 2, 2015	SATURDAY OCT 3, 2015	SUNDAY OCT 4, 2015
Arrival / Departure	Arrival				Departure
Rehearsals	Rehearsals and Stage rehearsals				
Friendship Concerts	Concerts and performances in Torre del Lago Puccini and Viareggio				
The Competitions		Afternoon	All day		
Official Events (Torre del Lago P.)	Opening Concert			Closing Concert & Awards Ceremony	
Tourism activities	Sightseeing & excursions to Lucca, Pisa, Florence etc. (according to choirs' schedule)				

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

INTERKULTUR events provide the opportunity to customize your event experience by mixing and matching competitive and non-competitive categories of participation. Choirs may choose from the following:


	1. Non-Competitive Participation	2. Competitive Participation
Competition categories*		X
Non-competitive Festival Participation** (Concert Performances only)	X	

* Friendship Concert Performance included

** Minimum of 2 performances in friendship concerts

1. Non-competitive elements

Friendship Concerts

FC	Friendship Concerts	<p>Participating choirs may register to perform together with other international choirs. Choirs must prepare approximately 20 minutes of their own music pre-approved by the artistic committee. The concert should be preferably a cappella or with own instruments.</p> <p>As one of the highlights of the festival, we offer the opportunity to combine a day trip to Pisa and Lucca with a concert appearance in one of the two cities.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Please be aware that several friendship concerts are planned open air. In the event that weather conditions do not allow this, some concerts may be cancelled due to the weather. The organizers will try to manage alternatives but choirs do not have any legal claim to this.</p> <p>Choirs can also take part in Friendship Concerts ONLY (Non-competitive Festival Participation).</p>
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2. Competitive Participation

2.1 Categories of Competition

A	<p>Difficulty level I a cappella</p>	<p>A1- Mixed Choirs; A2- Male Choirs; A3- Female Choirs</p> <p>Four pieces have to be performed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One piece by an Italian composer in its original language 2. One piece by a composer from the choir's home country, born after 1950 3. One piece of the choir's choice 4. One piece of the choir's choice
	<p>Number of singers: No restrictions Singing time: The singing time should be at least 12 minutes and must not be longer than 20 minutes. Accompaniment: Instrumental accompaniment is not permitted. Only original compositions may be performed.</p>	

B	Difficulty level II	<p>B1- Mixed Choirs; B2- Male Choirs; B3- Female Choirs</p> <p>Three pieces have to be performed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One piece by an Italian composer 2. & 3. Two pieces of the choir's choice
	<p>Number of singers: No restrictions Singing time: The singing time should be at least 8 minutes and must not be longer than 15 minutes. Accompaniment: Maximum 1 Piece</p>	

G	Children's Choirs Youth Choirs	<p>G1- Children's Choirs up to 16 years old SSAA G2- Youth Choirs of equal voices (Girls up to 19, Boys up to 25 years old) G3- Youth Choirs of mixed voices (up to 25 years old)</p> <p>Four pieces have to be performed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One piece by an Italian composer in its original language 2. One piece by a composer from the choir's home country, born after 1950 3. One piece of the choir's choice 4. One piece of the choir's choice
	<p>Number of singers: No restrictions Singing time: The singing time should be at least 8 minutes and must not be longer than 15 minutes. Accompaniment: maximum 1 piece</p>	

S	Sacred Choral Music a cappella	<p>Three pieces have to be performed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One sacred piece by an Italian composer 2. One sacred piece of the choir's choice 3. One sacred piece of the choir's choice
	<p>Number of singers: No restrictions Singing time: The singing time should be at least 8 minutes and must not be longer than 15 minutes. Accompaniment: Instrumental accompaniment is not permitted.</p>	

F	Folklore	<p>The ensembles perform a freely chosen folklore program typical for the choir's home country.</p> <p>Choreographic or scenic elements may be integrated into performances but the focus needs to be on the singing. The performance in traditional costumes typical of the country is recommended.</p> <p>In case sheet music is not available, a short description of the program must be provided for the jury (in English).</p>
	<p>Number of singers: No restrictions Singing time: The singing time should be at least 8 minutes and must not be longer than 15 minutes. Accompaniment: Piano accompaniment and traditional folk instruments are allowed for all pieces. Any type of playback and microphones are not permitted. Individual brought instruments can be amplified (own amplifier).</p>	

Grand Prize „Torre del Lago Puccini“



Those choirs that were awarded a corresponding category prize have the opportunity to take part in the Grand Prize Competition. The Jury reserves the right to admit further choirs to this competition.



PROGRAM: two freely chosen a cappella pieces which must not be the ones the choir has already performed in its competition program; the music scores of these two pieces must be approved by the artistic directors.



Please bring 5 music scores of each piece that you are planning to perform in the Grand Prize competition and hand them over when registering your choir.



PURE SINGING TIME: The maximum pure singing time allowed is 8 minutes.



The winner of this competition receives “Grand Prize -Torre del Lago Puccini 2015” endowed with a prize money of EUR 1,000.

2.2 Artistic Regulations

	A			B	G			S	F
	A1	A2	A3	B1-B3	G1	G2	G3		
Age Limit	16+			16+	max 16	Girls max 19 Boys max 25	max 25	No limit	
Minimum Number of Singers	No limit			No limit					
Maximum Number of Singers	No limit			No limit					
Number of Pieces	4			3	4			3	No limit
Minimum singing time should be	12 minutes			8 minutes					
Maximum Actual Singing Time	20 minutes			15 minutes					
Maximum Number of Pieces with Accompaniment	-			1				-	No limit
Use of Amplification	Not permitted								Instruments

Competition Rules

GENERAL RULES

- All non-professional choirs are welcome to compete in this event. With the exception of the conductors, its members must all be amateurs, e.g. they are not allowed to earn their livelihood by professional singing.
- In categories with age limits, a maximum of 20% of the members may exceed the age limit by 5 years. The organizers reserve the right to check the ages of the singers.
- The order of performances within a category is scheduled at random.
- INDIVIDUAL CONCERTS AND PERFORMANCES: During their stay the participating choirs are not allowed to give further concerts or performances without the organizer’s approval in advance.



MULTIPLE PARTICIPATION

- a) Individual choir members may participate in smaller ensembles formed out of their primary choir but may NOT sing in more than one primary choir.
- b) All choirs may participate in only one of A, B, or G.
- c) In addition, mixed choirs can participate with their male or female voices in the same category (i.e. participation with the mixed choir in A1 and with the male voices in A2 or the female voices in A3. Choirs may additionally choose to participate in categories S and F independent of their participation in A, B, or G.
- d) Conductors are permitted to conduct only one choir per category, however conducting in different categories is allowed. A choir may also perform with several conductors.

MUSIC

- a) Only ORIGINAL ACCOMPANIMENTS are permitted, which means that any reductions in orchestration or transcriptions of other instruments that were not planned by the composer and do not have an accepted performance tradition are excluded from the competition.
- b) ACCOMPANIMENT means that at least one pitched instrument is used. In categories requiring a cappella selections, a maximum of three instruments without definite pitch may be used (percussion instruments).
- c) The use of ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS means that a piece must be performed in accordance with the composer's original score. Compositions prior-to and through the Baroque era may be performed in variations of scoring that correspond with the original musical material. The arrangement of a composition is permitted if it has led to a new composition. The Artistic committee reserves the right to reject compositions.
- d) CHANGES OF KEY: The compulsory piece must be sung in the original key. For other selections; if the choir wishes to change the key, the jury must be informed in writing if a choir wishes to change the key from what is written in the printed score prior to the competition.
- e) After APPROVAL OF PROPOSED PROGRAM by the artistic directors, it will be returned for final review and confirmation by the respective choir. The choir must respond within 14 days of delivery with any changes to the program. If there is no response within 14 days, the program will be considered final; therefore neither titles nor performance order may be changed. Changes made without informing the organizer will result in a disqualification. Choirs are responsible for possible performing rights of their program.
- f) ACTUAL SINGING TIME: Actual singing time is the duration of the performance time only. It excludes entrance, exit, and applause.
- g) It is NOT allowed to sing the same pieces in different categories. Separate repertoire pages should be filled out for each category of competition for registration

SHEET MUSIC

- a) 5 scores of every piece must be submitted with the registration forms.
- b) Scores submitted must conform to internationally recognized sheet music standards (five lines of notes).
- c) Scores that do not bear the titles, names of composers etc. printed in the Roman alphabet must bear a transcription into the Roman alphabet (clear handwritten notes suffice).
- d) One score remains with the organizer after the competition. Remaining scores may be collected from the organizer after the awards ceremony. Uncollected scores will not be sent by mail.
- e) No scores have to be submitted for gala or friendship concerts.
- f) Please note that published choral compositions may only be sung using the original scores or authorized copies. The use of unauthorized copies or handwritten copies is not allowed! All scores must be sent by mail as hardcopy. Scores sent as files (PDF or similar) will not be accepted.



- g) If your scores are published as score book, please submit only one book but preferably authorized copies.

MUSICA MUNDI® Evaluation System

- Choirs will be evaluated by international acknowledged choral experts in accordance with the general MUSICA MUNDI evaluation system (30 point system). The decision of the jury cannot be contested.

The performance of each choir will be evaluated according to the following:

- I) Technical Evaluation
 - a) *Intonation*
 - b) *Sound Quality*
- II) Artistic Evaluation
 - c1) *Fidelity* to the score in general categories or
 - c2) *Interpretation Practice* in Jazz, Pop, Gospel or
 - c3) *Authenticity* in folklore categories
 - d) *Overall Artistic Impression*

	a	b	c	d
Piece 1	25		22	
Piece 2	27		26	
Piece 3	23		25	
Piece 4	26		24	
Criteria a & c = average of 1 - 4 Criteria b & d = points given for the overall performance	25.25	26	24.25	24
Total Score (average)	24.88			

Example of a score sheet of category F:

	a)	b)	c)	d)
Piece 1 - ...				
Single criteria	26	26	24	24
Total score	25			

- The jury decides first whether a choir may be qualified for a diploma or not. Choirs receiving no diploma will get a certificate of participation. Choirs that may qualify for a diploma will be given a score between 1 and 30 points.
- The final result is made up of the average of all given points or by the average of the intermediate results respectively.
- In categories for which the number of pieces is not determined, the jury will evaluate only the overall performance according to the above mentioned criteria.
- Category winner is the choir with the highest score above 20.50 points. In case of equal scores or if the difference between the scores of two choirs is less than 0.1 point, the jury will take a vote on the category winner. If no choir has achieved a score above 20.50 points (Gold I), there will be no category winner in that category.
- If a choir exceeds the maximum singing time, their final result will be reduced by jury decision.

Diplomas & Awards

Diplomas

According to the score, Bronze, Silver, and Golden Diplomas will be awarded. In the event the choir does not achieve a diploma, the choir will receive a certificate of participation. The choir with a golden diploma and the highest score in each category becomes the Category Winner. Special and Conductor's prizes may also be awarded.

Diploma	Level									
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Bronze 0.5 - 10.49	1-1.49	1.5- 2.49	2.5- 3.49	3.5- 4.49	4.5- 5.49	5.5- 6.49	6.5- 7.49	7.5- 8.49	8.5- 9.49	9.5- 10.49
Silver 10.5 - 20.49	10.5- 11.49	11.5- 12.49	12.5- 13.49	13.5- 14.49	14.5- 15.49	15.5- 16.49	16.5- 17.49	17.5- 18.49	18.5- 19.49	19.5- 20.49
Gold 20.5 - 30.00	20.5- 21.49	21.5- 22.49	22.5- 23.49	23.5- 24.49	24.5- 25.49	25.5- 26.49	26.5- 27.49	27.5- 28.49	28.5- 29.49	29.5- 30

3. TERMS & CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

3.1 Registration & Registration Deadline

The deadline for registration is May 11, 2015.
Early Bird deadline is February 23, 2015

3.2 Registration Check list

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

- 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.
- MUSIC SCORES OF COMPETITION REPERTOIRE: [Three (3) for each piece (only for the competition) Music scores sent as PDF or similar files will not be accepted.

Registration Fee

To participate in the event the following registration fees have to be paid per choir/ensemble and category as follows:

	Non-competitive participation	Competitive participation
Per competition category*		200€
Non-competitive Festival Participation** (Concert Performances only)	200€	

*Friendship Concert Performance included.

** at least two Friendship Concert Performance included

The registration fee must be made payable to INTERKULTUR in full upon registration by bank transfer or by credit card (Visa or MasterCard). Any banking costs that arise must be paid by the registrant.

Once off discount of 50% for the first category of participation and further Early Bird discounts will be granted on the event package - if completed registration documents and fee have been received by deadline.

In case a choir cancels its participation the registration fee will not be refunded.

The bank details to pay the registration fee 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: 1152 + name of choir (please state name in full)

Event Packages

For organizational reasons and to ensure ideal conditions, a participation in the event is possible only if the event package including accommodation bookings are made through the agencies authorized by INTERKULTUR.

This is an exclusive condition and integral part of the conditions for participation and there is no exception to this rule.

All included services and rates of the event package are described in the travel agency offer enclosed to this participant information.

The purchase of an accommodation package is four (4) nights minimum.
 If a registration is received without specific information the down payment invoice will be made and sent on the basis of double rooms in Standard Class.

Registration is binding for the choir, in regard to both participation in the festival and 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, General Conditions of Travel*) 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 due to the authorized agencies for the event package are due on the date indicated on the invoice. Banking information is also located on the invoice. We would like to draw your attention expressly to the fact that participation in the event is only possible if the costs due have been received net and by deadline. Delay in payments may affect the benefits of your participation. Any costs incurred due to such action are to be borne by the group.

Travel Expenses

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

3.4 Language of Correspondence

German and English are the sole languages that are reflected on official documents. This includes, but is not limited to, the Official Participant Information, travel documents such as schedule and vouchers as well as invoices. These are all legally binding. Verbal information is available in the following languages French, Italian, Russian, Spanish and Hungarian.

Please make sure that your choir is accompanied by at least one Italian or English speaking person who can assist you with translation during the event.

3.5 Organizer

Organizer is INTERKULTUR Management GmbH, Platz der Einheit 1/ 60327 Frankfurt / Germany.

3.6 Liability

INTERKULTUR is responsible for the artistic and musical design and the execution of the events. Its liability comprises of all organizational matters of the event. Any liability with regard to organizer'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 organizer 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 registration form, the signatory accepts the terms of the "*Allgemeinen Reisebedingungen*" ARB (*General Conditions of Travel*) and the organizer's liability for him / herself and for all persons registered.

3.7 Audio and Audiovisual 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:

INTERKULTUR shall be exclusively entitled to reproduce the Recordings wholly or partly by way of producing vinyl discs, music cassettes, compact discs, DATs, Mini Discs, Digital Compact Cassettes or other sound carriers and by producing video cassettes, picture discs, compact disc videos, DVDs or other audio-visual carriers or other data carriers or by means of other technical devices and to sell or otherwise distribute these reproductions by retail, wholesale or other distribution channels such as clubs, mail order or TV-response. This also includes the right to exploit the Recordings in the context of online and especially internet applications of any kind and of any system, regardless of the way of transmission and business model, and to use, upload and distribute these Recordings in data bases, networks (e.g. internet and all its services) or anything similar of any kind and especially to disseminate and transmit these Recordings to users of databases / networks via cable or other ways of transmission for the purpose of perception and/ or reproduction and/ or distribution against payment or free of charge. This also includes the right to publicly perform or broadcast the Recordings by private or public broadcast stations, including digital radio services, via cable, satellite or other technical transmission services either against payment or free of charge (including the right to collect in INTERKULTUR'S own name broadcast fees accruing in connection with the public performance or broadcast of the Recordings). INTERKULTUR'S rights also include the right to edit and/or alter the Recordings (e.g. by producing mixes or remixes), to couple the Recordings with other recordings (e.g. with recordings of other artists) and the right to release and sell the Recordings on so-called "special product" audio- or audio-visual carriers. Furthermore, INTERKULTUR shall be entitled to grant synchronisation rights in the Recordings for movies, videos, TV and/or movie commercials, image films etc., to translate them into other languages, to use them for multimedia purposes of any kind or to rearrange them in any other way (e.g. to create

remixes or do sampling). This also includes the exclusive right to use the Recordings in games / PC games as well as other and also interactive multimedia productions (incl. so called “websites”) for goods, services and advertising purposes of any kind. Finally, this includes the non-exclusive right to use the choir’s /artist’s name as well as images of the choir / artist in the context of the exploitation and the advertising and promotion measures mentioned above.

INTERKULTUR does not pay any money to the ARTIST for the exclusive grant of rights mentioned above. The ARTIST accepts explicitly that the positive promotion effect resulting from an exploitation of the Recordings by INTERKULTUR represents an adequate return service for this transfer of rights. In case of a commercial release of the Recordings on CD, the parties will negotiate separately in good faith about an adequate royalty to be payable to Artist according to standard business practice.

3.8 Changes

The organizer reserves the right to make changes and amendments to the existing information material and/or the announcement in the event of unforeseen technical, organizational or artistic circumstances or act(s) of God. The organizer also reserves the right to make changes to the program contents and schedule.

3.9 Imprint

Content: Prof. Dr. Ralf Eisenbeiß, Stefan Bohländer
Layout: Jelena Dannhauer



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

INTERKULTUR
PUCCINI 2015
Ruhberg 1
35463 Fernwald
Germany
Phone: +49 (0) 6404-69749-25
Fax: +49 (0) 6404-69749-29
Email: mail@interkultur.com
Internet: www.interkultur.com

This Participant Information can also be obtained under www.interkultur.com or requested as a print copy from the organizer. In case of any doubt, the printed German version is authentic and legally binding.



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