



**World  
Choir  
Games**

**sochi**  
**2016**RUSSIA

**JULY 6 – 16, 2016**



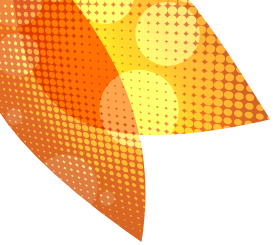
**COMPETITION  
INFORMATION**



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AN **INTERKULTUR** EVENT



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# World Choir Games

## The Champions Competition

Choirs competing in The Champions Competition are by the decision of the Artistic Committee.

Non-professional choirs can register, submit qualifications or be delegated. This competition is for choirs that have corresponding international competitive experience and have already proven their ability in concerts and international choral competitions. The competition is evaluated by an international jury according to the evaluation system of the World Choir Games (100 points system).

Choirs are awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold Medals depending on the number of points. The gold medal choir with the highest number of points, in each category, will be awarded the title "Champion of the World Choir Games".

### Recommended for

- Choirs\* with national and/or international competitive experience and a proven level of achievement or proof of comparable artistic level
- Choirs that are listed in the top 500 of the MUSICA MUNDI World Ranking List (List available at Interkultur.com)
- Choirs that have been awarded a Gold Medal at the World Choir Games since 2010
- Choirs that have been awarded a Golden Diploma at the MUSICA MUNDI choir competitions since 2010
- Choirs that have received a recommendation diploma for The Champions Competition in a previous INTERKULTUR event
- Choirs that have received a 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize in national or international choir competitions, or an evaluation comparable to the Golden Diploma of the INTERKULTUR choir competitions since 2010 (The competition must be recognized by the Artistic Committee and a copy of the certificate must be submitted with the registration.).
- Choirs that have been delegated by national and provincial cultural ministries or national and provincial choral associations (An official letter of delegation must be submitted with the registration.)
- Choirs that have been delegated by a member of the World Choir Council
- Choirs that have qualified at the Qualification Concert on-site for The Champions Competition

**Admitted by** The Artistic Committee of the World Choir Games

**Jury** A jury of seven international music experts will evaluate The Champions Competition.

**Evaluation system** The Champions Competition is evaluated on a 100 point system.

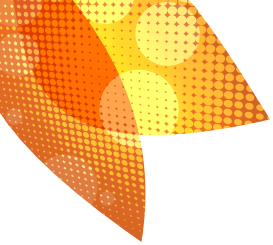
Number of points:  
 40.00 – 60.00 Bronze medal  
 60.01 – 80.00 Silver medal  
 80.01 – 100.00 Gold medal

### Champion of the World Choir Games

The choir receiving the Gold Medal with the most points will be awarded the title "Champion of the World Choir Games"

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\* To qualify as a non-professional choir means that no choir member except for the conductor may earn his living by professional singing.



# 1. The Categories

## The Champions Competition

The Champions Competition offers participation in 29 categories.

### GENERAL CATEGORIES (C1 – C15)

- Basic Information**
- The multiple categories offer each choir the opportunity to express its own traditions and strengths.
  - A program should reflect the choral music activities of different countries.
  - At the same time, the World Choir Games encourage choirs to take an interest in cultural and musical traditions elsewhere in the world and to perform at least one piece that does not have its origins in their native culture.
  - Thoughtful consideration should be given to the dramatic arc of the overall program.
  - The character and degree of difficulty of the program for Children's and Youth categories should correspond with the age of the singers.

- Categories C1 – C15**
- C1 Young Children's Choirs** S(S)A(A), girls and boys ages 6 – 12
  - C2 Children's Choirs** S(S)A(A), girls and boys ages 10 – 16
  - C3 Youth Choirs of Equal Voices** S(S)A(A), girls and boys ages 12 – 21
  - C4 Young Male Choirs** T(T)B(B), boys and young men ages 14 – 24
  - C5 Mixed Boys' Choirs** SA(T)B, boys and young men ages 8 – 24
  - C6 Mixed Youth Choirs** SA(T)B, girls, boys and young men ages 12 – 22
  - C7 University and College Choirs** (mixed and equal voices), ages 18-30\*
  - C8 Vocal Ensembles** (mixed and equal voices)
  - C9 Mixed Chamber Choirs**
  - C10 Mixed Choirs**
  - C11 Female Chamber Choirs**
  - C12 Female Choirs**
  - C13 Male Chamber Choirs**
  - C14 Male Choirs**
  - C15 Senior Choirs**



**Number of pieces** 4

**Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes (Cat. C1 – C2) and 20 minutes (Cat C3 – C15).

**Instrumental accompaniment** **Categories C1 – C6:**  
Two compositions may be performed with original instrumental accompaniment.  
**Categories C7 – C15:**  
One composition may be performed with original instrumental accompaniment.

**Program for categories C1 – C15 must include**

- 1) one composition by a composer from the country, language area or cultural environment of the participating choir
- 2) one composition by a composer who does not come from the country, language area or cultural environment of the participating choir (see also section AI-II Competition Rules).
- 3) one composition by a living composer (at the time of registration)
- 4) one composition of the choir's choice

**Categories C7 – C15:** Only original accompaniments are permitted.

**Part of the Games** Part I, July 6 – 10: C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C10, C12, C14, C15  
Part II, July 12 – 16: C1, C7, C8, C9, C11, C13

\* This category includes choirs from universities and colleges, in which a corresponding academic graduation (Diploma, Bachelor, Master, etc.) can be achieved.

**THEMATIC CATEGORIES C16 – C29****C16 – Musica Sacra a cappella**

In this category choirs may perform their choice of Christian sacred a cappella music.

**C16**

**Number of pieces** 4

**Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 20 minutes.

**Instrumental accompaniment** Instrumental accompaniment is not permitted.

**Program must include** Compositions of sacred music:  
 1) by a composer born before 1809  
 2) by a composer born between 1809 and 1873  
 3) by a composer who is alive at the time of registration  
 4) of the choir's choice  
 Only original compositions are permitted.

**Part of the Games** Part II, July 12 – 16

**C17 – Musica Sacra with accompaniment**

In this category choirs may perform their choice of Christian sacred music with and without accompaniment.

**C17**

**Number of pieces** 4

**Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 20 minutes.

**Instrumental accompaniment** Minimum 1 and maximum 2 pieces have to be performed with accompaniment (tuned instruments).

**Program must include** Compositions of sacred music:  
 1) by a composer born before 1809  
 2) by a composer born between 1809 and 1873  
 3) by a composer who is alive at the time of registration  
 4) of the choir's choice

Only original compositions are permitted.

**Part of the Games** Part I, July 6 – 10

**C18 – Music of Spirit and Faith**

This category welcomes music of all religions, churches and denominations, as well as general songs of spirit and faith that are not affiliated with a religion, church or denomination. Choral music which in style and content belongs to Musica Sacra (Cat. 16 & 17), Gospel (Cat. 21), or Spiritual (Cat. 22) is not permitted in this category.

**C18**

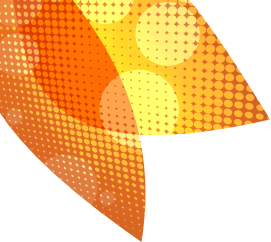
**Number of pieces** unlimited

**Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.

**Instrumental accompaniment** All pieces may be accompanied.

**Program must include** Compositions of the choir's choice.

**Part of the Games** Part II, July 12 – 16



## C19 – Musica Contemporanea (contemporary music)

C19

This category features contemporary compositions of the 20th and 21st centuries and the immediate present.

- Number of pieces** 4
- Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 20 minutes.
- Instrumental accompaniment** A maximum of two compositions may be performed with original instrumental accompaniment.
- Program must include**
- 1) One premier performance composition.  
(A declaration explaining that the piece is dedicated to or will be performed for the first time at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Choir Games 2016 must be attached to the registration forms.)
  - 2) One composition by a composer who is alive at the time of registration and comes from the country or cultural area of the participating choir.
  - 3) One composition by a composer who is alive at the time of registration and does not come from the language or cultural area of the participating choir  
(see also chapter competition rules A1).
  - 4) One composition of the choir's choice by a composer born 1950 or later.
- Only original compositions are permitted. Choral music which in style and content belongs to jazz, musical theatre or pop music is not permitted in this category.
- Part of the Games** Part II, July 12 – 16

## CATEGORIES C20, C21, C24, C25, C26 and C29

**Basic Information** Instrumental accompaniments including electronic instruments with their own amplification are permitted. The amplification of voices and instruments is permitted. Equipment suited to the respective venues will be made available on-site. All forms of full playback are prohibited but the instrumental accompaniments in these categories may be performed via playback (minus one track).

## C20 – Jazz

C20

- Number of pieces** 4
- Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.
- Instrumental accompaniment** All four compositions may be accompanied.
- Program must include** The choir's choice of jazz compositions of varying style is encouraged. Improvisations by the vocalists are desirable but not compulsory. Instrumental solos must be kept to a minimum as only the performance of the choir will be evaluated. Accompanists and/or instrumentalists are the responsibility of the choir.
- Part of the Games** Part II, July 12 – 16

## C21 – Gospel

C21

- Number of pieces** unlimited
- Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.
- Instrumental accompaniment** All compositions may be accompanied.
- Program must include** The choir's choice of eclectic Christian folk or popular music. This popular form of Christian music is performed with fervent enthusiasm and spiritual inspiration, generally with instrumental accompaniment. In case sheet music is not available, a short description of the program or the lyrics must be provided for the jury (in English).
- Part of the Games** Part II, July 12 – 16

## C22 – Spiritual

C22

<b>Number of pieces</b>	4
<b>Duration of the program</b>	The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.
<b>Instrumental accompaniment</b>	Instrumental accompaniment is not permitted.
<b>Program must include</b>	The choir's choice of Spirituals. Spirituals are religious compositions originally transmitted orally, which have been transcribed and arranged primarily for a cappella choral singing. This category is commonly interpreted as the African-American Spiritual derived from slave songs and hymns.
<b>Part of the Games</b>	Part II, July 12 – 16

## C23 – Barbershop

C23

<b>Number of pieces</b>	4
<b>Duration of the program</b>	The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.
<b>Instrumental accompaniment</b>	Instrumental accompaniment is not permitted.
<b>Amplification</b>	The competition is judged on unamplified sound, however general amplification will be provided for the audience.
<b>Program must include</b>	Barbershop compositions of the choir's choice. Elements of a typical barbershop performance package such as choreography, talking, transitional material, group poses, etc. may be included. The jury will evaluate the music as well as the scenic performance and choreography.
<b>Part of the Games</b>	Part I, July 6 – 10

## C24 – Pop Ensembles / C25 - Pop Choirs

Pop, Rock and Light Entertainment selections from the 20th century through the present day will be performed. The style and content must not fit into the jazz, gospel, spiritual or folklore categories. It should be focused on the vocal and/or instrumental part. Choreographic elements may be integrated into performances but only the singing and playing will be evaluated by the international jury.

<b>Number of pieces</b>	4
<b>Duration of the program</b>	The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.
<b>Instrumental accompaniment</b>	A minimum of one composition has to be performed a cappella.
<b>Program must include</b>	Popular choral compositions of the choir's choice.
<b>Number of Singers</b>	C24: min. 4; max. 16 / C25: min. 17
<b>Part of the Games</b>	C24: Part I, July 6 – 10 / C25: Part II, July 12 – 16

C24

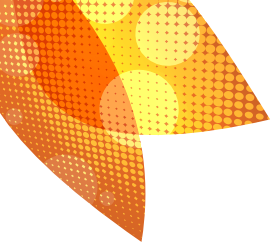
C25

## C26 – Scenic Pop / Show Choirs

Pop, Rock and Light Entertainment selections from the 20th century through the present day will be performed. The style and content must not fit into the jazz, gospel, spiritual or folklore categories.

<b>Number of pieces</b>	unlimited
<b>Duration of the program</b>	The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.
<b>Instrumental accompaniment</b>	All compositions may be accompanied.
<b>Program must include</b>	Popular choral compositions of the choir's choice. The jury will evaluate the music as well as the scenic performance and/or choreography. The content of movements and singing should be cohesive.
<b>Part of the Games</b>	Part I, July 6 – 10

C26



## CATEGORIES C27 – C29

**Basic Information** In these categories choirs should interpret the folklore of its native country or its different ethnic groups. A choir whose work is dedicated to the cultures of another people may also perform. Combining national folk songs from several countries is not permitted (potpourris). For example: A choir from Germany should not combine songs from Germany, France, Russia and a Spiritual.

### C27 – Folklore a cappella

C27

**Number of pieces** 4

**Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.

**Instrumental accompaniment** Instrumental accompaniment is not permitted.

**Program must include** Four original compositions in the spirit of folksongs or arrangements of folksongs. Original performance interpretations are welcome. Solo dance performance is not allowed. Choreographic elements may be integrated into performances but only the singing will be evaluated by the international jury. Amplification and playback are not allowed. In case sheet music is not available, a short description of the program must be provided for the jury (in English).

**Part of the Games** Part I, July 6 – 10

### C28 – Folklore with accompaniment

C28

**Number of pieces** 4

**Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.

**Instrumental accompaniment** A minimum of two compositions have to be performed with original, country specific instrumental accompaniment.

**Program must include** Four original compositions in the spirit of folksongs or arrangements of folksongs. Original performance interpretations are welcome. Solo dance performance is not allowed. Choreographic elements may be integrated into performances but only the singing will be evaluated by the international jury. Amplification and playback are not allowed. In case sheet music is not available, a short description of the program must be provided for the jury (in English).

**Part of the Games** Part II, July 12 – 16

### C29 – Scenic Folklore

C29

**Number of pieces** unlimited

**Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.

**Instrumental accompaniment** Piano accompaniment and traditional instruments are permitted.

**Program must include** Folklore of the choir's choice with choreography. The content of movements and singing should be cohesive. The jury will evaluate the musical as well as the scenic performance. Instrumental accompaniment may also be sound recording (playback). Amplification of voices and instruments is permitted. The performance in traditional costumes typical of the country is recommended. In case sheet music is not available, a short description of the program must be provided for the jury (in English).

**Part of the Games** Part I, July 6 – 10



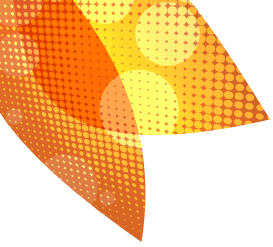
## 2. Outline of the Categories

### The Champions Competition

S – Soprano, A – Alto, T – Tenor, B – Bass  
Part I = July 6-10, 2016, Part II = July 12-16, 2016

Number of category	Number of category	Age limit	Number of singers	Maximum duration of program in minutes (actual singing time)	Number of compositions	Maximum number of compositions with instrumental accompaniment	Category is held in the 1st or 2nd part of the World Choir Games	Amplification of voices and instruments is permitted		
<b>GENERAL CATEGORIES</b>										
C1	Young Children's Choirs, S(S)A(A), girls and boys	6 – 12	unlimited	15	4	2	II	No		
C2	Children's Choirs, S(S)A(A), girls and boys	10 – 16		20			1		II	
C3	Youth Choirs of Equal Voices, S(S)A(A), (girls and boys)	12 – 21		I						
C4	Young Male Choirs, T(T)B(B)	14 – 24								
C5	Mixed Boys' Choirs, SA(T)B, (boys and young men)	8 – 24								
C6	Mixed Youth Choirs, SA(T)B, (girls, boys and young men)	12 – 22		16+						20
C7	University and College Choirs	18 – 30	I							
C8	Vocal Ensembles (mixed and equal voices)	Min. 4 / Max. 12								
C9	Mixed Chamber Choirs	Min. 13 / Max. 36								
C10	Mixed Choirs	Min. 37								
C11	Female Chamber Choirs	Min. 13 / Max. 30								
C12	Female Choirs	Min. 31								
C13	Male Chamber Choirs	Min. 13 / Max. 30		II						
C14	Male Choirs	Min. 31								
C15	Senior Choirs	55+	unlimited	I						
<b>THEMATIC CATEGORIES</b>										
C16	Musica Sacra a cappella	-	unlimited	20	4	-	II	No		
C17	Musica Sacra with accompaniment			15	unlimited	all	I			
C18	Music of Spirit and Faith			20	4	2			II	
C19	Musica Contemporanea (contemporary music)			15	unlimited	all				
C20	Jazz				4	3	I			
C21	Gospel					unlimited		II		
C22	Spiritual			4	-		I			
C23	Barbershop				15	3		II		
C24	Pop Ensembles			unlimited		all	I			
C25	Pop Choirs				4	-		II		
C26	Scenic Pop / Show Choirs			unlimited		Min. 2	I			
C27	Folklore a cappella				4	II		No		
C28	Folklore with accompaniment			unlimited		all	I			
C29	Scenic Folklore				unlimited	all		I	Yes*	

\* Choirs that participate in categories that allow amplification are required to submit clear stage plots with their registration indicating all technical requirements of their performance including microphone requirements for soloists, small groups, and general amplification.



# 3. Competition Rules

- 1. General Rules**
- a) 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.
  - b) 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.
  - c) The order of performances within a category is scheduled at random.

**2. Multiple Participation** **Choirs may register for a maximum of 3 activities per part of the World Choir Games (one or more competition categories, and/or evaluation activities, Festival Stage Choir). The organizers will make every effort to schedule all activities. If it is impossible to accommodate all categories due to scheduling reasons, the fees for those unscheduled activities will be refunded.**

a) Possibilities of participation

Categories	Detail
C1 – C15	Choirs may participate in only <b>one</b> of these categories.
C16 – C29	Choirs may choose from these categories independent of participation in categories C1 – C15

- b) INDIVIDUAL CHOIR MEMBERS may participate in smaller ensembles formed out of their primary choir but may NOT sing in more than one primary choir.
- c) 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.

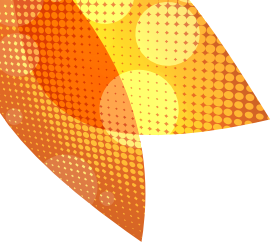
- 3. Music**
- a) Only ORIGINAL ACCOMPANIMENTS are permitted, which means that any reductions in orchestration or transcriptions of other instruments that were not planned by the composer and do not have an accepted performance tradition are excluded from the competition.
  - b) ACCOMPANIMENT means that 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) USE OF AMPLIFICATION: In categories C20, C21, C24, C25, C26, and C29 the amplification of voices and instruments is permitted. Basic technical equipment and backline will be provided by the organizer. Each choir must submit technical requirements of their performance with their registration form. If these instructions are not submitted, the organizers will not accept responsibility for the production of such instructions. Technically complex requirements (for example the use of headsets or separate microphones for each singer) cannot be guaranteed.
  - e) CHANGES OF 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.
  - f) After APPROVAL OF PROPOSED PROGRAM by the Artistic Committee, 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.

- g) **ACTUAL SINGING TIME:** Actual singing time is the duration of the performance time only. It excludes entrance, exit, and applause.
- h) **PROGRAMS IN MULTIPLE CATEGORIES:** Choirs may NOT sing the same pieces in different categories.  
Separate repertoire pages should be filled out for each category of competition for registration.
- i) Some categories require a composition which does not originate in the **COUNTRY, REGIONAL LANGUAGE OR CULTURAL GROUP** of the participating choir.  
Examples of compliance:
  - A Choir from a Baltic Country (Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia) should not sing a composition from another Baltic country even if the two countries naturally have different cultures and languages.
  - A choir from a Slavic country should not select a work from another Slavic nation, even if the two countries naturally have different cultures and languages.
  - A German choir should not select a song from other German-speaking countries.
  - Choirs from English-speaking countries should choose compositions written in a different language.
  - A choir from Latin and South America should select a piece that does not come from the same region.
- j) The World Choir Games follow the ideas and goals of the Olympic ideal. None of the programs listed may include war or glorify violence or content directed against other nations and nationalities.
- k) **CHAMPIONS CONCERT:** The programs of the participating choirs have to be confirmed by the Artistic Committee. It is entitled to refuse programs or parts of them and to exclude choirs from the concert.

#### 4. Sheet Music

- a) Seven scores of every composition 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 Celebration 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.





## 4. Jury and Competition Evaluation

1. A jury consisting of 7 international choral experts evaluates the competition.
2. The decisions of the jury cannot be contested.
3. The evaluation of the competition is based on the Evaluation System of the World Choir Games. In competition the performance of every composition will be evaluated according to the following:
  - I) Technical Evaluation
    - a) Intonation
    - b) Sound quality of the choir
  - II) Artistic Evaluation
    - c1) Fidelity to the score (in general categories)
    - c2) Interpretation practice (in Jazz, Pop categories Music of Spirit and Faith, Barbershop)
    - c3) Authenticity (in Folklore categories, Gospel and Spiritual)
    - d) Overall artistic impression
4. Each adjudicator will give a maximum of 10 points for each single composition according to criteria a) and c) and for the overall performance according to criteria b) and d) respectively. Using the points given, an intermediate average is determined for the overall technical evaluation (I) and for the overall artistic evaluation (II). The final score given by each individual adjudicator is made up of the total of these intermediate average figures
5. The final result is made up of the total of all final scores of the adjudicators. The lowest and highest figure will be disregarded.

		I		II	
		a)	b)	c)	d)
1	Composition 1	9		9	
2	Composition 2	8		9	
3	Composition 3	7		8	
4	Composition 4	9		8	
	Criteria a) + c): average of 1 – 4 Criteria b) + d): score of the overall performance	8.25	8	8.5	9
	Intermediate result of technical and artistic evaluation (average of column 1. and 2. as well as column 3. and 4.)	8.13		8.75	
	Total number of points given by one adjudicator: (= total of all intermediate results)	16.88			

The adjudicator gives 16.88 points, which are used for the overall evaluation. In this example, the following results were given and count as follows:

adjudicator 1	adjudicator 2	adjudicator 3	adjudicator 4	adjudicator 5	adjudicator 6	adjudicator 7
16.88	17.54	15.34	<b>18.01</b>	16.21	<b>14.01</b>	17.67

The scores of adjudicator 4 (highest score) and adjudicator 6 (lowest score) are disregarded. The total score will be made up from the remaining scores. In this case the choir will be awarded a Gold Medal with a total of 83.64 points.

In categories C18, C21, C26 und C29 for which the number of pieces is not determined, the jury will evaluate only the overall performance according to the above mentioned criteria.

		I		II	
		a)	b)	c)	d)
1	Composition 1				
2	Composition 2				
3	etc.				
Score for the overall performance		6	8	7	6
Intermediate result of technical and artistic evaluation (average of column 1. and 2. as well as column 3. and 4.)		7		6.5	
Total score given by one adjudicator: (total of all intermediate results)		13.5			

6. In case a choir exceeds the maximum pure singing time of the respective category, their final score will be reduced.
7. In case of non-observance of the age limit the choir could lose points of the overall result or may even be disqualified.
8. Choirs will receive written copy of their adjudication scores.

## 5. Awards

**1. Medals** In The Champions Competition choirs will receive medals according to their final scores:

1 – 40 Points Certificate

“Successful Participation in the World Choir Games – The Champions Competition”

40.01 – 60 Points Bronze Medal

60.01 – 80 Points Silver Medal

80.01 – 100 Points Gold Medal

### **2. Champion of the World Choir Games**

In the World Choir Games – The Champions Competition, the choir receiving the Gold Medal with the most points will be awarded the title “Champion of the World Choir Games”. The title can only be given to one choir per category. In case of a tie, the jury will determine which choir will be the Champion of the World Choir Games.



# A2

## World Choir Games The Open Competition

In the spirit of the World Choir Games, "Participation is the highest honor". Therefore, any non-professional choir may participate regardless of their present artistic level of achievement. The choirs will be evaluated by an international jury in accordance with the general MUSICA MUNDI evaluation system (30 points system) and awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze Diplomas. The choir receiving the Gold Diploma with the most points will be awarded the title "Winner of the World Choir Games – The Open Competition."

The title can be given to only one choir per category. In case of a tie, the jury will determine which choir will be the Winner of the "World Choir Games – The Open Competition"

- Recommended for**
- Any non-professional choir regardless of experience at national and international choral competitions
  - Choirs that have received a recommendation diploma for The Open Competition at one of the past INTERKULTUR events
  - Choirs that have qualified at the on-site Qualification Concert for The Open Competition

**Admitted by** The Artistic Committee of the World Choir Games

**Jury** A jury of international music experts will evaluate the World Choir Games – The Open Competition.

**Evaluation system** MUSICA MUNDI evaluation system (30 points)  
Number of points:

1.00 – 10.49	Bronze Diplomas levels 1-10
10.50 – 20.49	Silver Diplomas levels 1-10
20.50 – 30.00	Golden Diplomas levels 1-10

**Awards** The choir scoring the highest overall number of points per category with a golden diploma in each category will be awarded the title "**Winner of the World Choir Games – The Open Competition**".



# 1. The Categories

## The Open Competition

The World Choir Games – The Open Competition is held in **29 different categories**. The number of the categories follows the comparable categories of The Champions Competition.

### GENERAL CATEGORIES (01 – 015)

- Basic Information**
- The multiple categories offer each choir the opportunity to express its own traditions and strengths.
  - A program should reflect the choral music of different countries. At the same time, the idea of the World Choir Games encourages choirs to take an interest in cultural and musical traditions elsewhere in the world and will perform at least one piece that does not have its origins in their native cultural circles.
  - Thoughtful consideration should be given to the dramatic arc of the overall program.
  - The character and degree of difficulty of the program for Children's and Youth categories should correspond with the age of the singers.

- Categories 01 – 016**
- 01 **Young Children Choirs** S(S)A(A), girls and boys ages 6 – 12
  - 02 **Children's Choirs** S(S)A(A), girls and boys ages 6 – 16
  - 03 **Youth Choirs of Equal Voices** S(S)A(A), girls and boys ages 12 – 21
  - 04 **Young Male Choirs** T(T)B(B), boys and young men ages 14 – 24
  - 05 **Mixed Boys' Choirs** SA(T)B, boys and young men ages 8 – 24
  - 06 **Mixed Youth Choirs** SA(T)B, girls, boys and young men ages 12 – 22
  - 07 **University and College Choirs** (mixed and equal voices), ages 18– 30
  - 08 **Vocal Ensembles** (mixed and equal voices)
  - 09 **Mixed Chamber Choirs**
  - 010 **Mixed Choirs**
  - 011 **Female Chamber Choirs**
  - 012 **Female Choirs**
  - 013 **Male Chamber Choirs**
  - 014 **Male Choirs**
  - 015 **Senior Choirs**



**Number of pieces** 4

**Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.

**Instrumental accompaniment** Three compositions may be performed with original instrumental accompaniment. At least one piece has to be performed a cappella.

**Program must include** Compositions of the choir's choice.

**Part of the Games** Part I, July 6 – 10: 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 010, 012, 014, 015  
Part II, July 12 – 16: 01, 07, 08, 09, 011, 013

## THEMATIC CATEGORIES

### 016 – Musica Sacra a cappella

016

In this category choirs may perform their choice of Christian sacred a cappella music.

**Number of pieces** 4

**Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.

**Instrumental accompaniment** No instrumental accompaniment is permitted.

**Program must include** Compositions of sacred music of the choir's choice.

**Part of the Games** Part II, July 12 – 16

### 017 – Musica Sacra with accompaniment

017

In this category choirs may perform their choice of Christian sacred music with and without accompaniment.

**Number of pieces** 4

**Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.

**Instrumental accompaniment** Minimum one piece has to be accompanied.

**Program must include** Compositions of sacred music of the choir's choice.

**Part of the Games** Part I, July 6-10

### 018 – Music of Spirit and Faith

018

This category welcomes music of all religions, churches and denominations, as well as general songs of spirit and faith that are not affiliated with a religion church or denomination. Choral music which in style & content belongs to Musica Sacra (Cat. 16 & 17), Gospel (Cat. 21), or Spiritual (Cat. 22) is not permitted in this category.

**Number of pieces** unlimited

**Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.

**Instrumental accompaniment** All pieces may be accompanied.

**Program must include** Compositions of the choir's choice.

**Part of the Games** Part II, July 12 – 16

### 019 – Musica Contemporanea (contemporary music)

019

**Number of pieces** 4

**Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.

**Instrumental accompaniment** Instrumental accompaniment is permitted for all compositions. Reductions in orchestration are permitted.

**Program must include** Compositions of the choir's choice by a composer born after 1925. Only original compositions are permitted. Choral music which in style and content belongs to jazz, musical theatre or pop music is not permitted in this category.

**Part of the Games** Part II, July 12 – 16



## CATEGORIES 020, 021, 024, 025 026 and 029

**Basic Information** Instrumental accompaniments including electronic instruments with their own amplification are permitted. The amplification of voices and instruments is permitted. Equipment suited to the respective venues will be made available on-site. All forms of full playback are prohibited but the instrumental accompaniments in these categories may be performed via playback (minus one track).

### 020 – Jazz

020

**Number of pieces** 4

**Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.

**Instrumental accompaniment** All compositions may be accompanied

**Program must include** The choir's choice of jazz compositions of varying style is encouraged. Improvisations by the vocalists are desirable but not compulsory. Instrumental solos must be kept to a minimum as only the performance of the choir will be evaluated. Accompanists and/or instrumentalists are the responsibility of the choir.

**Part of the Games** Part II, July 12 – 16

### 021 – Gospel

021

**Number of pieces** unlimited

**Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.

**Instrumental accompaniment** All compositions may be accompanied.

**Program must include** The choir's choice of eclectic Christian folk or popular music. This popular form of Christian music is performed with fervent enthusiasm and spiritual inspiration, generally with instrumental accompaniment. In case sheet music is not available, a short description of the program or the lyrics must be provided for the jury (in English).

**Part of the Games** Part II, July 12 – 16

### 022 – Spiritual

022

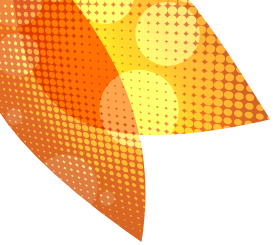
**Number of pieces** 4

**Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.

**Instrumental accompaniment** Instrumental accompaniment is not permitted.

**Program must include** The choir's choice of Spirituals. Spirituals are religious compositions originally transmitted orally, which have been transcribed and arranged primarily for a cappella choral singing. This category is commonly interpreted as the African-American Spiritual derived from slave songs and hymns.

**Part of the Games** Part II, July 12 – 16



## 023 – Barbershop

023

- Number of pieces** 4
- Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.
- Instrumental accompaniment** Instrumental accompaniment is not permitted.
- Amplification** The competition is judged on unamplified sound, however general amplification will be provided for the audience.
- Program must include** Barbershop compositions of the choir's choice.
- Elements of a typical barbershop performance package such as choreography, talking, transitional material, group poses, etc. may be included. The jury will evaluate the music as well as the scenic performance and choreography.
- Part of the Games** Part I, July 6 – 10

## 024 – Pop Ensembles / 025 – Pop Choirs

024

Pop, Rock and Light Entertainment selections from the 20th century through the present day will be performed. The style and content must not fit into the jazz, gospel, spiritual or folklore categories. It should be focused on the vocal and/or instrumental part. Choreographic elements may be integrated into performances but only the singing and playing will be evaluated by the international jury.

- Number of pieces** 4
- Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.
- Instrumental accompaniment** A minimum of one composition has to be performed a cappella.
- Program must include** Popular choral compositions of the choir's choice.
- Number of singers** 024: min. 4; max. 16 / 025: min. 17
- Part of the Games** 024: Part I, July 6 – 10 / 025: Part II, July 12 – 16

025

## 026 – Scenic Pop / Show Choirs

026

- Pop, Rock and Light Entertainment selections from the 20th century through the present day will be performed. The style and content must not fit into the jazz, gospel, spiritual or folklore categories.
- Number of pieces** unlimited
- Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.
- Instrumental accompaniment** All compositions may be accompanied.
- Program must include** Popular choral compositions of the choir's choice.
- The jury will evaluate the music as well as the scenic performance and/or choreography. The content of movements and singing should be cohesive.
- Part of the Games** Part I, July 6 – 10

## CATEGORIES 027 – 029

**Basic Information** In these categories choirs should interpret the folklore of its native country or its different ethnic groups. A choir whose work is dedicated to the cultures of another people may also perform. Combining national folk songs from several countries is not permitted (potpourris). For example: A choir from Germany should not combine songs from Germany, France, Russia and a Spiritual.

### 027 – Folklore a cappella



**Number of pieces** 4

**Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.

**Instrumental accompaniment** Instrumental accompaniment is not permitted.

**Program must include** Four original compositions in the spirit of folksongs or arrangements of folksongs. Original performance interpretations are welcome. Solo dance performance is not allowed. Choreographic elements may be integrated into performances but only the singing will be evaluated by the international jury. Amplification and playback are not allowed. In case sheet music is not available, a short description of the program must be provided for the jury (in English).

**Part of the Games** Part I, July 6 – 10

### 028 – Folklore with accompaniment



**Number of pieces** 4

**Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.

**Instrumental accompaniment** A minimum of two compositions have to be performed with original, country specific instrumental accompaniment.

**Program must include** Four original compositions in the spirit of folksongs or arrangements of folksongs. Original performance interpretations are welcome. Solo dance performance is not allowed. Choreographic elements may be integrated into performances but only the singing will be evaluated by the international jury. Amplification and playback are not allowed. In case sheet music is not available, a short description of the program must be provided for the jury (in English).

**Part of the Games** Part II, July 12 – 16

### 029 – Scenic Folklore



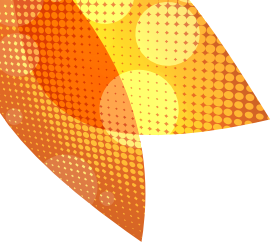
**Number of pieces** unlimited

**Duration of the program** The maximum actual singing time must not exceed 15 minutes.

**Instrumental accompaniment** Piano accompaniment and traditional instruments are permitted.

**Program must include** Folklore of the choir's choice with choreography. The content of movements and singing should be cohesive. The jury will evaluate the musical as well as the scenic performance. Instrumental accompaniment may also be sound recording (playback). Amplification of voices and instruments is permitted. The performance in traditional costumes typical of the country is recommended. In case sheet music is not available, a short description of the program must be provided for the jury (in English).

**Part of the Games** Part I, July 6 – 10



# 2. Outline of the Categories

## The Open Competition

S – Soprano, A – Alto, T – Tenor, B – Bass  
 Part I = July 6-10, 2016, Part II = July 12-16, 2016

Number of category	Number of category	Age limit	Number of singers	Maximum duration of program in minutes (actual singing time)	Number of compositions	Maximum number of compositions with instrumental accompaniment	Category is held in the 1st or 2nd part of the World Choir Games	Amplification of voices and instruments is permitted				
<b>GENERAL CATEGORIES</b>												
01	Young Children's Choirs, S(S)A(A), girls and boys	6 – 12	unlimited	15	4	3	II	No				
02	Children's Choirs, S(S)A(A), girls and boys	10 – 16										
03	Youth Choirs of Equal Voices, S(S)A(A), (girls and boys)	12 – 21										
04	Young Male Choirs, T(T)B(B)	14 – 24										
05	Mixed Boys' Choirs, SA(T)B, (boys and young men)	8 – 24										
06	Mixed Youth Choirs, SA(T)B, (girls, boys and young men)	12 – 22										
07	University and College Choirs	18 – 30										
08	Vocal Ensembles (mixed and equal voices)	16+	Min. 4 / Max. 12									
09	Mixed Chamber Choirs		Min. 13 / Max. 36									
010	Mixed Choirs		Min. 37									
011	Female Chamber Choirs		Min. 13 / Max. 30									
012	Female Choirs		Min. 31									
013	Male Chamber Choirs		Min. 13 / Max. 30									
014	Male Choirs		Min. 31									
015	Senior Choirs		55+				unlimited					
<b>THEMATIC CATEGORIES</b>												
016	Musica Sacra a cappella	-	unlimited	15	4	-	II	No				
017	Musica Sacra with accompaniment					Min. 1	I					
018	Music of Spirit and Faith					all	II		Yes*			
019	Musica Contemporanea (contemporary music)					4						
020	Jazz					all						
021	Gospel					unlimited	I		No			
022	Spiritual					-						
023	Barbershop					3						
024	Pop Ensembles					Min. 4 / Max. 16	II		Yes*			
025	Pop Choirs					Min. 17						
026	Scenic Pop / Show Choirs					unlimited				all	I	
027	Folklore a cappella					unlimited	4		15	-	I	No
028	Folklore with accompaniment									Min. 2		
029	Scenic Folklore									unlimited	all	

\* Choirs that participate in categories that allow amplification are required to submit clear stage plots with the registration indicating all technical requirements of their performance including microphone requirements for soloists, small groups, and general amplification.

# 3. Competition Rules

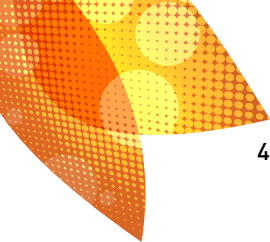
- 1. General Rules**
- All non-professional choirs are welcome to compete in this event. With the exception of the conductors, its members must all be amateurs, e.g. they are not allowed to earn their livelihood by professional singing.
  - In categories with age limits, a maximum of 20% of the members 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.

- 2. Multiple Participation** **Choirs may register for a maximum of 3 activities per part of the World Choir Games (one or more competition categories - 1 category, and/or evaluation activities, Festival Stage Choir). The organizers will make every effort to schedule all activities. If it is impossible to accommodate all categories due to scheduling reasons, the fees for those unscheduled activities will be refunded.**

- a) Possibilities of Participation

Categories	Details
01 – 015	Choirs may participate in only <b>one</b> of these categories.
016 – 029	Choirs may choose from these categories independent of participation in categories 01 – 015

- INDIVIDUAL CHOIR MEMBERS may participate in smaller ensembles formed out of their primary choir but may NOT sing in more than one primary choir.
  - 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.
- 3. Music**
- 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.
  - 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).
  - 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.
  - USE OF AMPLIFICATION: In categories 020, 021, 024, 025, 026, and 029 the amplification of voices and instruments is permitted. Basic technical equipment and backline will be provided by the organizer. Each choir must submit technical requirements of their performance with their registration form. If these instructions are not submitted, the organizers will not accept responsibility for the production of such instructions. Technically complex requirements (for example the use of headsets or separate microphones for each singer) cannot be guaranteed.
  - CHANGES OF 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.
  - After APPROVAL OF PROPOSED PROGRAM by the Artistic Committee, 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.
  - ACTUAL SINGING TIME: Actual singing time is the duration of the performance time only. It excludes entrance, exit, and applause.
  - PROGRAMS IN MULTIPLE CATEGORIES: Choirs may NOT sing the same pieces in different categories. Separate repertoire pages should be filled out for each category of competition for registration.
  - The World Choir Games follow the ideas and goals of the Olympic ideal. None of the programs listed may include war or glorify violence or content directed against other nations and nationalities.



- 4. Sheet Music**
- a) **Five** scores of every composition must be submitted with the registration forms.
  - b) Scores submitted must conform to internationally recognized 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 Celebration 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.

## 4. Jury and Competition Evaluation

1. A jury consisting of five international choral experts evaluates the competition.
2. The decisions of the jury cannot be contested.
3. The evaluation of the competition is based on the MUSICA MUNDI Evaluation System.  
In competition the performance of every composition will be evaluated according to the following:
  - I) Technical Evaluation
    - a) Intonation
    - b) Sound quality of the choir
  - II) Artistic Evaluation
    - c1) Fidelity to the score (in general categories)
    - c2) Interpretation practice (in Jazz, Pop categories, Music of Spirit and Faith, Barbershop categories)
    - c3) Authenticity (in Folklore categories, Gospel and Spiritual)
    - d) Overall artistic impression
4. In categories where the number of compositions is determined the jury will evaluate every composition according to criteria a) intonation and c) fidelity to the score or interpretation practice or authenticity. They will evaluate the overall performance according to criteria b) sound quality of the choir and d) overall artistic impression.
5. The jury will decide whether a choir has qualified for a diploma. Choirs receiving no diploma will get a certificate of participation. Choirs that have qualified for a diploma will be given 1 to 30 points.
6. The final result is made up of the average of all given points or by the average of the intermediate results respectively.

		a)	b)	c)	d)
1	Composition 1	25		22	
2	Composition 2	27		26	
3	Composition 3	23		25	
4	Composition 4	26		24	
	Criteria a) and c) = average of 1 - 4 Criteria b) and d) = points given for the overall performances	25.25	26	24.25	24
	Total score	24.88			

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.

		a)	b)	c)	d)
1	Composition 1	21	22	19	20
2	Composition 2				
3	etc.				
	Total score	20.50			

7. In case a choir exceeds the maximum pure singing time, their final score will be reduced.
8. In case of non-observance of the age limit the choir could lose points of the overall result or may even be disqualified.
9. Each choir will receive their scoring documents in written.

## 5. Awards

**Diplomas** Choirs taking part in the World Choir Games – The Open Competition will be awarded Bronze, Silver and Golden Diplomas at levels I – X according to their score:

### MUSICA MUNDI Evaluation System

Diplo- ma	Level									
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
bron- ze	1.0 – 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 – 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 – 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 – 30.00

**Winner** Winner of the World Choir Games – The Open Competition is the choir with the highest score above 20.50 points. 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.



# A3

## World Choir Games Qualification Concert

Prior to the opening of the World Choir Games Competitions, non-professional choirs who do not have qualification credentials as described in the Competition Information, will have the opportunity to be evaluated for placement in The Champions Competition or The Open Competition.

**Recommended for** Any non-professional choir seeking on-site qualification placement in The Champions Competition or The Open Competition.

**Programming** The choirs will perform the same program as in the competition, according to the rules of The Champions Competition. In case a choir wants to participate in different categories the artistic committee will decide about the program of the Qualification Concert.

**Jury** Three international music experts will evaluate the performance. The jury's evaluation cannot be contested; diplomas are not presented for qualification placement.

**The Qualification Concerts are planned for July 5&6 (Part I) and July 11&12 (Part II). Interested choirs are asked to arrive in Sochi accordingly.**

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