



KOBE, JAPAN
JANUARY 25-29, 2024



3RD SING'N'PRAY KOBE INT. CHOIR FESTIVAL & COMPETITION



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

GREETING



Dear singers,

After already two successful editions of this wonderful festival we are excited to start the choral year of 2024 in this wonderful city to joyfully celebrate peace through singing.

Considered one of Japan's most fascinating cities, Kobe is the sixth-largest city in Japan and is the capital city of the Hyōgo Prefecture. The city is not far from Osaka, where the Kansai International Airport is the closest international gateway. Thanks for the support of our partners from Hyogo Choral Association and from Kobe City Government, I'm confident that together we will make this event unforgettable for all participants!

To meet the great demand, the 3rd edition of Sing'n'Pray Kobe was supplemented by 2 additional competition categories and we look forward to yet another wonderful event in the land of the rising sun.

Come to Kobe with INTERKULTUR and Sing'n'Pray with us! Hardly a sentence applies here better than that of St. Augustine: "Those who sing pray twice!"

Günter Titsch, President INTERKULTUR



ORGANIZER



INTERKULTUR

in cooperation with
Hyogo Choral Association

supported by
Kobe City Government

President INTERKULTUR

Günter Titsch (Germany)

Honorary Artistic Director

Yoshio Saida (Japan), Chairman of Hyogo Choral Association

INTERKULTUR Artistic Committee

Prof. Dr. Ralf Eisenbeiß (Germany), Honorary Artistic President

Fred Sjöberg (Sweden), Senior Artistic Director

Johan Rooze (Netherlands), Artistic Director

Assoc. Prof. Romāns Vanags (Latvia), Artistic Director

Project Management

Masahiro Kishimoto (Japan), National Project Director

Gabriela Meszaros (Switzerland), Project Manager INTERKULTUR

INTERKULTUR Executive Committee

Günter Titsch (Germany)

Qin Wang (China)

Stefan Bohländer (Germany)

Dr. Christoph Wirtz (Germany), Secretary General



EVENT SCHEDULE

SUBJECT TO CHANGE



	THURSDAY January 25, 2024	FRIDAY January 26, 2024	SATURDAY January 27, 2024	SUNDAY January 28, 2024	MONDAY January 29, 2024
Arrival / Departure	Arrival				Departure
Rehearsals		Stage Rehearsals and Rehearsals			
Concerts		Friendship Concerts "International Melody"		13:00 "Pray from Kobe" Concert and Ceremony	
Evaluation & Competition		Evaluation Performances & Competitions			
Official events	Evening: Opening Event			Evening: Awards Ceremony	
Tourism	Sightseeing & excursions (depending on the choir's event schedule)				

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

Choirs may choose from the following:		1. Non-Competitive Participation	2. Competitive Participation
	Competition*		X
	Non-competitive Festival Participation**	X	
	Evaluation Performance*	X	X

* Friendship Concert performance included. / ** at least two performances within the festival.

1. NON-COMPETITIVE ELEMENTS



EVALUATION PERFORMANCE FOR NON-COMPETING CHOIRS



- three (3) pieces of the choir's choice
- performed before a panel of qualified international jurors who provide immediate positive artistic and pedagogical advice for improvement
- certificates of participation will be awarded, as well as evaluation ratings and recommendation letters for future INTERKULTUR competitions upon request

Number of singers:	unlimited
Singing time:	maximum 15 minutes
Accompaniment:	unlimited
Total time:	45 minutes

EVALUATION PERFORMANCE FOR COMPETING CHOIRS



- presentation of competition program the day before competitions begin
- arrival has to be planned for January 24, 2024
- performed before a panel of qualified international jurors who provide immediate positive artistic and pedagogical advice for improvement
- evaluation does not involve preliminary decisions regarding the competition result.

Number of singers:	according to category rules
Singing time:	according to category rules
Accompaniment:	according to category rules
Total time:	45 minutes

1. NON-COMPETITIVE ELEMENTS



FRIENDSHIP CONCERTS



Participating choirs may register to perform in local concert settings together with other international choirs, such as churches, open air markets, libraries, parks, museums, schools, etc. Choirs must prepare approximately 15 minutes of their own music pre-approved by the INTERKULTUR Artistic Committee. The concert should be preferably a cappella or with own instruments. (Piano or E-Piano can be provided upon request.)

Choirs can also take part in Friendship Concerts ONLY (Non-competitive Festival Participation).



2. COMPETITIVE PARTICIPATION



CATEGORY 0 - OPEN REPERTOIRE



01 – CHILDREN’S AND YOUTH CHOIRS

02 – ADULT CHOIRS

Four (4) pieces have to be performed:

- 1) one composition by a composer who does not come from the country, language area or cultural environment of the participating choir
- 2-4) compositions of the choir’s choice, preferably with different character and from different musical epochs

Choral music which in style and content belongs to category M may not be performed in this category.

Number of singers:	unlimited
Age of singers:	01 - up to the age of 25 years 02 - min. 18 years
Singing time:	The singing time should be at least 8 minutes and must not be longer than 15 minutes.
Accompaniment:	At least one piece has to be performed a cappella.
Amplification:	Amplification of voices and instruments is not permitted.

2. COMPETITIVE PARTICIPATION



CATEGORY M – MUSIC OF SPIRIT & FAITH



M1 – MUSIC OF SPIRIT & FAITH – CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CHOIRS

M2 – MUSIC OF SPIRIT & FAITH – ADULT CHOIRS

In this category choirs may perform music of all religions, churches and denominations, as well as general songs of spirit and faith. The number of pieces is unlimited.

Number of singers:	unlimited
Age of singers:	M1 - up to the age of 25 years M2 - min. 18 years
Singing time:	The singing time should be at least 8 minutes and must not be longer than 15 minutes.
Accompaniment:	unlimited
Amplification:	Amplification of voices and instruments is not permitted. However, instruments which require an amplifier for the generation of a sound (e.g. keyboard, bass guitar, etc) are permitted. Amplifiers are not provided by the organizer.



2. COMPETITIVE PARTICIPATION

2.2 COMPETITION RULES

- 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/fall below 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.
 - d) **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) All choirs may participate in category M or O. However the same choir may only participate in either M1 or M2 or respectively O1 or O2.
 - b) In addition, mixed choirs can participate with their male or female voices in the same category.

- MUSIC**
- a) The Artistic Committee decides on the admission of the program to the competition. The approval of the Artistic Committee is usually not given when it comes to opera choirs or when the character of the composition conflicts with a choral interpretation (such as "Nabucco - Prisoners' Choir" by Giuseppe Verdi edited for children's voices, "Träumerei" by Robert Schumann edited for choir). In addition, none of the programs may include topics such as war or glorification of violence and may not be against other nations and nationalities.
 - 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) **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.
 - d) 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.
 - e) **ACTUAL SINGING TIME:** Actual singing time is the duration of the performance time only. It excludes entrance, exit, and applause.



2. COMPETITIVE PARTICIPATION

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.
Copying sheet music either by photocopier, scanner or by hand without the permission of the copyright owner is a copyright law violation and can be fined. 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.



2. COMPETITIVE PARTICIPATION



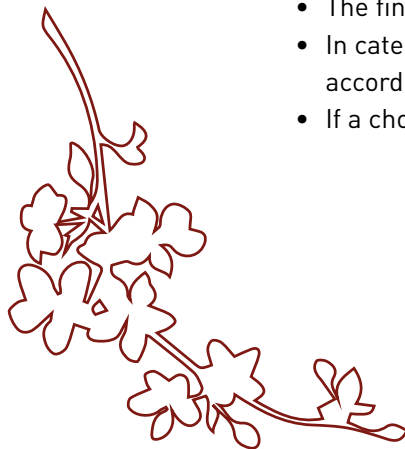
MUSICA MUNDI® EVALUATION SYSTEM

- 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
 - c) Fidelity to the score in general categories
 - d) Overall Artistic Impression

Example of a score sheet:

	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.
- If a choir exceeds the maximum singing time, their final result will be reduced by jury decision.





2. COMPETITIVE PARTICIPATION

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 Awards and Conductor's Award are also awarded.

Diploma	Level									
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
bronze 1 - 10.49	1.00 - 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 - 30.00





3. TERMS & CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

3.1 REGISTRATION & REGISTRATION DEADLINE

The deadline for registration is **September 18, 2023**. Early Bird deadline is **June 19, 2023**.

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).
- ☐ 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: Scores sent as PDF or similar files will not be accepted. [Five (5) copies for competition, three (3) for Evaluation Performance].

3.3 COSTS

For the participation in this event the payment of the registration fee (per choir) as well as the Event Package (per person) is required. Choirs that come from the prefectures of Hyogo, Kyoto and Osaka and therefore do not need an overnight stay, pay a Participant Fee (per person) instead of the Event Package. The prices of the Event Packages and the Participant Fee can be downloaded from www.interkultur.com or can be requested by e-mail to mail@interkultur.com.





3. TERMS & CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

REGISTRATION FEE

Early Bird Deadline
Regular Deadline

The following registration fees have to be paid per choir/ ensemble:

For Early Bird registration the fee for the first activity* amounts to EUR 150,00. Any additional activity amounts to EUR 200,00.

For registration until the regular deadline the fee for the first activity* amounts to EUR 300,00. Any additional activity amounts to EUR 200,00.

* Activities refer to competition participation (1 category = 1 activity), Evaluation Performance, and Festival Participation (only concerts).

For choirs participating in the competitions and evaluation activities, the performance in a concert is free of charge.

Payment details

To reserve your participation in the event, the registration fee must be paid in full and accompanied by the completed registration forms. Banking fees are the responsibility of the registrant.

Information regarding payment methods can be found on the registration form.

In case a choir cancels its participation or individual activities, the registration fee will not be refunded.

EVENT PACKAGES

With the Event Package INTERKULTUR offers participants of its events a special service: We take care of all the details and through authorized agencies of the INTERKULTUR event series we offer an Event Package. This package includes, amongst others, accommodation in different hotel categories as well as other local services. Choirs that come from the prefectures of Hyogo, Kyoto and Osaka and therefore do not need an overnight stay, pay a Participant Fee (per person) instead of the Event Package.

All included services and rates are described in the authorized 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.



3. TERMS & CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

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

English is the sole language that is 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: Chinese, French, Italian, Russian, Spanish and Hungarian.

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

3.5 ORGANIZER

Organizers according to law are the Interkultur Management GmbH (Westhafenplatz 1, 60327 Frankfurt am Main, Germany - Registered at AG Frankfurt, HRB 77821 - represented by Günter Titsch, President INTERKULTUR) and the Hyogo Choral Association.

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. TERMS & CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION



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. TERMS & CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

3.8 DATA PRIVACY STATEMENT

These data protection information apply to the data processing by: INTERKULTUR*

*The family brand "INTERKULTUR" unites non-profit and commercial organizations, which pursue the same interests in one network and track goals that support culture on an international level. These institutions include amongst others: Förderverein INTERKULTUR e.V., INTERKULTUR Management GmbH and INTERKULTUR Communication GmbH.

COLLECTING AND STORING PERSONAL DATA, NATURE AND PURPOSE AS WELL AS ITS PLANNED USE

If you commission us, we collect the following data: title, first name, last name, gender, birthdate / valid email address / address / telephone number (fixed network and/or mobile) / if applicable: payment details / if applicable: passport information. The data processing takes place upon your request and is necessary according to Art. 6 Abs. 1 S. 1 lit. b DSGVO for the reasons mentioned there and for a reasonable processing of your order as well as for the contract-related mutual performance of obligations.

The personal data collected by us will be stored until the expiration of the retention period and deleted afterwards unless we are obliged to store the data for a longer period acc. to Art. 6 Abs. 1 S. 1 lit. c DSGVO due to fiscal and commercial safekeeping and documentation obligations (reg. HGB, StGB or AO) or in case you have agreed to a further-reaching storage acc. to Art. 6 Abs. 1 S. 1 lit. a DSGVO.

DISCLOSURE OF DATA TO THIRD PARTIES

A transfer of your data to third parties for other reasons than the ones mentioned below will not occur. If this becomes necessary acc. to Art. 6 Abs. 1 S. 1 lit. b DSGVO for processing your order we will pass on your personal data to third parties. Third parties are allowed to use this forwarded data for the reasons mentioned only.

RIGHTS OF PERSONS AFFECTED

You have the following rights:

- Acc. to Art. 7 Abs. 3 DSGVO you can revoke your consent once given to us at any time. As a result of this we are not allowed to continue the data processing, which was based upon this consent, in the future.
- Acc. to Art. 15 DSGVO you can demand information about your personal data which is being processed by us. You can demand in particular information about processing purposes, the category of personal data, the category of recipients, to whom your data was or will be disclosed, the scheduled storage period, the existing right of correction, deletion, restriction of processing or contradiction, the existing right of complaining, the source of your data in case it was not requested by us, as well as an automated decision-making incl. profiling and if applicable meaningful detailed information.
- Acc. to Art. 16 DSGVO you can demand immediate deletion or correction of incorrect or incomplete personal data which is stored with us.
- Acc. to Art. 17 DSGVO you can demand the deletion of your personal data which is stored with us unless the processing is not necessary to exercise the freedom of expression and information, or to fulfil a legal obligation, or due to reasons of public interest or for an enforcement, exercise or defence of legal claims.



3. TERMS & CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

- Acc. to Art. 18 DSGVO you can demand the restricted processing of your personal data in case the correctness of the data is being denied by you, or in case the processing is illegal but you deny the correctness of the data, or in case the processing is illegal but you reject a deletion of your data and we don't need your data any longer but you need them for an enforcement, exercise or defence of legal claims, or in case you objected to the processing acc. to Art. 21 DSGVO.
- Acc. to Art. 20 DSGVO you can demand to receive your personal data in a structured, standard and machine-readable format or the transfer of the data to another person in charge.
- Acc. to Art. 77 DSGVO you can demand that you can complain at a supervisory authority. Normally you can do this via the supervisory authority at your usual whereabouts or working place.

RIGHT OF OBJECTION

In case your personal data is being processed on the basis of legitimate interests acc. to Art. 6 Abs. 1 S. 1 lit. f DSGVO you have the right acc. to Art. 21 DSGVO to enter an objection against the processing of your personal data, if this is justified due to your special situation. If you would like to make use of your right of revocation just send an Email to **mail@interkultur.com**.

3.9 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.

3.10 IMPRINT

Content: Prof. Dr. Ralf Eisenbeiß, Stefan Bohländer

Layout: Ina Irmisch

PHOTO CREDITS

Front Page, Page 5 – 8, 10, 12: © INTERKULTUR

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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Early Bird deadline: June 19, 2023

Registration deadline: September 18, 2023