



4th Choir Competition at Deutsches Chorfest 2020 in Leipzig | Announcement

After the successes of the past editions of Deutsches Chorfest the Deutscher Chorverband e.V. (DCV, German Choral Association) is announcing its 4th choir competition at Deutsches Chorfest in Leipzig. Non-professional choirs of all sizes and genres are welcome to participate. The ideas of competing and exchange are facing each other as equals in the competition of Deutsches Chorfest to encourage a diverse exchange of experiences across all genres among the ensembles.

All participating choirs can compete in up to two categories that are assigned to specific genres – with the exception of Children's and Youth choirs, Vocal ensembles and Vocal bands as the only ensemble type based categories that are free from genre boundaries.

As central part of the competition every choir is given the opportunity to be professionally counseled by a jury member, to get feedback and advices in addition to the evaluation in the competition.

To give every ensemble a fair chance to compete according to their ability, the competition has two levels of difficulty.

A participation at the competition requires an regular participation ("Gesamtticket") at Deutsches Chorfest 2020. The participation is not possible with a mini ticket.

All non-professional ensembles with at least 13 members are allowed to participate. Non-professional ensembles are defined as those whose members do not earn their living primarily by singing or vocal teaching.

The categories Vocal ensembles and Vocal bands are open for the participation of ensembles with a member count between 3 and 12 members. Those categories are also open to semiprofessional singers who are earning their living mainly by singing or vocal teaching.

For the second time the Allgemeiner Cäcilien-Verband Deutschland is cooperation partner of the choir competition at Deutsches Chorfest.

Categories

The ensembles can register in one or two categories:

- Alte Musik/Klassik | *Early Music/Classical*
- Romantik geistlich | *Romantic sacred (type of composition)*
- Romantik weltlich | *Romantic secular (type of composition)*
- Zeitgenössische Chormusik | *Contemporary choral music in a modern musical language*
- Jazz/Pop | *Jazz/Pop*
- Gospel | *Gospel*
- Folklore/Weltmusik | *Folk/World Music*
- Show/Musical | *Show Musical*

The following categories will be defined by ensemble type rather than by genre:

- Kinderchöre | *Children's choirs (age limit: average age 14, maximum age 16)**
- Jugendchöre | *Youth choirs (age limit: maximum age 22)**
- Vokalensembles | *Vocal ensembles (3 to 12 members, without a conductor. Ensembles are required to perform works in at least two different styles.)*





- Vocal Bands | *Vocal bands (3 to 12 members, without a conductor)*

**please note that the effective date for the determination of age is the 30th April 2020.*

In order to ensure that ensembles are competing in a fair way and to accommodate their different skill levels, the organizers will classify submissions into two categories of ability based on the audio recordings received and the specified level in the registration form.

Programme conditions

All performances have to be held a cappella with the exception of the following categories:

- *Children's choirs*
 - o accompanying instrument (piano or guitar) is allowed
 - o at least one piece has to be performed a cappella
 - o no lip-synching allowed
- *Jazz/Pop, Gospel, Show/Musical and Vocal bands*
 - o Instrumental accompaniment with a trio consisting piano or guitar, bass and drums or percussion allowed (*attention!:* only allowed in *Jazz/Pop Gospel and Show/Musical*)
 - o Hand microphones for soloists and vocal percussion allowed

The organizer will provide the following equipment for the categories *Jazz/Pop, Gospel, Show/Musical and Vocal bands*:

- Amplification with pa system
- hand microphones
- basic drumset containing: bass drum, snare drum, 3 toms, high hat, ride cymbals, 2 crash cymbals, no percussion (*attention!:* only provided in *Jazz/Pop Gospel and Show/Musical*)
- e-piano with additional stand and stool (*attention!:* only provided in *Jazz/Pop Gospel and Show/Musical*)

If you have any questions regarding the programming, the artistic direction of the competition will offer advice beforehand. The performance time should not be shorter than 12 and not longer than 15 minutes. If the performance time is exceeded the jury chairman may stop the performance.

In addition to the presented categories ensembles can register for a special contest for the best world premiere of an unaccompanied folk song arrangement. The performance time of the presentation will be measured additionally to the main competition and should not exceed 5 minutes.

The complete competition program has to be submitted until 31 December 2019.

Evaluation

The participants' programmes will be evaluated with a maximum of 15 points each. Soloist performances are not taken into account in the evaluation. Performances without the use of sheet music are preferred but not mandatory. The use of sheet music during the performance has no impact on the evaluation. The word premiere of an unaccompanied folk song arrangement will be evaluated separately.





The performances are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- a) technical performance including intonation, rhythm, phrasing, articulation
- b) artistic performance including timing, agogics, dynamics, musical interpretation of the text, faithfulness to the work or style, choral sound, evocativeness
- c) dramaturgy, presentation, choreography, stage presence

The criteria listed above will be evaluated by taking individual relevance for the respective categories into account.

The jury will evaluate the choirs using ratings and points account to the following grading:

Rating	Points
Participated with excellence	15.0 to 13.0
Participated with distinction	12.9 to 10.0
Participated with merit	9.9 to 6.0
Participated with honours	5.9 to 3.0
Participated	2.9 to 1.0

The Prizes

Monetary and non-monetary prizes (e.g. sheet music vouchers, concert appearances, CD productions or radio recordings) with a value of up to 500 Euros may potentially be awarded in every category. The number of awarded prizes will depend on the number of ensembles registered in each category. Prizes will be awarded to up to one third of the participants, with no more than three prizes per category.

The prizes will be awarded independently from the grading and shared equally in case of identical points given for two or more participating ensembles.

Apart from the regular prizes, special prizes will be awarded for the best world premiere of an unaccompanied folk song arrangement, the best contemporary piece as well as the best ensemble and the best equal voiced choir.

The Jury

In each category the jury will consist of three members. The jury members will determine the awards given within the category and also nominate ensembles for the special prizes. The awarding of the special prizes will be decided by the grand jury. Evaluations and discussions of the different juries as well as the grand jury will not be held in public. The jury members are bound to confidentiality regarding the details of said evaluations and discussions. The verdict is unchallengeable and the jury's decision is final. There is no right to legal appeal.

Chairman of the grand jury is Prof. Reiner Schuhenn. Schuhenn is teaching choral and orchestral conducting at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln since 1999 and was its principal from 2009 to 2013. As one of the most renowned choral teachers in Germany he is a member of various jury committees and was part of the advisory board of Deutscher Chorwettbewerb (German Choral Competition) as well as of the committee of Deutscher Musikrat (German Music Council). For twelve years Prof. Schuhenn was the vice president of Allgemeiner Cäcilienverband in Germany and was appointed vice chairman of the university council of Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover in 2017. Until 2018 he was the director of the Figuralchor Bonn and the





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Aachener Studentenorchester and also conducted concerts at the Kölner Philharmonie as well as numerous radio recordings. Reiner Schuhenn published numerous books in his field of expertise – his most recent book “Das alternative Chorleitungsbuch: Tipps für erfolgreiches Chormanagement“ was published by the well-known Schott Verlag.

Dates

The competition will take place all day long on the 30 April as well as the 1 and 2 May 2020. A detailed performance schedule of the participating ensembles will be provided in the beginning of 2020. The award ceremony will be held on the 3 of May 2020.

For the registration to the competition at Deutsches Chorfest 2020 in Leipzig the following documents are required:

- a short vita of the ensemble and the music direction as well as a picture of the ensemble (jpg-file, 300dpi, up to 3 mb file size)
- a current audio recording (not older than two years and in a file up to 5 mb file size; the actuality is more an important than a major audio quality)
- three copies of the used sheet music for the jury, delivered until the 31 December 2020 to Deutscher Chorverband e.V.

Please note: please provide copyright protected note copies only. The copies have to be provided in original form or a licensed print or photo copy. All ensembles will be given back their copies after the competition.

In the registration form of Deutsches Chorfest 2020 the following informations have to be provided:

- assignment to up to two categories
- self-evaluation or assignment in one of the two levels of difficulty

Changes to the Announcement

The Deutscher Chorverband reserves the right to change or supplement details of this competition announcement in case of unforeseen technical, organizational or artistic issues or for reasons of force majeure. If a large number of entries is received, the registration deadline may be preponed.

For questions regarding this announcement please contact the office of Deutsches Chorfest 2020:

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