



The 6th 2017 World Youth and Children's Choir Festival – Hong Kong

The International Choir Competition – Rules and Regulations

(Overseas Applicant Version 21.11.2016)

(1) Competition Categories :

The International Choir Competition will be an extraordinary event bringing together the finest choirs in the whole world. In addition to the 10 Open Categories, International Choir Invitational Championship Category is newly added (participating choirs must be champion of international or national competitions). You are welcomed to contact us for further information.

The best performers of each category will be awarded Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze trophies respectively with certificates offered by world-renowned choir maestros and experts. The best choir respectively out of the Platinum, and Gold medalists of each category will enter the finals and compete for the Grand Prizes, namely “Choir of the World”, “Jury's Prize”, “The Best Stage Effects”, “The Best Interpretation”, etc. All Platinum and Gold Award Choirs and Conductors are eligible to hold “The Outstanding World Youth/ Children’s Choir” and “The Outstanding World Youth/ Children Choral Artist” offered by the World Youth and Children Choral Artists' Association for 3 years.

1.1) Open Categories

Category A1 – Children's Choir, SA voices

(Age 12 or under, 25 singers or above; Time limit: 8 minutes)

Two pieces from the following 3 choices:

One piece from its own (home) country or cultural region

One piece of free choice

Category A2 – Children's Choir, SA voices

(Age 16 or under, 25 singers or above; Time limit: 10 minutes)

Three pieces include:

One piece from its own (home) country or cultural region

One piece outside its own (home) country and cultural region

One piece of free choice

At least one of the above pieces should be sung a cappella.

Organizers:



世界青少年合唱藝術家協會
WORLD YOUTH & CHILDREN'S CHORAL ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION



香港童聲合唱協會
Hong Kong Treble Choirs' Association

Co-Presenters:



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Category B1 – Youth Choir, SA Voices

(Age 29 or under, 25 singers or above; Time limit: 15 minute)

Three pieces include:

One piece from its own (home) country or cultural region

One piece outside its own (home) country and cultural region

One piece of free choice

At least one of the above pieces should be sung a cappella.

Category B2 – Youth Choir, TB voices

(Age 29 or under, 25 singers or above; Time limit: 15 minutes)

Three pieces include:

One piece from its own (home) country or cultural region

One piece outside its own (home) country and cultural region

One piece of free choice

At least one of the above pieces should be sung a cappella.

Category B3 – Youth Choir, SATB voices

(Age 29 or under, 25 singers or above; Time limit: 15 minutes)

Three pieces include:

One piece from its own (home) country or cultural region

One piece outside its own (home) country and cultural region

One piece of free choice

At least one of the above pieces should be sung a cappella.

Category C – Contemporary Music, any voice combination

(Age 29 or under, 25 singers or above; Time limit: 8 minutes)

Two pieces include:

One piece composed after 1950 and in contemporary style

One commissioned piece written for the Festival or One piece particularly composed for the participating choir within past three years

At least one of the above pieces should be sung a cappella.

Category D – Folklore, any voice combination

(Age 29 or under, 25 singers or above; Time limit: 8 minutes)

Two pieces of folklore from its own (home) country or cultural region have to be performed

At least one of the above pieces should be sung a cappella.

Category E – Show Choir, any voice combination

(Age 29 or under, 25 singers or above; Time limit: 10 minutes)

There is no limitation on number of competition pieces, but shall follow the criteria below:

Style of Pop, Rock and Light Entertainment

The competition pieces submission for our review and approval, due on **15th of March, 2017**

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Category F – Ensemble Singing, any voice combination
(Age 29 or under, max. 16 singers; Time limit: 10 minutes)

Two pieces include:

One piece of folklore from its own (home) country or cultural region

One piece of free choice

At least one of the above pieces should be sung a cappella.

Category G – Adult Choir, any voice combination
(Age over 29, min. 25 singers; Time limit: 10 minutes)

Two pieces include:

One piece of folklore from its own (home) country or cultural region

One piece of free choice

At least one of the above pieces should be sung a cappella.

1.2) Awards and Prizes

Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards and Certificates will be offered in each category according to the score obtained.

Awards	Range of Scores (Out of 100)
Platinum	94.5 or above
Gold	79.5 - 94.4
Silver	59.5 - 79.4
Bronze	49.5 - 59.4

All category champions will be awarded a cash prize and a trophy which will be donated by various supporting partners and sponsors.

Grand Prize	Cash Prize	Category
Choir of the World	HKD 40,000	A to F
Jury's Prize	HKD 20,000	A to F
Best Commissioned Piece	HKD 10,000	A to F
Best Conductor	HKD 5,000	A to F
Champion in Category	HKD 3,000	A to F
Best Stage Effects		A to F
Best Interpretation		A to F

Important Note: The Festival Organising Committee and the jury have the final and absolute rights to decide and amend the presentation of Awards and Grand Prizes listed above without giving prior notice to participants.

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(2) Rules and Regulations :

2.1) General Rules

- The official languages of the Festival are English and Chinese.
- The Organizing Committee reserves the right to allocate any competition in any session on any date at any venue within the Festival period. Usually there are three sessions, i.e. morning, afternoon and evening, set for each day. Each session normally last for three to four hours.
- No alternative arrangements will be made for competitions which must be cancelled by the Organizing Committee or competitors who do not attend as scheduled due to any reasons.
- The Organizing Committee reserves all rights to make changes, modifications and cancellations of any arrangements for the Festival as deemed necessary or expedient.
- Any situation that is not mentioned herein, the Organizing Committee reserves the right to make the final decision.

2.2) Enrolment

- The governing date of age requirement shall be 31 December 2017.

Examples:

Age	Date of Birth
Age 29 or below	Born on or after 1 January 1988
Age 16 or below	Born on or after 1 January 2001
Age 12 or below	Born on or after 1 January 2005

- A maximum of 10% of the total number of participants (singers), with the exception of category G, are allowed to exceed the age limit of that category. Official identification documents, e.g. passport, should be presented upon request.
- Applicants are required to submit the completed application form, and at least two audio recordings (of the performance within the past year) on CD or DVD format for audition purposes to be sent via email. The Organizing Committee will announce the first assessment results and send the admission confirmation for successful applicant within two weeks after receipt of application.

Region	Submission Date
Mainland China	15 January 2017
Overseas	15 February 2017
Hong Kong	15 March 2017

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- Choirs which have attained bronze prize or above in international choral competition(s), or gold prize or its equivalent in national choral competition(s) within the last 2 years will be admitted to the final directly. The choir has to submit the corresponding information of the competition(s), the proof of attained prize(s) in said competition(s) and recordings of the competition(s) for reference, and the completed application form.

2.3) Number of Team Members

- For Categories A, B, C, D, E and G, the lower limit for the number of singers is 25 persons excluding the conductor, accompanists and dancers who are not singing. There is no upper limit for the number of singers for choir categories.
- For Category F, the upper limit for the number of singers is 16. (Conductor and accompanists are excluded).
- All choir members are required to be on stage at the same time. The number of singers for each song must reach the lower limit; the number of singers for each song must reach 90% of the total number of all singers on stage.
- The upper limit for the number of accompanying staff members (people who are not singers, conductors, accompanists, or dancers) is the larger one between 4 or 10% of the total number of the team (e.g., for a team with 70 members, at most 7 of them can be accompanying staff members; for a team with 30 members, at most 4 of them can be accompanying staff members).
- For all categories that accompanists are acceptable, the upper limit for the number of accompanists is 5.

2.4) Competition Rules

- All applications and competition pieces must be approved by the Organizing Committee.
- All choirs can be enrolled to at most 2 competition categories.
- No choir is allowed to participate in both Categories A and B.
- Each singer can only sing for 1 team in each category.
- Competitors have to provide their own accompanist(s) and instruments at the competition. Extra charge is needed upon the request for piano accompanist or orchestral instruments. Requests have to be sent on or before 15 March 2017. A grand piano is available at all competition venues.
- All categories are required live accompaniment(s). The use of playback or soundtrack is strictly prohibited.
- All categories are disallowed to use device for amplification, electronic musical instruments, synthesizers or audio-visual equipment.
- Every choir must arrive 15 minutes earlier than the indicated time of arrival at competition venues. Those who fail to do so will result in disqualification.
- The lead adjudicator of each category has all the right decide whether there will be an intermission during the competition.

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- No changing rooms are provided at competition venues.
- No query about the final decision by the adjudicators will be entertained.
- Results will be announced in the “Meet the Adjudicators” session.
- If the performance exceeds the time limit, the adjudicators have all rights to terminate the performance, and results will be affected. For marks deduction system, please refer to Section (2.7) – Marking Criteria.

2.5) Pieces and Scores

- Participants must complete the “Own Choice Form” on or before 15 March 2017 and return it to World Youth and Children Choral Artists' Association. A confirmation letter will be sent upon receipt of said form.
- Participants of Categories A to E and G are required to submit 7 copies of the performing pieces (no unauthorized or pirate copies will be accepted), Five copies are required for Category F. One copy of each score will be kept by the Organizing Committee, other copies will be returned by competition assistants after each competition session.
- Participants who wish to make amendments of their own choice pieces must fill in the “Own Choice Form” again, and submit it to World Youth and Children Choral Artists' Association office on or before 15 March 2017. If participants still wish to make further amendments, they are required to submit the form again, together with USD50 administration fee. At most two amendments will be entertained, and request should be raised on or before 15 March 2017. A confirmation letter will be sent upon receipt of said form detailing desired amendments.
- Participants are required to submit official / authorized copies of scores on or before 30 April 2017 for reference of adjudicators. Failure to do so will result in disqualification, and only comments will be given for performances made. Please submit an extra copy with respective indication if arrangements are made to the performing pieces. All copies will be destroyed after the competition. (And it will be updated progressively, please follow our homepage for detailed information)
- A letter of authorization from the composer / arranger / publisher is required to be submitted to competition assistants for archive purposes, during the time of competition if the score has not yet been published.
- The appropriateness of pieces will affect marking. The adjudicators or Organizing Committee reserve all rights to reject any inappropriate pieces without giving relevant reasons.
- Each choir cannot use the same piece for more than one competition category.
- Choirs and accompanists are responsible for ensuring that the scores are original copies. All participants who need to use scores but fail to provide an original copy will be disqualified. Only comments will be given for the performances made.
- If scores are being purchased through internet, please provide proof of purchase to prove the relevant scores are original copies at the time of competition.

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2.6) Venue Regulations

- No equipment, props, background or electricity will be provided at all venues unless otherwise specified.
- Unauthorized audio and visual recording and photo taking are strictly prohibited at all master classes, choral workshops, competitions and concerts. Violators will be asked to leave.
- Audio and visual recording and photo taking are allowed during the period of acoustic check.
- Each team is given the same amount of time as specified for the category for acoustic check. Overrunning or disturbance of other teams during such periods will lead to disqualification.
- Acoustic check timing will begin when the first choir member steps on stage.
- Any person, including competition participants, who cause disturbance to anybody, will be asked to leave the venue and disqualified if applicable.
- Participants are responsible to take care of all personal belongings. The Organizing Committee will bear no responsibility for any loss.

2.7) Marking Criteria

- The marking criteria for Categories A to C, and F to G are as follows:

Singing Technique	40 Marks
Artistic Quality	40 Marks
Overall Performance	10 Marks
Difficulty of Pieces	10 Marks
Total	100 Marks

- The marking criteria for Category D are as follows:

Singing Technique	40 Marks
Artistic Quality	40 Marks
Overall Performance	20 Marks
Total	100 Marks

- The marking criteria for Category E are as follows:

Singing Technique	40 Marks
Entertaining	30 Marks
Coordination	20 Marks
Difficulty of Pieces	10 Marks
Total	100 Marks

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- The marks calculation method, of those categories with seven adjudicators, will be taking the average after excluding the highest and lowest marks. The marks will be rounded up or down to the nearest decimal place.
- The marks calculation method, of those categories with five adjudicators, will be taking the average. The marks will be rounded up or down to the nearest first decimal place.
- The marks penalty system for exceeding the time limit is as follows:

Exceeding Time (t)	Marks Penalty
t < 15 Seconds	0 Mark (no deduction)
15 ≤ t < 30 Seconds	1 Mark
30 ≤ t < 45 Seconds	2 Marks
45 ≤ t < 60 Seconds	3 Marks
60 ≤ t < 75 Seconds	4 Marks
75 ≤ t < 90 Seconds	5 Marks
90 ≤ t < 105 Seconds	6 Marks
105 ≤ t < 120 Seconds	7 Marks
t > 120 Seconds	7 Marks with immediate termination of performance by Adjudicators' Assistant

Competition time will be calculated when the music starts till the end of the last piece. Marks will be deducted from the average marks which the participating teams receive. The exceeded time and relevant marks penalty will also be indicated on the score sheets.

Categories A to G

Awards	Range of Scores (Out of 100)
Platinum	94.5 or above
Gold	79.5 - 94.4
Silver	59.5 - 79.4
Bronze	49.5 - 59.4

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2.8) Remarks

- Adjudicators will make final decisions on all artistic matters. If there is any case relating to the competition and/or administration that this regulations have not covered, the Organizing Committee has all over-ruling rights.
- If the competition venue is being closed due to extreme weather conditions or other unforeseeable factors, no make-up arrangements will be made by the Organizing Committee. The application fee will not be refunded. The latest news will be released on the official website in such cases.
- In case of any disputes arising out of or in connection with the accommodation/ meal/ transportation/ competition arrangements, the decision of World Youth and Children Choral Artists' Association (WYCCAA) should be the final.
- For the any recent update of the Rules and Regulations of the International Choir Competition, and latest information about 2017 Festival, please visit and follow our official festival homepage at <http://www.wyccaa.com/en/wyccf>

(3) Enquires/ Submission :



World Youth and Children Choral Artists' Association (WYCCAA) ***[Organizer of World Youth and Children's Choir Festival (WYCCF)]***

Telephone: (+852) 2381 9262
 Email: info@wyccaa.com
 Homepage: <http://www.wyccaa.com>
 2017 Festival: <http://www.wyccaa.com/en/wyccf>

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