

19th International Chamber Choir Competition Marktoberdorf 2025

Application information

MODfestivals e.V., the organizer of the International Chamber Choir Competition Marktoberdorf, invites chamber choirs from all over the world to apply for the 19th International Chamber Choir Competition, taking place from **06th to 10th June 2025**.

Objective

The International Chamber Choir Competition Marktoberdorf aims to bring together the world's best choirs in order to provide them with the opportunity to compare with each other. Simultaneously, it seeks to facilitate an exchange on the choral literature of different countries, interpretations, styles, and techniques.

Artistic Director

KMD Prof. Jürgen Budday

Categories

Category A: **Mixed Choirs**

Category B: **Equal Voices** (Women's/Girl's Choirs, Men's Choirs)

Application and Admission

Applications for participation in the 19th International Chamber Choir Competition 2025 must be submitted online at www.kammerchorwettbewerb.org by **31st October 2024, 23:59 CET**, along with the necessary supplementary documents sent via email to the festival office.

The committee, which is responsible for the International Chamber Choir Competition and made up of international choral experts, will determine admission by **15th December 2024**.

Participation Requirements

Choirs meeting the following requirements are eligible to apply for the 19th International Chamber Choir Competition 2025:

- The choir is a non-professional ensemble, meaning the majority of members do not earn their living through singing. Choirs from music conservatories and academies are eligible to apply.
- The number of singers ranges from a minimum of 16 to a maximum of 32.
- The entire choir must be present during the festival (6th to 10th June 2025) at all times, with an unconditional willingness to participate in additional events beyond the competition (concerts, meetings/closing events, possibly church services, etc.) without compensation.
- Consent for recordings and broadcasts by the press, radio, and television, as well as photo, video, and audio recordings, including their publication and reproduction by the organizer, is granted, and the resulting rights are transferred.

Choirs that received a 1st prize at the 18th International Chamber Choir Competition 2023 are ineligible to participate.

Application Documents

The following documents must be submitted along with the online application via email:

- Curriculum vitae (continuous text) and three photos (print resolution, at least 300 dpi) each of the choir and its conductor
- Repertoire list
- List of significant concerts both domestically and internationally
- List of previous competition participations and achievements
- A cappella recordings of the choir from the last four years (live; approximately 15 to 30 minutes; with content description: work title, composer, dates), including at least one piece from each of the following stylistic periods:

- Renaissance/Baroque
- 19th/20th Century (Romanticism/Impressionism)
- 20th/21st Century (composed after 1950)
- Proposed program for the two competition rounds with time specifications
- Proposals for one or more 25 to 40-minute concert programs (sacred/secular, possibly folkloric and in national costume, possibly with instruments)

Program Guidelines

The competition consists of two rounds.

Competition 1st Round

In the competition program of the 1st round, only a cappella literature is allowed. Up to three necessary percussion instruments may be permitted upon request and submission of the score. The performance duration is a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 20 minutes, uninterrupted by applause. The "performance duration" refers to the time from the beginning of the first piece to the end of the last, not the actual singing time. For both categories there is a compulsory work. The committee recommends using the virtual choral music library "Musica International" (www.musicanet.org) for program planning.

Each choir performs at least one piece from each of the following stylistic periods:

- Renaissance/Baroque
- 19th/20th Century (Romanticism/Impressionism)
- 20th/21st Century (composed after 1950)

One stylistic period will be covered by the compulsory work. The performance duration of works from each period is a minimum of three to four minutes. Additional works can be freely chosen. It is allowed to reduce the number of singers by a maximum of 50% for Renaissance and Baroque repertoire (minimum of 16 persons) – however solo singing of an individual voice is not permitted. Only one composition by the choir's conductor is permitted at most. The presentation of a world premiere is most welcome (see possibly special prizes).

Compulsory work Category A: Mixed Choirs

Heinrich Schütz: Ride la primavera (from Italienische Madrigale, Nr. 7, SWV 7)

Pitch: a' = 415 Hz

Required edition: Carus (CV 20.007/00)

Compulsory work Category B: Equal Voices

Max Reger: Ich ging durch einen grasgrünen Wald

Key: B major

Required edition for women's choirs: Carus (CV 3.190/50)

Required edition for men's choirs: Edition Ferrimontana (EF1978)

Competition 2nd Round

In the 2nd competition round for both categories, each choir has a performing time of ten minutes for a freely chosen program, which may include instrumental accompaniment and dance.

Assessment

The jury consists of seven expert jurors.

Assessment is based on various criteria, including:

- Technical performance:
 - Intonation, rhythm, phrasing, accuracy in respect of the written text, pronunciation
- Artistic performance:
 - Tempo, agogics, dynamic flexibility, text interpretation, faithful interpretation of style, choral sound, program design

The results of the 1st and 2nd competition rounds is in a ratio of 2:1 for the final result. The jury's decisions are final, and may not be legally challenged. All jury members are bound by confidentiality regarding the assessment and details of the discussions. Each choir's competition performance is confirmed with a certificate.

Prizes and Special Prizes

Up to three prizes can be awarded in each category. The committee, in coordination with the jury and management, may decide on prize division and changes to the prize sums.

- 1st Prize: € 3.500
- 2nd Prize: € 2.500
- 3rd Prize: €1.500

Additionally, several special prizes will be awarded. These will be published on www.kammerchorwettbewerb.org in due course.

Coaching

Participating choirs have the opportunity to undergo a one-hour coaching session with a jury member following the competition.

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation and meals (for singers and the choir's conductor, max. 33 people) are provided free of charge for the choir during the festival from 06th to 11th June 2025 in double or shared rooms, private accommodations, and with host families in Marktoberdorf and the surrounding area.

Participation Fee and Travel Expenses

A participation fee of € 50 per person is levied. (A proportional increase in the participation fee due to rising costs in all areas cannot be ruled out at present.) By 1st February 2025, each choir must submit a binding number of participants, along with an accompanying list of names, to the festival office. Consequently, the choir will receive an invoice for the participation fee, which must be transferred within 14 days of receiving the invoice. The costs for travel to and from Marktoberdorf are to be borne by the choir itself.

For choirs from countries listed on the DAC List of ODA Recipients of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the aforementioned participation fee can be reduced. There is also the possibility of travel cost support from the Goethe-Institute. The application process is solely through the festival office after approval for the competition and never by the choir itself.

Preliminary Schedule

06 th June 2025	Arrival Opening Ceremony
07 th June 2025	Competition 1 st Round Concerts in the Allgäu region
08 th June 2025	Competition 2 nd Round Concerts in the Allgäu region
09 th June 2025	Church Services, Coachings with jury members Concerts in the Allgäu region
10 th June 2025	Announcement of results and Prizegiving Ceremony Closing Concert
11 th June 2025	Departure

Sponsors and Supporters

We extend our gratitude to all sponsors and supporters who enable the realization of the 19th International Chamber Choir Competition 2025, including the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, the Bavarian State Ministry of Science and Art, the Goethe-Institute, the Ostallgäu Regional District, and the town of Marktoberdorf.

Contact

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As of: January 2024 – Subject to change.

In case of dispute, the German version of the application information is valid.