

CHOIR

in association with

OF THE YEAR | 2010

BBC
RADIO



90 – 93FM

Choir of the Year 2010

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

About your choir

- 1 The minimum number of singers in choirs/singing groups/vocal groups is eight and the maximum is 100 singers. The number of singers should remain consistent throughout the competition. If you do need to make changes between different rounds please contact the Competition Management.
- 2 Where competition schedules allow conductors may conduct up to two choirs in each category.
- 3 Singing groups may share accompanists. Singers may be shared at the discretion of the Competition Management.
- 4 The Competition is open to all amateur choirs. For the purpose of this Competition an amateur choir/singing group/vocal group is defined as one composed of amateur and not professional singers, where any fees and profits are paid to choir funds and not to the individual members. A professional singer is defined as one who is normally paid for singing work.

The categories

- 5 **Choirs can enter one category.** The Judges have the discretion to recommend that a choir change its category if they consider it appropriate.

Children's category: The majority of singers must be age 12 and under. No singers older than 13 on the 31st December 2010 can participate in this category.

Youth category: The majority of singers must be age 18 and under. No singers older than 19 on the 31st December 2010 can participate in this category.

Adult category: All female, all male or mixed voice choirs. The majority of singers must be age 18 and over.

Open category: There are no upper or lower age limits in this category. It's ideal for singing groups which include children and adults and also those choirs that specialise in a particular cultural tradition or style of repertoire or simply want to do something different.

Taking part in the competition

- 6** Choirs wishing to take part in the competition must submit an application form by post or email before 5pm on 11 December 2009.
- 7** Choirs will be invited to take part in the first stage of the competition, Area Selection, which will take place February – May 2010. Choirs will be notified by 15 December 2009.
- 8** Choirs must be available to take part in the Final for their category on 6th & 7th November 2010 and the Grand Final 28th November 2010.
- 9** Choirs may use up to five instruments in total. Please contact the Competition Management if your choir usually performs with more than this number. Items of percussion will be counted as individual instruments, a drum kit will be counted as one.
- 10** A set of stepped rostra will be onstage at all stages of the competition. Choirs may choose to perform either on the rostra or on the flat stage.
- 11** For broadcasting purposes finalists will be asked to provide their stage layout plans and to confirm any changes to their layout at least 14 days in advance of their performance/s.
- 12** Where published and available, choirs should provide copies of their music for use by the judges at all stages of the competition. The Competition Management will advise on the quantities required at each stage.

If providing music please do not present photocopied music unless written authorisation has been obtained from the publisher and can be produced if required.

Finalists will be required to send copies of their music to Competition Management. If music is not available then the organisers will discuss alternative means of obtaining performance details.
- 13** In order to avoid last minute changes to Area Selection schedules, choirs withdrawing from the Competition during the audition stage must give a minimum of seven days notice.

- 14 If a choir uses a conductor and/or an accompanist who belongs to a professional musicians' union or other similar body, it is the responsibility of the choir:
- to agree fees at the appropriate professional rates with any such conductor and/or accompanist;
 - to ensure that all necessary consents have been obtained from any such conductor/accompanist or on their behalf to enable the BBC to record and broadcast the performances at no cost to the BBC;
 - to inform any such accompanist that it is not the BBC's intention to give any credits.
- 15 Neither Choir of the Year Limited nor the BBC will make payments or enter into discussions at any time concerning such payments or credits.

Your programme

- 16 The maximum duration for programmes at all stages of the competition is **eight minutes**. The adjudicators will not adjudicate the last item of any programme which exceeds the time limit. All performances are timed by the Competition Management. Applause and resetting of instruments will not be included in your overall time.
- 17 There is no set music and no set number of programme items. Choirs are required to sing different programmes at the Category Finals or Grand Final but may request permission to repeat one piece at both stages.
- 18 Choirs will be asked to confirm their programmes in advance. The Competition Management reserves the right to ask choirs to substitute programme in the Category Final and Grand Final stages.

Transport and Accommodation

- 19 Choirs and singing groups are responsible for any travel and accommodation costs they incur at each stage of the competition.
- 20 The level of any financial contribution towards transport and accommodation cost from the competition to Finalists will be confirmed after the National Selection Stage and at the discretion of the Competition Management.

- 21 For the Category Finals and Grand Final Choir of the Year Ltd will make a contribution towards choir travel costs based on distance traveled and the size of the choir.
- 22 Choir of the Year is keen that the cost of traveling to Finals venues should not prohibit any choir from competing. Choirs should contact the Competition Management to enquire about additional financial assistance.
- 23 Accommodation is only likely to be offered if travel is governed by ferries/flights, or the coach is likely to arrive at the official setting down point after midnight.
- 24 No more than the prescribed number of adult escorts (one adult per ten children in addition to the Musical Director and Accompanist) will be included in the travel/accommodation arrangements for Children's and Youth choirs.

Choirs from outside the mainland

- 25 Choirs may apply for a contribution towards their accommodation costs. The level of contribution will be considered on an individual basis.
- 26 Other applications for a contribution towards accommodation costs will be considered on their merits.
- 27 Choirs will be required to provide an invoice for their agreed level of travel costs to Choir of the Year Ltd.

Winning Choirs

- 28 Winning choirs must be given advance approval by the Competition Management for any use of the Choir of the Year 2010 logo, including website, programmes and leaflets. The logo will be supplied by Choir of the Year Ltd in a digital JPEG format

General Rules

- 29 No photographs or recordings may be taken during any stage of the Competition. The BBC regrets that it is unable to provide video recordings of choirs' performances.
- 30 All choirs agree that their performances may be recorded for subsequent radio and/or television transmission without payment. In addition the BBC may, without payment, record all performances for non-profit making activities.

- 31** The Competition is managed and promoted by Choir of the Year Ltd. All reasonable steps will be taken for the comfort and safety of competitors and their possessions but neither Choir of the Year Ltd or the BBC accepts any legal responsibility for the same. Competitors and choir administrators are reminded that they should themselves make suitable insurance provision. They are also reminded of the necessity of complying with any copyright requirements.
- 32** The decisions of the Judges are final. No correspondence or discussion concerning any decision will be entered into.
- 33** Choir of the Year Ltd reserves the right to refuse entry or performance by any choir for any reason.
- 34** To ensure the wellbeing of each choir, a choir representative will be required to complete a Performer's Protection Act form (supplied by the Competition Management) on behalf of each member of the choir, the conductor and any accompanists and return it no later than 14 days before the date of their Area Selection Performance. Choirs will not be allowed to compete on the day if this form has not been returned.
- 35** All information contained on this website is correct at the time of publishing. Choir of the Year Limited reserves the right to make any amendments to the published details as may be necessary. Enquiries should be directed to Choir of the Year Ltd, c/o Kallaway, 2 Portland Road, Holland Park, London W11 4LA.