

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 but no more than 10% of any one choir can perform in another.
- 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.

Children's category: The majority of singers must be age 12 and under. No singers older than 13 on the 31st December 2012 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 2012 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.

Choirs intending to perform exclusively in the Barbershop style should enter the Open Category.

The Competition Management reserve the right to change a choir's category or disqualify a choir if the age of singers is found to contradict the information given at the point of application.

Taking part in the competition

- 6** Choirs wishing to take part in the competition should submit a) an online application form b) an original signed copy of the Terms & Conditions and c) a cheque for a withdrawal fee of £50 before 2 December 2011. Cheques are payable to 'Choir of the Year Ltd.' **Applications will not be confirmed until all items above are received by Choir of the Year Ltd.**
- 7** Choirs whose applications are received before 14 November will be allocated a place at audition on a first come, first served basis, taking into account first, second and third auditions venue preferences. Any remaining Audition places will be allocated on a first come, first service basis up until the day of the audition, subject to receipt of items described in point 6.
- 8** Once all the Audition places have been filled choirs may apply to join a waiting list and will be offered a place if and when another choir withdraws.
- 9** A withdrawal fee of £50 is payable by choirs which withdraw from the competition less than four weeks (28 days) away from their allocated Audition date.
- 10** Choirs will be invited to take part in the first stage of the competition, the Audition Round, which will take place January – March 2012. Choirs which submit applications before the initial allocation date of 14 November 2011 will be notified of their Audition date and time on 15 November 2011.
- 11** Choirs must be seated to watch all performances in their half-day session.
- 12** Choirs participating in the Children's and Youth categories will be allocated one free chaperone ticket for every 10 participants. The Musical Director and accompanist(s) are not counted as chaperones. All the choir supporters must obtain tickets for the relevant half-day session, available from the venue box office.
- 13** Choirs must be available to take part in the Category Finals on 6 October and the Grand Final on 28 October 2012.
- 14** 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.

- 15** Choirs may bring amplifiers for instruments but should note that sound-checks will not be possible at the Audition stage owing to time constraints. Choirs must provide a PAT certificate for any electrical instruments or equipment.
- 16** Choirs will not be amplified at the Audition stage. The Competition Management will consider requests for amplification at the Finals only if the choir normally performs in this way.
- 17** Where possible, 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.
- 18** 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.
- 19** Where published and available, choirs must provide original 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 the BBC. If music is not available then the organisers will discuss alternative means of obtaining performance details.

- 20** 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.
- 21** 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

- 22** 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.
- 23** There is no set number of programme items or set repertoire.
- 24** Choirs can repeat any item from the Audition at a later stage in the competition. Choirs are required to sing different programmes at the Category Final and Grand Final but may request permission to repeat one piece at both stages.
- 25** Choirs will be asked to confirm their programmes in advance. The Competition Management reserves the right to ask choirs to substitute programme items in the Category Final and Grand Final stages.

Transport and Accommodation

- 26** Choirs are responsible for any travel and accommodation costs they incur at each stage of the competition.
- 27** Choir of the Year Ltd is unable to make a contribution towards choir travel or accommodation at any stage of the competition. If funding should become available to assist choirs competing in the Finals, the Competition Management will notify competing choirs as soon as possible with guidance on how to apply for funds.

Publicity

- 28** Participants should refer to the competition as 'Choir of the Year 2012' in any online or print publicity. Previous titles include Sainsbury's Choir of the Year and BBC Radio 3 Choir of the Year and these must not be used.
- 29** Winning choirs must be given advance approval by the Competition Management for any use of the Choir of the Year 2012 logo, including

website, programmes and leaflets. The logo will be supplied by Choir of the Year Ltd in a digital JPEG format

General Rules

- 30** No photographs or recordings may be taken during any stage of the Competition. The BBC and Choir of the Year Ltd regret that they are unable to provide video or sound recordings of choirs' performances.
- 31** The Competition Management have unlimited rights to broadcast and record, videotape, televise, film and photograph the competition events, and to make audio or visual recordings of them and to broadcast them on the internet, television and radio and other information networks without any payment to the competitors, including conductors and accompanists, for non-profit making purposes.
- 32** The Competition Management reserve the right to publish information about the competitors disclosed in their application in event programmes, and on the Choir of the Year website.
- 33** 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 Choir of the Year Ltd does not accept 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.
- 34** The decisions of the Judges are final. No correspondence or discussion concerning any decision will be entered into.
- 35** Choir of the Year Ltd reserves the right to refuse entry or performance by any choir for any reason.
- 36** 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.
- 37** 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.

Declaration

We, the undersigned, have read and agree to the Terms & Conditions for
participation in Choir of the Year 2012 on behalf of

.....(choir name).

(sign).....

(print).....

Musical Director

Date

(sign).....

(print).....

Choir Representative

Date

Please return your signed Terms & Conditions to **Choir of the Year Ltd, 2 Portland**

Road, London W11 4LA enclosing a cheque for £50 (withdrawal fee) made payable to 'Choir of the year Ltd.'