

FESTIVAL GUIDE



VOCAL ENSEMBLES

51st International Choir Festival
Festival of Songs Olomouc

Wednesday 29 May – Sunday 2 June 2024



www.svatkypisniolomouc.cz

Festival organiser:



In co-operation with:
Czech Choirs Association



Supported by:
Ministry of Culture Czech Republic



Olomouc Region



City of Olomouc



About festival

The International Festival of Songs Olomouc was founded in 1972 under the name of the “Children’s Choirs Festival Olomouc” (the current name was adopted in 1977) and soon became a traditional annual project in the region. It is therefore one of the oldest choral festivals in Europe.

The festival was founded by choirmaster and music organiser Karel Klimeš together with his son Jiří Klimeš, who further developed the festival. From the beginning until 1989, the festival was organised by the “Park of Culture and Leisure” association. Subsequently, this activity was continued by the Svátky Písni association (until 1998) and then the Festa Musicale association, since 2015 under the leadership of Marek Klimeš. In 2022, the OLArt21 association took over as the festival organiser and in the middle of the same year Milan Motl became its artistic director.

At first, the festival served exclusively as a platform for encounters of children’s choirs through shows and concerts. In 1987, the International Choir Competition Iuventus Mundi Cantant (“The Youth of the World Sings”) was first opened. Later, in 2002, it was restructured and renamed the **International Choir Competition Mundi Cantant**. This opened the competition to all categories of choirs from all over the world.

In 2023, the festival celebrated its 50th anniversary. On this occasion, the **Almanac for the Half-Centenary of the Choral Festival in Olomouc** was published. For the first time, a non-competitive category for senior choirs was opened, making the festival a meeting place for all generations of singers, from the youngest to the oldest. At the same time, the **International Competition Vocalis Bellus** for vocal ensembles was established.



*MUNDI CANTANT Competition, choir: Kajetán (3 June 2023, Corpus Christy Chapel),
photo: Jakub Audrlický*

The festival has been focusing on amateur music since its foundation.

Its main mission is to:

- popularise – amateur and professional music art
- present – choral singing in any vocal composition
- promote – education, concert activity and musical creativity
- initiate – cooperation between artistic ensembles and institutions
- create – unique artistic projects and environment for encounters
- bring – together people from different countries and cultural backgrounds through music

The festival has hosted choirs from countries such as: Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, the USA and the Czech Republic.

Festival programme 2024

	WED 29/5	THU 30/5	FRI 31/5	SAT 1/6	SUN 2/6
Check-ins, arrivals of choirs and ensembles	✓	✓	✓	✓	
International Choir Competition MUNDI CANTANT (children's and youth choirs)			✓		
International Choir Competition MUNDI CANTANT (adult choirs and genre categories)				✓	
International Vocal Ensemble Competition VOCALIS BELLUS			✓		
Results announcement ceremony			✓	✓	
Absolute Winner Competition of MUNDI CANTANT				✓	
International Choir Competition MUNDI CANTANT (non-competitive category A8)		✓			
Festival concerts	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Meeting of choirmasters with the jury			✓	✓	
Workshop		✓	✓	✓	
Masterclass					✓

International Vocal Ensemble Competition VOCALIS BELLUS

COMPETITION CATEGORY



Open repertoire

- **Age limit:** There is no age limit in the open repertoire category.
- **Number of singers:** The number of singers is set from 2 to 8 people.
- **Time limit:** The time limit for vocal ensembles is 10 minutes. The time limit excludes time taken by entering/leaving the stage, the time between pieces or the time taken by applause. The total performance time should not exceed 15 minutes. If the time limit is exceeded, the competition performance may be terminated by the jury.

CHALLENGE 2024

The International Choir and Vocal Ensemble Festival - Festival of Songs Olomouc joins the celebration of important musical anniversaries of the Year of Czech Music 2024. **In all competition categories a challenge is announced to include Czech songs and composition by Czech composers in the dramaturgy of the competition performances.** In addition, there will also be a competition for the best performance of a Czech composition.

GENERAL RULES

1. The International Vocal Ensemble Competition VOCALIS BELLUS is open only to amateur vocal ensembles.
2. It is assumed that vocal ensembles are not conducted by their artistic director or choirmaster during their competition performance, as it is the case with choirs.
3. **Technical support and instrumental accompaniment:** It is assumed singing without microphones and without sound system. An acoustic or electric piano will be available in the competition venue. Other accompanying instruments must be provided by the ensemble.
4. **Competition repertoire:** At least one piece must be performed a cappella.
 - In 2024, as part of the Year of Czech Music, there is a challenge to include Czech songs and composition by Czech composers in the dramaturgy of the competition performances.
5. **Sheet music and list of competition repertoire:** The list of competition repertoire containing full names of authors, full titles of compositions / cycles and duration of each piece must be provided no later than the deadline for applications (3 March 2024). Competition repertoire sheet music must be sent in electronic form (preferably in PDF format) via e-mail no later than the deadline date. Compositions must be performed in the order indicated on the sent list of competition repertoire. Any changes to the repertoire will need to be communicated to the organisers as soon as possible. Transpositions, unauthorised alterations or other interventions in the competition pieces should be indicated in the submitted sheet music and reported in advance to the organiser.
6. **Acoustic rehearsal in the competition venue:** The maximum time of the acoustic rehearsal is 10 minutes including the arrival and the exit from the stage. If the time limit is exceeded, the rehearsal will be interrupted by the organiser. The rehearsal time is assigned by the organiser, it is binding and must be respected. If the given date or time is not respected, no alternative rehearsal time will be arranged and the participant's right to an acoustic rehearsal in the sense of these rules expires.
7. **Competition venue:** After arriving at the competition venue, the vocal ensemble will immediately announce itself to a member of the organising team. The ensemble will be assigned a rehearsal room for singing and a dressing room. The maximum time for the use of the rehearsal room is 10 minutes. The minimum time for the use of the dressing room is 20 minutes, the maximum time is limited according to the current occupancy of the competition venue. All participants are required to respect the competition schedule and follow the organiser's instructions. Dressing rooms are not to be used for singing, but only for changing and storing belongings during the competition performance.

EVALUATION RULES

1. **Competition rules:** The competition is judged by an international jury headed by a chairman of the jury. The decision of the jury is final and irrevocable.

2. **Evaluation system:** Each juror has a maximum of 30 points at their disposal that are awarded on the basis of the evaluation criteria: intonation and rhythm, expression and style of interpretation, singing technique, dramaturgy of the competition programme and artistic impression. The final score is determined by the average of the points awarded by individual jurors. Based on the final score, choirs and ensembles are placed in the relevant award level (bronze, silver and gold). Award levels are not limited by the number of placed choirs and ensembles.

Honourable mention (1,00 – 2,99 points)

Bronze medal (3,00 – 10,99 points)

Silver medal (11,00 – 20,99 points)

Gold medal (21,00 – 30,00 points)

3. **Special awards of the jury:** The jury may award a special award for exceptional performances, e.g. for an outstanding performance of a certain composition, vocal culture, dramaturgy and other qualities of the competition performance noted by the jury.

4. **Documentation of the evaluation:** After the announcement of the results, each artistic director, ensemble member or representative has the opportunity to participate in an analysis seminar with the competition jury to receive feedback. The evaluation sheets of each juror will be sent to the choir/ensemble in electronic form after the festival.

5. There may be financial and non-financial prizes for the winners of the VOCALIS BELLUS Competition. Any information about these prizes will be published on the festival organiser's website and will become an addition to these competition rules.

6. The best vocal ensemble, i.e. the winner of the VOCALIS BELLUS Competition, will have the opportunity to perform at the evening concert as part of the MUNDI CANTANT Absolute Winner Competition. In the case that the winning vocal ensemble (for any reason) chooses not to perform at the concert, this opportunity will be given to the next ensemble with the second highest score.

REGISTRATION FOR THE FESTIVAL

Registration fee

The registration fee for the festival is set according to the table below and includes:

- Participation in the International Vocal Ensemble Competition VOCALIS BELLUS
- Participation in the announcement of the competition results
- Participation of representatives of the ensemble in social meetings with the jury
- Participation in accompanying concerts and performances in Olomouc
- Presentation package for ensemble members
- Use of the rehearsal room
- Online presentation of the ensemble
- Competition diploma and medals
- Evaluation sheets and result sheet (in electronic format)

2024	RECOMMENDED FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES	PRICE / participation
1 DAY FRI 31/5 (+ SAT 1/6)	participation in the VOCALIS BELLUS Competition, at the announcement of the results, at the analysis seminar (the winner with the possibility to perform at the evening concert and the MUNDI CANTANT Absolute Winner Competition)	1800 CZK / ensemble

Steps necessary for successful registration to the festival

Send your application (completed e-application form on the website / PDF or scanned copy of the application form) no later than:

3 March 2024

Additional documents to be sent:

- High quality colour photo (at least 1000 pixels, 300 DPI)
- List of competition repertoire containing full names of authors, full titles of compositions / cycles, duration of each piece and indicated order of performance
- Competition repertoire sheet music sent electronically via e-mail (preferably in PDF format)
- MP3 or URL link of/to a recording of at least one piece performed by the ensemble (no more than 3 years old)
- Confirmation of payment of the registration fee against the advance invoice

Payment of the registration fee

Bank details:

OLArt21, z.s.

Fio banka, a.s.

Account no.: 2702110297/2010

IBAN: CZ74 2010 0000 0027 0211 0297

SWIFT/BIC: FIOBCZPPXXX

- The registration fee must be paid by cashless payment after sending the application form against the advance invoice. Bank charges are paid by the sender.
- In the case of cancellation or non-participation of the file notified after the deadline for application, the registration fee cannot be refunded.

FINAL PROVISIONS

- The organiser reserves all the rights related to the taking of video and audio recordings of festival activities, including their further processing and use. By submitting the application form, the participants of the festival express their consent to the recording.
- By submitting the application form, festival participants confirm that they have been informed of the above conditions of competition and participation in the festival.
- The festival programme is subject to change.
- Any personal data provided will be used solely to ensure conformity with the competition rules and will not be disclosed to third parties. Once the festival is over and all administrative matters have been completed, this data will be deleted from the organisers database.



Opening festival concert - premiere of the festival's theme song by Jan Vičar "Spring will come", joined choirs from Olomouc (31 May 2023, Reduta MFO), photo: Jaroslav Pavel

APPLICATION FORM

FESTIVAL OF SONGS OLOMOUC 2024

Name of vocal ensemble:

City:

Country:

Name of artistic director:

Number of participants (including accompanist, etc.):

Name of contact person:

Tel.:

E-mail:

Invoice address:

Competition category: F

Ensemble will participate in the following festival days:

- Wednesday 29 May 2024 (no fee)
- Thursday 30 May 2024 (no fee)
- Friday 31 May 2024
- Saturday 1 June 2024 (no fee)
- Sunday 2 June 2024 (masterclass)

By submitting the application I declare that I have read the general terms and conditions and the rules of the VOCALIS BELLUS competition. I also confirm that I have been given permission to act for the members of the ensemble by themselves or their legal representatives.

Date:

Signature:

CONTACT

OLArt21, z.s.

Correspondence address:

Foerstrova 1047/49
779 00 Olomouc

IČO: 14136210

Bank details:

Fio banka, a.s.
Account no.: 2702110297/2010
IBAN: CZ74 2010 0000 0027 0211 0297
SWIFT/BIC: FIOBCZPPXXX

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