FESTIVAL GUIDE

CHOIRS

FESTIVAL OF SONGS
OLOMOUC

54th International Choir Festival

Thu 3 June – Sun 6 June 2027

www.svatkypisniolomouc.cz

Festival organiser

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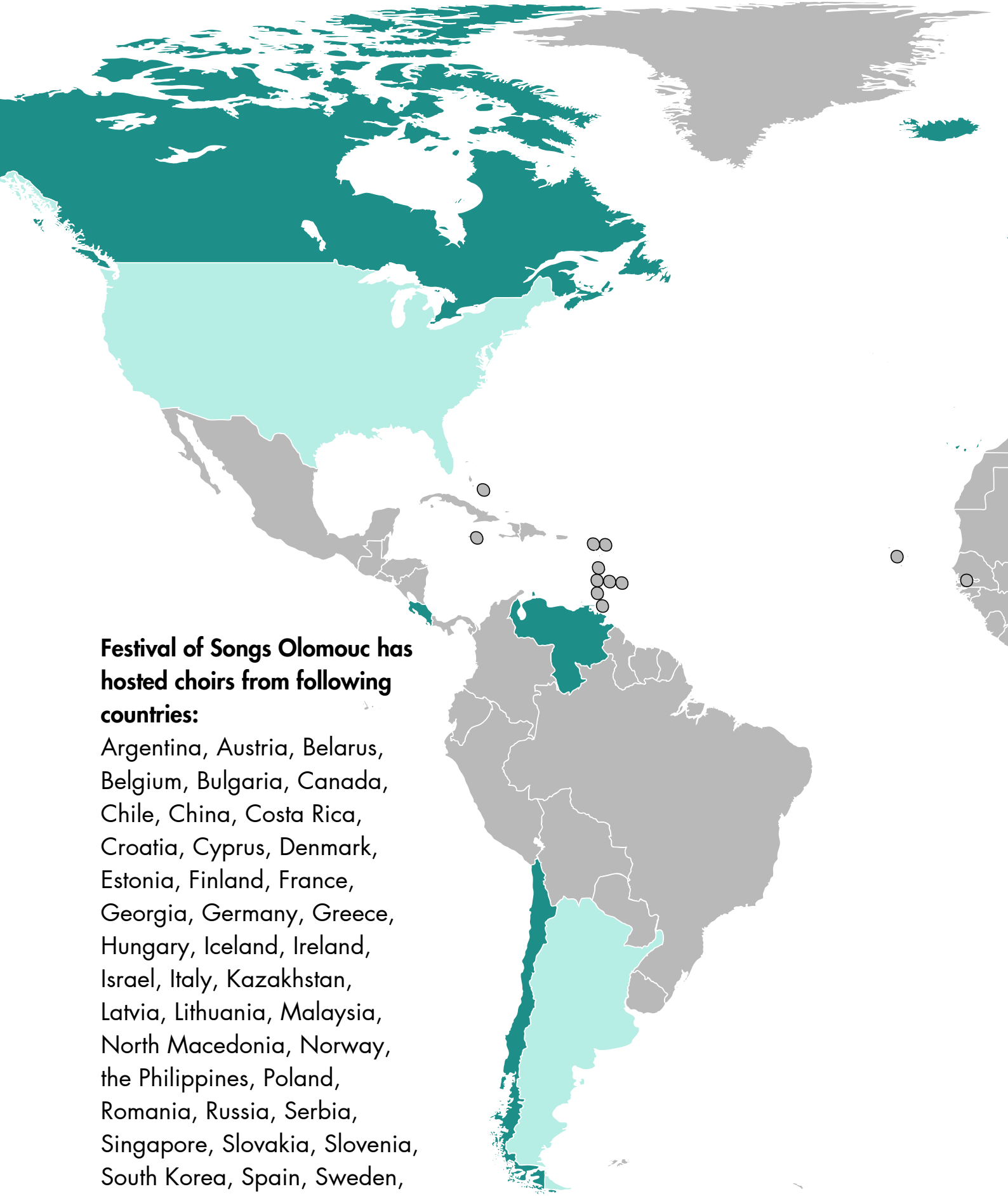
ABOUT FESTIVAL

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 the choirmaster and music organiser Karel Klimeš together with his son Jiří Klimeš, who developed it further. From the beginning, the festival was organised by the Park of Culture and Leisure association. Subsequently, this activity was continued by the "Svátky Písní" 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.

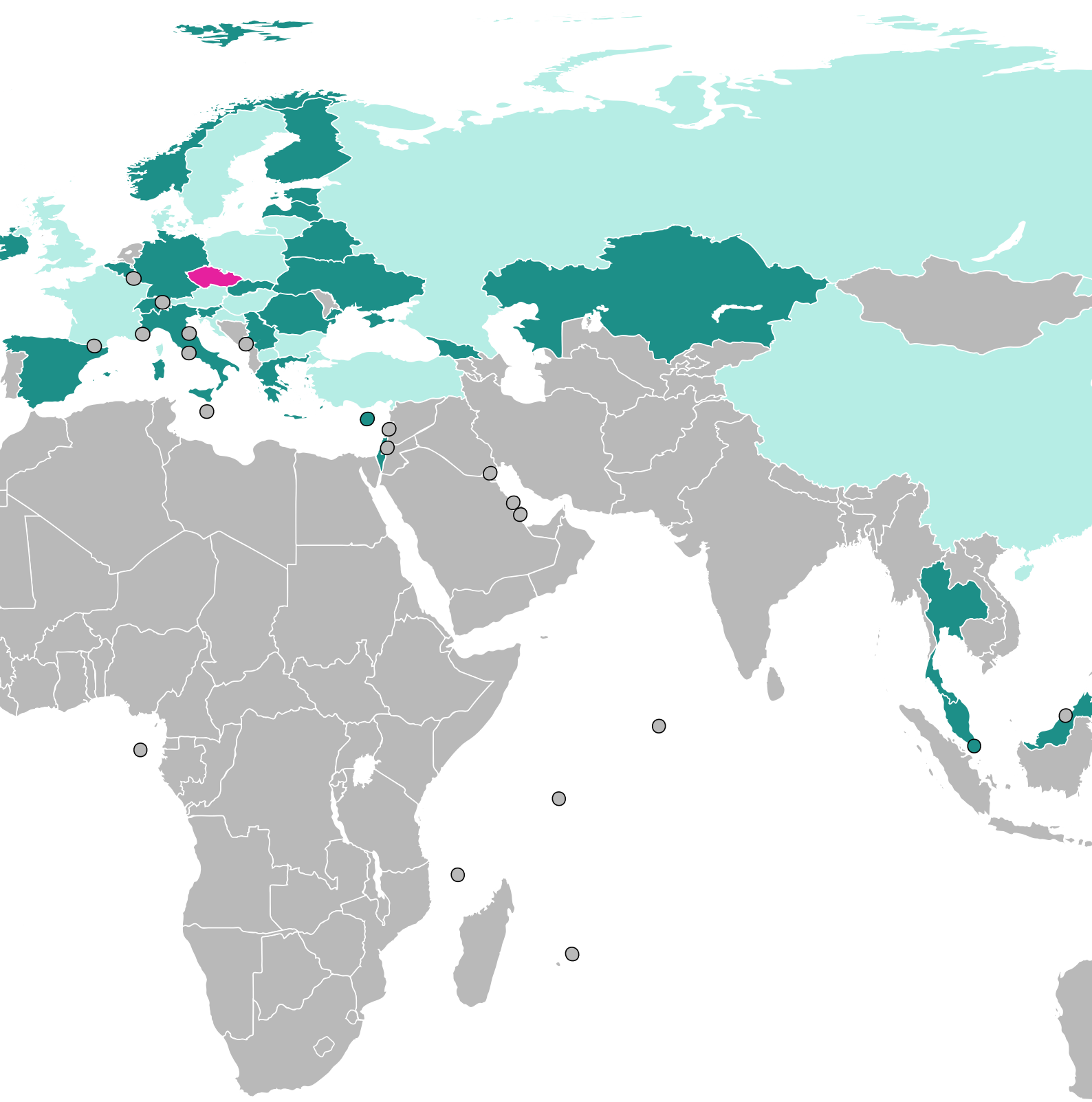
At first, the festival served exclusively as a platform for encounters of children's choirs through shows and concerts. In 1987, the International Choir Competition Iuventus Mundi Cantant ("Youth of the World Sings") was first opened. Later, in 2002, it was restructured and renamed the **International 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.



Festival of Songs Olomouc has hosted choirs from following countries:

Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, North Macedonia, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the USA, Venezuela and the Czech Republic.



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

International Choir Competition MUNDI CANTANT

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

A Open repertoire

A1 Children's choirs up to 12 years of age

A2 Children's choirs up to 16 years of age

A3 Youth choirs up to 21 years of age

A4 Youth choirs up to 26 years of age

A5 Adult choirs – mixed voices (SATB)

A6 Adult choirs – equal voices (SSAA / TTBB)

A7 Chamber choirs

A8 Senior choirs (non-competitive category)

B Sacred music

The sacred music category is open to choirs of all age categories and chamber choirs. The competition repertoire may only include composition of classical sacred music, at least one of which must have been composed before 1750. One of the included composition can also be a spiritual or gospel. At least two pieces will be performed a cappella.

C Folklore

The folklore category is open to all age categories and chamber choirs. The competition repertoire may consist only of folklore songs and their arrangements or artistic adaptations of folk material. At least one performed composition must come from the choir's home country.

D Popular and jazz music

The popular music category is open to all ages and chamber choirs. The competition repertoire may only include pieces from a wide range of popular and jazz music, such as **gospel, spiritual, blues, jazz, musical, rock, Latin, film or other popular melodies**.

E Contemporary music

The contemporary music category is open to choirs of all age categories and chamber choirs. The competition repertoire may only include contemporary classical music compositions composed after 1990. One of the included compositions may be from the period 1945–1989. This does not include arrangements of folk songs, even if they are written by a contemporary composer.

AGE LIMIT, NUMBER OF SINGERS AND TIME LIMIT

Children's choirs

- In the category of children's choirs, the age limit is set to 12 (A1) and 16 (A2) years of age. The age limit must not be exceeded on the day of the competition. The organiser allows an exception to the age limit for 15% of the singers. Exceeding the limit must be reported to the organiser in advance.
- Minimum number of singers: 14
- The time limit for children's choirs 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.

Youth choirs

- In the category of children's choirs, the age limit is set to 21 (A3) and 26 (A4) years of age. The age limit must not be exceeded on the day of the competition. The organiser allows an exception to the age limit for 15% of the singers. Exceeding the limit must be reported to the organiser in advance.
- Minimum number of singers: 14
- The time limit for youth choirs is 15 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 20 minutes. If the time limit is exceeded, the competition performance may be terminated by the jury.

Adult choirs

- In the adult category, it is assumed that the youngest singer has reached 18 years of age. There is no other age limit.
- Minimum number of singers: 14
- The time limit for adult choirs is 15 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 20 minutes. If the time limit is exceeded, the competition performance may be terminated by the jury.

Chamber choirs

- There is no age limit in the chamber choir category.
- The number of singers must be between 9 and 24.
- The time limit for chamber choirs is 15 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 20 minutes. If the time limit is exceeded, the competition performance may be terminated by the jury.

Senior choirs

- It's a non-competitive performance with the possibility of being awarded special jury prizes.
- It is assumed that the average age of the singers is 60 years.
- Minimum number of singers: 14
- The time limit for senior choirs is 15 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 20 minutes. If the time limit is exceeded, the competition performance may be terminated by the jury.

Genre categories (Folklore, Sacred, Popular and Contemporary music)

- There is no age limit in these genre categories.
- Minimum number of singers: 9
- **Youth and adult choirs:** The time limit is 15 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 20 minutes. If the time limit is exceeded, the competition performance may be terminated by the jury.
- **Children's choirs:** The time limit 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.

GENERAL RULES

1. The International Choir Competition MUNDI CANTANT is open only to amateur choirs.

2. **Participation in the competition categories:** In 2027, one choir can participate in a maximum of 2 categories.

3. **Age limit:** Organisers will require a list of singers with their full names and dates of birth submitted in advance from choirs competing in categories limited by age.

4. **Technical support and instrumental accompaniment:** It is assumed singing will be without microphones, sound system and halfplayback recordings. An acoustic or electric piano will be available in the competition venue. Other accompanying instruments must be provided by the ensemble.

5. **Competition repertoire:** At least 1 piece must be performed a cappella (in the category of Sacred music there are 2 mandatory a cappella pieces). If a choir competes in 2 categories of the MUNDI CANTANT competition, a different programme must be performed in each category (each piece may be performed by the choir only once). This rule does not apply to the Absolute Winner Competition.

6. **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 date for submitting all the required documents. Competition repertoire sheet music must be sent in electronic form via e-mail. 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.



Smíšený sbor Jitro (CZE)
(6 June 2026, Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary), photo: Jakub Audrlický

7. **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.

8. **Competition venue:** After arriving at the competition venue, the choir will immediately announce itself to a member of the organising team. The choir will be assigned a dressing room and will be informed about the schedule of a rehearsal 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 25 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 (especially in the Reduta Hall) are not to be used for singing, but only for changing and storing belongings during the competition performance.

EVALUATION RULES

1. **Competition jury:** 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. Jurors don't have to comment on all of these criteria in their verbal evaluation. 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 (1.00–6.99 points)
Bronze medal (7.00–14.99 points)
Silver medal (15.00–22.99 points)
Gold medal (23.00–30.00 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 choirmaster, choir member or representative has the opportunity to participate in an analysis seminar with the competition jury to receive a feedback. The written verbal evaluation of each juror will be sent to the choir in electronic form after the festival.

CZECH CHALLENGE

The challenge to include **Czech songs and works by Czech composers** in the competition performances was established on the occasion of the Year of Czech Music 2024 and has remained a permanent feature of the festival ever since. It promotes the appreciation and performance of Czech choral music and highlights its significant place in our musical heritage. The festival's Artistic Board has selected works that showcase its beauty, diversity and value. The result is a representative **list of works** featuring both established masters and leading contemporary Czech composers. The list of these works is available for download on the website.

The best performance of a Czech composition across all categories will be announced at the Absolute Winner Competition. The winner will become the first recipient of the **Jan Vičar Award**, including a cash prize.

FOLKLORE CHALLENGE 2027

The theme and main artistic focus of both the competition and accompanying programme for the 54th edition of the Festival of Songs Olomouc is **folklore** and its various forms. We are announcing a challenge to include **folk songs, their arrangements or artistic stylisations of folk material** in the programme of choirs' competition performances. This challenge is open to choirs competing in all **open repertoire categories (A1–A8) and in the Folklore genre category (C).**

Choirs are **free to choose their pieces** at their own discretion and according to the availability of sheet music. We welcome a varied selection of pieces and inspiration drawn from the **folklore traditions of various Slavic nations**.

The best performance of a folklore piece across the aforementioned categories will be announced at the Absolute Winner Competition.

- Choir that decides to take part in the Czech or Folklore challenge must designate one nominated piece from its list of competition pieces. The jury will then assess this piece separately within the context of the relevant challenge.
- Choir may enter both challenges (even within the same competition category), but a single piece may not be entered in both challenges at the same time. In such cases, the choir must nominate two different pieces.

MUNDI CANTANT
ABSOLUTE WINNER COMPETITION

1. The Absolute Winner Competition is the second round of the International Choir Competition MUNDI CANTANT, for which the participating choirs are nominated on the basis of their results in the MUNDI CANTANT Competition, regardless of the category or age.

2. The usual number of finalists is 5. However, the jury may decide to change this number.

3. **Qualification:** Choirs with the highest number of points within the golden award level across all categories qualify for the second round of the Competition. In the case that one choir competed in 2 categories and was awarded golden medal in both of them, the choir may only advance to the second round in the category with a higher score.

4. In the case that a qualified choir refuses to participate in the Absolute Winner Competition, the place of finalist will go to the choir with the next highest score. Choirs will notify the organiser of their intention to participate or not to participate in the Absolute Winner Competition (if qualified) after submitting the application form, at the latest when checking in at the festival office. This decision cannot be changed afterwards.

5. Nominations will be announced at the results announcement of the MUNDI CANTANT Competition. The Absolute Winner Competition will take place as an evening concert on Saturday **5 June 2027**.

6. **Competition repertoire:** There is no limit to the repertoire in the Absolute Winner Competition. Copies and electronic versions of sheet music are not required. Potential competition repertoire must be submitted by choirs interested in competing, at the latest when checking in at the festival office.

7. **Number of compositions and time limit:** Finalists will chose up to 2 compositions to perform that will not exceed 10 minutes. The time limit excludes time taken by entering/leaving the stage, the time between pieces or the time taken by applause.



Palm Beach Atlantic University Choir (USA) – Absolute Winner of MUNDI CANTANT 2026 (6 June 2026, Reduta), photo: Jaroslav Pavel

8. **Competition jury:** The Absolute Winner is chosen by an extended jury, i.e. the international jury of the MUNDI CANTANT Competition extended to include professional public and choirmasters of other participating choirs (with the exception of choirmaster performing in the Absolute Winner Competition). The jury is headed by a chairman of the jury. The decision of the extended jury is final and irrevocable.

9. **Evaluation rules:** Each of the jurors has 1 vote at their disposition, which they will assign to their preferred choir. They will put their vote into an envelope with their name on it. Envelopes will be opened and votes will be counted in the presence of the chairman of the extended jury, who in case of equality of votes will use their second vote and thus decide on the Absolute Winner. The finalist with the highest number of votes wins.

10. **Title and awards:** The choir with the highest number of votes will be awarded the title of the "Absolute Winner of MUNDI CANTANT 2027". There may be financial and non-financial prizes for the Absolute Winner and for the other finalists.

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME 2027

	THU 3/6	FRI 4/6	SAT 5/6	SUN 6/6
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				
International Choir Competition MUNDI CANTANT MUNDI CANTANT (category A8)				
Results announcement ceremony				
Absolute Winner Competition				
Festival concerts				
Meeting of choirmasters with the jury				
Workshop				
Masterclass				
Singing Fountains				
Social gathering (children's and youth choirs)				
Social gathering (adult choirs)				

The festival programme is subject to change.

WORKSHOP 2027

Discover the beauty of **folklore** at the 54th edition of the Olomouc Song Festival! Two themed workshops will offer inspiration and new musical experiences to children's, youth and adult choirs. The programme will be tailored to the number of registered participants and the type of choirs, so that everyone has the chance to enjoy this unique musical experience to the full.

dates:
FRI 4/6 2027 (evening) – children's and youth choirs
SUN 6/6 2027 (morning) – adult choirs
price: 100 CZK/person for choirs that have not paid the registration fee for the relevant date; free for choirs with paid registration fee for the relevant date; other individuals not belonging to participating choirs 200 CZK/person



Women choir Lilith (SVN)
(6 June 2026, Pöttingeum Hall), photo: Martin Prášek



Young Children Choir of Musamari Choral School (EST) (5 June 2026, Reduta), photo: Jakub Audrlický

MASTERCLASS 2027

Enjoy an exceptional masterclass with a renowned international guest. This great opportunity to enrich your skills under the guidance of an experienced professional. Each ensemble may take a one-hour long private lesson focusing on technique, performance and other aspects of choral singing.

date: SUN 6/6 2027 (morning)
price: 6 000 CZK/choir

SINGING FOUNTAINS

Experience Olomouc in a slightly different way! Embark on an adventurous journey through the city, discover its major landmarks and bring them to life with your singing. An extraordinary trip awaits you, combining exploration of Olomouc with the joy of music and choral singing. Join in this wonderful festival tradition – sing however you like, wherever you like and whenever you like.

date: THU 3/6 – SUN 6/6 2027

REGISTRATION FOR THE FESTIVAL

1. **The application** (i.e. completed online form on the website / form at the end of this guide) must be sent no later than: **7 March 2027**

2. After submitting your application, wait for the **confirmation** (automatic reply to the electronic form is only a proof that you have successfully submitted the application). A summary of your application will be sent to your contact e-mail. If we do not confirm your application within 5 days, please contact us.

3. Based on the information provided, a **proforma invoice** for the registration fee will be issued.

   We will also ask you to send us the remaining documents required for your participation in the competition. The list of **required documents** is on the next page. The deadline for sending them is: **31 March 2027**

4. Details of the festival's **accompanying events** will be published in time. In addition to the choir competitions, we organise workshops, masterclasses and accompanying concerts every year. If you are interested in taking part in any of the events on offer, please do not hesitate to let us know.

5. After the application period closes, your **itinerary** will be sent to you.

- By submitting the application form, festival participants confirm that they have been informed of the above conditions of competition and participation in the festival.
- Applications sent after the deadline will not be accepted (except for the extended application period, which may be additionally announced by the organiser). If the capacity of the competition is fulfilled (even within the regular application period), the organiser may refuse any further applications. Reservation of a place in the competition is not possible.

Required documents:

- **high quality photo** of the choir
- brief **profile of the choir / biography** (approx. 500 characters)
- **list of competition compositions** containing the full name of the composer, full title of the piece (cycle of pieces), indicated possible use of accompanying instruments, duration of each piece, indicated order of the pieces and possible nominations for the festival's challenges
- all competition compositions sent electronically by e-mail in PDF format
- MP3 or URL link – **recording** of at least one song performed by the choir, no more than 3 years old
- **confirmation of payment of the registration fee** (of the proforma invoice)
- for age-restricted categories, **list of participants with dates of birth**

REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee for the festival is set according to the table on the next page and includes:

- participation in the MUNDI CANTANT Competition (in case of qualification to the second round, also in the MUNDI CANTANT Absolute Winner Competition) and at the announcement of the competition results
- participation of the choirmaster and representatives of the choir in analytical seminars and other social meetings with members of the jury
- (in)active participation in accompanying concerts and performances
- gift package for the choirmasters and choir members
- use of the rehearsal room
- online presentation of the choir
- competition diploma and medals
- written evaluation of the competition performance from each juror and results sheet (in electronic form)
- photographs and video recording of the competition performance

Note: Registration fee **does not include** accommodation, transportation or catering for the choir during the festival.

REGISTRATION FEE

All MUNDI CANTANT Competition categories except for category A8	PRICE / 1 category	PRICE / 2 categories
4 DAYS • THU 3/6 – SUN 6/6	500 CZK/person	600 CZK/person
3 DAYS • THU 3/6 – SAT 5/5 • FRI 4/6 – SUN 6/6	450 CZK/person	550 CZK/person
2 DAYS • THU 3/6 – FRI 4/6 • FRI 4/6 – SAT 5/6	350 CZK/person	450 CZK/person
1 DAY • FRI 4/6 • SAT 5/6	250 CZK/person	350 CZK/person

category A8 – Senior choirs (non-competitive category)	PRICE
3 DAYS • THU 3/6 – SAT 5/5	200 CZK/person
2 DAYS • THU 3/6 – FRI 4/6	150 CZK/person
1 DAY • THU 3/6	100 CZK/person

Activities for each day are listed in the FESTIVAL PROGRAMME.

Note: The dates for the accompanying choral concerts are indicated in the festival programme only provisionally. Choirs' interest in performing is surveyed via the application form. Expressing an interest does not constitute a claim to inclusion in the programme of accompanying concerts, nor does it oblige the organiser to arrange them. The organiser will decide whether to hold the concerts and their programme, taking into account the interest expressed and the festival's organisational capabilities.

Payment of the registration fee

- The registration fee must be paid by cashless payment against the proforma invoice. Bank charges are paid by the sender. Final invoice will be issued up to 14 days after the festival takes place.
- In case of cancellation of participation 6 weeks before the festival or later, the registration fee can’t be refunded and will be credited to the festival in full (i.e. notification of cancellation must be sent no later than 21 April 2027). In the event of cancellation, the choir is expected to cooperate in finding a suitable replacement choir.
- The final amount of the registration fee will be determined upon arrival of the choir according to the current number of participants. Overpayment up to 2 000 CZK will be forfeited to the festival, any higher amount will be returned to the choir's account within 14 days after the event. In the case of an underpayment, the choir will pay the difference at the check-in.



The Girls Choir CANTABILE PSM Olsztyn (POL) (6 June 2026, Reduta), photo: Jaroslav Pavel

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 and publication of it (including parts of competition performances).
- 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.



Cansona Neosoliensis (SVK)
(1 June 2024, Aula UP), photo: Jaroslav Pavel

APPLICATION FORM
FESTIVAL OF SONGS OLOMOUC 2027

Name of choir:
City:
Country:
Name of choirmaster:
Number of participants*:

Name of contact person**:
Tel.:
E-mail:
Invoice address:

Chosen competition categories:

Choir will participate in the following festival days:

- ☐ Thursday 3 June 2027
- ☐ Friday 4 June 2027
- ☐ Saturday 5 June 2027
- ☐ Sunday 6 June 2027

Are you interested in performing at an accompanying concert as part of the festival*** YES / NO

By submitting this application, I declare that I have read and agree to the general terms and conditions and rules of the MUNDI CANTANT competition. I also confirm that I have been authorised to act on behalf of all members of the group by the members themselves or, where applicable, their legal guardians.

Date: Signature:

* Any person who is part of the competition performance is considered a participant (i.e. including the choirmaster, accompanist, etc.

** Contact person must be present at the festival.

*** Expressing an interest does not constitute a claim to the choir's inclusion in the programme of accompanying concerts, nor does it oblige the organiser to arrange such concerts.

CONTACT

OLArt21, z. s.

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Foerstrova 1047/49
779 00 Olomouc

IČO: 14136210

Spisová značka L20038 vedená u Krajského soudu v Ostravě

Bank details:
Fio banka, a.s.
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IBAN: CZ74 2010 0000 0027 0211 0297
SWIFT/BIC: FIOBCZPPXXX

E-mail:
festival@svatkypisniolomouc.cz

Tel.:
Anna Mihulková
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www.svatkypisniolomouc.cz