

Festival of Songs Olomouc 2025: Unforgettable experience for every singer and spectator!

Olomouc 16 January 2025

Are you looking for an unforgettable experience this year? Come to Olomouc for the International Festival of Songs Olomouc — one of the largest and oldest choral festivals in the Czech Republic. The 52nd edition will take place from 5 to 8 June 2025. This traditional festival which attracts choirs and vocal ensembles from all over the world, will once again offer not only choral competitions but also a rich accompanying programme full of concerts, workshops and masterclasses that will enrich both participants and spectators. This year's thematic focus will be on jazz and popular music. Both the workshop and the final open air concert will be held in the spirit of this theme.

Registration for the MUNDI CANTANT Competition for choirs and VOCALIS BELLUS Competition for vocal ensembles is open until 3 March 2025. Choirs can choose from a number of categories which are divided according to age and voice type (children's, youth, adult female, male or mixed choirs) or genres (folklore, sacred, popular and contemporary music). Applications are always limited to 2 categories per choir. In addition, a non-competitive category for senior choirs will be organised. The challenge to include Czech compositions remains from the previous Year of Czech Music 2024 and, as part of this year's focus, the jury will also be interested in repertoire from the area of jazz and popular music, allowing participants to explore this broad musical spectrum. The best performance of a piece from this challenge will be awarded a separate special award.

The programme of the 52nd edition of the Festival of Songs Olomouc promises a rich cultural experience for both participants and visitors. The competition performances will take place in prestigious Olomouc venues with excellent acoustics, such as the Reduta Hall of the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra Olomouc, DŮM U PARKU and the Aula of the Faculty of Arts of Palacký University. Visitors can look forward to a concert in St. Morice Church, where the Bratislava Boys Choir will perform under the direction of renowned choirmaster Gabriel Rovňák, who has appeared as a member of the jury of the festival competitions on several occasions. Saturday evening, as always, will be dedicated to the conclusion of the competition. After the final performances of the best choirs, the Absolute Winner of the MUNDI CANTANT Competition will be announced. The main programme of the festival will end with a spectacular open air concert with the vocal ensemble SKETY on the Upper Square in the centre of Olomouc. The concert will be preceded by a workshop led by the composer Petr Wajsar, who will compose a brand new piece for the festival and its participants. The workshop is open to both individuals and whole choirs.

On the last day of the event, participants can take part in masterclasses led by expert jurors of the festival competitions. These courses will offer choirmasters and singers the opportunity to improve their technical and performance skills and gain valuable advice from renowned specialists.

For more than 50 years, the Festival of Songs Olomouc has established itself as one of the most important events of choral singing in the Czech Republic and abroad. It offers a platform for ensembles of different levels to meet, share experiences and establish new friendships. Thus, in 2025, a great interest is expected again not only in the competitions, but also in the cultural and educational programme that is an integral part of this significant musical event.

For more information about the festival, registration and programme, please visit the official website www.festivalofsongsolomouc.com or contact us at festival@svatkypisniolomouc.cz.