



## 2009 Golden Gate International Children's and Youth Choir Festival July 13-19, 2009

### **Syllabus: Information and Instructions**

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#### **Rules**

Choirs may consist of up to fifty (50) singers. Choirs and vocal soloists competing in the Youth category must be 25 years old or younger (date of birth on, or after August 1, 1983). Choirs and vocal soloists competing in the children's categories must be 16 years old or younger (date of birth on or after August 1, 1992). Evidence of birth date may be requested at or before the time of the Festival.

#### **Choral Competitions**

Each choir will be judged in Folk and Historical categories during public performances. Additionally, optional Contemporary Choral and Vocal Solo competitions will be held. An important objective of the Festival is the encouragement of new compositions for children's and youth choirs.

#### **Fees**

Choirs must pay a total fee of US \$250 per participant. "Participants" include singers, conductors, managers, accompanists, chaperones, and any other persons attending the Festival. The fee provides entry to competitions and concerts, social events, and other Festival activities, as well as a copy of the Festival Program. A non-refundable deposit of US \$100 per participant is due following acceptance in order to confirm participation. The balance of the fees is due in full no later than May 1, 2009. Limited financial assistance (toward Festival fees only) is available to overseas choirs demonstrating financial need. Any such requests should be transmitted at the time of initial application.

#### **Festival Activities**

Festival participants enjoy a variety of activities that enable them to interact with other participants as well as enjoy the astounding beauty of the San Francisco Bay Area. Among the scheduled activities are common song rehearsals, competitions, concerts, a cruise of San Francisco Bay, other outings, a singers' dance, and a conductors' banquet. Formal tours and sightseeing may be arranged via ACFEA, the Festival's preferred travel/accommodations/tour provider. Please call +1 415 453 6619 (international) or (800) 886-2055 (U.S. toll-free) or email [ggf@acfea.com](mailto:gjf@acfea.com) for information and assistance.

## **Housing**

Singers 18 years of age and younger (except those from the U.S. and Canada) are guaranteed housing with local families from Monday evening, July 13 through Sunday morning, July 18, 2009. North American choirs may request billeting with local families; however, billeting for these choirs is on a space available basis. All participating choirs will need to make their own housing arrangements for singers ages 19 and up, as well as for all adult staff and chaperones. ACFEA is the Festival's official resource for hotel arrangements. Please call +1 415 453 6619 (international) or (800) 886-2055 (U.S. toll-free) or email ggf@acfea.com for information and assistance.

## **Transportation**

Travel arrangements to and from the Festival are the responsibility of each visiting choir, including airport transfers. During the Festival, transportation to and from all Festival special events will be provided for billeted choirs only. ACFEA is the Festival's official resource for transportation arrangements, and can assist with booking bus transfers, rental cars, and other transportation needs. Please call +1 415 453 6619 (international) or (800) 886-2055 (U.S. toll-free) or email ggf@acfea.com for information and assistance.

## **Hospitality**

Each choir will be assigned a host/ coordinator to assist with local arrangements and to answer questions.

## **General Application Process**

Application for participation in the Festival must be made using the official Entry Form, which may be downloaded at [www.piedmontchoirs.org/ggf.lasso](http://www.piedmontchoirs.org/ggf.lasso). Applications will be accepted from April 1 through September 30, 2008. Early application is encouraged. Late applications will only be considered if space allows. Applying choirs must submit the following materials:

- a) A completed entry form.
- b) A recent CD recording of the choir, of not more than 15 minutes duration, labeled with the name of the choir and conductor, and the date of recording. At least one piece must be sung *a cappella*. APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT A RECORDING.
- c) Brief biographies of the Choir and the Conductor.
- d) A photo of the choir.
- e) A photo of the conductor.

## **Notice of Acceptance**

Formal acceptance is based on a choir's audition tape and subject to the approval of the Golden Gate Festival Committee. Notification of acceptance will be sent by October 1, 2008. Early notification may be requested.

### **Confirmation and Deposit**

Choirs accepted for the Festival must confirm their participation in writing and submit a non-refundable deposit of US \$100 per participant by November 15, 2008 (or within thirty days of acceptance, if early notification is requested). If written confirmation and payment are not received by the applicable date, the Festival reserves the right to retain other ensembles from the waiting list.

### **Late Application**

Late applications will be accepted between October 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, as space allows. Any choir accepted to the Festival during this period must submit written confirmation and a non-refundable deposit of US \$100 per singer within thirty days of notification.

### **Applications for Contemporary Choral and Vocal Solo Competitions**

Applications for the Contemporary and/or Vocal Solo Competitions will be accepted from choirs already accepted for general participation, and must be received by March 15, 2009. The application must be submitted on the appropriate Entry Form, available for download at [www.piedmontchoirs/ggf.lasso](http://www.piedmontchoirs/ggf.lasso). Each choir may enter up to five soloists to the Vocal Solo Competition. Competitors must meet the age requirements specified in the Competition Rules. All competitors must be amateur singers. If there is any question as to a singer's amateur standing, please contact the Festival office prior to the Festival. The Festival reserves the right to determine this status.

### **Music**

All accepted choirs must send four copies of each piece of the music selected for competition to the Festival Artistic Director, to be received no later than May 1, 2009. All expression markings must be in English or Italian, or be translated into one of these languages. Solo competitors must also send one copy of each of their pieces. If any work is in manuscript or is unpublished, you must show that written permission has been obtained from the copyright owner for its free performance in competition. Photocopies of published works must be accompanied by authorization to copy from the publisher. Accepted choirs will be sent one copy of each of the common songs to be learned by all choirs. Multiple copies of all Festival music must be ordered from their respective publishers by participating choirs. Please do not photocopy music.

### **Obligations**

Each choir is obliged to participate fully in all common song rehearsals, concerts, and other Festival activities. Adults are responsible for supervising choristers throughout the Festival, and all conductors are expected to attend common song rehearsals. All participants must agree to waive all rights to any form of financial compensation, as well as all rights associated with

photography, audio/video recordings and radio or television broadcasts. Choirs may have the option to perform at a religious service for a local congregation before departure on Sunday.

**Decisions**

The decisions of the Festival staff or the adjudicators are final and binding upon all parties. This is an agreed condition of entry and participation.

**Correspondence**

All correspondence should be addressed to:

**GGF 2009 – Piedmont Choirs  
3629 Grand Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94610 U.S.A.**

Telephone: (510) 547 4441

FAX: (510) 451 2947

Email: [ggf@piedmontchoirs.org](mailto:ggf@piedmontchoirs.org)

Website: [www.piedmontchoirs.org/ggf.lasso](http://www.piedmontchoirs.org/ggf.lasso)

**Important Dates**

Regular applications accepted..... April 1 – September 30, 2008  
Late applications accepted (space allowing) ..... October 1 – December 31, 2008  
Notice of acceptance sent ..... starting October 1, 2008, or earlier if requested  
Confirmation and deposit due ..... November 15, 2008, or within 30 days of acceptance  
Contemporary and/or Solo Competition application deadline ..... March 15, 2009  
Balance of fees due ..... May 1, 2009  
Copies of music due to Festival office ..... May 1, 2009  
Choirs arrive ..... July 13, 2009  
Choirs depart..... July 19, 2009

## **COMPETITION REPERTOIRE:**

### **Choral: Historical/Folk**

All Choirs will be judged in the Historical and Folk competitions during public performances. Total performance time of adjudicated historical and folk music must not exceed 20 minutes.

- a) Historical: During the performance, each competitor will perform music from at least three out of the following four historical periods: Medieval/Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic.
- b) Folk: Each competitor will perform two or more contrasting folk songs from non-classical styles, one of which must be from the choir's own country. Choreography and/or costumes may be used to enhance performance. No microphones or electronic accompaniment may be used.

### **Choral: Contemporary**

The Contemporary competition will be held separately from the Historical/Folk competitions. Each competitor will perform two or more compositions, including:

- a) A piece written after 1900, and
- b) A piece written after 1990, in any contemporary classical style.

Innovative compositional techniques are encouraged. Total performance time must not exceed 13 minutes.

### **Vocal Solo**

Each competitor will perform two pieces, not to exceed ten minutes in total duration:

- a) A piece of his/her own choosing from the classical repertoire.
- b) A piece of his/her own choosing from the folk song repertoire.