



2012 Golden Gate International Children's and Youth Choral Festival July 8-14, 2012

Syllabus: Information and Instructions

Festival Mission/Vision

The mission of the Golden Gate International Children's and Youth Choral Festival is to promote international harmony through song and competition.

Provide a forum:

- ❖ To engage young singers with world-renowned conductors in the Massed Festival Choirs
- ❖ To engage children and youth around the world in a multi-cultural experience via music
- ❖ To share culture and traditions
- ❖ For cultural exchange through the experience of homestay in local homes
- ❖ For friendly competition with feedback to choirs and soloists to promote musical growth

History

Since the mid-twentieth century, there has been a tremendous proliferation of children's choirs all over the world. As these programs have developed, leading composers have created a magnificent new repertoire for treble choirs as well as new and innovative works for youth choirs. The Piedmont Choirs have had the good fortune to be able to share in this treasure house of multicultural music making through its international touring program. For years, Piedmont Choirs' children have had the rich experience of singing, competing, and becoming friends with children through their extensive touring in Europe, Asia, Central America, and the Baltics and Russia. Everywhere they have gone they have been welcomed into concert halls, communities, and homes. They have stayed with families in different countries, and have learned to appreciate the hospitality of different cultures. This direct participation in the lives of people all over the world has given the children a sense of themselves as citizens of the world and it has given them points of comparison by which they can reach a deeper understanding of their own communities and culture.

Realizing the richness this international experience offered, the Piedmont Choirs founded the first international children's choral festival in the United States in 1991. Each festival brings in world-renowned conductors to lead the Festival Chorus along with world-class adjudicators for the *Choral* and *Vocal Solo Competitions*. The Festival has been held eight times, seven times as a competition of choirs from around the world and once as an invitational event in celebration of Piedmont Choirs 25th anniversary.

Edited February 15, 2012

Schedule

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 7 th	July 8 th	July 9 th	July 10 th	July 11 th	July 12 th	July 13 th	July 14 th
Choirs arrive	Choirs arrive	Festival Chorus Rehearsal	Festival Chorus Rehearsal	Festival Chorus Rehearsal	Festival Chorus Rehearsal	Festival Chorus Rehearsal	Closing Concert dress rehearsal
Time with host families	Time with host families	Picnic	<i>Vocal Solo Competition</i> <i>Competition Concert- 2 PM</i>	<i>Vocal Solo Competition</i> <i>Competition Concert- 2 PM</i>	<i>Competition Concert - Contemporary</i>	Bay Cruise Day	Comp. winner rehearsal
	Opening reception	Opening Concert- 7 PM	<i>Spotlight Concerts & Competition Concert- 7 PM</i>	<i>Spotlight Concerts & Competition Concert- 7 PM</i>	<i>Spotlight Concerts & Competition Concert- 7PM</i>	Free time/ Conductor Banquet	Closing Concert- 7 PM & Closing Party

Rules of Participation

Choirs and vocal soloists competing in the Youth category must be 25 years old or younger (date of birth on, or after August 1, 1986). 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, 1995). Evidence of birth date may be requested at or before the time of the Festival.

Choral Competitions

Each choir will be adjudicated in *Folk* and *Historical* categories during public performances. Additionally, three optional competitions will be held in *Contemporary*, *Children's Vocal Solo*, and *Youth Vocal Solo* categories. There is no separation of children's and youth divisions for the *Contemporary Competition* category. The Festival does not provide accompanists for choirs and soloists for any competitions.

An important objective of the Festival is the encouragement of new compositions for children's and youth choirs. Special prizes may be awarded for the best performance of a new composition, composed within the last two years, as well as for noteworthy conducting. All special prizes are awarded at the discretion of the adjudicators.

	<i>Historical</i>	<i>Folk</i>	<i>Vocal Solo</i> (optional)	<i>Contemporary</i> (optional)
Children's	x	x	x	No division of children & youth
Youth	x	x	x	

Fees

The cost of the Festival is \$350 U.S. currency 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 \$150 U.S. 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, 2012. 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. Financial assistance materials will be sent to choirs along with their acceptance letters.

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 Festival Chorus rehearsals, competitions, concerts, a cruise of San Francisco Bay, other outings, a singers' dance, and a conductors' banquet. ACFEA, the Festival's preferred air transportation provider, is pleased to work with choirs to arrange pre-and-post festival tours. Please call +1 415 453 6619 (international) or (800) 886-2055 (U.S. toll-free) or email gfg@acfea.com for information and assistance.

Housing

All international choir members 21 years of age and younger are guaranteed housing with local families from Saturday evening, July 7 through Sunday morning, July 15, 2012. The first five domestic choirs to register for the Festival are also guaranteed housing for all singers 21 years of age and younger with local families during the festival week. All other domestic choirs may request billeting with local families; however, billeting for these choirs is on a space available basis. Housing is not provided for choirs from the San Francisco Bay Area. Information regarding a "Festival" hotel will be sent to all participating choirs. Choirs will need to make their own housing arrangements at the hotel for singers ages 21 and up, as well as for all adult staff and chaperones.

Transportation

Travel arrangements to and from the Festival are the responsibility of each visiting choir, including airport transfers. Festival Administrator will be available to assist choirs in arranging transit reservations to-and-from airports. During the Festival, transportation to and from all Festival special events will be provided for billeted choirs only. The Festival can assist with booking bus transportation during the Festival week, rental cars, and other transportation needs. Please call +1.510.547. 4441 or email info@goldengatefestival.org for information and assistance.

ACFEA is the Festival's travel provider for air transportation to the Festival. Please call +1 415 453 6619 (international) or (800) 886-2055 (U.S. toll-free) or email gfg@acfea.com for information and assistance.

Hospitality

Each choir will be assigned a Festival liaison to assist with local arrangements and to answer questions. Your liaison will meet your group at the airport upon your arrival.

General Application Process

Application for participation in the Festival must be made using the official Entry Form, which may be downloaded at www.goldengatefestival.org. Applications will be accepted from January 1 through October 31, 2011. Early application is encouraged. Late applications will only be considered if space is available. Applications must include the following materials:

- a) A completed entry form.
- b) A recent CD recording, cassette, MP3 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.

Choirs with incomplete applications will not be considered until all application materials are available to the review panel.

Notice of Acceptance

Formal acceptance is based on a choir's audition materials and subject to the approval of the Golden Gate Festival Committee. Notification of acceptance will be sent on November 1, 2011. Early notification may be requested at the time of application.

Confirmation and Deposit

Choirs accepted for the Festival must confirm their participation in writing and submit a non-refundable deposit of US \$150 per participant by November 30, 2011 (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 (to replace unconfirmed choirs).

Late Application

Late applications will be accepted between November 1, 2011, and December 31, 2011, as space allows. Any choir accepted to the Festival during this period must submit written confirmation and a non-refundable deposit of U.S. \$150 per singer within **three weeks** of notification.

Applications for Contemporary 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, 2012. The application must be submitted on the appropriate Entry Form, available for download at www.goldengatefestival.org. Each choir may enter up to five soloists from their organization 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 provide music for the adjudicators. Choirs will drop off music for each of the three adjudicator 15 minutes prior to their competition concert(s). *Competition Concert – Folk/Historical, Children* music should be dropped off at the competition music desk in the hall by 1:45 PM the day of your performance. *Competition Concert – Folk/Historical, Youth* music should be dropped off at the competition music desk in the hall by 6:45 PM the day of your performance. *Contemporary Competition* music should be dropped off at the competition music desk by 1:45 PM. All expression markings must be in English or Italian, or be translated into one of these languages.

Solo competitors must also provide music for each of their pieces for the two *Vocal Solo* adjudicators. Soloists will drop off music by noon at the competition music desk on the day of your competition (Children's- July 10th, Youth- July 11th).

Music submitted to the festival for adjudicated pieces will be returned. It is the responsibility of the accepted choir to retrieve their music. **Music may be picked up at the Conductors' Banquet on Friday night or at the Festival Closing Concert Dress Rehearsal on Saturday morning.**

Accepted choirs will be sent one score 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.

Program Materials

Choirs will send the following materials to the Festival Office for inclusion in the Golden Gate International Children's and Youth Choral Festival Program by May 1, 2012:

Name of Choir as you want it printed and Biography of Choir

Biography of Conductor

Biography of Accompanist

Biography of Composer (premieres or commissions only)

Picture of Choir with following specs: black & white or color, 300 dpi

Picture of Conductor with following specs: black & white or color, 300 dpi

Picture of Accompanist (optional): black & white or color, 300 dpi

Program Repertoire for each concert (*Spotlight*, opening) and competition (*Historical, Folk, Contemporary, Vocal Solo*):

Title

Composer/Arranger

List of any soloists

Special instruments

Translations (may not be included in final program)

Program notes (may not be included in final program)

Program order (list conductors/accompanists if multiple conductors/accompanists will be used)

What are competition pieces (list conductors/accompanists if multiple conductors/accompanists will be used)

Repertoire for Closing Concert should your choir group be selected as a winner in any of the competition categories entered

Stage preferences (risers, dancing area, processions, etc.)

Obligations

Each choir is required to participate in all Festival Chorus rehearsals, concerts, and other Festival activities. Adults are responsible for supervising their choristers throughout the Festival, and all conductors are expected to attend common song rehearsals. Participants 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 2012 – Piedmont Choirs
3629 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610 U.S.A.

Telephone: (510) 547.4441

FAX: (510) 451.2947

Email: info@golden-gate-festival.org

Website: www.golden-gate-festival.org

Important Dates

Regular applications accepted	January 1, 2011 – October 31, 2011
Late applications accepted (space allowing)	November 1 – December 31, 2011
Notice of acceptance sent.....	November 1, 2011, or earlier if requested
Confirmation and deposit due	November 30, 2011 or within 30 days of early acceptance or 21 days of late acceptance
<i>Contemporary and/or Vocal Solo Competition</i> application deadline	March 15, 2012
<i>Historical/Folk Competition</i> repertoire form due to Festival office	March 15, 2012
Balance of fees due.....	May 1, 2012
Homestay/Housing forms due to Festival office.....	May 1, 2012
Airport Transportation form to Festival office	May 1, 2012
Program materials due to Festival office.....	May 1, 2012
Choirs arrive	July 7-8, 2012
Festival Opening Reception (adults).....	July 8, 2012
Festival Opening Concert	July 9, 2012
Festival <i>Historical/Folk Competitions</i>	July 10-12, 2012
Festival Children's <i>Vocal Solo Competition</i>	July 10, 2012
Festival Youth <i>Vocal Solo Competition</i>	July 11, 2012
Festival <i>Contemporary Choral Competition</i>	July 12, 2012
Festival Bay Cruise.....	July 13, 2012
Festival Conductors' Banquet.....	July 13, 2012
Festival Gala Closing Concert.....	July 14, 2012
Choirs depart.....	July 15, 2012

COMPETITION REPERTOIRE:

Choral: Historical and Folk Competitions

All Choirs will be judged in the *Historical* and *Folk Competitions* during *Competition Concerts*. Each choir will perform in one of the *Competition Concerts* at First Congregational Church in Berkeley. Each Choir will have a 25-minute performance time during the concert. Embedded in the performance, each choir must perform **two** pieces for the *Historical Competition* and **two** for the *Folk Competition*. Choirs are encouraged to add additional repertoire to their set to complete their 25 minute performance but only the four pieces performed for the *Folk* and *Historical Competition* will be evaluated by the jury for the competition.

Choirs will be adjudicated on four pieces, two for the *Historical Competition* and two for the *Folk Competition*. Each piece will be timed from the beginning of the musical score to the conclusion of that piece. Timing for the competition will be the aggregate time of the four pieces and will not include any time between the actual performance of the musical works. Should the four pieces performed exceed the 25-minute time limit, judges will ignore any performance past the time limit in their adjudication.

- a) *Historical*: During the performance, each competitor will perform music from at least **two** out of the following four historical periods: Medieval/Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic.
- b) *Folk*: Each competitor will perform **two** 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 Competition

The *Contemporary Competition* will be held separately from the *Historical* and *Folk Competitions*. Each competitor will perform two 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.

Each piece will be timed from the beginning of the musical score to the conclusion of that piece. Timing for the competition will be the aggregate time of the pieces and will not include any time between the actual performance of the musical works. Should the pieces performed exceed the 13 minute time limit, judges will ignore any performance past the time limit in their adjudication.

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.

Each piece will be timed from the beginning of the musical score to the conclusion of that piece. Timing for the competition will be the aggregate time of the two pieces and will not include any time between the actual performance of the musical works. Should the 2 pieces performed exceed the 10 minute time limit, judges will ignore any performance past the time limit in their adjudication.

Adjudication

Choirs will be adjudicated by the same panel of judges for all choral competitions. *Vocal Solo Competitions* will have their own panel of judges. Scoring will be done using the recognized International system of points for bronze, silver, and gold standings.

The winner of each competition category will be chosen only if one or more choirs meet the gold standard. Among the choirs meeting the gold standard, the judges will select the competition category winner based upon the aggregate point totals.

The *Competition Concerts* span three afternoons and evenings. Winners of the competitions will be announced on Friday, July 13th and will perform during the Festival Closing Concert. Performance at the closing concert will not exceed ten minutes and winning choirs and vocal soloists will be given rehearsal time on stage following the Massed Choir rehearsal on Saturday morning at the concert venue. Pieces performed at the closing concert should be from the winning competition repertoire (note: the judges or Artistic Director may make recommendations to you following adjudicated performance).

In addition, special prizes may be awarded at the discretion and pleasure of the adjudicators. Such prizes may include: Choir of Angels- citizenship, command performance, outstanding conducting, or noteworthy presentation of a new contemporary music composition. Choirs awarded special prizes will be announced at the Conductors' Banquet and will perform during the Festival Closing Concert. The judges or Artistic Director will discuss the specific piece to be performed at the Festival Closing Concert with the choir's conductor.

Past Festival Conductors and Adjudicators

1991

Margrete Enevold
Cheyl Keller, Kristin Womack

1993

Bosse Johanssen
Wendell Brooks, Mark Wings, Boyd Jarrell, Kristin Womack

1995

Bosse Johanssen
Sharon Paul, Patricia Hennings, Robert Wells, Kristin Womack

1997

Judit Hartyàni
Sharon Paul, Patricia Hennings, Cheryl Keller, Boyd Jarrell

1999

Juan-Tony Guzmán
Bob Chilcott, Judit Hartyàni, Joseph Jennings, Boyd Jarrell, Cheryl Keller, Diane Gilfether

2003- Piedmont Choirs 25th Anniversary, non-competitive

Robert Geary

2006

Elena Sharkova
Karmina Silec, László Matos, Boyd Jarrell, James Toland

2009

Bob Chilcott and Pekka Kostiainen
Judit Hartyàni, Boyd Jarrell, Sara Ganz

Past Festival Participants

1991

Anchorage Children's Choir- Alaska USA
Argonaut Salem Boys Choir- Oregon USA
Choir Melodija- Russia
Contra Costa Children's Chorus- California USA
Crook County Cadet Boychoir- Oregon USA
Florida Boychoir- Florida, USA
Kinderchor des Osnabrucker Jugendchores- Germany
Kung Hua Elementary School Chorus- Taiwan
Oregon Children's Chorus- Oregon, USA
Peninsula Children's Chorale- California USA
Powell River Academy Singers- Canada
Ragazzi, The Peninsula Boys Chorus- California USA
Santa Rosa Children's Chorus- California USA
Seattle Children's Chorus- Washington USA

1993

Colorado Springs Children's Chorale- Colorado USA
Dawn Children's Choir of Moscow- Russia
Kaohsiung Municipal Children's Chorus- Taiwan
Marin Girls Chorus/ Bel Canto- California USA
Nakhodka's Music School #2- Russia
Nebraska Children's Chours- Nebraska USA
Peninsula Children's Chorale- California USA
Petaluma Boys & Girls Chorus- California USA
San Diego Children's Choir- California USA
San Francisco Boys Chorus- California USA
West Jutland Conservatory Girl's Choir- Denmark
Williams Lake Children's Chorus- Canada

1995

Chor der Musikhauptschule Harbach- Austria
Clara-Schumann Kinderchor- Germany
Coro de Niños Cantores de Cordoba- Argentina
Coro de Niños de la Schola Cantorum- Mexico
Florida's Singing Sons Boychoir- Florida USA
Kuldiga Children's Choir Cantus- Latvia
Little Singers of Armenia- Armenia
Min Chuan Elementary School Chorus- Taiwan
Powell River Academy Singers- Canada
Raduga Choir of Music School #1- Russia
Seinäjoki Girls Choir- Finland
Viva Chorale- Canada
Vox Aurea- Finland

1997

Carmina Slovenica- Slovenia
Dawn Children's Choir of Vladivostok- Russia
Encore Children's Chorus- California USA
Girl Choir of Florida- Florida USA
Indonesian Children's Choir- Indonesia
Kinderchor der Singakademie Potsdam- Germany
Kór öldutúnsskóla- Iceland
Kwa-Phalo Primary Chool Children's Choir- South Africa
Min Chuan Elementary School Chorus- Taiwan
Powell River Academy Singers- Canada
Santa Barbara Children's Chorus- California USA
Szczecin Boys' Choir "Nightgales"- Poland
Taipei City Shi-Sung Primary School Choir- Taiwan

1999

Columbia Choirs of Seattle- Washington USA
Concento Chilfen's Choir- Hungary
Coro Infantil de la Universidad del Cauca- Cauca Colombia
Li-Yuan Prinary School Choir- Taiwan
Methodist Girls' School Choir- Singapore
Northwest Girlchoir-Vivace Choir- Washington USA
Pictures from an Exhibition of Vladivostok Children's Choir- Russia

Salt Lake Children's Choir- Utah USA
Vox Danubia-Linz-Austria- Austria
Young Singers of Callanwold- Georgia USA

2003

Atlanta Young Singers of Callanwolde- Georgia USA
Fairfield County Children's Choir- Connecticut USA
Florida Singing Sons Boychoir/Second Generation Singers- Florida USA
Indonesian Children's Choir- Indonesia
Oregon Repertory Singers- Oregon USA
Pictures from an Exhibition of Vladivostok Children's Choir- Russia
Raduga Choir of Music School No. 1- Russia
Salt Lake Children's Choir- Utah USA

2006

Cantabella Children's Chorus- California USA
Celestial Voices/Singers Marin- California USA
Chattanooga Girls' Choir- Tennessee USA
Choeur D'Enfants du Benin- Benin
Columbia Choirs of Seattle- Washington USA
Guangdong Experimental Middle School- People's Republic of China
Kinder-&-Jugendsingakademie, Graz- Austria
Partners in Praise Girls' Chorus- Minnesota USA

2009

Cantabella Children's Chorus- California USA
Colorado Springs Children's Chorale- Colorado USA
Hangzhou Aiyue Tianshi Choir- People's Republic of China
Kaohsiung Children's Chorus- Taiwan
Les étoiles/Singers Marin- California USA
MidtVest Pigeekor- Denmark
Mississippi BoyChoir- Mississippi USA
Ragazzi Boys Chorus- California USA
Vox Aurea- Finland (guest choir)