

# ***14 th International Choir Contest of Flanders-Maasmechelen***

***Friday 6 October - Sunday 8***

***October 2017***

The 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the biennial "International Choir Contest of Flanders-Maasmechelen" is organised by The VZW "International Choir Contest of Flanders-Maasmechelen" and the Municipality of Maasmechelen.

This great event takes place with the support of The Flemish Government, the Province of Limburg and the organization for vocal music "Koor&Stem".

A maximum of 12 choirs are selected. The promotion of cultural exchange and contact among the participating choirs is central to the vision of The International Choir Contest of Flanders-Maasmechelen.

This event takes place in the rural and hospitable Maasmechelen, situated on the Meuse in the north-east of Belgium.

## **Rules 2017**

### **I. General Rules**

1. The competition takes place on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 October 2017 in the theatre of the Cultuurcentrum, Koninginnelaan 42, 3630 Maasmechelen, Belgium.
2. There are two competition categories:
  - mixed choirs of 16 - 40 singers
  - equal voice choirs of 12 - 40 singers
3. A choir may enter both categories.
4. The minimum age for participation in the contest is 15.
5. The entry fee is 250 euro per choir, per category.
6. All broadcasting and recording rights belong to the contest organisers.
7. Choirs are responsible themselves for complying with copyright rules. The International Choir Contest of Flanders can not be made responsible for this by any means.
8. The organisers accept no legal responsibility whatsoever in respect of anything pertaining to a choir's participation at the contest.
9. All communication with the Contest is directly with the Secretariat.

### **II. Application Procedure**

1. The closing date for the receipt of completed applications for participation is 15 January 2017.
  - a. Application must be made by way of the module contained on the contest's website [www.ikv-maasmechelen.be](http://www.ikv-maasmechelen.be).

- b. Only in exceptional circumstances and with the explicit permission of the organizing committee, the application may be made by way of a registered letter to the Contest Secretariat address.
- c. All other non-digital documents and musical scores must be forwarded to the Contest Secretariat address by registered post.
- d. All e-mail correspondence must be exclusively with [info@ikv-maasmechelen.be](mailto:info@ikv-maasmechelen.be).

2. Required documents:

Application form - The choir's name must be detailed in both its original form and in an English translation. (via website).

- a. Curriculum vitae of the choir (English, 200 - 250 words, via website).
  - b. Curriculum vitae of the conductor (English, 200 - 250 words, via website).
  - c. Short summary of the content of each song (English, via website). Titles must be given in the original language and in English.
  - d. Two recent photographs of the choir and the conductor (digital format jpg- or tiff-format, minimum 300 dpi, via website or e-mail).
  - e. One original score of all the choir pieces listed as part of the choir's contest programmes. All music scores must detail the composer's first and last name, date of birth, and be written in Roman characters (via registered post).
  - f. A recent recording, maximum two years old, with a minimum of three a cappella choir pieces.
3. Only applications enclosing all of the requirements, detailed under Application Procedures, will be considered.
4. A separate application must be made if a choir participates in two categories.

### III. Contest Repertoire Requirements

1. The contest consist of two sections:

a. **Section 1 on Saturday:**

Each choir presents a 12-15 minute programme of a cappella works.

The programme must consist of:

- a work composed before 1750
- a work from the period 1800 - 1950
- a compulsory piece, new a cappella composition, by a Flemish

composer

(duration

ca. 3 minutes).

- a work composed after 1950 of the choir's native country.

It is allowed to reduce the number of singers to a minimum of 16 persons for the

- work composed before 1750.

b. **Section 2 on Sunday:**

Each choir presents an 8-10 minute programme.

The programme must include:

- One "unison" folksong from the choir's own country (a cappella)
- A free choice of choral music, either a cappella or with accompaniment of piano or/and non-melodic percussion.

2. The order of performance is at the discretion of the conductor. The **final order must be sent to the Contest Secretariat by no later than 01 September 2017** (via website).

Once accepted the order of performance cannot subsequently be changed.

3. Solo parts should be kept to a minimum.

4. Apart from the two required performances for the jury, the choirs are obliged to prepare a concert programme of ca. 30 minutes for Saturday evening and to choose one 'lighter' work of max. 3 minutes for the Final Concert on Sunday evening.

#### b. Selection

1. Choirs are selected on the basis of their application material (scores, curriculum vitae and a recent audio recording, see II- Application Procedure).

2. The selected choirs will be informed in February 2017. Their selection will be final only after payment of the entry fee, which must be received by the Contest Secretariat no later than 15 March 2017. Any choir that withdraws from the competition is not entitled to a refund of the entry fee.

3. After payment of the entry fee, the selected choirs will receive the requested number of copies of the compulsory work.

#### c. Jury

1. The international jury is composed of 5 members.

2. The VZW "International Choir Contest of Flanders-Maasmechelen" is responsible for the jury's operation and administration.

3. All choirs obtain a ranking in each category after evaluation by the jury.

4. All participating choirs will receive a written evaluation by each member of the jury.

5. The percentage of the judgement of both contest parts is 60% for Section 1 and 40% for Section 2.

6. The jury's decision is final.

#### Reception

1. The Contest Centre and Reception in Maasmechelen is: "Cultuurcentrum", Koninginnelaan 42, 3630 Maasmechelen, tel. +32(0)89 76 97 97

2. Choirs should report to the Contest Reception on Friday 6 October 2017 from 10 a.m. onwards.

3. During the competition days each choir has to pay 10 euro per person for

- the meals.
4. Choirs, including a maximum of 3 non-singers and 2 bus drivers, may choose their accommodation option from:
    - a. Accommodation in host families at 25 euro per person for the whole duration of the choir contest.
    - b. Accommodation in a youth hostel, pension or hotel at the choir's own expense.
    - c. Any extra costs incurred by a choir due to an early arrival and/or longer stay are the responsibility of the choir.
    - d. During the choir's stay, a local host will accompany the choir.
  5. The organisation and cost of their trip to and from Maasmechelen is the responsibility of each participating choir. If it is necessary the Contest Secretariat can provide a proof of participation.
  6. All choirs must send a complete and final list of individual participants no later than 30 June 2017 via the website of the contest organization ([www.ikv-maasmechelen.be](http://www.ikv-maasmechelen.be)). This list has to contain: first and last name, voice (or function: e.g. conductor, bus driver, attendant), gender, and date of birth.

### **Prizes - Proclamation**

1. The Prizes per category:

#### Mixed choirs:

- First prize: 1,750 euro
- Second prize: 1,500 euro
- Third prize: 1,250 euro

#### Female and male choirs:

- First prize: 1,750 euro
- Second prize: 1,500 euro
- Third prize: 1,250 euro

2. Special Prizes:

- Prize for the best performance of the compulsory work in each category: 750 euro.
- Prize for the best performance of a folk song: 750 euro.
- Prize awarded by the audience: 500 euro.
- Prize for the choir with the highest points: An art work.

The Final Concert and the Prize-giving Ceremony will take place in the "Cultuurcentrum" on Sunday 8 October 2017 at 8.00 p.m.

**International Choir Contest of  
Flanders-Maasmechelen**

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