

**The 16<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Chamber Choirs and Vocal Ensembles**  
**(from 17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2025)**

**BASIC FESTIVAL RULES**

1. Participants of the Festival are **chamber choirs, counting from 12 to 32 singers**, as well as **vocal ensembles, without restrictions in terms of voice structure**. Choirs and vocal ensembles can perform their programs *a cappella* or with an **instrumental accompaniment**; the participation of **vocal soloists and artists from other art fields** (drama, visual, acting) is also possible. If there is a need, and at the participating choir's suggestion, the Artistic Council and the Organizing Board of the Festival will consider the possibility that instrumentalist and the mentioned other artists do not count in the previously mentioned number of maximum 32 singers (performers).
2. Each choir submits an all-night concert program **lasting at least 50 minutes, with a repertoire of their choice and a complete program concept** - according to the basic concept of the Festival. Each concert program (i.e., program concept) bears a **name, which the conductors, i.e., artistic directors** (hereinafter: conductors) **choose themselves** to fully and concisely express the basic idea and structure of the concert program. **The structure and presentation of each concert as performance are also determined by the conductors**, and with the prior notification and consent (if necessary, cooperation) of the organizers. The artistic director of the Festival has the right to influence the concert's presentation only in exceptional cases, if the planned concept of concert performance is organizationally and technically unfeasible, if they seriously damage the Festival's reputation, or if it is in opposition with the Positive law and the highest social codes. In case of a dispute, an attempt is made to harmonize the positions - if no compromise is reached, the problem will be presented to the Artistic Council of the festival. The decision of the Artistic Council of the Festival is final.
3. **Each ensemble must be ready to perform its all-night concert in Kragujevac and two other co-organizing cities** (if necessary).
4. **All the participants of the Festival are obliged to stay at the Festival from its beginning to its end and to participate in the main program and all other basic activities determined by the official festival program**: opening ceremony, choir studio, panel discussions, small (promenade) concerts, closing ceremony. The exact structure of the entire program of the 15<sup>th</sup> festival (2023) will be determined by the time the choirs and vocal ensembles are officially informed about their participation.
5. The organizer will, in accordance with the circumstances and real possibilities, offer the choirs the **programs for visiting cultural, historical, and natural sights of Serbia** and other possible programs for organizing the free time of choirs. However, these programs are not mandatory, neither for the choirs nor for the organizers.

6. **The festival is an awarding one. Two main awards** are introduced:

- **Award to the conductor / artistic director for the best program concept** (following the basic program direction of the Festival), provided that the program at the Festival itself is performed well enough to be awarded.

-**Award to the choir/vocal ensemble for the best-performed concert as a whole**, provided its program concept is in line with the Festival's basic program direction.

**The Grand Prix of the Festival (Grand Prix) is awarded only if both of the aforementioned main awards are given to the same performing team - choir (vocal ensemble) and its conductor (artistic director).**

These prizes are not divisible and do not have to be awarded if the jury concludes that there are no corresponding achievements.

In addition to the above-mentioned main awards, **the awards and commendations for choirs'/ensembles', or conductors' / artistic directors' special achievements**, will be introduced, based on the jury's assessment and specific formulation. The number of these awards or commendations is not limited.

**Chamber choirs and vocal ensembles can participate in the Festival outside the competition for awards at their express request.** They remain equal participants in the Festival in all the other aspects.

7. **An international jury** will observe the performances of all the choirs of the 16<sup>th</sup> Festival. The jury is **composed of three eminent music artists** (music critics) of different specialties (composer, conductor, musicologist, singer, etc.), **with two members of the Festival Artistic Council**, which are recognized artists as well. **Each member of the jury has an obligation to evaluate each choir's performance and present their opinion orally at the official panel discussion of the Festival, which will take place the day after the concert.** This report should contain assessments of all the important aspects of the choir's performance, especially those related to the Festival's main theme.

**The president of the jury is obliged to compile a summary of the jury members' expressed opinions after the end of the Festival, and submit them to the Festival's choirs and organizers, i.e., the Artistic Council, two months at the latest. This summary will be published on the Festival's official website, in Serbian and English, immediately upon arrival.**

8. **The deadline for the applications of choirs** is February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The final selection of choirs will be made, and the notification will be delivered to them (in the fastest possible way) by, March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025. **Interested choirs must send a filled-out official application form** (which can be downloaded electronically from website) and submit the **accompanying documents** from which the Festival Artistic Council will be

able to gain the best possible insight into the structure and quality of the offered program (**synopsis and possible additional explanation of the proposed program, i.e. the concept**) and the choir itself (**audio recording – of the proposed or some other program**).

**9. The 16<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Chamber Choirs and Vocal Ensembles will be held from Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2025** (the departure of participants is planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2025). **The organizer provides and finances the accommodation and halfboard (breakfast and lunch) for the entire duration of the Festival (5 days) for a maximum of 36 participants per choir** - increasing the specified number of members is possible only with the express written permission of the Festival Organizing Board. All choirs will be accommodated all the time in Kragujevac, in a student dormitory or in some other similar facility, in double and triple rooms (with a bathroom in each room).

**10. Guest choirs provide themselves the organization and costs of transportation to and from Kragujevac. The organization and costs of transportation during the Festival to the other two cities, where the official main programs take place, will be provided by the organizers. All costs of optional programs** (visits to cultural, historical and natural sights, etc.) **are borne by the choirs**, with the organizer offering their good services related to the organization.

**11. The organization of all Festival programs is organized and financed by the Festival itself, i.e. its bodies. The organizer reserves the right to audio-visual recordings** of all the concerts and other Festival manifestations, and to further usual use of the mentioned recordings, without compensation and special consent of the choirs.