

# Europäisches Jugendchor Festival

Web: [ejcf.ch](http://ejcf.ch)  
YouTube: [EJCFBasel](https://www.youtube.com/EJCFBasel)  
Instagram: [@ejcf\\_basel](https://www.instagram.com/ejcf_basel)

## TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

**14<sup>th</sup> European Youth Choir Festival Basel, Switzerland**  
**May 27 - June 1, 2025**

### FESTIVAL

The European Youth Choir Festival Basel is regarded worldwide as the **most renowned international platform for highly qualified children's and youth choirs**. Since its foundation in 1992, the festival has focused on bringing together the best children's and youth choirs from Europe with each other and with the people of the Basel region, as well as on giving concerts for a discerning audience.

### PROGRAMME

Up to **40,000 listeners** are expected to attend the **50 music events** of the festival. The choirs' music programmes must inspire a wide audience of music lovers and therefore be varied and dramaturgically skilful. The inclusion of special features such as solos, the accompaniment of folk instruments, choreographies and playing with the concert space, with sounds or with the choir's own language are essential. The choirs usually sing by heart.

In addition to the festival concerts, there are daily open singing sessions for the audience. Country focuses and workshops provide insights into the cultural backgrounds of some choirs. A lively international guest scene ensures exchange among choral professionals. At the Swiss Choral Conductors' Meeting, more than 100 choral conductors from all music scenes in Switzerland meet for further training and exchange. Further education programmes for young professionals in the choral scene complete the rich programme.

The EJCF FESTIVAL is complemented by around 1,400 children and young people from all language regions of Switzerland. They work together in workshops and sing in matinees and atelier concerts for the audience.

### FESTIVAL CHOIRS

Traditionally, ten children's and youth choirs from Europe, one guest choir from another continent and seven children's and youth choirs from different language regions of Switzerland with around 800 singers take part in the festival.

The participating choirs will be selected by a jury of experts according to the following criteria:

1. **Musical quality:** Intonation, rhythm, sound, phrasing, stylistic fidelity
2. **Repertoire:** This must represent the musical culture of the choir's own cultural background or be exemplary for a specific musical style and has to convince through authenticity or innovation.
3. **Stage presence:** Charisma, liveliness of body and expression, singing by heart
4. **Overall concept of the festival:** A balance in terms of the musical styles and countries of origin as well as the mixture of children's, youth, girls' and boys' choirs is sought.

### MEET AND MINGLE

- **Big party** for all choirs and guests
- **Boat trip** on the Rhine for all choirs
- **Joint singing** events for all choirs
- **Festival club** and other meeting possibilities for choir conductors, guests and experts
- **Individual activities** with the host organisation or host families
- **Time for shopping and sightseeing**

## COMMITMENTS

- **Arrival: Tuesday, 27 May 2025**, between 2pm and 6pm, **Departure: Sunday, 1 June 2025**, approx. 3 p.m.
- **Concerts: 1-2 performances per day** from Wednesday, 28 May, to Sunday, 1 June 2025
  - Opening and closing concert:** performance duration 3-5 min.
  - Two themed concerts:** performance duration 30 min., three choirs each offer a programme on a specific style or theme (folk songs and dance, church music, contemporary, works sung by several choirs together, entertainment, singing in the dark, children's concert, etc.).
  - One lunch concert:** performance duration 20 min., three choirs each sing a freely chosen song programme.
  - « Singe uf dr Strooss »:** Performance time 2x 18 min., all choirs sing on Saturday afternoon on five large open air stages in Basel's inner city.
  - « The Power of Music »:** All choirs meet for a joint singing event with the audience.
  - Ev. country focus:** 60 min. per event, choirs tell about the musical culture of their country of origin. The foreigners' association in Basel of the country in question is a partner in the event.
  - Ev. workshop on the choir boat:** 60 min. per event, choir leaders and choirs teach songs from their own musical culture to the audience.
  - Ev. services:** choirs sing 2-4 sacred works in Ascension services.
  - Ev. regional matinees, choir picnics:** choirs sing secular works in the context of regional events.
- **Partner songs:** Partner choirs learn from each other one song from their respective cultures. The two songs are performed together at one of the concerts.
- **Joint works:** All choirs undertake to learn 2-4 official festival works in the run-up to the festival. These will be performed together. As a rule, the works are catchy and easy to rehearse. They may include choreography or improvisation concepts.
- **Events with the host families:** by arrangement

## CONDITIONS

- **You prepare two different concert programmes of at least 30 minutes of choral music** a cappella or with accompaniment by piano, organ or individual accompanying instruments brought by the participants themselves. The repertoire mainly takes into account music from the choir's own cultural background or is limited to a specific style of music such as barbershop, gospel, jazz, etc.
- **The age limit** for participating singers is 25 years. Exceeding this limit for max. 10% of the choir members will be tolerated, as long as they are not older than 30 years.
- **A maximum of four adult accompanying persons** (incl. choir director and pianist, excl. drivers) are permitted per choir.
- **Additional instrumentalists and journalists** are admitted by arrangement, provided they contribute to an attractive music programme or report on the festival in their own country.
- **The Festival will pay a generous contribution towards travel costs.**
- **The costs for accommodation, food and transport** during the festival days will be covered by the Festival.
- **Singers will be accommodated** in host families.
- **Accompanying persons/chauffeurs will be accommodated** in middle-class hotels
- **All participants will be catered for** in the canteen, in the host families or with lunch bags.
- **Each singer will receive pocket money** of CHF 50 for the duration of the festival. The pocket money will be paid directly to the children and young people against signature.

## APPLICATION

Your application must be submitted by **10 February 2024** at the latest via link: <https://db.ejcf.ch/application>

You must have the following information ready for registration:

1. **Choir information:** contact details, estimated number and age of singers etc.
2. **Choir biography:** in addition to repertoire and achievements, we are particularly interested in the cultural background and environment of the choir.
3. **At least 20 min. sound and video recordings** as links or electronic files. The recordings must be from the time after the pandemic and include at least two unedited live recordings of concerts or rehearsals.

**If you have a CD or DVD that was produced after 2016, please send it necessarily to:**

Europäisches Jugendchor Festival Basel, c/o Settelen AG, Türkheimerstrasse 17, CH-4055 Basel Switzerland

**If you have difficulties applying through our online system**, just write an email to [info@ejcf.ch](mailto:info@ejcf.ch). We will be ready to help you.