



15th European Youth Choir Festival Basel, Switzerland from 4 – 9 May 2027

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

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 concerts are mainly aimed at an enthusiastic, music-loving amateur audience. The choirs' music programmes must 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.

In addition to the festival concerts, open singing sessions and workshops with the festival choirs encourage the audience to sing and dance themselves. Country portraits provide in-depth insights into the cultural backgrounds of selected choirs. At the Swiss Choir Conductors' Meeting, more than 100 choral conductors from all music scenes in Switzerland meet for further training and exchange. Further education programmes for young choir conductors and music students complete the rich programme.

Around 2,000 children and young people from all language regions of Switzerland also take part in the festival. They develop joint programmes in workshops or perform in concerts for Swiss choirs.

FESTIVAL CHOIRS

Traditionally, twelve children's and youth choirs from Europe, one guest choir from another continent and six 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 etc.
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 etc.
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

- **Parties and get-togethers** in the evening after the concerts
- **Boat trip** on the Rhine
- **Concert visits** according to individual possibilities
- **Individual activities** with the host families or host organisation
- **Leisure time** for sightseeing and shopping
- **Festival club** and other meeting possibilities for choir conductors, guests and experts

MUSICAL OBLIGATIONS

All choirs prepare at least two different concert programmes of 30 minutes each of choral music, a cappella accompanied by piano, organ or individual accompanying instruments that they bring with them. The repertoire mainly includes music from the choir's own culture or is limited to a specific style of music such as barbershop, gospel, jazz, etc.

Concert performances: All choirs perform once or twice on each festival day. The programmes are put together individually and also take into account the wishes of the choirs.

- **Opening concert** with short performance
- **Two large themed concerts**, each with a performance duration of 30 min (two different concert programmes)
- **One lunch concert:** performance duration 20 min. (free programme choice)
- **Performance on Ascension morning:** Musical accompaniment to a church service, participation in a regional matinee or performance at the choir picnic in the park, approx. 20 min.
- **« Singe uf dr Strooss »:** Performance time 2x 20 min. on two large open-air stages
- **« The Power of Music »:** Singing event with all choirs and the audience
- **Ev. country portrait:** 60 min. per event, presentation of the own music culture
- **Ev. workshop on the choir boat:** 60 min. per event, choir and audience sing together
- **Final concert** with short performance

Compulsory pieces: In almost all concerts, the choirs also perform joint works. These must be prepared at home before the festival.

- **Partner songs:** A folk song from the choir's own cultural area and one from the cultural area of the partner choir, which the two choir directors choose for each other.
- **Joint pieces:** Two easy to moderately difficult choral works with choreography selected by the festival.
- **Festival song:** «Music is Everywhere» by Ivo Antognini

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

- **Arrival:** Tuesday, 4 May 2027, between 2pm and 6pm,
- **Departure:** Sunday, 9 May 2027, at the earliest from 2.30 pm
- **Age limit:** Singers may participate up to the age of 25. Exceeding this limit is tolerated for a maximum of 10% of choir members, provided they are not older than 30.
- **Accompanying adults:** The festival covers the costs of a maximum of four accompanying adults (incl. choir director and pianist, excl. chauffeur) per choir. Additional instrumentalists are permitted by arrangement, provided they contribute to an attractive musical programme.
- **Travelling expenses:** The festival pays a generous contribution towards the choir's journey from their home town to Basel and back.
- **Catering:** All participants will be catered for in the university canteen, in the host families or with packed lunches. The festival will cover the costs.
- **Accommodation:** Singers will be accommodated in host families. For accompanying persons/chauffeurs, middle-class hotel rooms are available. The festival will cover the costs.
- **Transport:** On site, the choirs usually move from place to place on foot or by public transport. Choirs with their own bus use it to get to the concert venues. The use of public transport is free of charge for the choirs.
- **Pocket money:** Each singer receives pocket money of CHF 40 for free disposal. The pocket money is paid directly to the children and young people against a signature. They can use it to buy small gifts for home, drinks at the evening parties or small snacks for in between.

APPLICATION

Applications for an invitation to the European Youth Choir Festival Basel 2027 can be submitted digitally via www.ejcf.ch/en/contact/application. The application window is open **from 1 December 2025 to 31 January 2026**. The following must be submitted:

1. Choir biography and details of the choir and its director
2. 20 - 30 min. video recordings not older than two years. Including at least 10 minutes of unedited recordings from a rehearsal or concert (as a link list or electronic file).
3. Audio recordings, if available. CDs can be sent to us by post to Europäisches Jugendchor Festival Basel, c/o Settelen AG, Türkheimerstrasse 17, CH-4055 Basel Switzerland.

For further information please contact: Kathrin Renggli, artistic and organisational director, k.renggli@ejcf.ch, Tel. +41 (0) 61 401 21 00