



**1st ANDREA DEL VERROCCHIO
INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL
26th - 29th September 2017
FLORENCE, ITALY**

CONCEPT

The **ANDREA DEL VERROCCHIO INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL** is one of the new projects of the co-founder of the Florence International Choir Festival, Leonardo Sagliocca.

The Festival concept is focused on the person of Andrea del Verrocchio, principally in the choice of venues. Andrea, painter, sculptor and goldsmith, became known by his nickname *Verrocchio*, from *vero occhio*, which in Italian means 'true eye', a tribute given to him for his artistic achievement. Few paintings are attributed to him with certainty, but a number of important painters were trained at his workshop. His pupils included Leonardo da Vinci, Pietro Perugino and Lorenzo di Credi.

Florence – cradle of the Renaissance, renowned throughout the world as a UNESCO World Heritage city, with its immeasurable heritage of history, architecture and art – forms the stunning backdrop to this remarkable festival

The **Festival Artistic Committee** is proud of its prestigious members:

- **Chairman and Artistic Director, Dr. Leonardo Sagliocca:**

Florentine bass-baritone who has sung around the world, co-founder of the Florence International Choir Festival, with vast experience in the organization of choral events, has brought more than 3000 people to Florence to perform.

- **Associate Artistic Director, Dr. Andrea Angelini:**

Artistic Director of Rimini International Choral Competition and editor of ICB (International Choral Bulletin of IFCM – International Federation of Choral Music). Conductor, composer and lecturer specialized in Renaissance choral music.

- **Principal Guest Conductor, Dr. Tim Sharp:**

Executive Director of the American Choral Directors Association, acclaimed choral conductor, lecturer and writer of numerous books and articles on choral excellence.

GOALS

The main aim of the **ANDREA DEL VERROCCHIO INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL** is to create a great opportunity for cultural exchange between the different geographical and artistic traditions of the participating countries - music is an excellent vehicle for sharing knowledge and friendship among peoples.

This event represents not only an important moment of methodological challenge and interpretative discipline in choral music, but also an opportunity to share and exchange our human experience.

The **ANDREA DEL VERROCCHIO INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL**, Florence, with its architectural scenarios of incomparable beauty, is set to join of the circuit of the best international festivals on the 5 continents.

FESTIVAL STRUCTURE AND PROGRAM

All groups participating in the festival will perform in two stages:

- 1.The Competition**
- 2.The Evening Concerts**

Day 1: September 26, 2017

- Opening Ceremony:** 4 pm
- Evening Concert:** 9 pm

Day 2: September 27, 2017

- Competition:** 10 am to 6 pm
- Evening Concert:** 9 pm

Day 3: September 28, 2017

- Competition:** 10 am to 2 pm
- Nomination of the candidates for the Choral Grand Prix:** 4 – 5 pm
- Evening Concert:** 7 pm
- Evening Concert:** 9 pm

Day 4: September 29, 2017

- Finalists' Concert for the Choral Grand Prix:** 5 pm
- Award Ceremony and Final Concert:** 7 pm; Conductor: to be announced soon
- Festival Dinner for all participants, Jury & Staff :** 9 pm

PARTICIPANTS

ANDREA DEL VERROCCHIO INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL is open to all genres of choral singing, even with instrumental presence, according to the rules and categories expressed in the following section.

All choirs will stay in hotels in the historic center of Florence to give opportunities to singers and instrumentalists of all ages to enjoy the beauty of the city and its opportunities for them as tourists.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

Each choral group may subscribe to one or more categories, following a request for participation by completing an application form.

CATEGORIES

A Mixed Choirs Adults

B Equal Voices Choirs Adults

C Youth & University Choirs

D Children Choirs

E Chamber Choirs, Vocal and Instrumental Ensembles

F Sacred Music

G Popular, Folk, Gospel, Barbershop, Jazz and Modern Ensembles

H Early Music

M Modern and Contemporary Music

Z Non-competitive Choirs (only concerts)

Each group will perform 3 pieces. The total performance time must be between 9 and 15 minutes

CHORAL GRAND PRIX

The winners of each category A - M will compete for the Choral Grand Prix

RULES FOR EACH CATEGORY

Categories A, B, C, D, E

1. one work of classical repertoire
2. one work composed from the choir's country of origin
3. one work of the choir's own choice

Category F

1. one work of Renaissance polyphony a cappella
2. one work composed from the choir's country of origin
3. one work of the choir's own choice

Category G

1. one work of Italian repertoire with original arrangement
2. one work composed from the choir's country of origin
3. one work of the choir's own choice

for Jazz Ensembles

1. one work from the great American Jazz repertoire

Category H

1. one work composed before year 1400
2. one work composed before year 1600
3. one work composed before year 1750

- minimum one piece must be a cappella
- one piece must be from the Italian repertoire
- one piece must be from the choir's country of origin

Category M

1. one work chosen among a set of pieces recommended by the Organization
2. one work of modern music (1900-2000)
3. one work composed after 2000

Category Z (non-competitive)

Choirs will perform only non-competitive concerts according to the schedule

PRIZES

In each category the Jury will assign the following prizes:

1st place: 1.000 Euros (only for categories A, B, C, D, E), Gold Medal, Diploma

2nd place: Silver Medal, Diploma

3rd place: Bronze Medal, Diploma

SPECIAL PRIZES

1. Grand Prix for the Best Choir of the Festival: 3.000 Euros and “The Young David” by Andrea del Verrocchio (reproduction made by a notable artist)

2. Best Conductor: 500 Euros and Trophy

3. Best Male Soloist: Trophy

4. Best Female Soloist: Trophy

5. Best Performance of Italian Composer's Work: 500 Euros and Trophy

6. Best Performance of Contemporary Composer's Work: 500 Euros and Trophy

7. Best Choreography: 500 Euros and Trophy

8. Best Traditional Costumes: 500 Euros and Trophy

9. Audience Special Prize: Special Trophy

ADJUDICATING CRITERIA

Performances will be judged by the international jury whose members include conductors, opera singers and composers.

Choirs will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Intonation
- Vocal Production
- Insieme
- Interpretation
- Dynamics
- Repertoire
- Diction
- Overall Artistic Effect

According to the mark achieved, **Bronze, Silver and Gold Diplomas** will be awarded. If the choir does not achieve a Diploma (mark under 65,01) it will receive a certificate of participation. **Each member of the Jury will write a report containing reviews**

and impressions about the performed repertoire of the choirs. The reports will be sent to the choirs by email.

Diploma	Level	Points
Bronze Diploma	1	65,01 – 70,00
	2	70,01 – 75,00
Silver Diploma	1	75,01 – 80,00
	2	80,01 – 85,00
Gold Diploma	1	85,01 – 90,00
	2	90,01 – 95,00
	3	95,01 – 100,00

The Jury for the Competition will be composed of 5 members.

Another Jury of 5 members, different from the Competition Jury, will decide the Winner of the Choral Grand Prix.

The winners of the different categories, if their mark is at least 80,01 points or higher, will be admitted at the Grand Prix Competition. During the Grand-Prix the Choirs will perform a free chosen repertoire lasting between 7 and 10 minutes of pure singing time (it is the duration of the performed pieces excluding applause and going onto or leaving the stage). The pieces must be different from those performed during the categories.

The decisions of the Jury are final.

The Jury, after consideration of all artistic matters, may not award some prizes or may award joint or additional prizes.

FINAL CONCERT

The final concert, with orchestra, will focus on a selected repertoire and will be conducted by a famous musician. The repertoire will be communicated soon after the application. This concert is not compulsory but it is a great chance to enhance the artistic skills of the choir.

ENROLLMENT FEE

The Festival enrollment fee for each Choir is 200 euros and 150 euros for every additional category, non refundable. The Festival enrollment fee for each Choir joining only non-competitive concerts (category Z) is 200 euros.

TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION AND BOARD

Each choir, including accompanying persons and bus drivers, shall pay their own travel, accommodation and meals expenses. For every choir, up to three complimentary free accommodation will be offered according to the number of participants.

Travel

The organization can reserve a private coach on request at the Choir's expense for visits and tours.

Accommodation

Accommodation for all choirs will be organized by the Festival in single, double, triple, multiple rooms in 2, 3, 4, 5 stars Hotels in the historical center of Florence.

On request the staff of the Festival can organize a longer stay in Florence and visits to other Italian cities.

For organisational and logistic reasons is not possible for the choirs to book hotels by themselves. The purchase of an accommodation package is four (4) nights minimum. The package includes hotel accommodation in B&B. Banking information is also located on the invoice. We would like to draw your attention expressly to the fact that participation in the event is only possible if the costs due have been received net and by deadline. Delay in payments may affect the benefits of your participation. To ask the price of your package please go to the website 'package' page.

Payment for accommodation must be paid directly to the Festival organisation by bank transfer.

Meals

The Festival will organize meals for all the choirs in typical Florentine restaurants serving traditional Italian food with quick service and inexpensive prices.

At the end of the Festival there will be a dinner (offered by the Organizers) for choir conductors (up to 2 members for choir), Jury, staff in a very special and historical restaurant in the centre of Florence. All the other participants will have a special dinner-buffet in another venue in Florence (to be paid a part).

Policies

Application deadline: 31st May 2017.

After receiving the application form, each group will be contacted by email and receive detailed information on further steps. The payment of the enrollment fee must be paid as soon as possible after application.

20th June 2017 - Deadline for the first payment for rooms and board - 40% of the total
20th July 2017 - Deadline for the final payment for rooms and board.

Andrea Del Verrocchio International Choral Festival Artistic Committee

Leonardo Sogliocca, Chairman and Artistic Director

Tim Sharp, Principal Guest Conductor

Andrea Angelini, Associate Artistic Director

Andrea Del Verrocchio International Choral Festival

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