

Syllabus

Folklore international

HARMONIE
FESTIVAL 
9. bis 12. Mai 2024

Dear friends of choir music and folklore,

“Unique and exemplary” was the impression the Second German Television Station (ZDF) had of the first HARMONIE FESTIVAL in 1981. From **May 9 to 22, 2024**, choirs and folklore groups with thousands of participants from throughout the world will be coming together again in Lindenhofshausen, the “smallest festival town in Germany”, where the eighth HARMONIE FESTIVAL is to take place.

Lindenhofshausen is part of the city of Limburg/Lahn, which is considered one of the most attractive places in Germany with its picturesque old town and cathedral, which is over 750 years old.

The organizer of the festival, the choir **HARMONIE Lindenhofshausen** with its 70 members, has built up an international circle of friends while concert tours and participating in festivals in Egypt, England, Greece, the Netherlands, Latvia, Macedonia, Russia, Austria, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Hungary, USA and Wales. At international choir competitions HARMONIE has been the prize-winner several times. The greatest success to date has been at the Music Festival in Llangollen (Wales), the international Male Voice Choir Festival in Cornwall (England) as well as national prizes at the “German Choir Competition”. Choirs from many European countries, as well as from Africa, America and Asia, have given concerts in Lindenhofshausen where they were guests of the “HARMONIE” families.

The HARMONIE FESTIVAL, with its international choir and folklore events and competitions, is considered one of the most outstanding music festivals in the world. In 2017, more than 200 choirs and folklore groups representing 35 countries came to the seventh HARMONIE FESTIVAL. Patron was the Prime Minister of the Federal State of Hesse, Volker Bouffier.

Radio and television channels from several countries and a high number of newspapers and journals unanimously reported on the well-organized and high standard of competitions, folklore events, concerts and supporting events.

In 2005 the Second German Television Station (ZDF) reported: “An unforgettable experience in the smallest festival city in Germany, an unbelievably large celebration with song and dance in competitions and concerts in which one sees the coming together of folks of different nationalities in an atmosphere of unity.” This statement accurately describes the demand of this festival which exceeds the purely competitive atmosphere.

Artistic director of the HARMONIE FESTIVAL 2024 is Jürgen Faßbender.

You are sincerely invited to take part in the HARMONIE FESTIVAL 2024 and we are looking forward to seeing you in Germany and in Limburg-Lindenhofshausen.

With compliments,

HARMONIE Lindenhofshausen

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1 Folklore Groups

1.1 Folk Dance and Folk Music

Folk dance, folk music and folklore groups have the opportunity to present themselves and the traditions of their home country to an international public at various daytime and evening events during the festival.

In addition to the non-competitive events interested groups and ensembles will be offered to participate in a competition with participants' jury.

The following areas of folklore were represented at the HARMONIE FESTIVAL 2017:

- Dance groups, traditional costume and folklore groups with traditional dances, adaptations of traditional dances or specially arranged dances with instrumental accompaniment or CD.
- Folklore and folk music groups with or without instrumental accompaniment.
- Folklore and music groups with an exclusively instrumental performance.
- Vocal ensembles with instrumental accompaniment

1.2 The Folklore Competition

Since 1993 we have run a **competition with mutual assessment (participants' jury)**. At the most recent HARMONIE FESTIVALs the majority of the groups decided on a competitive performance.

Competitions are scheduled for:

Thursday,	May 9, 2024	(day event)
Saturday,	May 11, 2024	(day event)
Sunday,	May 12, 2024	(day event)

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1.3 Conditions of Folklore Competition

- One or more competitive events are held. Groups which don't take part in the competitions may take part here.
- Choir groups with instrumental accompaniment and up to 12 members (instrumentalists included) are authorized. They must be accompanied by at least two different instruments. Choir groups with instrumental accompaniment and more than 12 members can sign up for the International Choir Category "Folklore Choirs" (category 13).
- A separate competition category will be offered for instrumental groups.
- Participating in two different competitions is not possible.
- The duration of the performance may not exceed 12 minutes.
- Each group which participates competitively will receive an evaluation sheet. The 5 groups which you consider to be the best are to be noted on this sheet in the order of 1 - 5. You may not assess your own group. The assessment is made by the organizer as follows: 5 points for first place, 4 points for second place etc. (correspondingly for each assessment sheet).
- The participating groups will be informed early enough about further organizational conditions.

1.4 Prizes

The group with the highest score in each competitive event will receive the "HARMONIE FESTIVAL Prize" (work of art). Groups attaining 2nd and 3th place will each receive a material prize (works of art).

A special prize (work of art) will be awarded to the evaluated instrumental-, dance-, as well as choir group with instrumental accompaniment with the highest number of points in each category of competition.

Upon the invitation of the Festival Organization one of the winners will be given the opportunity to perform again during the Prize Winners' Concert on Sunday, May 12, 2024.

1.5 Application Deadline

Registration deadline is January 31, 2024.

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2 Conditions of Entry for all Folklore Groups

- Registration for participation in the HARMONIE FESTIVAL 2024 should be submitted to the organizer at the latest by **January 31, 2024**. Late registrations can only be accepted with reservation.
- Please use the entry form (Choir Competition/Folklore International) and the Supplementary sheet (for folk groups only) for the registration of folk groups on our website (www.harmonie-festival.de).
- A short account about the choir or group and their previous performances, a digital photo and as possible an audio or video recording has to be included.
- The organizer will make a decision concerning acceptance to the competitions and events by **February 15, 2024**.
- A registration fee is not applicable for folklore groups.
- Registration and all correspondence are to be sent to the following address:

HARMONIE Lindenholzhausen
HARMONIE FESTIVAL 2024
Albanusstraße 17
D-65551 Limburg-Lindenholzhausen
Bundesrepublik Deutschland/Germany

or

E-Mail: information@harmonie-festival.de

- We can also be contacted by telephone, internet or email as follows:

Gerhard Neunzerling-Dernbach (Organisation Folklore)

Telefon: +49 (0)64 31-72968

E-Mail: gerhard.neunzerling-dernbach@harmonie-festival.de

Internet: www.harmonie-festival.de

- **Travel, board and lodgings costs** are to be met by the participant choirs and groups. We are willing to help you with accommodation and will pass on addresses and information if requested. We are, however, not mediators in a legal sense. Participant choirs and groups have to make arrangements themselves with hotels, boarding houses, tourist information offices, guest choirs, establishments and private persons under the exclusion of any liability by the organizer.
- We recommend as contact person for the mediation/booking of accommodation the Tourist Information Office in Limburg:

Verkehrsverein Limburg e.V.

Barfüßerstraße 6

D-65549 Limburg

Telefon. +49 (0)64 31-61 66

Fax: +49 (0)64 31-32 93

E-Mail: touristinfo@stadt-limburg.de

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- Names and addresses of hotels and accommodations can also be found on our website www.harmonie-festival.de.
- Choirs or groups, which only want to participate on an exchange basis, can - in as far as addresses are available to the organizer - receive the contact address of a German choir.
- The organizer reserves the right to make audio and visual recordings of the performances of choirs and groups and to broadcast these recordings without payment to the performers of the events recorded. The participating choirs and groups declare themselves willing to cooperate in productions by television and radio (organizer is HARMONIE Lindenholzhausen) and relinquish any claim to remuneration. The production also includes camera persons filming or making recordings during competitions on the stage. At the same time, the participating choirs and groups transfer all rights of exploitation to the organizer, in particular the exclusive broadcasting rights without limitation regarding time, location and content, without limitation to audio and visual material produced by inclusion of their aforementioned appearances - including those sent to the organizer-, and also including grant of such to a third party and for social media.
- In the case of force majeure, labour disputes such as strikes, political unrest, measures taken by the authorities, and otherwise unpredictable (unforeseeable) or unavoidable events relieve the organizer of his or her / organizers of their assumed obligations for the length of the disturbances and the extent of their results.

The organizer reserves the right to make any necessary alterations to this announcement. This announcement and all conditions are recognized and accepted with registration for the festival. With regard to any other enquiries, the organizer's decisions are binding.

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3 Extra Concerts and Supporting Events

3.1 FESTIVAL Concerts and Supporting Events

The competing Choirs and Folklore Groups are invited by the Festival Organisation to take part in the following planned events:

- Festival Opening Concert on May 9, 2024
- Festival Concert on May 10, 2024
- **International Folklore Gala on May 11, 2024**
- Prize Winners' Concert on May 12, 2024

The Festival Organisation decides on the participation.

3.2 Further Supporting Events

In the expanded festival program you will find international choral concerts and folklore events with host choirs within the regions of Limburg, Koblenz, Wiesbaden, Frankfurt and Gießen. The host choirs and the organizer of the festival will invite choirs and folklore groups to contribute.

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4 Further Information

The final schedule of the festival will be sent to the choirs and groups at the latest in **March, 2024**. All foreign choirs and groups will be looked after by members or friends of "HARMONIE" Lindenholzhausen during their participation in the festival. A special ground area with the following facilities is available at the HARMONIE FESTIVAL 2024:

- Concert marquee hall for up to 3000 people
- Concert marquee hall for up to 800 people
- Concert hall for up to 600 people
- St.-Jakobus-Church
- Information centre
- Changing and rehearsal rooms
- Refreshments marquee holding up to 1500 people
- First aid centre

The city of Limburg is directly situated at the motorway A3 and the high-speed railway (ICE) between Frankfurt (60 km) and Cologne (100 km). Within one to two hours by coach or train you can reach:

- the scenic Lahn valley from Limburg via Bad Ems to Koblenz
- the famous Rhine valley between Mainz and Koblenz with the city of Rudesheim and the Lorelei (since 2002 World Heritage Site)
- the cities of Cologne, Koblenz, Mainz, Wiesbaden, Frankfurt/Main and Heidelberg.

For all participating choirs and groups on Friday, the 10th of May, 2024, the city of Limburg will organize a greeting ceremony in the town hall of Limburg and a guided sightseeing tour.

Please note:

It would be a great help if all participants could submit their registration forms considerably earlier than the registration deadline demands. This would simplify all organizational arrangements from which the participants would also benefit. Apart from this, we would also be very grateful for confirmation before submission of the official registration form.

All the latest information and news can be found on the HARMONIE FESTIVAL Homepage. The organizer reserves the right of modifications and amendments of the syllabus.

Internet: www.harmonie-festival.de

To ease the organization we would like to ask you to correspond in German or in English only.

HARMONIE Lindenholzhausen, November 2023