

Syllabus

International Choir Competition

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 12, 2024**, choirs and folklore groups with thousands of participants from throughout the world will be coming together again in Lindenhofhausen, the “smallest festival town in Germany”, where the eighth HARMONIE FESTIVAL is to take place.

Lindenhofhausen 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 Lindenhofhausen** 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 Lindenhofhausen 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-Lindenhofhausen.

With compliments

HARMONIE Lindenhofhausen

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International Choir Competition



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1 International Choir Competition

1.1 Categories with Compulsory Choral Work (*)

Category	Type of choir	Number of members
1	Mixed choirs	up to 32
2	Male choirs	up to 32
3	Female choirs	up to 32

1.2 Categories without Compulsory Choral Work (*)

Category	Type of choir	Number of members
4	Mixed choirs	more than 32
5	Male choirs	more than 32
6	Female choirs	more than 32
7	Youth choirs	no limit
8	Children choirs	no limit
9	Jazz vocal	more than 12
10	Vokal ensembles	4 to 12
11	Sacred music	more than 12
12	Folk songs	more than 12
13	Folk choirs	more than 12

(*) Please find further details in the category syllabus on our website (www.harmonie-festival.de/syllabus/).

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1.3 Jury

Invited to take part in the international jury are:

Jürgen Budday	Germany
Richter Grimbeek	South Africa / Austria
Hansruedi Kämpfen	Switzerland
Dimitri Ktiskakis	Greece
Susanna Lindmark	Sweden
Claudia Reinhardt	Germany

1.4 Artistic Director

Artistic director of the HARMONIE FESTIVAL 2024 is the musical director of the HARMONIE, Jürgen Faßbender.

Musical advisors for the festival are Manfred Bender, Andreas Jung, Jan Schumacher and Martin Winkler.

1.5 Scoring

The following areas will be rated:

a) Technical Performance

Intonation, rhythm, phrasing, articulation

b) Artistic Performance

Tempo, agogic, dynamics, interpretation of the text, stylistic accuracy, overall tone of the choir, appropriate compilation of the program.

Scoring of the entire program is rated correspondingly for “Technical Performance” and “Artistic Performance” on the basis of a scale of points from 1 - 25, whereby certain standards of performance form the basis of individual points. An average score will be calculated for each choir from the total number of points awarded by the jury.

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Distinction	Average score
“Participated with outstanding success” HARMONIE FESTIVAL-Certificate in Gold	25.0 to 23.0
“Participated with very great success” HARMONIE FESTIVAL-Certificate in Silver	22.9 to 21.0
“Participated with great success” HARMONIE FESTIVAL-Certificate in Bronze	20.9 to 16.0
“Participated with success”	15.9 to 11.0
“Participated”	10.9 to 01.0

Each choir receives a certificate with the corresponding distinction.

The jury’s decision is incontestable.

1.6 Prizes

Categories with compulsory choral work (1,2,3) Euro 500 (*) will be awarded to the choir with the highest average score.

Categories without compulsory choral work (4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13) Euro 300 (*) will be awarded to the choir with the highest average score.

(*) **in case of equal points, the price will be divided**

- The choir with the highest average score in a category will receive the **HARMONIE FESTIVAL Prize** (work of art). This prize will be awarded once in each category.
- The choir with the highest average score in competition will receive the **Grand Prix**.

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Extra prizes

The following prizes (money or works of art) can be awarded by the jury:

- for the outstanding interpretation of a contemporary composition (past 1970)
- for the outstanding interpretation of a romantic composition
- for the outstanding interpretation of a work of classical vocal polyphony
- for outstanding artistic performance

A fund of 5000 Euro is available for these extra prizes. The jury makes the final decision about the awarding of each prize and the corresponding amount.

1.7 General Conditions and Instructions

Only amateur choirs are allowed to participate. Professional choirs or singers are excluded from competitive participation. Conductors, however, may be professional musicians. **Application deadline is January 31, 2024.** The competition literature has also to be reported at the latest by **January 31, 2024** latest to the organizer. Three scores of each the performances chosen by the choirs themselves have to be sent to the organizer at the latest by March 1, 2024.

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2 Conditions of Entry for all Participants

- 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) for the registration on our website (www.harmonie-festival.de).
- A short account about the choir or group and their previous performances, a digital photo and an audio recording has to be included. For choirs in categories 7 and 8 (Youth and Children's Choirs) a list of names with dates of birth is also required. This list can be submitted until **May 1, 2024**.
- Choirs participating solely in concerts can only be accepted to a limited number.
- The organizer will make a decision concerning acceptance to the competitions and events by **February 15, 2024**.
- Each choir has to transfer a participation fee of **200 Euro** (not for each category) along with the registration form.

Payments
Bank: Nassauische Sparkasse IBAN: DE 71 5105 0015 0538 0021 19 SWIFT-BIC:NASSDE55XXX

- Please make sure that the organizer receives the net amount, that is, the transfer costs are to be paid by the participant.
- If a choir is not accepted, the registration fee will be refunded.
- 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:

Manfred Neunzerling (Festival-Organisation)
Telefon: +49 (0)179-43 65 997
manfred.neunzerling@harmonie-festival.de

Internet: www.harmonie-festival.de

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- **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 are 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

- 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 co-operate in productions by television and radio (organizer is HARMONIE Lindenhofhaus) 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 or unavoidable events relieve the organizer 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**
- **Prize Winners' Concert on May 12, 2024**

Choirs and folk groups can register to take part in the following events:

- **Folklore Day Events**
- **International Folklore Gala (evening event)**
- **Sacred Choral Music Concerts (day events)**

3.2 Further Supporting Events

In the expanded festival program you will find international choral concerts and folklore events with host choirs in regions of the Limburg, Koblenz, Wiesbaden, Frankfurt, 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

Scores and the compulsory works for the international choir competitive categories no. 1 - 3 can be ordered from:

Edition ProVocale
Bahnhofstraße 65
D-65551 Limburg
Telefon: +49 (0)6431-9717272
Fax: +49 (0) 6431-9778512
E-Mail: epr@x-moll.de

You are expressly reminded that, according to German law, the copying of music and music scores is not allowed.

The final schedule of the festival will be sent to the choirs and groups in **March 2024** at the latest.

All foreign choirs and groups will be looked after by members or friends of "HARMONIE" Lindenthal during their participation in the festival. A special ground area with the following facilities is available at the HARMONIE FESTIVAL 2023:

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

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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