



# World Choir Games 2024

## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

(for now)

### **What is it?**

The World Choir Games is both competition and festival, and each aspect is of truly world scale. The competition takes place during the day across a range of central city venues – up to 10 at any one time – while the festival consists of an Olympic-style parade; grand opening, awards and closing ceremonies; and many evening concerts, some featuring the participating choirs and some mounted by the host country.

### **How is it different from the World Symposium?**

The Symposium is a showcase: it selects a limited number of top choirs and practitioners by stringent audition. The Games is a participation event: it is open to almost any choir in the world that wishes to enter.

### **So anyone can apply?**

Yes. There is a minimal qualification standard for the competition streams, but few choirs would have difficulty meeting it.

### **Is there more than one stream?**

There are two: the 'Championship Competition' for choirs who wish to compete at a higher level and can demonstrate a certain level of proficiency, and the 'Open Competition' for those who are more relaxed about their singing and competing. All categories in each competition are judged by a team of international jurors.

### **Categories?**

Whether in the Championship or Open section, you enter one or two categories, two being the maximum. There are around 30 categories, and you can choose one that fits your choir type (Children's Choir, Male Choir, Mixed Chamber Choir, Vocal Ensemble etc) and/or one that fits your preferred musical genre (Sacred Music, Jazz, Gospel, Folk or Traditional Music, Pop and many more).

### **How long do you sing for?**

Typically a choir will sing four songs or for about 20 minutes in their competition bracket, but the requirement depends on the category.

**Are awards given?**

Of course! 'Open' choirs are evaluated according to a 30-point system and awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze Diplomas, with the highest-scoring Gold choir in each category given the title "Winner of the World Choir Games – The Open Competition". 'Championship' choirs are evaluated on a 100-point system and awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze Medals, with the highest-scoring Gold choir in each category named "Champion of the World Choir Games".

**Do you have to compete at all?**

No. You can opt to be a non-competing choir but still sing; your programme will be evaluated by an expert panel and discussed with you in a relaxed and friendly way.

**Are there workshops available?**

All choirs, whether competing or not, will have the opportunity to participate in a session with a noted international choir director, who will rehearse the choir's chosen piece and offer encouragement and fresh insights. There will also be more general choral workshops, led by top practitioners.

**What are the dates and how long would we be involved?**

We are looking to hold WCG2024 across 11 days in the July school holidays and will confirm the exact dates when the 2024 calendar is released by the Ministry, probably mid '21. Choirs entering just one category will typically take part in Games activities for five to six days while, depending on the schedule, two-category choirs might be involved the whole time.

**What's the cost?**

Fees are yet to be set for 2024. To give some idea, though, they are currently 500 euros for the first category and 250 for the second, while choirs from the host nation get a 20% discount. This covers organisation, venue and international jury costs and gives each choir member free entry to the opening/closing events (as applicable) and various other concerts and ceremonies.

**Will there be time to do anything else?**

You will be busy at the Games, but there will also be time to socialise with other choirs and see some of the sights of Auckland and its surrounds.

**When can we apply?**

From about 18 months before the Games. Meanwhile there's plenty of time to insert WCG2024 into your advance calendar, start fundraising, plan your repertoire and get excited!