



Golden Gate International
Children's and Youth Choral Festival

July 12-18, 2015

Syllabus:
Information and Instructions

as of March 5, 2015

Table of Contents

[Festival Mission/Vision](#)

[History](#)

[Schedule 2015](#)

[Festival Activities](#)

[Housing](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Hospitality](#)

[Rules of Participation](#)

[Age Requirements](#)

[Competitions](#)

[Choral: Historical Competition](#)

[Choral: Folk Competition](#)

[Choral: Contemporary Competition](#)

[Choral: Gospel and Spiritual Competition](#)

[Vocal Solo Competition](#)

[Fees and Applications](#)

[Fees](#)

[General Application Process](#)

[Notice of Acceptance](#)

[Confirmation and Deposit](#)

[Late Applications](#)

[Applications for Optional Competitions: Contemporary, Gospel/Spiritual and Vocal Solo Music](#)

[Program Materials](#)

[Obligations](#)

[Decisions](#)

[Correspondence](#)

[Important Festival Dates](#)

[Past Festival Conductors and Adjudicators](#)

[Past Festival Participants](#)

Festival Mission/Vision

The mission of the Golden Gate International Children's and Youth Choral Festival ("Festival") is to promote international harmony through song and competition. To this purpose, the festival:

- retains world-renowned conductors and adjudicators to lead the Massed Festival Choirs, and to provide critical evaluations of competing choirs.
- engages children and youth from around the world in a multi-cultural musical experience
- creates opportunities for performance that encourages cultural understanding and appreciation
- engages the East Bay community in cultural exchange through the experience of providing homestays for visiting choir members
- provides a competitive opportunity for friendly competition emphasizing feedback to choirs and soloists to promote musical growth

History

Since the mid-twentieth century, there has been a tremendous proliferation of children's choirs all over the world. For the past 30 years, the singers of Piedmont Choirs have been singing, competing, and becoming friends with children of the world through their extensive touring in Europe, Asia, Central America, the Baltic States, and Russia. They have been welcomed into concert halls, communities, and homes. They have stayed with families in different countries, and have learned to appreciate the hospitality of different cultures. Often, these opportunities have occurred during international festivals which brought multiple choirs together. This direct participation in the lives of people all over the world has given the children a sense of themselves as citizens of the world and it has given them points of comparison by which they can reach a deeper understanding of their own communities and culture.

Realizing the richness this international experience offered, and recognizing that there were no similar events in the United States, in 1991, the Piedmont Choirs founded The Golden Gate International Children's Choral Festival, the first international children's choral festival in the United States.

Schedule 2015

Please refer to updated schedule on the Golden Gate Festival Website:
<http://www.goldengatefestival.org/schedule>

Festival Activities

Festival participants enjoy a variety of activities that enable them to interact with other participants as well as enjoy the astounding beauty of the San Francisco Bay Area. Among the scheduled activities are Festival Chorus rehearsals, competitions, concerts, a cruise of San Francisco Bay, other outings, a singers' dance, and a conductors' banquet. ACFEA, the Festival's preferred air transportation provider, is pleased to work with choirs to arrange pre-and-post festival tours. Please call +1 415 453 6619 (international) or (800) 886-2055 (U.S. toll-free) or email [ggf@acfea.com](mailto:gjf@acfea.com) for information and assistance.

Housing

All international choir members 20 years of age (at the time of the Festival) and younger are guaranteed housing with local families from Sunday evening, July 12 through Sunday morning, July 19, 2015. All domestic choirs may request billeting with local families; however, billeting for these choirs is on a space available basis. *Choirs are only eligible for housing if all registration materials are submitted and all fees paid by the deadlines set.* Housing is not provided for choirs from the San Francisco Bay Area. Information regarding a "Festival" hotel will be sent to all participating choirs. Choirs will need to make their own housing arrangements at the hotel for singers ages 21 and up, as well as for all adult staff and chaperones.

Hospitality

Each choir will be assigned a Festival liaison to assist with local arrangements and to answer questions. Your liaison will meet your group at the airport upon your arrival.

Transportation

Travel arrangements to and from the Festival are the responsibility of each visiting choir, including airport transfers, taxes, and tips. The Festival Administrator will be available to assist choirs in arranging transit reservations to-and-from airports. During the Festival, transportation to and from all Festival special events will be provided for billeted choirs only. The Festival can assist with booking bus transportation during the Festival week, rental cars, and other transportation needs. Please call +1.510.547.4441 or email info@goldengatefestival.org for information and assistance.

ACFEA is the Festival's travel provider for air transportation to the Festival. Please call +1.415.453.6619 (international) or 800.886.2055 (U.S. toll-free) or email [ggf@acfea.com](mailto:gjf@acfea.com) for information and assistance.

Rules of Participation

Age Requirements

Choirs and vocal soloists competing in the Youth category must be 25 years old or younger (date of birth on, or after August 1, 1990). Choirs and vocal soloists competing in the children's categories must be 16 years old or younger (date of birth on or after August 1, 1999). 10% non-conforming allowed. Evidence of birth date may be requested at or before the time of the Festival.

Competitions

All Choirs will be adjudicated in the required *Historical* and *Folk Competitions* during *Competition Concerts*. Children's Choirs and Youth Choirs are evaluated in separate divisions. The Festival invites all choirs to participate in additional categories.

Choirs may choose to perform in optional competitions for *Contemporary Music* and *Gospel/Spiritual Music*. There is no separation of children's and youth divisions for these categories.

Individuals may compete in the optional *Vocal Solo Competitions*. Each choir may enter up to four soloists. Children and Youth singers are evaluated in separate divisions. Competitors must meet the *Age Requirements* and be amateur singers. If there is any question as to a singer's amateur standing, please contact the Festival office prior to the Festival. The Festival reserves the right to determine this status.

The *Historical* and *Folk Competitions* are adjudicated at public *Competition Concerts*. Each Choir will have a 25-minute performance time during the concert. Choirs are encouraged to add additional repertoire to their set to complete their 25-minute performance, but only the pieces performed for the *Folk* and *Historical Competition* will be evaluated by the jury.

The Festival does not provide accompanists for choirs and soloists for any competitions.

Historical Competition

- a) Each competitor will perform one selection from two of the four historical periods: Medieval/Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic.
- b) Both selections should be original compositions (arrangements are not acceptable).
- c) At least one of the selections must be unaccompanied.
- d) Timing for the two selections should not exceed 12 minutes. Each of the selections will be timed from the beginning of the musical score to the conclusion of that piece. The judges will ignore any part of the performance that exceeds the time limit.

Folk Competition

- a) Each competitor will perform two contrasting folk songs from non-classical styles, one of which must be from the choir's own country.
- b) At least one of the selections must be unaccompanied.
- c) Choreography and/or costumes may be used to enhance performance.
- d) No microphones or electronic accompaniment may be used.
- e) Timing for the two selections should not exceed 12 minutes. Each of the selections will be timed from the beginning of the musical score to the conclusion of that piece. The judges will ignore any part of the performance that exceeds the time limit.

Contemporary Competition

- a) Each competitor will perform two compositions.
 - 1) A piece written after 1945
 - 2) A piece written after 2005, in any contemporary classical style.
- b) At least one of the compositions must be unaccompanied.
- c) Innovative compositional techniques are encouraged. (Innovative compositional techniques may include non-traditional harmony and chromaticism, clusters, glissandi, extended vocal techniques, aleatoric elements, complex rhythms, etc.).
- d) Timing for the two selections should not exceed 13 minutes. Each of the selections will be timed from the beginning of the musical score to the conclusion of that piece. The judges will ignore any part of the performance that exceeds the time limit.

Gospel/Spiritual Competition

- a) Each competitor will perform two contrasting songs from Gospel/Spiritual styles.
- b) At least one of the selections must be unaccompanied.
- c) Choreography and/or costumes may be used to enhance performance.
- d) Timing for the two selections should not exceed 12 minutes. Each of the selections will be timed from the beginning of the musical score to the conclusion of that piece. The judges will ignore any part of the performance that exceeds the time limit.

Vocal Solo Competition

a) Each competitor will perform two contrasting pieces.

- 1) A selection from the classical repertoire.
- 2) A selection from the folk song repertoire.

b) Both selections must be memorized.

c) Timing for the two selections should not exceed 8 minutes. Each of the selections will be timed from the beginning of the musical score to the conclusion of that piece. The judges will ignore any part of the performance that exceeds the time limit.

Adjudication

Choirs will be adjudicated for all choral competitions by the same Jury. *Vocal Solo Competitions* will have a different Jury. Scoring will be done using the recognized International system of points for bronze, silver, and gold standings.

The winner of each competition category will be chosen only if one or more choirs meet the gold standard. Among the choirs meeting the gold standard, the judges will select the competition category winner based upon the aggregate point totals.

The *Competition Concerts* span three afternoons (*Contemporary, Gospel/Spiritual, and Vocal Solo* categories) and evenings (*Historical and Folk* categories). Winners of the competitions will be announced at the end of the Massed Rehearsal on Friday morning. In addition to the trophy awarded for First Place in each category, additional choirs may receive bronze, silver, or gold certificates based on the scores awarded by the Jury.

The Jury will request performances of specific pieces by First Place Winners of the choral and solo competitions at the closing concert. Rehearsal for these performances will take place after the Saturday morning Dress Rehearsal.

Special prizes and Command Performances may be awarded and requested at the discretion and pleasure of the Jury. Such prizes may include: Choir of Angels (citizenship), Command Performance, Outstanding Conducting, Global Heritage, National Costume, or noteworthy presentation of a new contemporary music composition. Choirs awarded special prizes will be announced at the Conductors' Banquet and will perform during the Festival Closing Concert. The Artistic Director will discuss the specific repertoire to be performed at the Festival Closing Concert with the choir's conductor.

Fees and Applications

Fees

The cost of the Festival is \$425 USD per billeted participant, and \$325 per non-billeted participant. "Participants" include singers, conductors, managers, accompanists, chaperones, and any other persons attending the Festival. The fee provides entry into competitions and concerts, social events, and other Festival activities, as well as a copy of the Festival Program. A non-refundable deposit of \$150 USD per participant is due following acceptance in order to confirm participation. The balance of the fees is due in full no later than May 1, 2015. Limited financial assistance (toward Festival fees only) is available to overseas choirs demonstrating financial need. Any such requests should be transmitted at the time of initial application. Financial assistance materials will be sent to choirs along with their acceptance letters.

General Application Process

Application for participation in the Festival must be made using the Official Application Form, which may be downloaded at www.goldengatefestival.org. Applications will be accepted from January 1 through October 31, 2014. Early application is encouraged. Late applications will only be considered if space is available. Applications must include the following materials:

- a) A completed Festival Application Form.
- b) A .mp3 file or a good quality, recent (within the past three years) CD recording of the choir, of not more than 15 minutes duration, labeled with the name of the choir and conductor, and the date of recording. At least one piece must be unaccompanied. APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT A RECORDING. (*Please note, CD's cannot be returned*).
- c) Brief biographies of the choir and the conductor.
- d) A photo of the choir. Please label the back of the photo with the full name of the choir and country.
- e) A photo of the conductor. Please label the back of the photo with the full name of the conductor, the name of the choir and country.

Choirs will not be considered until all application materials are available to the review committee.

Notice of Acceptance

Formal acceptance is based on a choir's audition materials and subject to the approval of the Golden Gate Festival Committee. Notification of acceptance will be sent on November 1, 2014. Early notification may be requested at the time of application.

Confirmation and Deposit

Choirs accepted for the Festival must confirm their participation in writing and submit a non-refundable deposit of \$150 USD per participant by November 30, 2014 (or within thirty days of acceptance, if early notification is requested). If written confirmation and payment are not received by the applicable date, the Festival reserves the right to retain other ensembles from the waiting list (to replace unconfirmed choirs).

Late Applications

Late applications will be accepted between November 1, 2014, and December 31, 2014, as space allows. Any choir accepted to the Festival during this period must submit written confirmation and a non-refundable deposit of \$150 USD per singer within three weeks of notification.

Applications for Optional Competitions: Contemporary Choral, Gospel/Spiritual and Vocal Solo Competitions

Applications for the *Contemporary Choral, Gospel and Spiritual, and Vocal Solo Competitions* must be received by March 31, 2015. Applications must be submitted on the requisite forms for each competition, available for download at www.goldengatefestival.org. Each choir may enter up to four soloists from their organization to the *Vocal Solo Competition*. Competitors must meet the age requirements specified in the Competition Rules. All competitors must be amateur singers. If there is any question as to a singer's amateur standing, please contact the Festival office prior to the Festival. The Festival reserves the right to determine this status.

*Music Scores ** please note the change in due date below*

All accepted choirs and soloists must provide music for the adjudicators. Five copies of all choral competition music and three copies of vocal solo competition music should be received by the Festival by **June 10, 2015**. Please note that electronic PDF copies of repertoire satisfy this requirement and should be emailed to ldannunzio@piedmontchoirs.org by June 10, 2015. All expression markings must be in English or Italian, or be translated into one of these languages.

Music submitted to the Festival for adjudicated pieces will not be returned.

Accepted choirs will be sent one score of each of the common songs to be learned by all choirs. Multiple copies of all Festival music must be ordered from their respective publishers by participating choirs. The Festival expects all participants to respect international copyright law. Photocopies of massed Festival music will not be allowed.

Program Materials

Choirs must send the following materials to the Festival Office for inclusion in the Golden Gate International Children's and Youth Choral Festival Program by May 1, 2015:

1. Name of Choir as you want it printed
2. Biography of Choir
3. Biography of Conductor
4. Biography of Accompanist
5. Biography of Composer (premieres or commissions only)
6. Picture of Choir with following specs: black & white or color, 300 dpi
7. Picture of Conductor with following specs: black & white or color, 300 dpi
8. Picture of Accompanist (optional): black & white or color, 300 dpi
9. Program Repertoire for each concert (*Spotlight*, Opening) and competition (*Historical*, *Folk*, *Contemporary*, *Gospel/Spiritual*, *Vocal Solo*):
 - Title
 - Composer/Arranger
 - List of any soloists
 - Special instruments
 - Program order (list conductors/accompanists if multiple used)
 - What are competition pieces (list conductors/accompanists if multiple used)
10. Repertoire for Closing Concert should your choir group be selected as a winner in any of the competition categories entered
11. Stage needs (risers, dancing area, processions, etc.)

Obligations

Each choir is required to participate in all Festival Chorus rehearsals, concerts, and other Festival activities. Adults are responsible for supervising their choristers throughout the Festival, and all conductors are expected to attend common song rehearsals. Participants waive all rights to any form of financial compensation. Participants waive all rights associated with photography, audio/video recordings, radio or television broadcasts and print media.

Decisions

The decisions of the Festival staff or the adjudicators are final and binding upon all parties. This is an agreed condition of entry and participation.

Correspondence

All correspondence should be addressed to:

GGF 2015– Piedmont Choirs
3629 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610 U.S.A.

Telephone: 510.547.4441

FAX: 510.451.2947

Email: info@goldengatefestival.org

Website: www.goldengatefestival.org

Important Festival Dates

Applications accepted	January 1, 2014 – October 31, 2014
Late applications accepted (Space permitting)	November 1 – December 31, 2014
Notice of acceptance is sent	November 1, 2014 Or earlier if requested
Confirmation and deposit due	November 30, 2014 Or within 30 days of <i>early</i> acceptance Or within 21 days of <i>late</i> acceptance
<i>Contemporary Competition</i> application deadline	March 31, 2015
<i>Vocal Solo Competition</i> application deadline	March 31, 2015
<i>Gospel/Spiritual Competition</i> application deadline	March 31, 2015
<i>Historical/Folk Competition</i> repertoire form deadline	March 31, 2015
Balance of fees due	May 1, 2015
Homestay/Housing forms due to Festival office	May 1, 2015
Airport Transportation form to Festival office	May 1, 2015
Program materials due to Festival office	May 1, 2015
Choirs arrive	July 12, 2015
Opening Reception (Adults only)	July 12, 2015
Opening Concert	July 13, 2015
Historical/Folk Competitions	July 14-16, 2015
Children's Vocal Solo Competition	July 14, 2015
Youth Vocal Solo Competition	July 15, 2015
Contemporary Choral Competition	July 17, 2015
Gospel/Spiritual Competition	July 17, 2015
Bay Cruise	July 16, 2015
Conductors' Banquet	July 17, 2015
Gala Closing Concert	July 18, 2015
Choirs depart	July 19, 2015

Past Festival Conductors and Adjudicators

1991

Margrete Enevold
Cheyl Keller, Kristin Womack

1993

Bosse Johanssen
Wendell Brooks, Mark Winges, Boyd Jarrell, Kristin Womack

1995

Bosse Johanssen
Sharon Paul, Patricia Hennings, Robert Wells, Kristin Womack

1997

Judit Hartyàni
Sharon Paul, Patricia Hennings, Cheryl Keller, Boyd Jarrell

1999

Juan-Tony Guzmán
Bob Chilcott, Judit Hartyàni, Joseph Jennings, Boyd Jarrell, Cheryl Keller, Diane Gilfether

2003- Piedmont Choirs 25th Anniversary, non-competitive

Robert Geary

2006

Elena Sharkova
Karmina Silec, László Matos, Boyd Jarrell, James Toland

2009

Bob Chilcott and Pekka Kostiainen
Judit Hartyàni, Boyd Jarrell, Sara Ganz

2012

María Guinand and Stephen Leek
Wang Jin, Judit Hartyányi, Martín Benvenuto, Karen Anderson

Past Festival Participants

1991

Anchorage Children's Choir- Alaska USA
Argonaut Salem Boys Choir- Oregon USA
Choir Melodija- Russia
Contra Costa Children's Chorus- California USA
Crook County Cadet Boychoir- Oregon USA
Florida Boychoir- Florida, USA
Kinderchor des Osnabrucker Jugendchores- Germany
Kung Hua Elementary School Chorus- Taiwan
Oregon Children's Chorus- Oregon, USA
Peninsula Children's Chorale- California USA
Powell River Academy Singers- Canada
Ragazzi, The Peninsula Boys Chorus- California USA
Santa Rosa Children's Chorus- California USA
Seattle Children's Chorus- Washington USA

1993

Colorado Springs Children's Chorale- Colorado USA
Dawn Children's Choir of Moscow- Russia
Kaohsiung Municipal Children's Chorus- Taiwan
Marin Girls Chorus/ Bel Canto- California USA
Nakhodka's Music School #2- Russia
Nebraska Children's Chorus- Nebraska USA
Peninsula Children's Chorale- California USA
Petaluma Boys & Girls Chorus- California USA
San Diego Children's Choir- California USA
San Francisco Boys Chorus- California USA
West Jutland Conservatory Girl's Choir- Denmark
Williams Lake Children's Chorus- Canada

1995

Chor der Musikhauptschule Harbach- Austria
Clara-Schumann Kinderchor- Germany
Coro de Niños Cantores de Cordoba- Argentina
Coro de Niños de la Schola Cantorum- Mexico
Florida's Singing Sons Boychoir- Florida USA
Kuldiga Children's Choir Cantus- Latvia
Little Singers of Armenia- Armenia
Min Chuan Elementary School Chorus- Taiwan
Powell River Academy Singers- Canada
Raduga Choir of Music School #1- Russia
Seinäjoki Girls Choir- Finland
Viva Chorale- Canada
Vox Aurea- Finland

1997

Carmina Slovenica- Slovenia
Dawn Children's Choir of Vladivostok- Russia
Encore Children's Chorus- California USA
Girl Choir of Florida- Florida USA
Indonesian Children's Choir- Indonesia
Kinderchor der Singakademie Potsdam- Germany
Kór öldutúnsskóla- Iceland
Kwa-Phalo Primary School Children's Choir- South Africa
Min Chuan Elementary School Chorus- Taiwan
Powel I River Academy Singers- Canada
Santa Barbara Children's Chorus- California USA
Szczecin Boys' Choir "Nightgales"- Poland
Taipei City Shi-Sung Primary School Choir- Taiwan

1999

Columbia Choirs of Seattle- Washington USA
Concento Chilfen's Choir- Hungary
Coro Infantil de la Universidad del Cauca- Cauca Colombia
Li-Yuan Primary School Choir- Taiwan
Methodist Girls' School Choir- Singapore
Northwest Girlchoir-Vivace Choir- Washington USA
Pictures from an Exhibition of Vladivostok Children's Choir- Russia
Salt Lake Children's Choir- Utah USA
Vox Danubia-Linz-Austria- Austria
Young Singers of Callanwold- Georgia USA

2003

Atlanta Young Singers of Callanwolde- Georgia USA
Fairfield County Children's Choir- Connecticut USA
Florida Singing Sons Boychoir/Second Generation Singers- Florida USA
Indonesian Children's Choir- Indonesia
Oregon Repertory Singers- Oregon USA
Pictures from an Exhibition of Vladivostok Children's Choir- Russia
Raduga Choir of Music School No. 1- Russia
Salt Lake Children's Choir- Utah USA

2006

Cantabella Children's Chorus- California USA
Celestial Voices/Singers Marin- California USA
Chattanooga Girls' Choir- Tennessee USA
Choeur D'Enfants du Benin- Benin
Columbia Choirs of Seattle- Washington USA
Guangdong Experimental Middle School- People's Republic of China
Kinder-&-Jugendsingakademie, Graz- Austria
Partners in Praise Girls' Chorus- Minnesota USA

2009

Cantabella Children's Chorus- California USA
Colorado Springs Children's Chorale- Colorado USA
Hangzhou Aiyue Tianshi Choir- People's Republic of China

Kaohsiung Children's Chorus- Taiwan
Les étoiles/Singers Marin- California USA
MidtVest Pigeekor- Denmark
Mississippi BoyChoir- Mississippi USA
Ragazzi Boys Chorus- California USA
Vox Aurea- Finland (guest choir)

2012

Amoy Flower Phoenix Youth Choral Group - People's Republic of China
Bach Children's Chorus - Canada
Barrington Children's Choir – Illinois USA
Beijing Rainbow Art Performance Troupe - People's Republic of China
Budi Mulia Dua Choir - Indonesia
Columbia Children's Choir – Washington USA
Columbia Vocal Ensemble – Washington USA
Choir of E. Mikeladze Central Music School – Democratic Republic of Georgia
Chamber Singers of the Fairfield County Children's Choir – Connecticut USA
Hamburg Kinderchor Cantemus - Germany
Junior Amabile Singers – Canada
Kinder-& Jugendsingakademie Graz – Austria
Klarup Pigeekor – Denmark
Marin Girls Chorus – California USA
Partners in Praise Girls Choir – Minnesota USA
Young Adelaide Voices – Australia
Youth Choir "Kivi" - Lithuania