

第一屆香港國際合唱節

The First Hong Kong International Choral Festival

The First Hong Kong International Choral Festival Competition Rules

Competition Methods

- 1、 Supervisory Committee: Composed of international experts and organizing committee leaders, the Supervisory Committee will carry out supervision work in accordance with the "Working Procedures of the Supervisory Committee of the Hong Kong International Choral Festival." Before the competition begins, the Supervisory Committee will hold a meeting, a simulation competition, and a joint meeting with the jury to clarify the competition standards and familiarize themselves with the supervision rules. The Supervisory Committee has the right to question the jury's evaluation, and to replace or no longer invite them to participate in the competition work of the Hong Kong International Choir Festival.
- 2、 Jury: Composed of seven renowned experts with extensive judging experience in international events, the Jury will carry out the jury work in accordance with the "Working Procedures of the Supervisory Committee of the Hong Kong International Choral Festival." Before the competition begins, the Jury will hold a meeting, a key work reading meeting, a simulation competition, and a joint meeting with the Supervisory Committee to clarify the competition standards and familiarize themselves with the jury rules. The jury is responsible for their own competition and records the key points of the participating teams. After the competition begins, each jury member cannot adjust or revise their competition criteria. If the Supervisory Committee raises questions, they can accept suggestions and adjust the scores. At the same time, they have the right to explain their views and refuse to adjust the scores.
- 3、 Organizing Committee: Make a good competition emergency plan and jury reserve work to ensure the smooth holding of all competition activities.
- 4、 The competition uses the "Working Procedures of the Supervisory Committee of the Hong Kong International Choral Festival" to conduct a fair, just and open competition of each participating team.

The competition will be conducted from the following four aspects:

- 1) Accuracy of the score (tempo, rhythm, intonation, various markings and language)
- 2) Blend (including the coordination of each voice part to achieve choral blend as required by the work)
- 3) Vocalization and tone (vocal capability, timbral beauty and vocal style appropriate to the work)
- 4) Expression (Style, expression, Difficulty of the work, stage presentation, and overall impression)

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- 5) Each judge scores each piece on items 1), 2), and 3) to arrive at an average score of 1), 2), and 3) for each piece, and then averages the scores of 1), 2), and 3) for all the pieces sung and adds them to 4) for the total score given by one judge. Examples are given below:

Scoring item \ Work Serial No.	first song	second song	third song (opt.)
1)	8	8	9
2)	7	8	8
3)	8	7	7
Average score of 1) + 2) + 3) for each Work	7.66	7.66	8
Average score of three Works 1) + 2) + 3)	7.77		
4)	8		
Total score given by one judge	15.77		

The seven judges scored the choir's final score by removing one of the highest scores, removing one of the lowest scores, and summing the scores of the five judges in the middle. Examples are given below:

Jury 1	Jury 2	Jury 3	Jury 4	Jury 5	Jury 6	Jury 7
15.77	16.28	17.56	14.32	15.69	17.26	16.57

According to the table above, the sum of the scores of the five middle judges is 81.57, and that score qualifies for a gold medal. The criteria for awarding the prizes are as follows:

Award Criteria for Categories other than Preschooler 's Choir and Senior Choir	
Gold medal	80.01-100 points
Silver medal	60.01-80 points
Bronze medal	40.01-60 points
Certificate of participation	≤40 points

Criteria for Preschooler 's Choir and Senior Choir Awards	
Gold medal	75.01-100 points
Silver medal	55.01-75 points
Bronze medal	35.01-55 points
Certificate of participation	≤35 points

Honorary Awards

- 1、 After the evaluation of the jury and the review of the Supervisory Committee, gold, silver, and bronze medals and certificates will be awarded to the participating teams. Each level of competition may be vacant, and teams that do not reach the bronze medal level will be awarded a certificate of participation. The team that achieves the gold medal and scores the highest in each category will also be awarded championship title of the category and the champion trophy. In case of a tie, the jury will vote to decide.
- 2、 The certificate of the participating team includes the name of the choir, the name of the conductor, the place of honor, the signatures of the judges, and the seal of the organizer.
- 3、 Excellent conductor and excellent accompanist certificates will be awarded..
- 4、 The organizing committee may set up special honors and commendations.
- 5、 Applications may be submitted to the organizing committee for certificates of achievement for choir members or certificates of artistic practice.
- 6、 Applications may be submitted to the organizing committee for certificates for choir instructors.

General Requirements

1、 Personnel Requirements

A choir can have multiple conductors during the competition. Any choir member can only represent one choir to participate in the competition. Each participating choir can participate in the competition of up to two categories. If the Organizing Committee cannot coordinate the conductor and the choir to participate in the competition of the two categories, the corresponding registration fee will be refunded.

2、 Scores for competition

- 1) Participating choirs must send the electronic sheet music of their works to be evaluated to the designated email address of the Organizing Committee on or before September 17, 2024. The works and performance order cannot be changed after September 23.
- 2) Participating choirs need to submit the sheet music in the standard five-line staff notation. Special scores used in specific regions and cultures, such as ethnic groups and religions, can only be used after discussion and determination by the Organising Committee.
- 3) The sheet music used by the choir for the competition should be the original version or the one authorised by the composer. Adapted works need to obtain the permission of the copyright owner of the work. Unauthorised copies cannot be used. Handwritten scores cannot be submitted (except for special scores). The choir is responsible for any legal disputes arising from the copyright of the work. After receiving feedback from the copyright owner, the Organizing Committee will also discuss and

deal with the results obtained by the group using the infringing work.

- 4) All pieces must be sung in the original key.
- 5) The Organizing Committee protects the copyright of the works. The electronic sheet music will only be used for competition purposes. The scores after the competition will be recycled, counted, and destroyed. Choirs without electronic sheet music authorization can mail their original paper scores to the Organizing Committee when registering. The scores can be retrieved at the designated place of the Organising Committee after all the work of the Supervisory Committee and Jury is completed.

3、 Other Matters

- 1) The Organizing Committee will determine the performance order of each participating team based on the actual situation. Under the control of the "Working Procedures of the Supervisory Committee of the Hong Kong International Choral Festival.", the performance order is not related to the score. The makeup and attire of the participating teams are not part of the scoring criteria for the judges, but overly casual attire may also affect the judges' overall impression of the team.
- 2) In rare cases, the Organizing Committee has the right to reject a team's application for artistic or content reasons. The registration fees paid by the rejected team will be refunded.
- 3) Due to the length and capacity of the Festival, the number of participating teams accepted will be limited. The teams will be ranked according to the order of registration, and the registration will be closed when the quota is full.
- 4) The Organizing Committee has the right to improve and adjust the activities of the festival according to the actual situation, which is conducive to the scientific and efficient development of each activity.
- 5) "Peace, Friendship and Love" is the purpose of the Hong Kong International Choir Festival. During the Festival, any form of insults, violence, or other conflict-inducing behaviors towards any participant is prohibited. Only the national flags, national emblems, and national anthems of countries recognized by the United Nations are allowed to appear in any event of the Festival.
- 6) In order to promote the Festival, the registration of a choir to participate in the Festival means that the group agrees to the unlimited and indefinite use of the materials submitted to the Organizing Committee of the Festival, as well as the Organizing Committee's right to photograph, record, and videotape during the Festival. Activities involving commercial distribution will be negotiated with the relevant choirs, and matters such as royalties will be handled properly.

The First Hong Kong International Choral Festival Summary Table

of Entry Categories and Requirements

Category	Type of Performance	Age Requirement	Number of singers	Number of Pieces	Performance Time Limit	Content Requirement
Preschooler 's Choir	Boys and Girls	Under 7	≥30	2	≤7 minutes	Singing in unison is allowed.
Young Children's Choir	Boys and Girls	6-12	≥30	2	≤10 minutes	unlimited
Children's Choir I	Equal Voices	8-15	≥30	2	≤11 minutes	At least one piece is a foreign work.
Teen's Choir II	Equal Voices	10-17	≥30	2-3	≤12 minutes	At least one piece is a foreign work.
Teen's Choir III	Mixed Voices	10-17	≥30	2-3	≤12 minutes	At least one piece is a foreign work.
Youth Choir I	Equal Voices	18-29	≥33	2-3	≤13 minutes	At least one piece is a foreign work.
Youth Choir II	Mixed Voices	18-29	≥33	2-3	≤13 minutes	
Chamber Choir I	Equal Voices	No Limit	16-32	2-3	≤13 minutes	At least one piece is a foreign work.
Chamber Choir II	Mixed Voices	No Limit	16-32	2-3	≤13 minutes	
Equal Choir	Equal voices	No Limit	≥33	2-3	≤13 minutes	At least one piece is a foreign work.
Mixed Choir	Mixed voices	No Limit	≥33	2-3	≤13 minutes	
Senior Choir I	Equal voices	Over 55 (excluding 55)	≥30	2	≤12 minutes	Free
Senior Choir II	Mixed voices	Over 55 (excluding 55)	≥30	2	≤12 minutes	
Folklore Music	No Limit	No Limit	≥30	1-3	≤13 minutes	All pieces, whether original or adapted, should be traditional songs of a specific region.
Contemporary Music	No Limit	No Limit	≥30	3	≤14 minutes	At least one piece is a cappella. At least one piece is a foreign work. All works were composed after 1970.

1、 Age Requirement:

The age requirements apply to the singing members of the choir, excluding the conductor and instrumentalists. Up to 20% of the singers may exceed the age limit of the group. Children's choirs must not exceed 2 years of age, youth and senior choir must not exceed 5 years of age. The jury will deduct points for singers who exceed the age limit, based on the actual age requirements for each group. By registering, the choir agrees that the Organizing Committee may conduct age checks on the singing members if deemed necessary. Choirs that refuse to cooperate will have their results canceled and will be responsible for all costs incurred..

2、 Number of Singers:

The regulations on the number of singers apply to the singing members of the choir, excluding the conductor and instrumentalists. When choosing to perform a choral work with instrumental accompaniment, the instruments must be those specified in the score. The number of instrumentalists playing these instruments is up to 3. not being counted towards the number of singers. One instrumentalist is allowed to play multiple instruments specified in the score. If instruments not specified in the score are used, they must be played by choir members and are subject to the group's number restrictions. The use of instruments not specified in the score may affect the judges' scoring of "accuracy" and "expression.", Participating teams should consider this carefully.

3、 Performance Time Limit:

The performance time is the actual performance time of the choir, excluding the time it takes to enter and exit the stage. The timing starts from the beginning of the prelude or performance of each choir and ends when the singing ends, not from the start of the singing. A deduction of 3 points will be made from the final score for exceeding 30 seconds, and so on..

4、 Accompaniment:

- 1) The Organising Committee will provide a piano, but not other instruments used in the choir's performance, nor will it provide sound equipment. All choirs are prohibited from using any form of backing tracks.
- 2) A cappella refers to a work that does not use "instruments with a definite pitch" or that "instruments with a definite pitch" are unlikely to have the function of prompting the choir's pitch. If you are not sure whether the work is a cappella, you can apply to the Organizing Committee for an evaluation.

5、 Foreign Works:

Foreign works are music or compositions that are original or adapted from the native country of the non-participant. Works created by lyricists and composers born in the participant's country and holding that country's nationality in a non-native language with native meaning can be considered native works.

