

The "Guido d'Arezzo" Foundation announces the 74th International Polyphonic Competition "Guido d'Arezzo", to be held on 19-20-21-22-23 August 2026

The Competition is reserved to non-professional choral ensembles (see the Regulations, Art. 1), divided in two categories and respective sections:

CATEGORY A - "COMPETITION"

- Mixed choirs (from 16 to 36 singers)
- Equal-voice choirs (from 16 to 36 singers)
- Children's choirs (from 16 to 36 singers born after September 1st, 2011; see art.6 Regulations)
- Vocal ensembles (from 4 to 16 singers)

Choirs registered in the category "Competition" will have to participate at least one of the sub-sections of section 1 (compulsory programme) and two between sections 2, 3, 4 and 5.

N.B. male falsetto voices are allowed in all female sections of all ensembles.

Section 1, Compulsory Programme

- 1a mixed choirs (from 16 to 36 singers)
- 1b equal-voice choirs (from 16 to 36 singers)
- 1c children's choirs (from 16 to 36 singers born after September 1st, 2011; see art.6 Regulations)
- 1d vocal ensembles (from 4 to 16 singers)

Section 2, sacred music programme

Section 3, secular music programme

Section 4, monographic program "John Dowland" For the 400th anniversary of his death.

Section 5 - 41th International Festival of Choral Folk Music (Traditional and folk music)

In addition to Category A, choirs can also participate in Category B.

CATEGORY B - "RASSEGNA" Open to all types of choral ensembles

Section 5 - 41th International Festival of Choral Folk Music (Traditional and folk music)

Section 6 - *Micrologus Prize* (medieval liturgical monophonic singing)

Choirs registered only in Category B cannot participate in Category A.

All choirs registered in Category A must also participate in the Opening Concert on Wednesday 19th evening in which they must present a short musical program of their own choice, approximately 5 minutes, possibly characteristic of the style and cultural traditions of their country.

- A performance in national costume is appreciated if there is a program of folk songs.
- Selected compositions cannot be repeated in the competition programs.

CATEGORY A - “Competition”

Section 1

Compulsory programme

(All scores will be provided on the website www.polifonico.org as pdf file)

Section 1a - Mixed choirs, from 16 to 36 singers

The choir must perform the following programme:

- C. de Morales (1500-1553): *Peccantem me cotidie*
- F. Lachner (1803-1890): *Gebet* op. 110
- D. Hamilton (1955) *Night* - Second prize at the 52nd International Composition Contest “Guido d’Arezzo” 2025

Section 1b - Equal-voice choirs, from 16 to 36 singers

The choirs must perform the following programmes:

Female choir

- C. de Morales (1500-1553): *Candida virginitas*
- A. Urspruch (1850-1907): *Im Herbste*
- S. Campanini (1977) *Acqua* - Third prize at the 52nd International Composition Contest “Guido d’Arezzo” 2025

Male choir

- G.P. da Palestrina (1525-1594): *Surrexit Pastor bonus* ed. a cura di R. Casimiri
- R. Schubert (1797-1828): *Frühlingslied* D 914
- L. Manenti (1899-1980): *La Viola*

Section 1c - Children s’ choirs from 16 to 36 singers (born after September 1st, 2011)

The choir must perform the following programmes:

- C. de Morales (1500-1553): *Crucifixus*
- A. Caplet (1878-1925): *Sanctus* - from the three-voice mass
- O. Dipiazza (1929-2013): *Tota pulchra*

Section 1d – vocal ensembles from 4 to 16 singers

The ensembles must perform the following programmes:

Ensemble vocale misto

- C. de Morales (1500-1553): *Peccantem me cotidie*
- F. Lachner (1803-1890): *Gebet* op. 110
- H. C. Prat (1985): *Amor ch’ncende il cor* - Special prize “Francesco Petrarca” at the 52nd International Composition Contest “Guido d’Arezzo” 2025

Female vocal ensemble

- G.P. da Palestrina (1525-1594): *Alma redemptoris Mater – Tu quae genuisti* ed. a cura di R. Casimiri
- A. Urspruch (1850-1907): *Im Herbste*
- P. Montani (1895-1967): *E lasciatemi divertire*

Male vocal ensemble

- G.P. da Palestrina (1525-1594): *Surrexit Pastor bonus* ed. a cura di R. Casimiri

- R. Schubert (1797-1828): *Frühlingslied* D 914
- L. Manenti (1899-1980): *La viola*

Section 2
SACRED MUSIC

Each choir must present at least three pieces of sacred music of free choice, from different historical periods and styles, for a duration between 12 and 15 minutes. Use of piano and organ provided by the organization is permitted. The winner of this category will compete for the “Città di Arezzo” Grand Prize.

Section 3
SECULAR MUSIC

Each choir must present at least three pieces of secular music of free choice, from different historical periods and styles, for a duration between 12 and 15 minutes. The use of piano and/or small percussion instruments is allowed. The winner of this category will compete for the Grand Prize “Città di Arezzo”.

Section 4
MONOGRAPHIC PROGRAMME

For the 400th anniversary of John Dowland's death (1563-1626)

Each choir must present a free programme of duration between 12 and 15 minutes, with pieces composed exclusively by John Dowland, of whom the 400th anniversary of death falls. Arrangements and transcriptions are permitted.

The composition of the choir may vary according to the different pieces to be performed, including the performance in real parts. The winner of this category will compete for the Grand Prize “Città di Arezzo”.

Section 5
41th International Festival of Choral Folk Music

The choir must submit a selection of arrangements of traditional music of its own country or region for a duration between 12 and 15 minutes. The use of up to a maximum of 4 instruments is allowed; the organization will provide the piano. Wearing traditional costumes from the choir's native country is appreciated and welcomed.

The winner of this category DOES NOT compete for the Grand Prize “Città di Arezzo”.

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CATEGORY - B “Rassegna”

Section 5
41th International Festival of Choral Folk Music

The choir must submit a selection of arrangements of traditional music of its own country or region for a duration between 12 and 15 minutes. It will be possible to use traditional folk musical instruments. The use of up to a maximum of 4 instruments is allowed; the organization will provide the piano. Wearing traditional costumes from the choir's native country is appreciated and welcomed.

The winner of this category DOES NOT compete for the Grand Prize “Città di Arezzo”.

Section 6
Micrologus Prize - Monophonic medieval liturgical music

The choir has to submit a selection of medieval monophonic liturgical pieces of free choice, for a duration between 12 and 15 minutes. □

- Submitting a homogeneous programme resulting from a research path is appreciated and desirable.
- The winner of this category DOES NOT compete for the Grand Prize “Città di Arezzo”.

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“Città di Arezzo” Grand Prize

The participation in the competition for the “Città di Arezzo” Grand Prize is compulsory for the winner choir/s of the First Prize in the Category A Sections: 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2, 3 and 4. The Jury has the right to admit to the “Città di Arezzo” Grand Prize also the winners of the second and third prize. According to the rules set out in the European Gran Prix for Choral Music Regulations, groups made up of less than 12 singers will not be allowed to compete for the “Città di Arezzo” Grand Prize. Each group will have to submit a free programme for a duration between 15 and 20 minutes. In this program pieces from each section of the competition in which the choir participated may be repeated. The winner of the “Città di Arezzo” Grand Prize will have to participate in the 2027 edition of the European Gran Prix for Choral Music.

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PRIZES*

Category A, Section 1 – *Compulsory programme*

- sec. 1a - single prize € 1.500
- sec. 1b - single prize € 1.500
- sec. 1c - single prize € 1.500
- sec. 1d - single prize € 1.500

Category A, Section 2 – *Sacred music Programme*

- first prize € 1.500
- second prize € 1.000
- third prize € 500

Category A, Section 3 – *Secular music Programme*

- first prize € 1.500
- second prize € 1.000
- third prize € 500

Category A, Section 4 – *monographic programme “John Dowland”*

- first prize € 1.500
- second prize € 1.000
- third prize € 500

Category B, Section 5 - *41th International Festival of Choral Folk Music*

- audience prize € 1.000

Category B, Section 6 – *Micrologus Prize - medieval liturgical monophonic singing*

- listening commission prize € 1.000

Special Prize “*From Paul in memory of Maria Teresa*”

- € 500

Grand Prize Città di Arezzo*

- € 3.000 and the right to participate in the 2027 “European Grand Prix for Choral Singing”.

* The relative amounts, such as prizes awarded for particular artistic merits, are not subject to taxes deductions (Resolution of the Directorate-General of the Italian Ministry of Finance n°8/251 1976-10-28. in case of draw the prizes will be divided among the ex-aequo winners.

REGULATIONS

Art. 1 - **The competition is reserved for amateur ensembles* only.** This condition must be attested by the declaration of the choir's conductor in the application form. This restriction does not apply to conductors or eventual instrumentalists whose participation is required by the programme.

* "amateur ensembles" are defined as those composed of singers who participate in the activity of the complex free of charge.

Art. 2 - Once admitted, failure to participate in a section will result in disqualification in the other sections as well.

Art. 3 - The choice of the repertoires, both in terms of difficulty of execution and artistic value, may influence the evaluation.

Art. 4 - The eventual participation of instrumentalists, if requested by the performance, will have to be assessed by the Jury.

Art. 5 – Should the number of choirs admitted to any of the section or at the sections as set out in this announcement, be insufficient, the Foundation Guido d'Arezzo reserves the right to suppress that particular category or section. The choirs will still be allowed to participate in other categories or sections to which they had been admitted.

Art. 6 - The members of children's choirs **will have to present to the competition provided with their I.D., containing a photograph**, issued by a competent authority. This document will have to be shown to the designated officer before entering the stage.

Art. 7 - The stay of the choirs in Arezzo and their participation in the competitions will be organized as follows:

a) choral ensembles not resident in the province of Arezzo will be provided with meals and accommodations. The Foundation reserves the right to accommodate the groups within a range of 40 km from the city of Arezzo. Eventual different kind of accommodations than what provided by the Organization are to be paid by choirs.

N.B. Choral ensembles **based in Arezzo, may be provided with board, only in case of requirements related to the competition.**

b) meals and hosting will be offered, in addition to the singers, to a maximum of 3 more people: 1 conductor, 1 instrumentalist (or 1 chaperone) and 1 driver (only in case the choir will move by its private bus).

c) choirs registered in Category A will be hosted from dinner on August 19, 2026 until the morning of August 23, 2026;

d) choirs registered in Category B only will be hosted from dinner the day before the first performance until the morning following their last performance;

e) all travel expenses are to be paid by the choirs.

f) for organizational reasons, during the days of the Competition the choirs will not be allowed to participate in other festivals, nor to leave Arezzo, unless they have been previously authorized.

Art. 8 - The composition of the choir or of the ensemble may vary according to the different pieces to be performed, provided that the limits of the single sections are respected.

Art. 9 - Any change in the number of choristers, or replacement of them, must be communicated to the Secretariat of the Foundation within July 15, 2026, in order to assess its regularity. After this date changes may be requested only for proven reason of extreme severity.

N.B. The number of components cannot be increased compared to that indicated on the registration form

Art. 10 - The eventual request of replacement of one or more pieces in the contest may be submitted to the Secretariat of the Foundation within the June 15, 2026; the Artistic Direction of the competition

reserves the right to accept or refuse the request.

Art. 11 – The order of exhibition of the choirs will be decided by irrevocable and definitive judgement expressed by the Artistic Direction. During the competitions the pieces must be performed according to the order resulting from the program. Any eventual exception must be previously agreed with the Jury Secretariat.

Art. 12 - All the competitions will be subject to the judgement of an International Jury.

Art. 13 - During the Competition, further choral music concerts (programmes to be defined) will be organized. The choirs admitted to the Competition will have to participate in the concerts. The concerts will be scheduled according to the competition schedule and requirements.

Art. 14 - All the events of the competition will be open to the public and visible in streaming on the website of the Foundation, www.polifonico.org. In addition, the Foundation reserves the right to take photographs, images and video recordings for publication on social and video sharing platforms, i.e. YouTube (*see Attachment 1- Information on personal data processing choir's members and Attachment 1B Information on personal data processing – Minors*).

Art. 15 - The Foundation “Guido d’Arezzo” reserves all rights of recording the music performed during the competitions, the Festival and the concerts, also of radio, record or TV broadcasting, both in Italy and abroad, without any obligation to remunerate the choirs.

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THE JURY

Category A “Competition”

1. Vincenzo Di Donato, Italia
2. Dario Tabbia, Italia
3. Milan Kolena, Slovacchia
4. Jani Sivén, Finlandia
5. Helena Končar Zupančič, Slovenia
6. Virginia Bono, Argentina
7. Helene Stureborg, Svezia

Art. 16 - The Jury will be made up of well-known music experts in the international field. The Jury will nominate its President, electing him among its components.

Art. 17 – The Jury for section 1, 2, 3, 4 is composed of at least 7 members having the right to vote. The majority of the jury members will not be Italians. No more than 2 jury members can be citizens of the same nation (in compliance with the *President of the Council of Ministers mem. no. 10 of 5 December 1994 - published in the Italian Official Gazette, no. 16, 20 January 1995*).

Art. 18 - At the end of each round, judgement will be expressed as numerical score, resulting from the average of the outcomes assigned by each jury member (see art.19). The highest and lowest scores will be excluded.

Art. 19 - The Jury will have to express a judgment at the end of each round. Their analytical assessment will take into consideration the following parameters:

- a) technical quality
- b) interpretation quality

Each jury member will express a judgment in /100 for each of the evaluation parameters a) and b) as stated above.

Art. 20 - The classification of the competitions will be determined by the sum of the scores obtained by each group according to the evaluation parameters referred to in Article 19. The Jury will have the faculty

not to assign any prize to the choral ensembles whose scores are lower than:

- 180/200 for First Prizes;
- 160/200 for Second Prizes;
- 140/200 for Third Prizes;

Art. 21 - A Secretary, nominated by the Artistic Director, will record the all the operations of the Jury.

Art. 22 - The composition of the Jury can be changed in the course of each competition only under circumstances of force majeure.

Art. 23 - The judgment of the Jury is irrevocable and definitive and may be viewed on request submitted in writing to the Foundation “Guido d’Arezzo”.

Art. 24 - Before the beginning of the Competition, the Jury will gather, at the presence of the Artistic Director, in order to align among all its members, the criteria of evaluation related to the judgment parameters.

Art. 25 - If a choir exceeds the time at its disposal, as set out in this Announcement for each section of the competition, the Jury will apply a penalty in the final score of 1/200 for each minute over or less. The playing time is measured without including the pauses between pieces.

Art. 26 – The appreciation prize, expressed by the audience for Section 5 (41th *International Festival of Choral Folk Music*) will be awarded through direct scoring expressed on specific voting cards.

Category B “Rassegna”

Art. 27 – For section 5 (41th *International Festival of Choral Folk Music*) the single prize will be expressed by the audience and determined by counting the preferences indicated on specific voting cards.

Art. 28 - The Listening Commissions for Section 6 (Micrologus Prize - Monophonic Medieval Liturgical Music) is composed of well-known music experts in the international field. The listening Commissions will nominate their President, electing him among their components. The Listening Commissions will be made up of at least 3 members having the right to vote.

Art. 29 - The Listening Commission express its judgment at the end of each performance in arithmetical score as a result of the average of the scores given by each juror excluding the highest and lowest score

Art. 30 - In its analytical evaluation, the Listening Commissions will take into consideration technical quality and artistic quality of the performances as well as the compliance of the pieces submitted with the duration.

Art. 31 - The ranking of the competitions will be determined by the sum of the scores obtained by each choir/group. The Listening Commission will have the faculty not to assign any prize.

Art. 32 - A Secretary, nominated by the Artistic Direction, will record all the operations of the Listening Commissions.

Art. 33 - The members of the Listening Commissions can be changed in the course of each competition only under circumstances of force majeure.

Art. 34 - The judgment of the Jury is irrevocable and definitive and may be viewed on request submitted in writing to the Foundation “Guido d’Arezzo”.

Art. 35 – Before the beginning of the Competition, the Listening Commission will gather, at the presence of the Artistic Director, in order to align the evaluation criteria related to the judgment parameters.

General rules

Art. 36 - The Foundation Guido d'Arezzo reserves the faculty of modifying this announcement and its regulations, under circumstances of force majeure.

Art. 37 – Any eventual complaint will have to be written and presented immediately to the President of the Foundation, who will consider it with the assistance of its competent authorities.

Art. 38 - In case of specific complaints regarding the announcement and the regulations, reference must be made to the Italian version of the text.

Art. 39 – Controversies of any kind will have to be regulated by the Court of Arezzo.

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HOW TO APPLY

Chapter 1

Application

Applications must be exclusively made using the specific form on www.polifonico.org. They must arrive by and no later than **May 5, 2026** together with a receipt attesting payment of the application fee of Euro 100.00, under penalty of disqualification.

Payments of the amount mentioned above must be made by bank transfer:

Fondazione Guido d'Arezzo Onlus

IBAN: IT75C0538714102000042122689 (BPER BANCA S.p.A)

Reason for the payment: “Choir name” application fee for the 2026 International Polyphonic Competition fee for the 2026 International Polyphonic Competition

N.B.: The application fee is non-refundable.

In the event that the choir participates to both Category A and Category B, the application fee is due only once.

Category A “Competition”

The choirs admitted to the Category A “Competition” will have to pay, in addition to the application fee, a participation fee as following:

- € 200 for groups up to 12 singers,
- € 400 for groups up to 24 singers,
- € 600 for groups up to 36 singers.

This fee must be paid within **May 26, 2026**, under penalty of exclusion.

The payment must be made by bank transfer to the following account:

Fondazione Guido d'Arezzo Onlus

IBAN: IT75C0538714102000042122689 (BPER BANCA S.p.A)

Reason for the payment: “Choir name” participation fee for the 2026 International Polyphonic Competition fee for the 2026 International Polyphonic Competition

N.B. The participation fee is non-refundable.

Category B “Rassegna”

The choirs admitted to the Category B “Rassegna” will have to pay, in addition to the application fee, a participation fee of € 150.

The participation fee must be paid **May 26, 2026**, under penalty of exclusion.

The payment must be made by bank transfer to the following account:

Fondazione Guido d'Arezzo Onlus

IBAN: IT75C0538714102000042122689 (BPER BANCA S.p.A)

Reason for the payment: "Choir name" participation fee for the 2026 International Polyphonic Competition fee for the 2026 International Polyphonic Competition

N.B The participation fee is non-refundable.

Chapter 2

The registration form, submitted using only the form mentioned above (Chapter 1), must be filled out by the President or by the choir Conductor, who will thus be responsible for the information provided, and shall contain:

- a) name and surname, address, email, telephone number and colour photo of the conductor, president and the second conductor (if any);
- b) declaration of the amateur characteristic of the choir.
- c) the formation of the choir, including the conductor's name, the number of singers (women/men/children) and a name list of the members, indicating their date of birth; children's choirs must also indicate the gender of each member.
- d) 1 colour photo of the choir and CV in Italian and English of the choir and the conductor, pointing out their eventual participation and results obtained in other competitions.
- e) a recent video recording together with the detailed list of the compositions recorded on it. It is also accepted a link to websites (e.g. You Tube etc.).
- f) receipt of payment of the application fee (Euro 100).
- g) information on the arrival mode to Arezzo.

h) registration to the competition categories with list of the pieces of free choice and the piece to be performed at the Opening concert and at "Città di Arezzo" Grand Prize in case you will be admitted.

For each piece shall be provided:

- a clearly legible copy in PDF format of each of the compositions chosen for the purposes of the competition.
- name, surname, place and date of birth and where applicable date of death of the author and/or transcriber.
- translation in Italian or English of the title, except for Latin texts;
- duration, publisher, eventual instrument.

- i) application to participate in the competition and acceptance of its rules.
- l) acknowledgement to the consent to data processing (see attachment 1 A – Information on the processing of personal data of the Choir members and attachment 1B Information on the processing of personal data – Children).
- m) acknowledgement to the consent to images processing (*see attachment 2A – Form for the Consent to the processing of images of the Choir members and attachment 2B Form for the Consent to the images processing – Minors*), which have to be filled out and signed by each member of the choir and sent according to further communications.

Failing to do so will result in the non-broadcasting of videos and photos through the channels as set out on Art. 14 of the General Rules.

Chapter 3

The Artistic Director reserves the right to ask choirs to replace the pieces proposed if considered as not complying to this announcement.

Chapter 4

The admission or exclusion from the competition will be published on the website www.polifonico.org

within May12, 2026. The decision concerning the admission to the competition is unappealable.

Chapter 5

Each choir admitted must send **through the application form, copy in PDF file of each of the pieces chosen for the competition.** The organization declines all responsibility for any reproduction of scores covered by international copyright.

Chapter 6

The application for registration implies complete acceptance of all the rules of the competition.

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