



ASSOCIAZIONE GRUPPI CORALI VERONESI

35th International Choral Singing Competition / Festival

Verona, April 15 –17 , 2027

The **Associazione Gruppi Corali Veronesi**, with the support of the **Veneto Region** and the **Municipality of Verona**, is pleased to announce the **35th International Choral Singing Competition/Festival**, to be held from **April 15th to 17th, 2027** in **Verona (Italy)**, open to **non-professional choral groups** in the following categories:

- **A** – Equal-voice female choirs
- **B** – Equal-voice male choirs
- **C** – Mixed choirs
- **D** – Youth choirs (members up to 25 years old)

The competition will be structured into the following **repertoire categories**:

1) Classical Polyphonic Singing

- **Only female voices - category A1**
- **Only male voices - category B1**
- **Mixed voices - category C1**
- **Young voices - category D1**

The choirs (at least 12 members) will have to sing polyphonic pieces chosen freely from the renaissance, romantic and contemporary periods. The songs will have to be sung in their original language.

Non-original versions are not allowed.

A piano can be used for only one song if it is necessary for the original version. The total time for any performance must not exceed 20 minutes, including getting on and off the stage..

2) Classical Polyphonic Singing with Compulsory Piece

- **Only female voices category – Category A2**
- **Young female voices category – Category D2**
Compulsory piece: “VON SCHWALBEN UND MÄDCHEN” Petr Eben
- **Only male voices category – Category B2**
- **Young male voices category – Category D2**
Compulsory piece: “AVE VERUM” L. Grossi Da Viadana
- **Mixed voices category – Category C2**
- **Young mixed voices category – Category D2**
Compulsory piece: “EXHULTATE JUSTI” L. Grossi Da Viadana

In addition to compulsory songs, the choirs will have to sing polyphonic pieces freely chosen from the renaissance, romantic and contemporary periods. The songs will have to be sung in their original language. Non-original versions are not allowed.

A piano can be used for only one song if it is necessary for the original version. The total time for any performance must not exceed 20 minutes, including getting on and off the stage.

3) POPULAR & FOLK SONG

- Only female voices category – Category A3
- Only male voices category – Category B3
- Mixed voices category – Category C3
- Young voices category – Category D3

The choirs will have to sing popular songs in their original or personalized version, chosen freely preferably from the country of origin. Rhythmic musical instruments and any other indications included in the song are allowed. At least one song must be sung without musical instruments (a cappella). The total time for any performance must not exceed 20 minutes, including getting on and off the stage.

4) JAZZ, BLUES, GOSPEL, SWING SONG

- Only female voices category – Category A4
- Only male voices category – Category B4
- Mixed voices category – Category C4
- Young voices category – Category D4

The choirs will have to sing freely chosen pieces. Rhythmic musical instruments and any other indications included in the song are allowed. At least one song must be sung without musical instruments (a cappella). The total time for any performance must not exceed 20 minutes, including getting on and off the stage.

I. Jury Regulations

The jury will consist of renowned figures from the international music scene and will be chaired by the President of the Verona Choral Groups Association, who will coordinate the proceedings without voting rights.

In his absence, a jury chairperson will be elected from among the members.

The jury consists of **seven judges**.

Each choir will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Intonation
- Rhythm
- Vocal technique
- Dynamics
- Interpretation

Each judge will assign a **numerical score**, which will be reviewed and approved by the full jury in a dedicated meeting.

Based on total scores, choirs will be classified in one of the following merit levels:

- **Excellent:** 90–100 points
- **Good:** 80–89.9 points
- **Fair:** 70–79.9 points
- **Sufficient:** 60–69.9 points

All jury proceedings will be recorded by a secretary and supporting staff.

Jury decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

Following the competition, each choir will have the opportunity for a **technical debriefing session** with an assigned member of the jury.

No jury feedback will be issued after the conclusion of the event.

II. Registration and Participation Terms

The 35th International Choral Singing Competition/Festival is open to **non-professional choral and vocal ensembles**.

- Registration deadline: **January 31, 2027**.
- Submit completed application form to:
✉ info@agcverona.it or groups@europlan.it

Participation fee per choir: € 300

To find out the cost of accommodation based on the number of nights, write to: groups@europlan.it

Fee includes:

- Admission to the Opening Concert at the Teatro Filarmonico
- Choir performance before an international jury, with feedback opportunity
- Participation in concerts at historic and prestigious venues across Verona
- Evening exchange concert with a local choir
- Reception for choir representatives at Verona City Hall
- Award ceremony and certificate/trophy presentation at the Teatro Filarmonico
- Closing buffet reception
- Official event photo documentation
- Parade and joint choral performance at the Arena or another prestigious venue
- Confirmation and instructions for score submission and final fee payment will follow within one week of registration.

III. Schedule Overview

- **Thursday, April 15, 2027:** Auditions will begin in the morning. At 9:00 PM, a farewell ceremony will be held with a concert at the Teatro Filarmonico, open to all registered choirs and the public.
- **Friday, April 16:** Continuing the auditions (a grand piano will be available on site)
- **Saturday, April 17, 2027, at 9:30 AM:** City Hall Reception and citywide performances
- **Saturday, April 17, 2027, at 11:00 AM:** Award Ceremony; choirs in the Excellent category will perform
- **Final concert and closing event:** Group performance at the Arena or other notable venue

Choirs may also perform in evening concerts across Verona Province, **subject to organizational approval**.

The organization is **not liable for any personal or property damage** during the event.

The Verona Choral Groups Association reserves the right to amend these rules **due to force majeure**.

IV. Awards

All participating choirs will receive:

- Participation diploma
- Jury evaluation sheet (sealed)
- Commemorative plaque
- Merit cup (for choirs in *Excellent*, *Good*, or *Fair* categories)
- Post-event: Photo documentation sent via email after the end of the competition

Special Prize – Polyphonic Category with Compulsory Piece (A2, B2, C2, D2):

- **€1,000 cash prize** awarded to the top choir in each of these categories, provided they scored in the *Excellent* range and achieved the highest score.

Grand Special Prize – Oswald Stocker Award

Awarded to the **best overall choir** of the competition, with a minimum score of **98/100**.

Includes:

- Invitation to perform the **Opening Concert at the 2028 International Festival**
- **Free 3-star hotel accommodation (max 40 people)** for the entire event
- Choir director invited to join the international jury (non-voting)

This prize is **non-transferable**, includes **half-board accommodation**, and will be forfeited if the winning choir does not confirm participation by **December 31, 2027**.

Additional Jury Awards (at the jury's discretion):

- Best conductor
- Best performance of compulsory piece
- Most artistically interesting program
- Others...