



ASSOCIAZIONE GRUPPI CORALI VERONESI

34th International Choral Singing Competition / Festival

Verona, April 8–11, 2026

The **Associazione Gruppi Corali Veronesi**, with the support of the **Veneto Region** and the **Municipality of Verona**, is pleased to announce the **34th International Choral Singing Competition/Festival**, to be held from **April 8th to 11th, 2026** 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)
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The competition will be structured into the following **repertoire categories**:

1) Classical Polyphonic Singing

- **Female choirs – Category A1**
- **Male choirs – Category B1**
- **Mixed choirs – Category C1**
- **Youth choirs – Category D1**

Choirs (min. 12 singers) are required to perform freely chosen polyphonic works from the Renaissance, Romantic, and Contemporary periods.

All pieces must be performed in their **original form and language**. No arrangements are permitted.

Use of piano is allowed for **one piece only**, and only if **required in the original score**.

The total performance time, including stage setup and exit, must **not exceed 20 minutes**.

2) Classical Polyphonic Singing with Compulsory Piece

- **Female choirs – Category A2**
- **Female youth choirs – Category D2**
Compulsory piece: *"Senza tempo"* by P.I. Tchaikovsky
- **Male choirs – Category B2**
- **Male youth choirs – Category D2**
Compulsory piece: *"Dolci parole morte"* by J. Arcadelt
- **Mixed choirs – Category C2**
- **Mixed youth choirs – Category D2**
Compulsory piece: *"Les Fleurs et les arbres"* by C. Saint-Saëns

In addition to the compulsory piece, choirs (min. 12 singers) must perform freely chosen works from the Renaissance, Romantic, and Contemporary periods.

All pieces must be presented in their **original form and language**. Arrangements are not allowed.

Piano accompaniment is permitted **for one piece only**, if **required in the original score**.

The total performance duration must **not exceed 20 minutes**, including stage movement.

3) Folk and Traditional Singing

- **Female choirs – Category A3**
- **Male choirs – Category B3**
- **Mixed choirs – Category C3**
- **Youth choirs – Category D3**

Choirs (no size limitation) are required to perform **freely chosen traditional or arranged folk pieces**, preferably from their country of origin.

Use of rhythmic instruments and any expressive means required by the music is allowed.

At least **one piece must be performed a cappella**.

Performance time must **not exceed 20 minutes**, including stage movement.

4) Pop, Jazz, Gospel, etc.

- **Female choirs – Category A4**
- **Male choirs – Category B4**
- **Mixed choirs – Category C4**
- **Youth choirs – Category D4**

Choirs (no size limitation) may perform **freely chosen** pieces from genres such as **pop, jazz, swing, gospel**, etc.

Use of instruments and expressive forms required by the music is permitted.

At least **one piece must be performed a cappella**.

Total performance time must **not exceed 20 minutes**, including stage movement.

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 34th International Choral Singing Competition/Festival is open to **non-professional choral and vocal ensembles**.

- Registration deadline: **January 31, 2026**.
- Submit completed application form to:
✉ info@agcverona.it or groups@euoplan.it

Participation fees include accommodation and must be paid per person:

Accommodation Fee (per person)

1 Night	from €75
2 Nights	from €115
3 Nights	from €160
No overnight stay	€30

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.
- One free participation for every 20 people (in double room).
- Final deadline for **score submission and payment: February 15, 2026**

III. Schedule Overview

- **Wednesday, April 8, 2026:** Opening Ceremony and Welcome Concert at Teatro Filarmonico
- **Thursday, April 9 & Friday, April 10:** Jury auditions (a grand piano will be available on site)
- **Friday evening, April 10:** Award Ceremony; choirs in the *Excellent* category will perform
- **Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 9:30 AM:** City Hall Reception and citywide performances
- **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 2027 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, 2026**.

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

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