



## The Essentials

Applicants **must include / adhere to** each of the following:

- A completed entry form.
- The choir's proposed competition programme / repertoire
- Three original scores of each work** to accompany each completed entry form. **Photocopies of music will not be accepted** by any of the judging panels or festival committee. Please see 'Repertoire' for number of songs / pieces required.
- Details about the choir detailing activities and achievements (English text, approx 100 words), to be emailed to our Festival Producer: [decdurcan@gmail.com](mailto:decdurcan@gmail.com)
- A recent choir photograph (good quality digital format, large size / high resolution), to be emailed to our Festival Producer: [decdurcan@gmail.com](mailto:decdurcan@gmail.com)
- Payment of entry fee - see 'Entry Fees'.
- All members of each choir are 16 years of age or over.
- There is a minimum of eight members in each choir except for the Barbershop Quartet, Smaller Choral Groups and A Cappella competitions.

Only Applications which include / adhere to all of the above, and are received by the entry closing dates, will be considered.

## Entry Fees & Bank Details

Entry fee per Choir / Group is €85, which also includes entry to one competition. An additional €85 is required for each competition entry thereafter. Please note that €5 of each €85 will go towards our new 'Greening Our Festival' initiative to reduce the festival's carbon footprint.

*Choirs are responsible for all related bank charges. Entry fee, plus any additional bank charges incurred, must be paid by bank transfer or cheque to the festival account by entry deadline. Ensure that the name of choir and contact details are noted on bank transfer. There is no admission charges to choirs into events in which they are performing.*

### Entry / Competition Fees to be paid to:

Account Name: Mayo International Choral Festival Co. Ltd.  
Bank: BANK OF IRELAND.  
NSE: 903744  
Branch Address: CASTLEBAR CO MAYO  
Account No.: 75875549  
IBAN No: IE95 BOFI 9037 4475 8755 49  
BIC NO: BOFIE2D

*Please ensure that the name of choir and contact details are noted on bank transfer.*

- This Application form and all supporting materials to be received from choirs outside of Ireland by 31st December 2019, and by choirs from Ireland by 31st January 2020.
- Please type or print clearly.
- You must complete all sections of this entry form.
- Successful applicants will be notified by post or email within a two week period after the closing date.
- The limit to the number of choirs entering a competition will be decided according to ability to facilitate choirs comfortably.
- Only applications enclosing all of the requirements detailed under 'The Essentials' and 'Entry Procedure' will be considered. Choirs are selected on the basis of their application material. Particular attention is paid to the repertoire and details of performance submitted with the application.
- The Festival accepts no legal responsibility whatsoever in respect of a choir's participation in the Festival and associated activities.

Completed applications by email\*, or post, to:

**Mayo International Choral Festival,**  
C/o Declan Durcan, Festival Producer,  
Cloontubrid, Ross, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Ireland.

Tel: +353 (0)86 2658038

[info@mayochoral.com](mailto:info@mayochoral.com)

[www.mayochoral.com](http://www.mayochoral.com)

\* Applications submitted by email act only as provisional entries. Choirs must forward the specified support materials to the Festival Producer by the competition closing date.

## NEW -

We have introduced two new competition categories this year -

- i) Work-place Choirs and
- ii) Third-level / University / College Choirs

## Massed Choir

Choirs taking part in the Premier Competition at the Gala concert, and any guest choir at the Gala, in addition to those attending the Gala concert will join together as one large sinning group to sing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. Choirs are encouraged to rehearse this piece in the weeks prior to the festival. Please feel free to bring your scores as scores will not be provided.

## Schools Programme

We encourage local school, junior and youth choirs to join with visiting choirs at our concerts and we also encourage visiting choirs to take part in a short performance in local schools during their visit to Mayo.

## Competition Rules & Guidelines

### General Rules and Guidelines

1. Open to any adult choir, members to be 16 years of age or over.
2. Closing date for receipt of completed applications from International choirs is 31st December, 2019 and from choirs from Ireland is 31st January 2020.
3. Decisions of the competition adjudicators will be final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding any aspect of their work.
4. The organising committee reserves the right to cancel a competition.
5. The organising committee reserves the right to restrict the number of entries in each competition.
6. The organising committee accepts no legal responsibility whatsoever in respect of anything pertaining to a choir's participation in the festival and it's associated activities.
7. The festival accepts no responsibility or liability for accommodation and subsistence costs incurred by the choir, or any expense incurred by any choir member, leader, organiser and / or choir party guest, participating in festival.
8. Entry fee (less any bank charges) will be refunded if a choir is not selected.
9. An entered and/or selected choir that withdraws from the festival / competition, is not entitled to a refund of the entry fee.
10. The festival accepts no responsibility for any action taken by publishers against choirs who perform music that has been reproduced illegally.
11. Participation in the festival implies acceptance of all the rules and regulations as outlined, and changes that may occur.
12. All choirs should have a minimum of eight voices (this restriction is not applicable to Barbershop Quartet, A Cappella and Smaller Choral Groups Competitions, and non-competitive choirs).
13. All details subject to change.
14. The organising committee reserves the right to change the order of advertised events at their discretion.
15. The printers, designers, web and social media content managers and any organising committee working on behalf of / engaged by Mayo International Choral Festival, accept no responsibility for changes, errors, or omissions contained in the festival print, signage, electronic / internet or video / verbal / audio and social media / online promotions.
16. Each competition may be subject to a maximum number of choirs.
17. First-prize winning choirs are kindly requested to attend and perform at the Gala concert, apart from winners of the 'First Time Competitors'.
18. International choirs may be requested to attend and perform at the Gala concert as our guests.
19. A singer may not be a member of more than one choir in each competition (this rule does not apply to the Premier Competition).
20. A choir may enter only three competition categories (the choir may also enter, in addition, the Premier Competition if the choir is successful in winning any of the other categories. Please note winners of First Time Competitors do not qualify to enter the Premier Competition).
21. A competing choir must take part in a minimum of one other event in addition to competing. Please see the list of events on page 3 of entry form.

### Entry Procedure

Complete the application form, with supporting documentation / items and email or post to the Festival Producer.

*Only applications enclosing all of the requirements detailed under 'The Essentials' (on entry form) will be considered. Choirs are selected on the basis of their application material. Particular attention is paid to the repertoire.*

A separate entry form is required for each competition. Please photocopy this original, or download from [www.mayochoiral.com](http://www.mayochoiral.com). In the event of choirs purchasing and downloading scores from arrangers / publishers, a copy of the letter of permission must be included and attached to each score copy for the adjudicator to see. All music scores must be received by post or by email, outlining and attaching evidence of proof of purchase / permission from composer. The closing date of entry is also for receipt of music scores.

The competition entry fee is to be paid preferably by bank transfer but cheques / bank drafts are also accepted.

Choirs bring their own keyboards for practice/warm-up. In exceptional cases we can arrange locally the hire of a keyboard, **for overseas choirs only**. Notice must be given on festival entry form. There may be a hire cost involved.

Successful applicants will be notified by email during the two-week period after the final closing date. It is a condition that International choirs have relevant documentation by the closing date in order that entry is approved.

### Eligibility

1. Each choir must be established as a choir for at least one calendar or one academic year (September to May) prior to the festival (or for 6 months in the case of the 'First Time Competitors' section).
2. All members must be 16 years of age or over.
3. All members of a choir, except the Musical Director and accompanist, must be amateurs (i.e. do not earn their main livelihood as singers).

### Repertoire

Each competition requires two contrasting pieces, whose total duration (actual singing) is no more than nine minutes. It is not necessary to fill the full duration of the nine minutes. Choirs whose programmes do not comply with the prescribed time limits will incur a penalty.

Please note, choirs who qualify for the Premier Competition will have to submit, on the day, three **original** scores of another piece, not previously performed by your choir, in any competition at the 2019 festival.

No choir may sing the same repertoire in two different competitions, (exception - see Premier Competition).

The contrasting programme must represent a coherent range of styles. A choir may not change it's repertoire after final acceptance, and must notify the festival Producer before Feb 7th of any change in the singing order.

Adjudicators will allocate marks for the technical and artistic quality of the chosen programme and the overall quality of its performance and will also take into account how well the choir communicates with the audience in a performance situation.

Choirs competing may use piano or keyboard only, and no other instruments or backing tracks.

The decisions of the Adjudicators are final.

## Competition Rules & Guidelines Contd.

### Travel, Accommodation and Subsistence

#### General:

The festival does not contribute to a choir's travel, accommodation or subsistence costs. Participating choirs and guests are responsible for payment of same. The festival is not responsible for any booking issues or otherwise that arise, at any time. Nor is the festival committee, or representatives acting on committee authority, responsible for any issues arising from the hire / engaging of services / suppliers recommended by the committee or representatives of same.

#### Accommodation:

Participating hotels and accommodation providers are offering special rates for festival choirs. Please mention that you are part of the festival when enquiring / booking accommodation. Early booking strongly advised. It is recommended that choirs allow a few days to travel around the County and also perform at various locations like Knock Basilica, Ashford Castle and historic Ballintubber Abbey, and also to participate in Festival Concerts during the week in the Mayo towns. Please note however, we strongly advise that rates may increase the closer it gets to the festival dates so our advise is to book early.

#### Transport:

There is limited public transport in Mayo. Once our programme is announced in early March, or schedule announced, choirs are strongly advised to check in advance if they need transport during their visit. While the festival does not book, or pay for, transport, we will assist with providing information about reputable coach and taxi providers with reasonable rates. Depending on a choir's accommodation and venue locations, transport may be necessary for travel to evening concerts (various towns), and/or to and between competition venues (all in the one town), taking into consideration the distance between each competition venue, the times of performances, and the unpredictable weather at this time of year.

#### Accompanist

The festival does not provide an accompanist for any rehearsal, competition or concert / performance. Choirs are advised that they must arrange to bring / engage their own accompanist throughout the festival.

### Broadcasting, Recording and Photographic Rights

All participating choirs agree that: Any performance during the festival may be photographed, broadcast live and / or recorded for subsequent reproduction and / or broadcast on radio / television / internet by the festival, without payment. Recordings, visual or audio, can be made only with the written permission of the festival committee or Producer. The festival shall be entitled to possession of any such recording and to reproduce any such recording to sell, let for hire, offer or exposure for sale or hire, distribute or otherwise dispose of in any manner as it sees fit. All broadcasting and photographic rights to any performance at the festival shall belong to the festival which will be free to dispose of or utilise them as it sees fit. Choir photographs and information text given by the choir to the committee, prior to the festival may be used for promotion opportunities. It is the understanding of the festival that any photographs/promotional materials containing persons under the age of 18 years, are provided with parental consent of the individuals in the photograph. By completing this entry form, each choir and choir member waives all performance fee rights, and the right to any mechanical copyright fees where the choir is recorded, and any of those tracks may be used on any subsequent CD or DVD whether promotional or for sale to the general public.

## Greening Our Festival

We are continuing our 'Greening Our Festival' initiative and as well as choirs each contributing €5 as part of their entry fee, we will be changing some of our practices and giving helpful advise in order to reduce the festival's carbon footprint!

Thank you for thinking of our planet and being part of this initiative.

### Choir Contact Details

CHOIR NAME

CONDUCTOR (Mr. / Ms / Mrs.)

CORRESPONDENT'S NAME (Mr. / Ms / Mrs.)

ADDRESS

TEL:  (include international codes)

E-MAIL

CHOIR WEBSITE

NUMBER OF CHOIR MEMBERS (including conductor)

Male: ..... Female: ..... Total: .....

Number of Additional Travelling Guests .....

Requirements needed for members with reduced mobility? Please forward details with entry form. Yes , No

#### Events: please confirm by ticking yes or no:

Competing choirs must participate in a minimum of one of the following events, in addition to competing.

Do you wish to participate in a concert (with other choirs) on Thursday evening? Yes , No

a concert on Friday evening? Yes , No

a concert on Sunday evening? Yes , No

For Thurs, Fri and/or Sun concert please provide a 20-minute duration list of songs, song names and song composers' names before Feb 7th.

Do you wish to participate in part of a morning church mass / service on Sunday? Yes , No

Are you open to giving a short performance at a hospital or care centre? Yes , No

Are you open to giving a short performance to senior citizens, close to your accommodation? Yes , No

Are you open to giving a short open-air street performance close to your accommodation or venue? Yes , No

Are you open to giving a short performance in an Irish Pub, close to your accommodation or venue? Yes , No

Are you open to giving a short open-air performance at Mayo Memorial Peace Park, Castlebar? Yes , No   
[www.mayopeacepark.com](http://www.mayopeacepark.com)

Are you open to giving a short performance in a primary school, close to your accommodation? Yes , No

#### Other required details - please tick yes or no

Do any of your group wish to participate in any choral workshop / demonstrations? Details available later. Yes , No

Do you need a keyboard for rehearsals? Yes , No   
Available for International Choirs only. A hire fee may apply

Our choir will arrive in Mayo on     2020

Our choir will depart Mayo on     2020

Our choir will travel to Ireland / Mayo by:  
Ferry  Air  Train  Car

**Fee Payment Details:** Total fee?: € \_\_\_\_\_

Paid by: Bank Transfer: , Cheque: , Draft: .

Date of Payment: \_\_\_\_\_

### Repertoire & Competition Choice Details

Please note: A SEPARATE APPLICATION FORM NEEDED FOR EACH COMPETITION ENTRY. You can photocopy this page or download from: [www.mayochoiral.com](http://www.mayochoiral.com), for each additional competition.

**A choir may enter up to three competition categories PLUS** the Premier Competition if your choir wins any one of the categories (except 'First Time Competitors').

This is our repertoire for -

Competition Title: .....

The order of performance cannot be changed after this entry.

i) TITLE

COMPOSER / ARRANGER:

PUBLISHER:

DURATION .....

ii) TITLE

COMPOSER / ARRANGER:

PUBLISHER:

DURATION .....

This third piece is necessary if your choir qualifies for participation in the Premier Competition (only first-prize winning choirs from each competition are eligible for entry into the Premier Competition).

iii) TITLE

COMPOSER / ARRANGER:

PUBLISHER:

DURATION .....

All details, including rules and regulations subject to change.

Where did you hear about the festival? Syllabus  Email notice

Ezine  Facebook  Twitter  Print advert  Signage

Display at other choral festival / event  Word of mouth

Radio  Newspaper  Choir's Musical Director/Conductor

Choir attended previously  Google / festival website

Other (please specify) .....

I wish to enter the above choir into the Festival in accordance with the competition rules to perform the repertoire listed on this page. I have read and understand the Competition Rules and Guidelines.

Signed .....

Position in Choir .....

Please complete and return only this page for each competition

## 2019 Competition Details

### Premier Competition

The first-prize-winners of all competitions below (with the exception of 'First Time Competitors'), automatically qualify for entry to the Premier Competition. Programme should consist of two contrasting part songs. One of the pieces must be chosen from the repertoire already performed in the qualifying competition. The second piece must not have been previously sung by your choir, in any of the other 2020 competitions as below. Please note, a choir can qualify to enter the Premier Competition in one competition category only, in each year of the festival. In 2020, should a particular choir win in two or more competition categories during the day, it may choose which one of those categories it wishes to represent in the Premier. The competition(s) that the winners do not represent, will be represented by the runners up of that competition(s) instead. Choirs taking part in the Premier Competition (which takes place at the Gala Concert), and any guest choir at the Gala Concert, in addition to those attending the Gala Concert, will join together as one large group to sing Handel's 'Hallelujah Chorus'. Choirs are encouraged to rehearse this piece in the weeks prior to the festival. Please feel free to bring your scores as scores will not be provided.

PRIZES Winner: Trophy and €1,000. Runner-up: €200.

### Four Part Choirs

Any combination of voices. Four-Part or more.

Programme should consist of two contrasting part songs, and be chosen as follows:

- (i) A piece composed before 1800
- (ii) Any part song contrasting with (i).

PRIZES Winner: Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

### Choirs from Ireland

Any combination of voices. (Four-Part or more)

Programme should consist of two contrasting, 4 part songs.

PRIZES Winner: Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

### Female Voices Margaret Bourke Sheridan

Programme should consist of two contrasting 3 or 4 part songs.

PRIZES Winner: Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

### Male Voices Jack Feeney

Programme should consist of two contrasting 3 or 4 part songs.

PRIZES Winner: Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

### Sacred Music

Programme should consist of two contrasting part songs.

PRIZES Winner: Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

### Gospel Choirs

Programme should consist of two contrasting part pieces from the gospel choral music repertoire.

PRIZES Winner: Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

### Gaelic or Celtic Language, Delia Murphy

Amhrán is Fearr i nGaeilge nó i dTeanga Cheilteach..

Programme should consist of two contrasting 3 or 4 part songs in Irish or any Celtic Language.

PRIZES Winner: Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

## Contact Details:

Mayo International Choral Festival, Festival Office:

C/o Declan Durcan, Festival Producer,

Cloontubrid, Ross, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Ireland. Tel. +353 (0)94 90 2 30 40.

### Barbershop Chorus

Programme should consist of two contrasting pieces from the Barbershop repertoire.

PRIZES Winner: Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

### Barbershop Quartet

Programme should consist of two contrasting pieces from the Barbershop repertoire.

PRIZES Winner: Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

### First Time Competitors

For choirs who have never entered into competition before but would love to do so with choirs of a similar standard. Programme should consist of two contrasting 3 or 4 part songs. Winning choir of this competition is not eligible to enter the Premier Competition.

PRIZES Winner: Trophy and €200. Runner-up: €100.

### Songs from a Musical, Light Opera or Pop / Chart song.

Also open to musical societies and associations as well as choirs.

Programme should consist of two contrasting 3 or 4 part songs.

PRIZES Winner: Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

### A Cappella Groups

Open to groups of a minimum of four to a maximum of eight members. Programme should consist of two contrasting 3 or 4 part songs/pieces, **in any genre**, sung without accompaniment.

PRIZES Winner: Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

### Smaller Choral Groups -

Open to groups of a minimum of four to a maximum of eight members. Programme should consist of two contrasting 3 or 4 part songs/pieces.

PRIZES Winner: Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

### New: Third-level, University / College Choir

Any combination of voices. Three or Four Part or more.

Programme should consist of two contrasting part songs.

PRIZES Winner: Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

### New: Work-place Choir

For choirs consisting of members working in the same organisation/business/company. Any combination of voices.

Three or Four Part or more. Programme should consist of two

contrasting part songs. Please note at least 80% of the members must be working in the organisation.

PRIZES Winner: Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

## Non-competing Choirs

Non-Competing Choirs are very welcome to attend and perform.

Download a **separate application form** our website

[www.mayochoral.com](http://www.mayochoral.com) or contact us.

## Touring outside of festival dates?

Choirs who are unable to visit during the Festival dates and would like to come to Mayo at a different time of the year, can also avail of the special accommodation rate. The Festival committee will assist with arrangements and performances / concerts during their visit.

Declan Durcan, Festival Producer,

Mobile +353 (0)86 2658038

[decdurcan@gmail.com](mailto:decdurcan@gmail.com)

Frank Murray, Festival Chairman

[murrayfrank91@gmail.com](mailto:murrayfrank91@gmail.com)