

Regulation of the International Competition 2022

Art. 1 – PRESENTATION

The Montreux Choral Festival (MCF) brings together choirs of all sizes and types for a high-level competition on the Swiss Riviera. There is an International Competition which is open to all choirs and vocal ensembles from around the world, including Switzerland. In addition, there is a National Competition reserved for choirs from Switzerland who do not wish to participate in the International Competition.

This regulation specifies the conditions for the International Competition. There is a different regulation specific to the National Competition.

Conditions of participation:

The International Competition is open to all **non-professional choirs**.

Art. 2 – CATEGORIES

Choirs must have a minimum of twelve (12) participants except for the category of Vocal Ensemble which has a maximum of eight (8) participants.

There are five (5) categories in which choirs can register:

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Age limits</u> *
• Children's Choir	Mixed group, all girls or all boys Two-thirds (2/3) of all voices must be under the age of sixteen (16) Maximum age is twenty (20) Average age of all must not exceed sixteen (16)
• Mixed Youth Choir	Minimum age is sixteen (16) Maximum age is twenty-seven (27)
• Equal Voices Choir	Minimum age is sixteen (16)
• Mixed Choir	Minimum age is sixteen (16)
• Voice Ensemble	Maximum of eight (8) participants No age requirement No instruments or amplification Styles may include, but are not limited to: Gospel, Jazz, Old Music, Vocal Orchestra

* Age limits apply to the time of the competition.

The MCF Organizing Committee reserves the right to check the ages of participants.

Choirs may compete in more than one category provided its different formations are clearly distinct and meet the above criteria.

The MCF reserves the right to organize a competition with a category of choirs not mentioned above.

Art. 3 – PROGRAM

Except for one (1) imposed work, the choice of all other works is free. There are two (2) parts of the competition: Imposed and Free. Requirements for each are as follows:

1. Imposed Program a Capella

- Program must be between a minimum of seventeen (17) and a maximum of twenty (20) minutes (including breaks between works).
- Repertoire must include:
 - Imposed Work (except for the category Vocal Ensemble)
 - One (1) Renaissance Work
 - One (1) Contemporary Work from 1950+
- No (0) work may be accompanied by an instrument.

2. Free Program

- Program must be between a minimum of thirteen (13) and a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes (including breaks between works).
- One (1) work may be accompanied by one or more instruments. (Piano available on site.)

It is not allowed to present two (2) times the same work in the two (2) programs.

Art. 4 – JURY

The jury is composed of five (5) personalities recognized in the music world. Each member will represent a different country including a mandatory person from Switzerland.

The main criteria on which the Jury will base its judgment are, but is not limited to, the following:

- Technical execution – intonation, dynamics, rhythm, diction, technique of management
- Artistic execution – sound, presentation and aura of the choir, interpretation of the text, respect for the style

The marks awarded by the Jury are NOT communicated to the choirs. The decisions of the Jury are final and not subject to appeal. The Jury reserves the right not to award a prize.

Art. 5 – PRIZES

Each choir is judged by a jury and by the public, and the following prizes may be awarded:

1) The Grand Prix of the City of Montreux (CHF 5'000.-)

At the Awards Ceremony, the jury will announce the top choirs from each category (except for the category Voice Ensemble which is not considered for this prize). These choirs will compete for the prize “The Grand Prix of the City of Montreux.” During the Closing Concert, the selected choirs will perform one or several works drawn from their Imposed and/or Free Program or from their repertoire which will allow the jury to decide a winner. As choirs will NOT know ahead of time if they will be chosen, they should come prepared to perform.

2) Category Prizes

Choirs earn points based on their two (2) performances. The points are converted to a percentage totaling 100 % and prizes are awarded accordingly. If there is a tie in any of the prize categories, the prize is shared among the laureates.

1 st prize	CHF 2'000.-	Score over 95 %
2 nd prize	CHF 1'000.-	Score between 90 – 95 %
3 rd prize	CHF 500.-	Score between 80 – 90 %

Prizes may be awarded regardless of the number of choirs per category. There is always a possibility that for a given category, regardless of the number of choirs competing in that category, that if there are no scores above 80 %, no prize will be awarded.

Each choir will receive:

- A mention from the jury which is awarded on a scale larger than price
- A Diploma of Participation with indications of prizes and/or mentions awarded

3) Special Prizes

- Best Swiss Choir (CHF 2'000.-)
- Newly Created Work (CHF 1'000.-) - This is awarded to the best piece created during the MCF. It is shared between the composer (CHF 500.-) and the choir interpreting the work (CHF 500.-). The work can be sung during the Imposed or Free Program

The jury reserves the right to award a special prize, not mentioned in these rules, to highlight a special quality of a choir or choirmaster.

Art. 6 – PRIZE OF THE PUBLIC

At each International Competition performances, the attending audience can score each choir. Ballots are issued upon entrance to the concert hall and collected immediately after the performance. Scores are tallied and the choir with the highest score (after their two performances) will be awarded the “Prize of the Public” (CHF 2'000.-). These scores will not be communicated to the choirs.

Art. 7 – CONCERTS OFF AND EVENTS

The MCF organizes on Saturday, as part of the festival, public concerts and standout choral events in Montreux and the neighbouring region. Choirs participating in the International and National Competitions, or other invited choral groups, are obliged to take part in these activities.

Choirs participating in these events do so without financial compensation from the MCF. However, when or where appropriate, choirs and guests may receive special on-site benefits and gratuities as organized by the MCF.

Art. 8 – RECORDINGS AND RIGHTS OF USE

The MCF reserves the right to record and film all or part of the music performed during the competition, as well as the OFF and EVENT concerts. The use and distribution by the MCF of these audio and video recordings, in Switzerland and abroad, including on electronic media, are done without prior information or compensation to the choirs concerned.

Art. 9 – FEES AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE MCF

The MCF contributes to the living expenses of each choir participating in the International Competition to the tune of CHF 120.- per chorister (who is actually participating in the competition) + one (1) choir director + one (1) companion.

The number of participants on the registration form must be as close as possible to the actual number participating in the competition. If the number of participants changes between the time of registration and the festival, the MCF must be informed immediately.

All expenses incurred by participation in the MCF, including the competition, the OFF concerts, meals, accommodations, travel, etc., are the sole responsibility of the choir.

The MCF can suggest accommodations in Montreux and the surrounding area which offer specially negotiated rates for the choirs of the competition.

Art. 10 – REGISTRATION

Choirs interested in participating in the MCF can find the registration form on the website www.choralfestival.ch.

Registration deadline

The completed registration form must be submitted via postal mail or email (PDF format) **NO LATER than December 15th** of the year of the Festival.

Contents of the form

In addition to the detailed information about the choir and its Director, the form must provide detailed information about the works of the Imposed and Free Programs (English or French). The duration of each work must also be clearly stated. Changes to the program (order of works, deletions, additions, etc.) will be accepted **UNTIL February 15st** preceding the Festival. NO CHANGES will be accepted beyond this date.

Registration fees and required documents

The following documents must be submitted with the registration form:

- A non-refundable registration fee of CHF 200.- to be paid into the account of the MCF. (IBAN: CH27 0024 9249 7931 3801 M, BIC: UBSWCHZH80A)
Note: 50 % off if the choir registers before October 31st!
- Two (2) digital photos of the choir to be used for the press and for printing in the program. They should be high quality (minimum 300 DPI) and in JPG or PNG format.
- Five (5) printed (via postal mail) OR one (1) PDF format (via email) copy of each score to be performed in both programs.
- A CD, MP3, YouTube link or electronic audio file of recent choral recordings.

Art. 11 – ADMISSION

For acceptance to the MCF, the following are taken into consideration:

- The elements of the registration dossier (references of the choirs and directors, the supporting documents mentioned above, etc.)
- Date of receipt of the registration

The MCF will inform each registered choir whether they have/have not been accepted to participate (if possible) by December 30th of the year of the Festival. The MCF is not required to justify their decision.

Art. 12 – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / TIMING

Choirs chosen to participate in the MCF International Competition agree to respect these conditions specified by the MCF:

- Arrive no later than 3:00 pm Wednesday, the day of the opening of the Festival, in order to receive IMPORTANT information concerning the proceeding of the Festival. Regarding the Opening Concert on Wednesday night, each choir will indicate which work (including time) he will perform during this Concert (refer to the registration form).
- Participate in the competitions and OFF concerts which they have registered for, in the times and places imposed upon them.
- Attend the Awards Ceremony and Closing Concert on Saturday afternoon and evening in their stage costume.

- Be prepared to perform at the Closing Concert. Laureates who obtain a 1st prize in their category will perform two (2) works drawn from their Imposed and/or Free Program or from their repertoire. Each choir must pre-select AND list on the registration form which works they will perform (should they be a laureate) with duration time noted. Total performance for the two (2) works is not to exceed seven (7) minutes.
- Participate in the animations organized after the Closing Concert, based on a voluntary preliminary registration.

Art. 13 – LEGAL ASPECTS

The French version of the regulation is valid in the event of a dispute.

This regulation is subject to Swiss law. In the event of a dispute concerning the application of these rules, the parties' elect domicile of jurisdiction at the registry of the Tribunal Civil d'arrondissement de l'Est vaudois in Vevey.