



# International choral festival and contest "IN ANTICIPATION OF CHRISTMAS"

St. Petersburg, Russia

12 – 15 December, 2019

## Dear friends,

We invite you to take part in the **4th International Festival and Contest of concert programs "IN ANTICIPATION OF CHRISTMAS" from 12 to 15 December, 2019 in St. Petersburg.**

The purpose of the Festival is to create an atmosphere of preparation for the Christmas, draw attention to the choral art and to help to expand the repertoire of Christmas songs for choirs involving contemporary authors.

Participation in the Festival should contribute to the preservation and development of traditions choral singing and help both the participants and leaders of choirs in their creative achievement, networking, and professional development.

## ORGANISERS OF THE FESTIVAL

Council for Culture of the St. Petersburg Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church  
Centre for International Cultural Cooperation - "Inter Aspect"

## PARTICIPANTS OF THE FESTIVAL

- Choirs and ensembles from all over the World, which desires to show their choral art.
- No **age limit** of the participants.
- The **number** of singers in ensemble is minimum 3 singers; no other **limit** of number in choir.
- Amateur and professional choirs are permitted to compete (compete separately).

## FESTIVAL VENUES

- St. Petersburg State Capella (20 Moika River Embankment);
- Saint Isaac's Cathedral (St. Isaac's Square, 4);
- St Peter and Paul Cathedral (Nevsky avenue, 22);
- St Maria Evangelistic and Lutheran Church (8A B. Konushennaya Street);
- The Cathedral of Assumption of Virgin Mary (1<sup>st</sup> Krasnoarmeyskaya, 11);
- St. Catherine Swedish Lutheran Church (Malaya Koniushennaya, 1);
- Alexander Nevsky Laura of the Holy Trinity, Centre «Sviato-Dukhovsky» (Monastyrka, 1);
- Feodorovsky Cathedral of icon of the Mother of God (Mirgorodskaya str., 1-B);
- Church of the Mother of God "All the Afflicted" (Shpalernaya str., 35a);
- Roman Catholic Church of St. Stanislaus (Soyuz Petchatnikov str., 22).

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- All choirs who have submitted an application and agreed to the terms and conditions, can take part in the festival.
- Each team shall present one program no longer than 15 minutes (see the procedural regulations below).
- In the gala concerts of the festival participate combined choirs performing a common program (the repertoire to be sent in advance).
- Pianos will be provided to the participants for musical accompaniment. Other instruments to be secured by the teams on their own.
- The participants provide **information material about the choir**. This information is used in posters, booklets, catalogues of the Festival and in the media. Each choir receives a souvenir set of printed materials.
- The participants of the Festival send **audio recordings** (CD or some tracks by email) for a more accurate appointment for the concert groups.
- All rights to the audio, video recording and photography of any performance at the Festival are belong to the Festival organizers. The organizers have the right to reproduce and distribute such recordings made during the Festival.
- All choirs are required to provide 6 copies of the scores of the performed music to the organizing committee for the jury of the contest. The copies of the scores will not be returned.
- The Festival participants are to cover travel costs at their own expense. The Organising Committee provides: accommodation, catering and sightseeing programme agreed upon and confirmed by the participants (see below the festival packages).
- The delegation may include not only the singers but also accompanying people. The number of accompanying people is not limited.

## PROCEDURE FOR PERFORMING

**Opening of the Festival** — a gala concert of Christmas songs and carols; the groups participate with their own repertoire (the concert program is prepared by the organizing committee, those wishing to participate should send an audio or video recording of the performance), common Christmas songs will be sent in advance.

**Concert program** (is held in churches and cathedrals, in concert halls and museums of St. Petersburg) — **some works at the choir's own choice**, total playing time not longer than **15 minutes**. At least one piece must be a cappella. The program should include minimum one Christmas song or a carol. The jury evaluates the performance as a whole concert program (selection and combination of pieces), stage production is possible.

**The jury will take into consideration any excess of the time limit in adjudication.**

**The use of phonograms is not allowed!**

**Final concert** — perform the laureates of the first and second prizes by the choice of the jury, the repertoire of the concert is made up of spiritual works, Christmas songs and carols without instrumental accompaniment selected by the jury from competitive performances. The common choir of participants opens and closes the concert, the common songs will be sent in advance. The rehearsal of common songs takes place before the concert.

## FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

### Thursday, December 12

	Arrival, accommodation and registration of the participants. Stage rehearsals
<b>19.00</b>	<b>Grand opening, the gala concert</b>

### Friday, December 13

	City tours. Stage rehearsals
	The <b>concert program</b> (first part of choirs)

### Saturday, December 14

	City tours. Stage rehearsals
	The <b>concert program</b> (second part of choirs)

### Sunday, December 15

	City tours, free time
<b>18.30</b>	Stage rehearsals, meeting with jury
<b>19.30</b>	<b>The final gala concert of the winners and common choirs</b>

### Monday, December 16

	Departure of the participants
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## EVALUATION

Concert programs of the contest will be judged by the international Jury of professional Russian and foreign experts.

The evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

- 1. The complexity** of the program (10 points max).
- 2. Intonation, blending** (10 points max).
- 3. Rhythm, tempo, dynamics** (10 points max).
- 4. Style, expression** (10 points max).
- 5. Overall impression: presentation, costumes, artistry** (10 points max).

One program can earn 50 points max from one jury member, best mark of program is 250 points.

Decisions of the jury are not to be disputed. The possibility of intervention is excluded.

## AWARDS

**GRAND PRIX  
and a Grand Prix Diploma**

**30 000 RUB** (in euro by course)  
**To be received by the choir earning the highest score**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Degree Winner Diploma</b> (1st place)	Received by vocal groups/choirs that earned no less than 210 points
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Winner Diploma</b> (2nd place)	Received by vocal groups/choirs that earned at least 185 points and no more than 209 points
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Winner Diploma</b> (3rd place)	Received by vocal groups/choirs that earned at least 135 points and no more than 184 points
<b>Diplomant</b> (certificate of participation)	Received by vocal groups/choirs that scored at least 135 points

## SPECIAL PRIZES

**Special prize of the Council for Culture of the St. Petersburg Diocese:**

**"FOR THE BEST PERFORMANCE OF ORTHODOX SACRED MUSIC"**

The jury will assess the achievement of conductors, accompanists, soloists separately (if announced as such in the program). According to the results of the competition the overall winners and special prize winners (scoring the highest) will be identified.

- The prize for the best performance of Christmas songs
- The prize to the best conductor of the competition.
- The prize to the best male/female soloist
- The prize to the best accompanist

The jury reserves the right to serve additional special awards or not award any of the above.

Organizations and individuals may establish special prizes. The list of all available prizes will be made public before the festival.

## APPLICATION

The festival can be entered by sending the application form by e-mail: [interaspect@mail.ru](mailto:interaspect@mail.ru)

The deadline for application is **October 1, 2019**

Document Required:

- application form with all the required information filled;
- introduction of the choir (CV) (in English; max 20 lines) and the conductor (by wish);
- photo of the choir (compulsory, min 2 Mb) and conductor;
- the planned festival programs, including times and accompaniment or a-cappella;
- audio or video recording sending by e-mail.

## COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Copyright of photographs and videos taken during the Festival activities belong to the Organizing Committee. The Organizing Committee has the right to use such information, including audio/visual record of the choirs' performances. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to publish such information in the media or on the Internet.

## **FESTIVAL FEE (for participants and accompanying persons)**

### **“Festival package A” 110 EUR per person (in hostel)**

- 3 nights in tree beds room (bathroom on the bloc), with breakfast
- transfer airport-hotel-airport with guide
- concert performances and rehearsals by program
- final gala concert of the participants
- sightseeing tour with guide (by bus)
- complete of festival information material and souvenirs
- for group from 30 persons one leader is free



### **“Festival package B” 135 EUR per person (3\* hotel in the city)**

- 3 nights in twin/double rooms (with bathrooms) with breakfast
- transfer airport-hotel-airport with guide
- concert performances and rehearsals by program
- final gala concert of the participants
- sightseeing tour with guide (by bus)
- complete of festival information material and souvenirs
- for group from 30 persons one leader is free



### **“Festival package C” 150 EUR per person (4\* stars hotel in the city)**

- 3 nights in twin/double rooms, with bathrooms, with breakfast
- transfer airport-hotel-airport with guide
- concert performances and rehearsals by program
- final gala concert of the participants
- sightseeing tour with guide (by bus)
- complete of festival information material and souvenirs
- for group from 30 persons one leader is free



## **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:**

E-mail: [interaspect@mail.ru](mailto:interaspect@mail.ru)

Website: <http://anticipationxmas.ru/en>

[www.interfestplus.ru/en](http://www.interfestplus.ru/en)