

# **The Guide of the 17th China International Chorus Festival**

## **1. Introduction**

Founded in 1992, the China International Chorus Festival is currently only state-level international chorus festival within China. As the largest and most prestigious international chorus festival gathering in China and the Asia-Pacific region, it is held once every two years, and the past 16 CICFs have been proved a great success. According to incomplete statistics, over the past 30 years, more than 3,000 choirs from over 90 countries and regions, with a total of over 120,000 participants, have taken part in the festival. Online, the festival has reached an audience of over a hundred million, significantly reshaping the history of choral music in China.

The 17th China International Chorus Festival is scheduled to be held in Beijing from July 15th to 19th, 2024. Over the course of these five days, the festival will feature a wide range of choral activities, including opening and closing ceremonies, choral forums, choir evaluation, high-level concerts featuring both Chinese and international choirs, master classes (workshops), and public welfare activities. These vibrant choral events aim to provide the best platform for global choir enthusiasts to exchange skills and exhibit talents.

## **2. Organizers (Tentative)**

Bureau of International Exchanges and Cooperation of Ministry of Culture and Tourism, P.R.China

International Federation for Choral Music

China Arts and Entertainment Group Ltd.

The China Soong Ching Ling Science & Culture Centre for Young People

Beijing Municipal Education Commission

Xicheng District People's Government of Beijing Municipality

China Chorus Association

## **3. Programs (Tentative)**

Opening Ceremony

Choral Group Evaluation

Choir Conductor Masterclasses (Workshops)

Special Concerts by Outstanding Choirs from China and Abroad

Choral Exchange Concerts

World Cultural Heritage Tours

Closing and Awards Ceremony

## **4. Proposed Schedule**

D1	Arrival in Beijing, check in hotel
July 15th, 2024	Watch/perform at the Opening Ceremony (evening)
D2	Choral Group Evaluation/Exchange Concerts/Sightseeing

July 16th, 2024	tours (The Great Wall, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, Tiananmen Square)
D3 July 17th, 2024	Choral Group Evaluation/Exchange Concerts/Sightseeing tours (The Great Wall, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, Tiananmen Square)
D4 July 18th, 2024	Choral Group Evaluation/Exchange Concerts/Sightseeing tours (The Great Wall, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, Tiananmen Square)
D5 July 19th, 2024	Closing and Awards Ceremony, Departure from Beijing

Notes:

1. Each choir will be given a 60-minute free rehearsal at the venue.
2. Sightseeing spots will be adjusted by the Organizing Committee according to the actual situation.
3. Each choir will have 20min performance

Opening Ceremony:



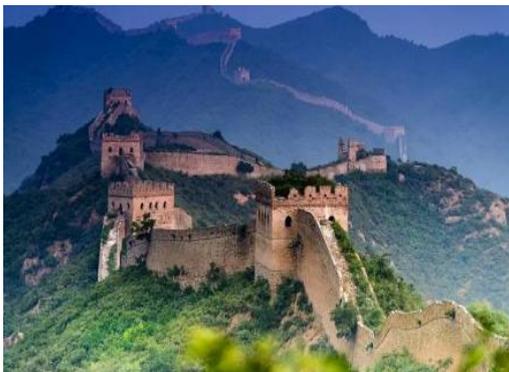
## Choir Evaluation:



## Choral Exchange Concerts:



## World Cultural Heritage Tours:



## Closing and Awards Ceremony:



(The above pictures are live photos of the previous China International Chorus Festivals and are for reference only.)

## 5. Content of Choral Group Evaluation

### (1) Scope of the Choir

For the Choir	All professional and non-professional choral groups
Evaluation Experts	Each category consists of five renowned choral experts from China and abroad for evaluation
Scoring System	China International Chorus Festival Scoring System
Certificates and Honors	According to the scoring system of China International Chorus Festival, the experts of each category set the artistic level of the choir as Level A, Level B, Level C and Level D after evaluation, and awarded the commemorative cups and certificates.

## (2) Evaluation Rules

All choirs that have successfully registered and received the confirmation letter from the Organizing Committee are eligible to participate in the evaluation.

### **Categories:**

No.	Categories	Age Limit	Number of Singers
1	Children	6-12	25-45
2	Youth	13-18	25-45
3	Youth Student	15-27	25-45
4	Adult Mixed	19-49	25-45
5	Adult Male	19-49	18-45
6	Adult Female	19-49	18-45
7	Senior Mixed	Above 50	25-45
8	Senior Male/Senior Female	Above 50	18-45
9	Teacher	Unlimited	18-45
10	Vocal Ensemble	Unlimited	4-16
11	Pop/Jazz/A cappella	Unlimited	Unlimited
12	Show	Unlimited	Unlimited
13	Folklore	Unlimited	Unlimited

According to the regulation of the Committee, a maximum of 10% of the singers may exceed the age limit. For choir that participate in multiple categories evaluations, each choir can participate in a maximum of two categories evaluations.

**Note: Those who do not meet the requirement in each category will be disqualified.**

### **Requirement of the repertoire:**

#### **\*Subject of the composition**

The content of the composition should be healthy, positive, and the ideological orientation shall be correct. The original composition is supported and encouraged. **Sacred or religious compositions could not be used in the festival.**

#### **\*Accompaniment**

The forms of accompaniment include piano, accordion, unaccompanied or musical instruments with regional and ethnic characteristics (5 accompanists or less).

#### **\*Repertoire**

The participating choirs could select two pieces. For the published musical scores, legitimate musical scores or authorized musical scores shall be used; unauthorized copies shall not be used. Musical scores shall not be adapted without permission from the authors. Liabilities for any legal disputes arising from the copyright shall be borne by the performing choirs.

### **\*Score**

Each evaluation score must be submitted to the committee, and the score should be the internationally accepted stave, and the name of the song, songwriter and adaptor (if has) shall be included. The provided scores should indicate the order of singing. The organizing committee will no longer accept changes of the scores after May 1.

### **\*Duration of singing**

The singing time for participating choirs shall not exceed 12 minutes. The singing time starts from the beginning of the prelude to the end of the performance. Points will be deducted if the choirs sing beyond 12 minutes. For overtime less than one minute, 0.3 points will be deducted from the final score; for overtime more than one minute, 0.5 points will be deducted from the final score.

### **\*Arrangement and order of appearance**

The number of sessions and the order of appearance for each session will be decided by the Organizing Committee.

## **Evaluation:**

### **\*Evaluation Committee and Evaluation System**

China International Chorus Festival has set up an Evaluation Committee, under which an evaluation group is responsible for professional evaluation for participating choirs. The Evaluation Committee is composed by senior experts in the music field, including composers, conductors, theorists, singers, scholars, etc., and each evaluation group will be composed of 5 evaluation experts.

The experts of the Evaluation Committee will judge the performances of the participating choirs in accordance with the Evaluation System of China International Chorus Festival, which mainly focuses on the Basic Skills, Vocal Techniques and Artistry of the choirs. Details are as follows:

I Basic Skills: Intonation (the distance of interval & absolute pitch), Faithfulness (Rhythm, Beat, Speed & Tempo, Dynamics, Style, Accuracy of Expression Mark);

II Vocal Techniques: Tone Production, Diction, Blending, Balance, Overall Harmony;

III Artistry: Stylistic Performance of structure, moderation, rhythm and color & General Impression and Dynamics;

To make the evaluation more scientific and accurate, experts will give scores according to the criteria ( I ) Basic Skills, ( II ) Vocal Techniques, ( III ) Artistry. The maximum score for each above three items is 10 points, and the average score which given by the five experts is the final score. The fraction is kept to two decimal places.

Example is as follows:

		I	II	III
1	First composition			
2	Second composition			
	Score for the overall performance: Criteria ( I )+( II )+(III)	6	7	8
	Final score	21		

The evaluation regulation is fully in line with international standard, and the evaluation system has been unanimously recognized by the International Federation for Choral Music and China Chorus Association. In order to reflect the international authority of China International Chorus Festival, an independent scoring system has been established instead of presetting number of awards.

### **Evaluation results:**

There is no proportion for each evaluation awards diplomas, and the proportion of the awards for each category will be determined by experts. The Organizing Committee will award the certificates to the choirs that have won diplomas.

1) Groups:

The final evaluation results will be divided into four diplomas: 1, 2, 3 and 4.

2) Individual Award Honors:

※Excellent Choral Conductor: Determined with reference to the evaluation scores of the choir in which it is performed and the collective deliberation of experts, the winner will be awarded a commemorative trophy and certificate.

※Excellent Piano Accompanist: Determined with reference to the evaluation scores of the choir and collective deliberation of experts, the winner will be awarded a commemorative trophy and certificate.

※Excellent Choral Organization (Institution): Awarded to the provincial, municipal and autonomous choral associations and related organizations that have organized more than 5 (including 5) groups to participate in the Festival, and the Organizing Committee will issue a commemorative cup and certificate.

※Peace and Friendship Reward: Awarded to the overseas participating choirs, and a commemorative cup and certificate will be issued.

## **6. Package**

**Reception Fee: 500\$ per person**

Festival Period: 15-19 July 2024 (4 nights and 5 days)

Items	Content
Accommodation	4-star hotel for 4 nights, standard twin room
Meals	4 breakfasts 8 Chinese or Western-style set meals (table service/buffet)
Transportation	Air-conditioned bus for all transportation within Beijing (including airport transfers)
Guide	accompanying guide throughout the festival
Tickets	tickets for the Great Wall, Temple of Heaven, and the Summer Palace (Sightseeing locations subject to adjustment based on actual circumstances)
Activities	Watch/perform at the Opening and Closing Ceremony, Choral Group Evaluation, Choral Exchange Concerts, Sightseeing, Free 60-minute Rehearsal





Notes:

1. Please inform the Organizing Committee in advance if the choir needs to arrive earlier, and the Organizing committee will add the reception fee according to the actual situation.
2. The deadline for registration is May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

## **7. Photographs and Audio-visual Materials related to the Festival**

The copyright of the photos and video materials taken by the Organizing Committee during the 17th China International Chorus Festival belongs to the Organizing Committee of the China International Chorus Festival. The Organizing Committee has the right to use the related materials of the choirs, including recording the performance of the choirs in the form of sound and video. The Organizing Committee of China International Chorus Festival has the right to disclose the relevant information in the media or on the internet.

## **8. Contact**

For more information contact [office@ifcm.net](mailto:office@ifcm.net) or [secretarygeneral@ifcm.net](mailto:secretarygeneral@ifcm.net)

## **9. Notice**

Due to unforeseen reasons such as epidemics and technology, any changes in the content of the festival will be subject to the notice of the Organizing Committee.