**PRAGUE** **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CHORAL FESTIVAL**

**with Petr Eben´s Prize**

**REGULATIONS OF THE COMPETITION**

**Article I**

**ORGANISER, DATE**

Organiser of the festival: Festival and Organisational Agency OR-FEA, Prague.

Date: 6th December- 7th December 2024

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: 5th September 2024

**Article II**

**PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS**

* By entering the PRAGUE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CHORAL FESTIVAL the choir and its management agrees to adhere to the regulations of the competition.
* The choir and its management agree to participate in all festival related activities.
* a solo performance and massed choir singing on the Prague Christmas Market is obligatory. This is a very important event since it marks the opening of the annual Christmas Market.
* A possible concert, either solo or shared with another choir, can be organised.

**Article III**

**CATEGORIES**

* All non-professional choirs are eligible to take part in this competition. With the exception of the conductor, all the singers must be amateurs, i.e. not earning their income by singing professionally.
* The competition is open for female, male, youth, mixed and children´s choirs in the following categories:

**Category 1**

adult chamber choir (up to 24 singers, 18 years of age and up)

a) mixed choir

b) equal voice choir (male or female)

**Category 2**

adult big choir (with min. 25 singers, 18 years of age and up)

a) mixed choir

b) equal voice choir (male or female)

**Category 3**

children´s choirs and youth choir (5-18 years of age)

a) equal voice choir (SSA or TTB)

b) mixed choir (SATB)

Max. 10% of singers may fall out of the age limits. There is no limit to the number of choristers.

**Category 4**

non-competing choir

* A choir can compete with a different repertoire in max. 2 categories in accordance with the contest criteria of age limit, number of singers and type of choir.

**Article IV**

**Repertoire**

* The competition programme is to consist of sacred music, Advent and Christmas music.
* Length of performances:
  1. Category children´s and youth choirs: max. 12 - 14 minutes.
  2. All other categories: max. 14 – 16 minutes
* A maximum of 5 (Five) pieces is allowed in the competition repertoire.
* Instrumental accompaniment is allowed, a piano will be available.
  + Only live, acoustical accompaniment and original accompaniments scores are permitted. The use of any kind of playback or soundtrack is strictly prohibited.
* At least one composition of the competition repertoire must be performed A Cappella.
* The choir’s mark for artistic impression will be influenced based on the choice of repertoire. A balanced varied programme consisting of pieces in different styles and form different periods is advised.
* The contest repertoire must include at least one composition composed after the year 1950.
* Each choir is to provide 3 copies of the repertoire scores for the jury members.
  + One score remains with the organizer after the competition.
  + The remaining scores can be collected from the organizer after the award ceremony.
  + Uncollected scores will not be sent by mail.
  + Choirs are motivated to provide original sheet music in order to respect international copyright rules.

**Article IV**

**PETR EBEN´S PRIZE**

* Choirs are motivated to include a composition by Petr Eben in their repertoire. Such choirs will qualify for the acclaimed Petr Eben Trophy, awarded for the best interpretation of a composition (sacred or secular, a Capella or accompanied) by Petr Eben.
* For more information on Petr Eben, see:https://www.allmusic.com/artist/petr-eben-mn0002166483/biography

**Article V**

**JURY AND ADJUDICATION SYSTEM**

* The competition performance will be evaluated by an expert jury made up of acknowledged figures of the Czech-, and the international choral music scene.
* Choirs will be judged according to the following criteria:
  + intonation
  + interpretation
  + fidelity to the score
  + sound quality
  + programme choice
  + overall artistic impression
* Jury members will evaluate the contest performance of each choir using a marking system on a scale of 0 – 30 points. The final mark is based on the average of the three juror’s marks.
* Choirs will receive the written evaluation of each juror and the final averaged point achieved.
* The decision of the Jury is final and cannot be contested.
* Choirs will be awarded one of the following diplomas based on their final result:

gold diploma 25 – 30 points

silver diploma 20 – 24,9 points

bronze diploma 15 – 19,9 points

* Choirs which failed to reach a minimum of 15 points will be awarded a certificate of participation.
* The “winner” of each category will only be awarded to a choir with a golden diploma.
* Choirs with golden diplomas qualify for to be the winner of a category and to be invited to the Grand Prix competition, based on the joint decision of the Jury.
  + Not all choirs with golden diplomas qualify to be invited for the Grand prix, this is the decision of the Jury.
* The Jury can also award special awards for
  + commendable conductor performance
  + praiseworthy performance dramaturgy
  + consistent stylistic performance of programme
  + healthy and pleasing voice culture
  + commendable interpretation of a composition composed after 1950
  + etc.

\* The awards are in the form of gift prizes.

\* The decision to award prizes rests fully with the Jury.

* The Petr Eben´s Prize is awarded to the choir with the best performance of a work by the composer Petr Eben, regardless of the choir’s performance in the overall competition.

**Article VI**

**GRAND PRIX**

The Grand Prix is the highlight of PRAGUE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CHORAL FESTIVAL.

* Choirs which received a golden diploma in the competition qualifies to be invited to participate in the Grand Prix.
  + A golden diploma does not mean the choir automatically qualifies for the Grand Prix. The jury reserves the right to invite golden diploma choirs.
  + Participation in all Festival events (solo performance and massed choir singing on the Christmas Market) is a prerequisite for Grand Prix participation.
* The choirs for Grand Prix will be evaluated independently of results of the previous stage.
* Upon entering the competition choirs have to take into consideration possible invitation to the Grand Prix.
* Repertoire for Grand Prix:
  + Maximum 2 compositions of *own choice* with a max. length 7 minutes.
  + One of the two chosen compositions must be new, thus not taken from the choir’s competition programme.
  + Works have to be performed A Capella (there is NO piano available).
* Adjudication:
  + The Grand Prix will be evaluated by the members of the Jury according to the set-out adjudication criteria (see Article V).
  + The choir with the most votes will be awarded the Grand Prix.
  + Strike of votes: if no unequivocal result is obtained by means of a vote, voting will continue until such result is obtained under the advisement of the president of the Jury and the organiser of the Festival.
  + The decision of the Jury is final and cannot be contested.
* It is the wish of the festival organiser’s that choirs perform in their formal choir uniform as to meet the prestige value of the Grand Prix.
* The winner of the Petr Eben´s Prize will be expected to sing the composition at the Grand Prix.
* Singing of the joint pieces (as prepared for the Christmas Market Singing) will take place during the Grand Prix.
* The Grand Prix will take place during the final evening of the festival on Saturday December 7, 2024.