



To all friends of choral music!

We are pleased to present the announcement for the **60th International Choir Competition 2026** at **Porcia Castle, Spittal an der Drau, Carinthia, Austria**, and cordially invite you to participate.

Organizers:

- Office of the Carinthian Provincial Government
- Austrian Broadcasting Corporation · Carinthia Studio
- Department of Culture, Municipality of Spittal
- Singkreis Porcia, Spittal an der Drau

Event Management:

Municipality of Spittal an der Drau

Department 7 – Culture & City Marketing

Burgplatz 1, 9800 Spittal an der Drau

Phone: +43 (0) 47 62 / 56 50-221

Email: info@chorbewerb-spittal.at

Singkreis Porcia, Spittal an der Drau

Director: Bernhard Wolfsgruber

Artistic Director: Bernhard Wolfsgruber

Date and Venue

Thursday, July 9 – Sunday, July 12, 2026

Porcia Castle, Spittal an der Drau, Carinthia, Austria

The competition is held in two categories:

- **Category A – Art Song (Advanced Choral Literature)** (with the Günther Mittergradnegger Prize)
- **Category B – Folk Song**

Schedule

Thursday, July 9, 2026

8:30 PM – Opening concert of Singkreis Porcia (Porcia Castle)

Friday, July 10, 2026

9:30 AM – Photo session for conductors (Porcia courtyard)

9:45 AM – Conductors' meeting (Porcia Room, 1st floor)

From 10:45 AM – Rehearsals at Porcia courtyard and City Hall (as scheduled)

7:00 PM – Category B competition – Folk Song in traditional costume

(Simultaneously from 7:30 PM as competition concert in City Hall)

Saturday, July 11, 2026

9:30 AM – Compulsory piece performance, Category A – Art Song (City Hall)

7:00 PM – Free short program, Category A – Art Song

(Simultaneously from 7:30 PM as competition concert in City Hall)

Sunday, July 12, 2026

From 9:00 AM – Optional participation in church services in nearby parishes

11:15 AM – Open singing in Millstatt (in traditional dress)

7:00 PM – Awards ceremony and prizewinners' concert (Porcia Castle)

From approx. 9:30 PM – Closing celebration (City Hall)

Participation in all scheduled events is **mandatory**.

General Conditions

Travel Costs

Travel expenses to and from Spittal an der Drau must be borne by participating choirs.

Any additional transportation costs during the event, not agreed upon beforehand, must also be covered by the choir.

Required visas must be obtained in advance by the choir.

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation and full board (excluding beverages) are covered by the organizers for competition participants (see participation fee below).

Lodging will be arranged in hotels, guesthouses, hostels, or private rooms.

Accommodation is in shared rooms; single rooms are only available for the conductor and bus driver.

Accommodation begins with **dinner on Thursday, July 9**, and ends with **breakfast on Monday, July 13, 2026**.

An extended stay at personal expense may be arranged with early notice.

Participants

The following are considered official participants entitled to accommodation and meals for a fee of **€50 per person**:

- Active singers (maximum 45)
- Conductor and official accompanying persons (e.g., manager, assistant, interpreter – max. 3)
- Bus driver(s) (max. 2)

Total maximum: 50 persons

A German- or English-speaking interpreter is recommended.

For **additional officials or accompanying persons**, a flat rate of **€250 per person** for accommodation and meals will be charged (payable the day after arrival).

Supervision

Each choir will be personally hosted by members of **Singkreis Porcia** throughout the competition.

Prizes

Category A – Art Song

1st Prize: € 1,500

2nd Prize: € 900

3rd Prize: € 600

Günther Mittergradnegger Prize (best interpretation of a contemporary work): €1,000

Category B – Folk Song

1st Prize: € 1,000

2nd Prize: € 700

3rd Prize: € 500

Awards will be determined by an **international jury** of choral experts.

The jury's decision is **final and binding**.

Registration

Applications must be submitted **by January 31, 2026** (received by the Department of Culture, Spittal an der Drau).

The completed form must include:

- Selected competition pieces
- A short history of the choir (on the provided form)
- A **digital photo** of the choir (print resolution, not older than one year)
– granting the organizer unrestricted usage rights.

Do not send audio recordings!

Only **one piece per category** may be changed later (deadline: June 1, 2026).

Preferred submission is **digital via the online form** ([link to follow](#)).

Alternatively, send the printed form to:

Municipality of Spittal an der Drau
Department 7 – Culture & City Marketing
Burgplatz 1, A-9800 Spittal an der Drau, Austria

Participation Requirements

- Open to **mixed choirs (SATB)** only.
- Minimum **16**, maximum **45** singers.
- Only **amateur singers** (except the conductor).
- Participation in **both categories (A and B)** is required.
- Selection of choirs will be made by a jury.

Category A – Art Song / Compulsory Works

Each choir must perform a **10-minute free program** (pure singing time).

An advanced jazz or pop arrangement is allowed, **a cappella only** (no piano).

In addition, the following **three compulsory pieces** must be performed:

1. **Thomas Weelkes (1576–1623)** – *Alleluja, I heard a voice*
2. **Fanny Hensel (1805–1847)** – *Schöne Fremde*, from *Gartenlieder*, Op. 3
3. **Javier Busto (1949)** – *Soñé que tú me llevabas* (commissioned/unpublished work)

The **score for the commissioned work (Busto)** will be provided with the participation confirmation (February 2026).

The other editions must be obtained by the choir itself.

The jury will evaluate based on **intonation, sound, dynamics, rhythm, style, and overall quality** and will give a **brief public statement** of their assessment.

The **Günther Mittergradnegger Prize** will be awarded for the best interpretation of a contemporary work.

Category B – Folk Song

Each choir must perform a **10-minute free program** of characteristic folk songs from its own country. One song may be performed by a smaller group (minimum four singers).

Songs should be **traditional** and reflect the local culture.

Complex arrangements should be limited.

Songs must be performed **by heart and conducted**.

Accompaniment with **typical folk instruments** (except piano) is permitted.

The jury will assess **intonation, sound, dynamics, rhythm, and style** and give a **brief public summary**.

Performing in **traditional or national costume** is especially encouraged.

Additional Program Points

- For the **winners' concert (Sunday)**, one additional piece per category must be prepared.
- During “**Singing under the Linden Tree**” in Millstatt (Sunday, 11:15 AM), light and cheerful songs are encouraged, preferably **not** from the Category B program.
- For **church services on Sunday**, both sacred and secular choral pieces are welcome.

Participation Fee

Upon acceptance, a **fee of €50 per participant** (as defined above) must be paid **by March 1, 2026**. For non-participating accompanying persons, the **flat rate is €250 per person**, payable the day after arrival.

Payment details will be provided upon confirmation.

In case of a later **cancellation by the choir**, the fee will be **non-refundable**.