



INTERNATIONAL CHOIR FESTIVAL 2026

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
19 – 23 AUGUST

• **COMPETITION CATEGORY BOOK •**
**INTERNATIONAL
CHOIRS**



FOR MORE INFORMATION:



mce.malaysia@youngchoral.com



+6019 236 2066



Welcome to **MCE 2026!**

As we enter another extraordinary chapter in the Malaysian Choral Eisteddfod's journey, we are reminded of the power of choral music to transcend boundaries and bring communities together. This year, we are thrilled to host choirs from around the globe in an environment that fosters artistic excellence, cultural exchange, and lifelong memories.

MCE 2026 promises to be a vibrant celebration of voices, innovation, and collaboration. Whether you are here to compete, learn, or simply enjoy the performances, your presence is vital in shaping this unique tapestry of talent and passion.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable event. Let the music inspire, unite, and resonate far beyond these walls!

Warm regards,

Susanna Saw
Artistic Director
Young Choral Academy
Malaysian Choral Eisteddfod

Festival Schedule

Dates	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
19 th August (Wednesday)	Registration		Opening Ceremony & Welcome Dinner
20 th August (Thursday)	Competition		
	Masterclass, Workshop & Friendship Concerts		
21 st August (Friday)	Competition		
	Masterclass, Workshop & Friendship Concerts		
22 nd August (Saturday)	Competition		
	Masterclass, Workshop & Friendship Concerts		Gala Concert
23 rd August (Sunday)	Award Closing Ceremony	Grand Prix!	Bye!

**Subject To Changes*

Festival Timeline

- Early Bird Registration: until 31st December 2025**
- Normal Rate Registration: 1st January 2026 – 31st March 2026**
- Registration Deadline: 31st March 2026
- 1st payment for 50% of the Event Package: before 1st May 2026
- Last day payment for Event Package: 1st June 2026
- Last day of confirmation of competition details: 1st July 2026 (repertoire, performance order, number of participants etc.)
- Submission of flight details & rooming list: before 1st July 2026
- Individual Schedule: 2 weeks to 1 month before festival

Activities

1. Friendship Concert

Participating choirs may choose to perform in this series of fun and relaxed concerts that allows choirs from different countries and cultures to sing for one another in the spirit of friendship.

2. Choral Clinics

Participating choirs may sign up for this individual choral clinic session, where the festival guest clinician will work with individual choirs on selected competition repertoire. The clinician will be sharing their artistic ideas, interpretive guidance, and give suggestions on areas for improvement and development.

- ***The duration of the choral clinic is 1 hour.***
- ***If choirs are performing songs that are not in English, a translation or description of the song is required.***

3. Festival Choral Workshops

A series of educational activities that will be open to participants of the festival and public to learn from a panel International choral expert. Details of festival workshops will be released later.

4. Meet the Jury Session

A consultation session between representatives of choir and a selected member of the MCE ICF adjudication panel will be arranged as a platform for conductors and choirs to learn and receive direct evaluation on choir's performance.



Competition Categories

O. Open Category

Code	Category	Age	Singers	Duration
01	Young Children (Open)	7 – 12	Minimum of 15 Singers (Excluding conductor & accompanist)	2 free choice songs, 8 minutes pure singing

1. Category O1: Young Children (Open) is highly recommended for emerging and developing children's choirs.
2. The adjudication panel of this category consist of only 3 jurors.
3. The minimum number of singers (excluding conductor & accompanist) for category O1: Young Children (Open) is 15 singers, and no maximum limit.
4. Choirs will be awarded Diploma based on the following:

Diploma	Grade	Score
Gold	Grade A	90.00 – 100.00
	Grade B	85.00 – 89.99
	Grade C	80.00 – 84.99
Silver	Grade A	75.00 – 79.99
	Grade B	70.00 – 74.99
	Grade C	65.00 – 69.99
Bronze	Grade A	60.00 – 64.99
	Grade B	55.00 – 59.99
	Grade C	50.00 – 54.99
Certificate of Participation		Below 50.00

5. The choir which is awarded a GOLD Diploma will be eligible to compete in the category A1: Young Children (Championship) in MCE ICF 2027.
6. The choir which is awarded a GOLD Diploma with the highest marks will be named Category Winner. The choir will be invited to perform, but NOT eligible to compete in the Grand Prix.
7. Each choir will receive a medal, an award certificate for the choir, and individual certificate of participation for every participant (according to the registered total number of participants).

Competition Categories

A. Categories by age

Code	Category	Age	Singers	No. of Songs	Duration
A1	Young Children (Championship)*	7 – 12	Minimum of 20 singers (Excluding conductor & accompanist)	2 free choice songs	8 minutes pure singing time
A2	Children [S(S)A(A), boys & girls]	Below 16			10 minutes pure singing time
A3	Teenage	13 – 19			
A4	Mixed Youth	Up to 26			
A5	Mixed Choir	No Limit			
A6	Senior	50 and above			

** Category A1: Young Children (Championship) is open to children's choirs who has previously achieved **GOLD AWARD in any International Choral Festivals / Competitions between 2023 - 2025.** Category winner of A1 will be eligible to compete in the Grand Prix.*

B. Categories by numbers, voice type, and genre

Code	Category	Age	Singers	No. of Songs	Duration
B1	Equal Voices (SA – Ladies)	13 and above	Minimum 20 singers (Excluding conductor & accompanist)	2 free choice songs	10 minutes pure singing time
B2	Equal Voices (TB – Men)				
B3**	Folk & Indigenous Music	No Limit	4 to 19 singers (Excluding conductor & accompanist)	2 songs from Popular, Jazz or Musical Theatre genres	
B4	Vocal Ensemble				
B5	Pop Vocal Ensemble				

*** Choirs in category B3 (Folk & Indigenous Music) are encouraged to perform works from the choir's home region.*

Competition Rules

1. 24th Malaysian Choral Eisteddfod – International Choral Festival 2026 welcomes participation of choirs from Malaysia, as well as choirs from around the world.
2. Choirs can participate in more than one category, but can only choose ONE (1) category from Group A and can choose more than one category from Group B.
3. Children's choirs wishing to compete in Category A1: Young Children (Championship) must submit a PDF version of the award certificate showing that the choir has achieved a Gold Award in international choir festivals/competitions between 2023 to 2025.
4. Children's choirs choosing to compete in Category A1: Young Children (Championship) are not allowed to compete in Category O1: Young Children (Open), and vice versa.
5. Organizers will allow participation of up to 10% of the singers, under/above the age limit.
6. The minimum number of singers allowed (**not inclusive of conductor and accompanist**) in each Category is **20 singers**, there is **NO** maximum number of singers allowed for each Category. (Except Vocal Ensemble & Pop Vocal Ensemble category)
7. The conductor of a choir may be allowed to conduct a different choir or choirs in either category of the competition.
8. The Organizers reserve the right to record performances of choirs during the Competition, as well as the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for archive purposes.

Score & Song Programs

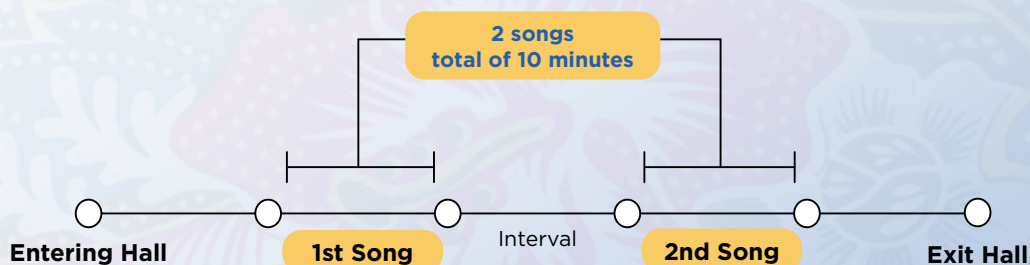
1. Song program should be submitted to the organizer together with the online registration form.
2. Song program **MUST** be approved by the MCE ICF committee. Unapproved program will be informed and needs to be replaced immediately.
3. Song program cannot be changed once confirmed by the committee. Performance order **MUST** be finalized before 1st July 2026, and changes during the on-site registration phase are **NOT** allowed.
4. Choirs are **NOT** allowed to repeat their repertoire across the categories. Each song can only be performed once. (Applicable for choirs competing in multiple categories)
5. Choirs who are performing songs **not in English** are required to submit a **description or translation of the song in English**.
6. Each choir must submit FIVE (5) sets of original scores (partiture) for the Jury. This may be in the form of hard copies of scores or licensed electronic copies obtained from the publisher or composer.
7. All scores must be received by the committee via post before **1st August 2026**. Failing to do so might affect the evaluation of the performance. Postage address: **114A, Jalan Burhanuddin Helmi, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, 60000, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.
8. The use of unauthorized copies or handwritten copies is not permitted.
9. Artistic committee must be informed if a choir wishes to change the key from what is written on the score.
10. All submitted scores must be in conventional stave notation.

Instruments

1. Acoustic Upright or Grand Piano will be provided for all categories.
2. A maximum of 3 indefinite pitch instruments are allowed in each category.
3. Organizers will not provide any percussive instruments.
4. Recorded playbacks or backing tracks are **NOT** allowed.
5. **No amplifications** will be provided for the singers and instrumentalists.
6. Keyboard rental outside of the competition and provided rehearsal session is not available.

Stage Performance Time

1. Each choir is allowed a maximum pure singing time of **10 minutes**, except **category O1: Young Children (Open) & category A1: Young Children (Championship)**, which has a pure singing time of **8 minutes**.
This is NOT inclusive of walking on and off the stage.
2. The timer will begin after the first note of the 1st song and stop after the last note of the 1st song. The timer will then resume at the first note of the 2nd song and stop at the last note of the 2nd song.



3. Choirs exceeding the maximum pure singing time will be penalized **1 point for every minute** from their total score.



Evaluation & Judging Criteria

1. The Competition Jury will consist of a panel of international choral experts, with each category having 5 jurors **except for Category O1: Young Children (Open), which will have only 3 jurors.**
2. The evaluation of the competition will be based according to the following criteria:
 - a. Intonation
 - b. Sound Quality
 - c. Fidelity to the score:
 - i. Authenticity for B3: Folklore
 - ii. Interpretation Practice for B5: Pop Vocal Ensemble
 - d. Overall Artistic Impression

3. Sample of scoring:

Song	Intonation	Sound Quality	Fidelity to The Score	Overall Artistic Impression
1	80	81	82	80
2	84		83	
Average	82		82.5	
Total Mark	$\frac{82 + 81 + 82.5 + 80}{400} \times 100\% = 81.38$			

4. All choirs will receive copies of their adjudicated scores.
5. Choirs which do not receive an Award will receive a Certificate of Participation for their performances.
6. The Jury may give out Special Awards at their discretion.
7. All results of the Jury will be considered final and cannot be contested.



Grand Prix

1. Each Category Winner [Except O1: Young Children (Open)] and those who received recommendation from the jury and the Artistic Director will be participating in **Grand Prix** on 23rd August 2026 (Sunday).
2. The competing choirs will be performing **TWO (2) songs**, both freely chosen. Only **ONE (1) song** can be reused from the earlier competition rounds.
3. The maximum singing time is **10 minutes**.
4. Grand Prix winner of the 24th Malaysian Choral Eisteddfod - International Choir Festival 2026 is qualified to participate in the 6th Asia Choral Grand Prix that will be held in Manila, Philippines in the year 2027
5. Grand Prix competition will be live-streamed on our YouTube page.
6. The Grand Prix champions of each of the following festivals will vie for the highest accolade in the Asian Choral Festival Circuit:
 - a. Andrea O.Veneracion International Choral Festival (The Philippines)
 - b. Bali International Choir Festival (Indonesia)
 - c. Malaysian Choral Eisteddfod - International Choir Festival (Malaysia)
 - d. Singapore International Choral Festival (Singapore)
 - e. Korea International Choir Competition (South Korea)



Prizes & Awards

1. According to the result from the juries, choirs will be graded as such:

Diploma	Grade	Score
Gold	Grade A	90.00 – 100.00
	Grade B	85.00 – 89.99
	Grade C	80.00 – 84.99
Silver	Grade A	75.00 – 79.99
	Grade B	70.00 – 74.99
	Grade C	65.00 – 69.99
Bronze	Grade A	60.00 – 64.99
	Grade B	55.00 – 59.99
	Grade C	50.00 – 54.99
Certificate of Participation		Below 50.00

- The choir which is awarded a GOLD Award with the highest marks will be named Category Winner of the respective category.
- Each choir will receive a trophy, an award certificate for the choir, and individual certificate of participation for every participant (according to the registered total number of participants).
- All trophies and certificates should be collected during the award ceremony or from the registration desk after the ceremony. Organizer will not be responsible for the mailing the trophies and certificates to you after the festival.

Registration

1. Registration is considered complete when the following documents are received:

- a. Registration form that has been filled in completely and correctly.
- b. Photograph of choir and conductor in high resolution (Minimum of 1MB file size)
- c. Receipt of registration fee & selected activities' payment.

2. Choir may refer to the following dates for eligibility of different rates.

- I. Early Bird (until 31st December 2025)
- II. Normal Rate (1st January 2026 – 31st March 2026)
- III. Registration deadline (31st March 2026)

3. Fee Structure:

Activities	Early Bird (MYR)	Normal rate (MYR)
Registration Fee (per Category)	RM800 per group	RM1200 per group
Choral Masterclass	RM500 per group	RM500 per group

4. All Overseas choirs MUST complete payment for registration upon registration and attached payment receipt in the registration form.

Event Package

1. All overseas choirs are required to take the provided **EVENT PACKAGE**.

Check-in: 19 th August 2026, Check-out: 24 th August 2026 (6D5N)					
Package	Hotel	Room Type	Early Bird (MYR - per pax)	Normal (MYR - per pax)	Additional Night (with breakfast, MYR - per pax)
Economy	★★	Twin Sharing Room	1400	1550	80
		Single Room	1900		
Bronze	★★★	Twin Sharing Room	1600	175	100
		Single Room	2100		
Silver	★★★★	Twin Sharing Room	2000	2200	140
		Single Room	2600		
Gold	★★★★★ (Bukit Bintang Area)	Twin Sharing Room	2600	2850	180
		Single Room	3000		
Platinum	★★★★★	Twin Sharing Room	3200	3500	230
		Single Room	4100		

2. **EVENT PACKAGE** includes the following:

- ONE (1) Festival Tag** for each participant to have access to watching competition & friendship concerts. *(Subject to availability of seats.)*
- ONE (1) Rehearsal** at festival hotel or festival venue.
Duration: 90 minutes *(Subject to availability)*
- 5 Representatives** for Opening Ceremony, Meet the Jury Session, and Award Ceremony *(Subject to changes)*
- 5 complimentary tickets** for attending Grand Prix competition. Additional tickets can be purchased via Cloudjoi 2 weeks before the festival.
- Accommodation 6 days, 5 nights.** Twin Sharing Room. Check in available from 2pm onwards and check out before 11am.
- Transportation** (Bus or Van)
 - Airport Service on arrival day (Airport -> Festival Hotel)
 - Transportation between Festival Hotel & Festival Venue *(According to arranged schedule)*
 - Airport Service on departure day (Festival Hotel -> Airport)

g. Meals (Welcome Dinner on 19 Aug + 4 Lunch from 20 to 23 Aug)

DAYS	19 th August	20 th August	21 st August	22 nd August	23 rd August	24 th August
Breakfast	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lunch	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
Dinner	✓	x	x	x	x	x

h. ONE (1) Choir Liaison Officer (LO) to assist your choir from the arrival day until the departure day.

i. ONE (1) Program Book and Bag for all participants.

j. Official Media Package (Videos + Photos) – available 1 month after festival.

3. Sight-seeing/excursion are NOT included in the package and have to be booked separately. You may send us an email for further inquiry on this.

4. Early Bird Event Package Rate are applicable for choirs that registered during the Early Bird Registration Phase only. *(until 31st December 2025)*

5. 50% of Event Package payment should be received latest by 1st May 2026, and choir must complete all payment by 1st June 2026. Failing to do so may result in disqualification of participation.

6. Registration Form can be accessed at the following link:

<https://form.jotform.com/251890806634463>

Information

1. Bank Details

- **Bank Name:** Malayan Banking Berhad, Taman Tun Dr Ismail
- **Bank Address:** 2, Lorong Rahim Kajal 14, Taman Tun Dr. Ismail
- **Bank Contact:** +603-77266503
- **Beneficiary:** YCA Ventures Sdn Bhd
- **Account Number:** 5142 7144 0101
- **Swift:** mbbemyklxxx

** Please Include bank service fee so the organizer can receive the full amount.*

2. Contact

- **Mobile/WhatsApp:** +6019 - 236 2066
- **Email:** mce.malaysia@youngchoral.com
- **Facebook:** Malaysian Choral Eisteddfod – MCE
- **Instagram:** @mce_malaysia

3. There will be **NO REFUNDS** for any reasons, including force majeure. (Wars, Riots, Revolutions, Natural Disasters, Strikes, Fires and other Disasters declared by the Government).