



INTERKULTUR

THE WORLD  
OF VOICES



World  
Choir Games



World  
Choir Games

**SINGING TOGETHER  
BRINGS NATIONS  
TOGETHER**



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# INTERKULTUR - THE WORLD OF VOICES

INTERKULTUR is the world's leading organizer of international choir competitions and festivals and has made a decisive contribution to the choral world over the past decades: Since being founded in 1988, INTERKULTUR has built bridges between more than 10,500 choirs and 450,000 singers from all over the world.

The events of INTERKULTUR are an experience of international communication - connected through the universal language of music. Whether in Høi An (Vietnam), Barcelona (Spain), Princeton (USA), Vienna (Austria), or Guangzhou/Canton (China), at more than 250 international events in 32 countries INTERKULTUR has brought people together in song. Based on the Olympic ideals, the World Choir Events, unite in the joy of singing not only choirs of all kinds, of all ages, and of all levels of ability, but also people of different cultures and worldviews: "Singing together brings nations together".



A portrait of Günter Titsch, a middle-aged man with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a light pink shirt. He is smiling slightly and has his hands clasped in front of his chin. The background is a warm, out-of-focus interior with wooden paneling and a window with light coming through. A large, abstract blue brushstroke graphic is on the left side of the page, partially overlapping the text.

“ Music helps us to transcend the borders that we have built in our thoughts and actions. The young singers show us what it means to be human and to focus on what strengthens the society. ”

Günter Titsch  
Founder and President of INTERKULTUR,  
the WORLD CHOIR COUNCIL  
and the WORLD CHOIR GAMES



**Singing together  
brings  
nations together**

# THE WORLD CHOIR GAMES THE OLYMPICS OF CHORAL MUSIC

The philosophy behind the Olympics, both the ancient festival and the modern Games with their global, unified sense of community, stood as a role model for the WORLD CHOIR GAMES – a vocal test of strength leading to friendship. It is not only the world's biggest choir competition – it is a celebration where participants from around the world experience the pure joy of singing and getting to know one another.

Imagine a city changing into a magnificent, colorful spectacle where singing and sound are everywhere, residents, retailers and restauranteurs converge with their guests into a fabulous festival.

The WORLD CHOIR GAMES are an unforgettable experience for both participants and the whole hosting city.

Singing together brings nations together!







**World  
Choir  
Games**

# BE PART OF IT! WORLD CHOIR GAMES

**2000 Linz** (Austria)

**2002 Busan** (Republic of Korea)

**2004 Bremen** (Germany)

**2006 Xiamen** (China)

**2008 Graz** (Austria)

**2010 Shaoxing** (China)

**2012 Cincinnati** (USA)

**2014 Riga** (Latvia)

**2016 Sochi** (Russia)

**2018 Tshwane** (South Africa)

**2020 Flanders** (Belgium)  
postponed to 2021 due to Covid-19 pandemic

**2021 Flanders** (Belgium)  
October 30 - November 7, 2021

**2023 Gangneung/Gangwon-do**  
(Republic of Korea) – July 3-13, 2023

**2024 Auckland** (New Zealand)  
July 10-20, 2024





**World  
Choir  
Games**

# WORLD CHOIR GAMES COMPETITION CATEGORIES

THE OPEN COMPETITION  
THE CHAMPIONS COMPETITION

- Young Children's Choirs & Children's Choirs
- Youth Choirs
- Adult and Senior Choirs
- University and College Choirs
- Vocal Ensembles
- Chamber Choirs
- Sacred Choral Music
- Music of Spirit and Faith
- Contemporary Music
- Jazz
- Gospel
- Spiritual
- Pop Ensembles & Pop Choirs
- Pop with choreography
- Folklore



# INTERKULTUR AND THE WORLD CHOIR GAMES IN NUMBERS

**70+**

NATIONS  
REPRESENTED

**1B+**

MEDIA IMPRESSIONS GLOBALLY,  
WITH PUBLICITY VALUE OF  
MORE THAN \$32 MILLION

**27+**

DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF  
COMPETITION

**\$5**

IN ECONO

**11**

DAYS OF ACTION

**300,000+**

VISITORS

**27,000**

POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS

**10M+**

ECONOMIC IMPACT

**1**

WORLD CHOIR GAMES  
PEACE BELL -  
A SIGNIFICANT  
SYMBOL OF THE EVENT

**EUROPEAN CHOIR GAMES & GRAND PRIX OF NATIONS**

2013 Graz (Austria)

2015 Magdeburg (Germany)

2017 Riga (Latvia)

2019 Gothenburg (Sweden)

2023 Norrköping (Sweden)

2025 Aarhus (Denmark)

**ASIA PACIFIC CHOIR GAMES & GRAND PRIX OF NATIONS**

2007 Jakarta (Indonesia)

2009 Gyeongnam (Republic of Korea)

2013 Manado (Indonesia)

2017 Colombo (Sri Lanka)

**WORLD CHOIR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

2009 Gyeongnam (Republic of Korea)

2011 Graz (Austria)

2012 Guangzhou (China)

**AFRICAN ASIA PACIFIC CHOIR GAMES**

2025 Mauritius



# THE WORLD ON ONE STAGE

For many years now, these unique major international events have had a lasting impact on the choral world and their host cities: World Choir Games, Grand Prix of Nations, World Choir Championships & Continental Choir Games.

The talent of the singers is extraordinary and versatile. These choirs put countless hours into rehearsals.

Then, in front of thousands of eyes and ears and before an expert jury, they are at their absolute best. These choirs have practiced for years for this one magical moment, to compete with like-minded people from all over the world.

The host city is the very special lead player in this euphoria! Countless nations fill the streets with their singing and joy, enchanting residents in a fairytale intercultural exchange.





## BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

...since 1988 in more than 60 cities with more than 250 competitions and more than 450,000 participants from 109 nations.

The choral world is colorful, diverse, open and enthusiastic. Music is their universal language and singing their vocabulary. The joy of this popular art brings people together, across the globe and for a lifetime. It builds bridges between different cultures, nations and worldviews. It is song that attracts people from their homes and unites their hearts. Just as a voice requires certain acoustics, a choir needs a special place to unfold its magic.





## COMPETITIONS AND FESTIVALS SINCE 1988

**Budapest** (Hungary, 1988-2013)  
**Riva del Garda** (Italy, 1990-2013)  
**Zwickau** (Germany, 1992-2018)  
**Litomyšl** (Czech Republic, 1995-1997)  
**Dautphetal** (Germany, 1996)  
**Netanya** (Israel, 1996-1998)  
**Gießen** (Germany, 1997)  
**Pohlheim** (Germany, 1998-1999)  
**Grado** (Italy, 1999-2004; since 2014)  
**Salsomaggiore** (Italy, 1998)  
**Salò** (Italy, 1998)  
**Wernigerode** (Germany, since 1999)  
**Fort Lauderdale** (USA, 1999)  
**Linz** (Austria, 2000 and since 2007)  
**Busan** (Republic of Korea, 2002)  
**Helsingborg** (Sweden, 2004 und 2018)  
**Bremen** (Germany, 2004)  
**Rome/Rom** (Italy, 2005-2013)  
**Xiamen** (China, 2006)  
**Malta** (Malta, 2006-2013)  
**Jakarta** (Indonesia, 2007)  
**Jesolo/Venice** (Italy, 2007-2013)  
**Vienna** (Austria, since 2007)  
**Graz** (Austria, 2008, 2011, 2013)  
**Gyeongnam** (Republic of Korea, 2009)  
**Kuala Lumpur** (Malaysia, 2010)  
**St. Louis** (USA, 2010)  
**Shaoxing** (China, 2010)

**Hội An** (Vietnam, since 2011)  
**Reno-Tahoe** (USA, 2011)  
**Calella** (Spain, since 2012)  
**Guangzhou** (China, 2012)  
**Cincinnati** (USA, 2012)  
**Toruń** (Poland, 2013)  
**Louisville** (USA, 2013)  
**Manila** (Philippines, 2013)  
**Manado** (Indonesia, 2013)  
**Málaga** (Spain, 2014-2017)  
**Bad Ischl** (Austria, since 2014)  
**Riga** (Latvia, since 2014)  
**Vrnjačka Banja** (Serbia, 2014)  
**Magdeburg** (Germany, 2015, 2022)  
**Bad Krozingen** (Germany, 2015)  
**Jesolo** (Italy, 2015)  
**Torre del Lago Puccini** (Italy, 2015)  
**Shunde** (China, 2015)  
**Kalamata** (Greece, since 2015)  
**Sochi** (Russia, 2016)  
**Provo** (USA, 2016)  
**Corfu** (Greece, 2016-2018)  
**Chiang Mai** (Thailand, 2016)  
**Monterey** (USA, 2016)  
**Colombo** (Sri Lanka, 2017)  
**Berlin** (Germany, 2017)  
**Princeton** (USA, 2017-2019)  
**Perugia/Assisi** (Italy, since 2017)

**Poreč** (Croatia, 2017-2018)  
**Tshwane** (South Africa, 2018)  
**Kobe** (Japan, since 2018)  
**Gothenburg** (Sweden, 2019)  
**Maastricht** (Netherlands, 2019)  
**Flanders** (Belgium, 2021)  
**Lucca** (Italy, since 2022)  
**Lisbon** (Portugal, since 2022)  
**Hull** (England, starting in 2023)  
**Gangneung** (Republic of Korea, 2023)  
**Norrköping** (Sweden, 2023)  
**Auckland** (New Zealand, 2024)  
**Port Louis** (Mauritius, 2025)  
**Aarhus** (Denmark, 2025)

**ON STAGE** (Czech Republic, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Sweden)

**Sing Along Concerts**  
 (Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Spain, Latvia)

## EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

**MUSICA MUNDI Academy**  
**PEDAGOGICAL EVENTS** in China, Germany, USA, Russia, Latvia, Austria, South Africa, Indonesia, Italy, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Sweden, Italy, Czech Republic, Portugal ...



EUROVISION  
CHOIR  
GOTHENBURG 2019

# STRENGTHENING THE CHORAL CULTURE - CHOIRS ON TV

A brand new international TV competition was launched on July 22, 2017.

“Eurovision Choir of the Year 2017” featured Europe’s best amateur choirs who traveled to Riga, Latvia, to compete for the title “Eurovision Choir of the Year”. The choir “Carmen Manet” from Slovenia won this first inaugural competition.

“Eurovision Choir of the Year 2017” was a co-production between the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and member Latvian Television (LTV). It took place within the popular international competition European Choir Games, organized by INTERKULTUR, in collaboration with LIVE RIGA.

The second edition of Eurovision Choir was hosted on Saturday August 3, 2019 at the Partille Arena in Gothenburg, Sweden.

10 of Europe’s best amateur choirs were eager to impress a panel of international choral music stars by performing an unaccompanied selection of music in a variety of styles. The choir “Vocal Line” from Denmark won the second edition of this event.

The show was hosted by Petroc Trelawny from BBC and Ella Petterson from SVT and adjudicated by Sweden’s Katarina Henryson, a founding member of pioneering a cappella ensemble The Real Group, British composer and conductor John Rutter and US producer and arranger Deke Sharon.

The winning choir of Eurovision Choir 2019 got not only a trophy and the title “Eurovision Choir 2019”. INTERKULTUR offered also an all-inclusive trip to the World Choir Games 2021, held in Flanders, Belgium, from October 30 to November 7, 2021.



## Participating Broadcasters 2017

Austria (ORF)  
Belgium (RTBF)  
Denmark (DR)  
Estonia (ERR)  
France (arte)  
Germany (WDR/SWR/arte)  
Hungary (MTVA)  
Latvia (LTV)  
Norway (NRK)  
Slovenia (RTV)  
Wales (S4C)

## 2019

Belgium (RTBF)  
Denmark (DR)  
Germany (WDR)  
Latvia (LTV)  
Norway (NRK)  
Scotland (BBC ALBA)  
Slovenia (RTV)  
Sweden (SVT)  
Switzerland (RTS)  
Wales (S4C)



# INTERKULTUR AND MUSICA MUNDI



The MUSICA MUNDI® label is a brand of INTERKULTUR and stands for the quality of all INTERKULTUR events, a smooth course of events and utmost convenience for all participants.

## **Long lasting experience**

Since the first choral competition in 1988 the evaluation system for choral performances and the event schedule itself have been improved continuously. Experiences of international jurors and advisors as well as the feedback of our participants were implemented into this process. The event concept has been adjusted so that joy of the international encounter of cultures as well as quality, fair play and pedagogical standards always come first at the INTERKULTUR events.

Alternatively the non-competitive participation in the international choral festival offers joint concerts with singers from around the globe – and this is also part of MUSICA MUNDI®.

## **Open access**

INTERKULTUR events are always international events and ensure a range of manifold possibilities for get-togethers and cultural exchanges. The huge interest of children, youth and young adults is also taken into consideration in our portfolio. Likewise we pay attention to the different levels of artistic achievements. Thus our competitions are not only attractive for top choirs but also especially for those groups who have only few or no experience in competitions.





### **Fair and transparent evaluation**

Due to the growing number of participating choirs, events and categories INTERKULTUR initiated a new system for the assessment of all choirs' performances - the MUSICA MUNDI® evaluation system. Since the first choir competition in 1988, the evaluation system for the choirs' performances and the event itself have been continuously enhanced.

The experience of the international jurors and advisors as well as the suggestions of the participants have contributed to this. The event and evaluation concept have been refined in such a way that, in addition to the joy of the international meeting of cultures, the quality, fairness and transparency of INTERKULTUR choir competitions are in focus.

At the smaller INTERKULTUR competitions the jury awards Golden, Silver and Bronze Diplomas within 10 levels according to the MUSICA MUNDI® counsellors evaluation system (30-point system) as well as Bronze, Silver or Golden Medals at the World Choir Games, the World Choir Championships and the Grand Prix of Nations according to the evaluation system of the World Choir Games (100-point system). There is a Winner or Champion in each category, and outstanding performances are honored with Special Prizes. In some competitions there is also singing for the overall victory of the event, the so-called Grand Prize.

### **Learning from experts**

Pedagogical offers which provide further possibilities to participate in the festival and share the experience for non-competing choirs are inherent parts of the World Choir Events. The MUSICA MUNDI® Academy unites the educational activities of INTERKULTUR within the INTERKULTUR Foundation. It serves the professional further education of the entire choral community and offers advanced training opportunities within the context of INTERKULTUR events, e.g. seminars for choral conductors. These include lectures, workshops and master classes and are open to all choir conductors and choral music fans, regardless of their professional background and level.

The promotion of choral singing on an international level is one of the central concerns of INTERKULTUR. Pedagogical events took place, among others, in China, Germany, USA, Russia, Latvia, Austria, South Africa, Indonesia, Italy, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Sweden, Italy, Czech Republic, Portugal ... so far.



# INTERKULTUR WORLD RANKINGS

All INTERKULTUR competitions have been carried out according to the MUSICA MUNDI® quality seal. This allows an impressive overall comparison of all choirs that have participated.

The INTERKULTUR World Rankings are applicable retroactively to the year 2000. Based upon this World Rankings, individual lists are then made which reflect the situation in the various categories.

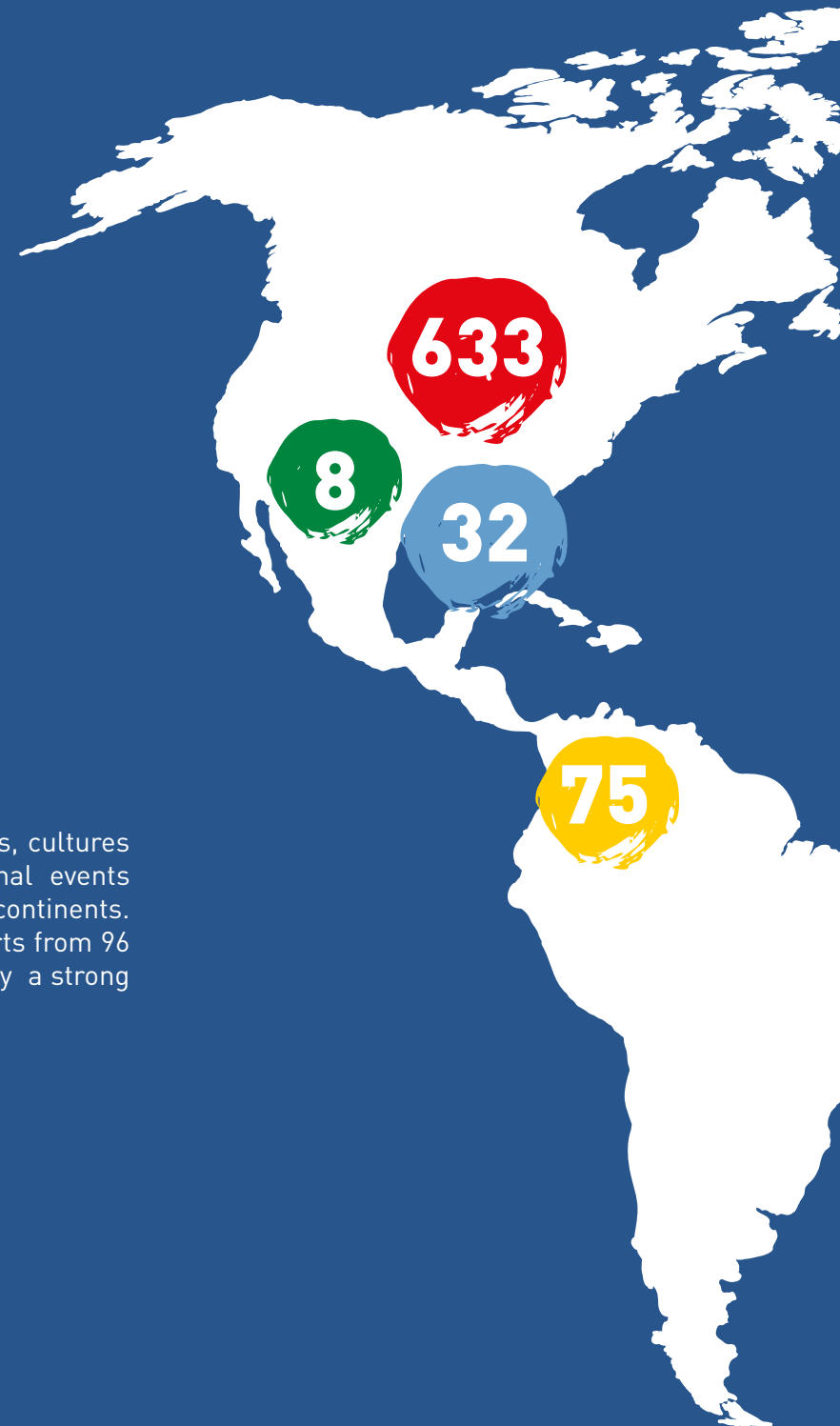
## TOP 10

Pos.	Choir	Conductor	Country	Points
1.	Stellenbosch University Choir	André van der Merwe	South Africa	1260
2.	Kamerniy Devichiy Khor by Lysenko	Julia Puchko-Kolesnik	Ukraine	1233
3.	The Aeolians of Oakwood University	Jason Max Ferdinand	USA	1221
4.	Tygerberg Children's Choir	Hendrik D. Loock	South Africa	1220
5.	Gnesins' Ensemble of Contemporary Music „Altro coro“	Aleksandr Ryzhinskiy	Russia	1199
6.	Amaranthe	Johannes Dewilde	Belgium	1198
7.	Children's Choir „Alye Parusa“	Elena Volodina	Russia	1187
8.	Guangzhou Little Petrel Children's Choir	Diao Zhijun & Meng Fei Liu	China	1185
9.	The Müller Chamber Choir	Meng-Hsien Peng	Chinese Taipei	1177
9.	Children and Youth Studio „Gaismina“	Orba Dzintra	Latvia	1177

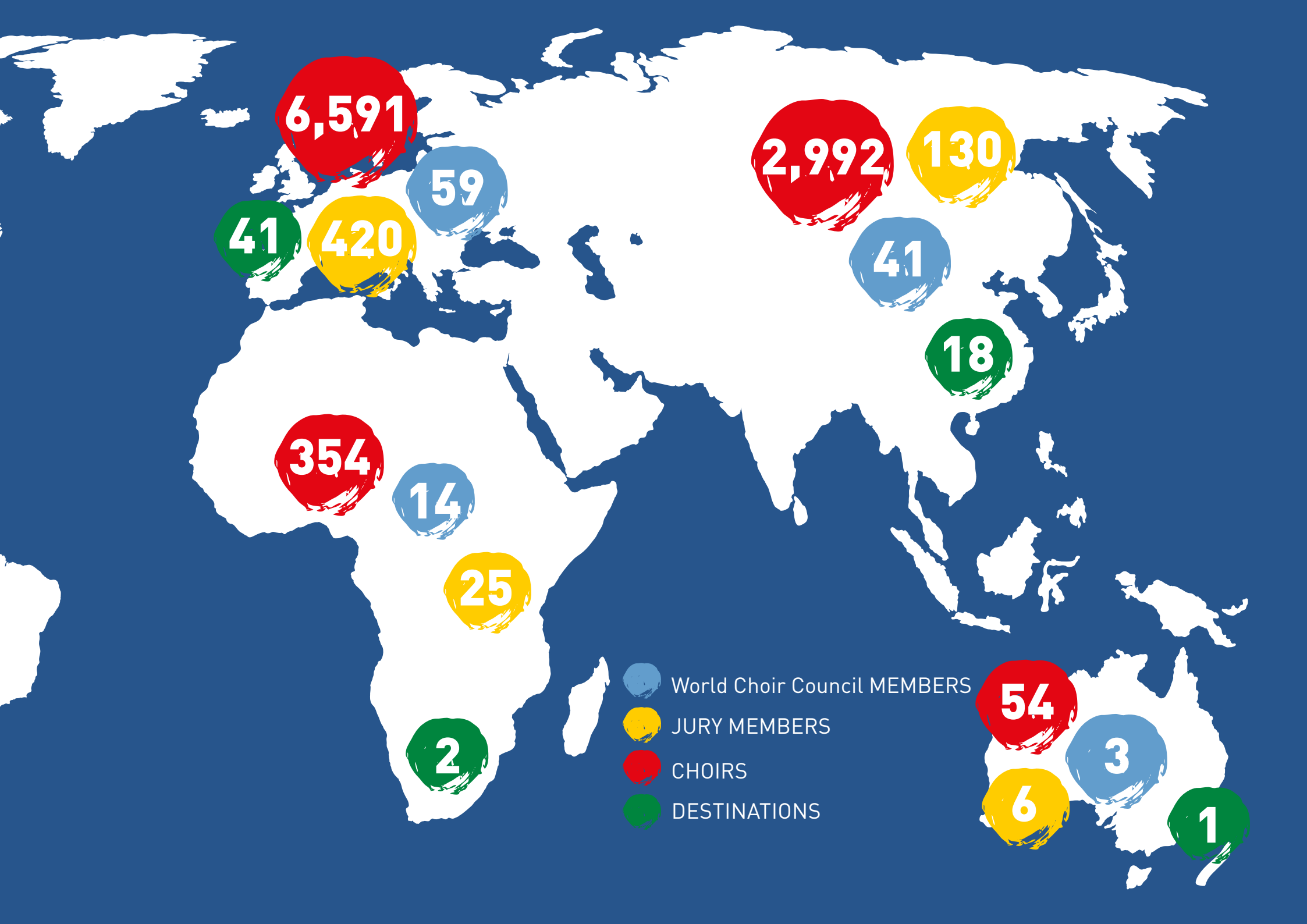


# A GLOBAL NETWORK OF CHORAL MUSIC

INTERKULTUR is born by the idea of bringing together people of all countries, cultures and worldviews in peaceful competitions. At more than 250 international events INTERKULTUR has brought people together from 109 countries and from all continents. With 140 representative facilities in 49 countries and 148 leading choral experts from 96 regions and nations in the World Choir Council, INTERKULTUR is supported by a strong and colorful international network of choral song.







6,591

2,992

130

41

420

59

41

18

354

14

25

World Choir Council MEMBERS

JURY MEMBERS

CHOIRS

DESTINATIONS

54

3

6

2

1

# INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS SUPPORT THE CHOIRS OF THE WORLD

The international Artistic Directors support INTERKULTUR's work especially from an artistic conceptual and pedagogical point of view. They guarantee the compliance with the MUSICA MUNDI® quality criteria of all World Choir Events.

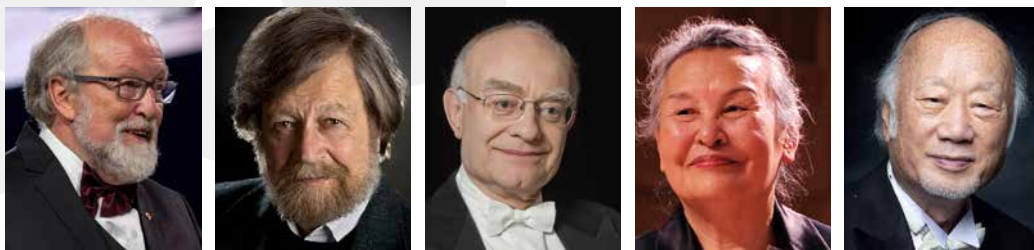
**Artistic Committee of INTERKULTUR:**

Fred Sjöberg (Sweden), Senior Artistic Director

Johan Rooze (Netherlands), Artistic Director

Romāns Vanags (Latvia), Artistic Director





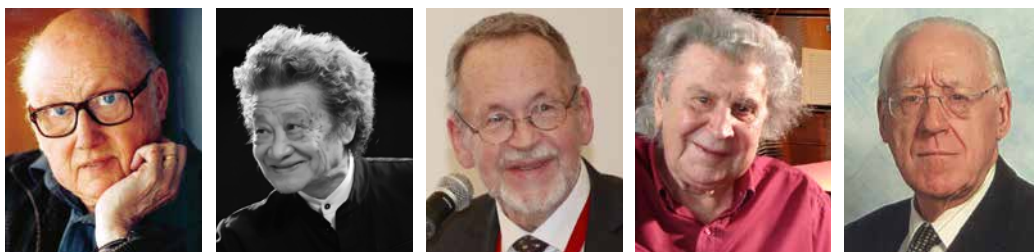
Also, the Honorary Artistic Presidents, worldwide highly respected and high-ranking choral experts, composers and choral conductors, represent the quality of the events and the relevance of the projects for the strengthening of the global choral world as well as the cultural heritage of choral singing.

**Honorary Artistic Presidents:**

Prof. Dr. Ralf Eisenbeiß (Germany)  
Prof. Dr. Morten Lauridsen (USA)  
John Rutter (Great Britain)  
Prof. Zheng Xiaoying (China)  
Dr. Hak-Won Yoon (Republic of Korea)

**Honorary Artistic Presidents in memoriam:**

Prof. Eric Ericson (Sweden)  
Prof. Yang Hongnian (China)  
Christian Ljunggren (Sweden)  
Mikis Theodorakis (Greece)  
Prof. Paul Wehrle (Germany)







**World  
Choir Council**

# WORLD CHOIR COUNCIL - THE “UNITED NATIONS” OF CHORAL SINGING

The World Choir Council is not only a well-known and very important part of the choral world, but also a very important member of the INTERKULTUR family. It is INTERKULTUR’s highest and voluntary international advisory body. It currently consists of over 150 international members representing more than 95 regions and nations in this circle.

## **Highly respected representatives from around the world join forces to empower choral singing**

In its more than 20 years of activity, the World Choir Council has had a major impact on the development of the INTERKULTUR World Choir Events and the growth and strengthening of the international choral world. Under the motto “Singing together brings nations together” they support INTERKULTUR with their valuable experience in the artistic and organizational areas and are dedicated to actively promoting the development of the choral scene in their region and internationally.

The representatives meet regularly, report on the choral scene in their respective country and discuss jointly urgent matters and current topics in the choral world. The members also act as spokesperson for their country’s choral community, as well as important multipliers and communicators in their local area.



## WORLD CHOIR PEACE PRIZE

The World Choir Peace Prize is given to a person or organization which has made an outstanding contribution to the world peace through choral music. Singing promotes peace, understanding and good will and builds bridges, which overcome political, racial, social and religious differences. The prize is awarded by INTERKULTUR in order to show examples of how choral music can influence love and peace in our world in a positive way.

The Prize was bestowed for the first time during the World Choir Games in Riga 2014. The three Baltic States Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania received the World Choir Peace Prize for their rich choral singing traditions, especially manifested in the long series of great Song Festivals, which have also been acknowledged by the UNESCO.



2014  
ESTONIA,  
LATVIA &  
LITHUANIA





**2012  
GUANGZHOU,  
CHINA**



**2013  
GRAZ,  
AUSTRIA**



# WORLD CHOIR (CAPITAL) CITY

The **World Choir Capital City** award is given by INTERKULTUR and the World Choir Council to a city which features a vibrant choral life and a big number of choirs performing on an international level. Furthermore, the city is supposed to support choral activities for children and youth above the ordinary, and have a pedagogical concept regarding the advancement of choral music. In addition, the city should be internationally focused, which is reflected in the willingness to organize international events. Guangzhou/China (2012), Graz/Austria (2013) and Riga/Latvia (2017) are the laureates of this award so far.



2017  
RIGA,  
LATVIA

# CHOIR DEVELOPMENT FUND (CDF)

The **Choir Development Fund** was founded by INTERKULTUR in order to particularly support children's and youth choirs from financially weak countries and to enable them to participate in international cultural exchange through donations, contributions and proceeds from benefit events in accordance with the statutes of the INTERKULTUR Association. These financial contributions are used, for example, to obtain sheet music for young singers for a choir competition, to pay the costs of accommodation during a choir event, to take advantage of professional coaching before a competition performance and much more. This support enables young singers to participate in an international, unique and life-changing choral event such as the World Choir Games!

Musically underprivileged singers from children's and youth choirs, e.g. with a low-income background, from war-torn nations or suffering from a disability, receive support from the Choir Development Fund and a real chance to become part of the worldwide choral community and be impacted by this unique experience. But not only singers are supposed to benefit from the choir support - young conductors are also explicitly included in the Development Fund, which aims to promote peaceful coexistence between different nations and religions with the help of choral singing.





**LET'S HELP  
TOGETHER!**



“Choirs and singers from all over the world come together to make music – it’s a wonderful experience! We discover hidden talents and strengths. People from different nations and with different world views meet, together with their music, and create understanding.”

**Prof. Dr. Morten Lauridsen**

Composer USA,  
Recipient of the National Medal of Arts,  
Honorary Artistic President of INTERKULTUR

## TESTIMONIALS

“INTERKULTUR impressively confirms what Victor Hugo once stated: ‘Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.’ I wholeheartedly accept the role as your Honorary President.”

**Walter Scheel (†)**

Former President of the  
Federal Republic of Germany  
Honorary President of INTERKULTUR



"Events like the World Choir Games remind us of choral music's power to transcend languages, cultures, and borders to reveal our shared humanity. These competitions provide performers a platform to share their talents and give audiences an opportunity to hear the harmonies of voices from across the globe."

**Barack Obama**

Former President of the United States of America



"For many years, INTERKULTUR has brought peoples together across the world through wonderful choral music, and made special contributions to world peace and harmony by promoting amicable relations among young people from all countries."

**Wu Hongbo**

Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Former Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Germany





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The family brand "INTERKULTUR" unites non-profit and commercial organizations which pursue the same interests in one network and track goals that support culture on an international level. These institutions include amongst others: Förderverein INTERKULTUR e.V., INTERKULTUR Management GmbH and INTERKULTUR Communication GmbH.

[interkultur.com](http://interkultur.com)

