



5th WORLD CHOIR GAMES GRAZ/ÖSTERREICH

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5th World Choir Games

The prize-winners' concert "The Hour of the Champions" rounds off the World Choir Games – Crowning of the Champions of the Second Round

Graz, Austria – The champions of the second round of the 5th World Choir Games have been crowned and this evening the choral festival winds up with a lavish closing ceremony and the prize-winners' concert, "The Hour of the Champions" in the Stadthalle Graz. The Austrian hosts will bid farewell to the singers from all over the world. From 9 to 19 July, a total of 20,000 singers from 93 nations and 441 choirs came to Graz for the world's biggest choral competition.

Günter Titsch, president of the World Choir Games and INTERKULTUR Foundation (Germany), which organises the games, expressed his delight that the choirs of the world – regardless of nationality, skin colour or religion – had met in peaceful competition. The competition performances, gala and encounter concerts consistently drew large audiences, according to Titsch. On behalf of the joint organisers, the deputy regional governor of Styria, Hermann Schützenhöfer, and the Graz city councillor, Dipl.Ing. Gerhard Rüscher, said about 250,000 visitors were welcomed to Graz over the ten days of the 5th World Choir Games. The two Austrian politicians thanked Günter Titsch and the organising team for their excellent work.

The artistic committee and the international jury, made up of 71 expert and globally recognised choir specialists from 34 nations, unanimously confirmed the high standards attained by the choirs. In total, 26 World Choir Games Champions were honoured with the coveted trophies. At an award ceremony on Saturday morning, the bronze, silver and gold medals were presented to the participating choirs by Günter Titsch and other members of the committee. Between them, the choirs from around the globe took home a total of 130 gold, 191 silver and 27 bronze medals.

With some unforgettable memories of the 600 competition performances and nearly 600 friendship concerts and 13 gala concerts, the participants will say their goodbyes to Graz on Saturday evening. At the formal closing ceremony, the Flag of the World Choir Games will be handed over to delegates from Shaoxing. The Chinese city, not far from Shanghai, will be the host of the 6th World Choir Games in 2010.

Publisher INTERKULTUR Foundation Press Office
Responsible person: Roger Schmidt Editor: Monika Paeschke
E-Mail: press@worldchoirgames.com

Phone: +49 6403 95 65 25 Fax +49 6403 95 65 29 – Reprinting free of charge – Specimen copy requested