



5<sup>th</sup> WORLD CHOIR GAMES GRAZ/ÖSTERREICH

9. – 19. JULI 2008

## The World Choir Games Graz 2008 in Facts and Figures

The World Choir Games are the biggest choir competition worldwide. Graz has been an excellent and friendly host for the 5<sup>th</sup> World Choir Games. 441 choirs and numerous adjudicators from 93 nations with about 20,000 singers have taken part in over 600 performances in Graz. Moreover, almost 600 galas and encounter concerts took place in Graz and nearby towns.

### Competitions

The competitions are held in two rounds. Both rounds are fully independent and complete contests in their own right with their own international jury and awards.

### The Categories

1<sup>st</sup> week with 14 categories: Children's Choirs, Youth Choirs of Equal Voices, Young Male Choirs, Mixed Youth Choirs, Musica Sacra, Musica Sacra – open category, Music of the Religions – open category, Jazz Vocal Ensembles a cappella, Jazz – open category, Gospel & Spiritual – Vocal Ensembles, Gospel & Spiritual – open category, Popular Choral Music – Vocal Ensembles a cappella, Popular Choral Music – open category.

2<sup>nd</sup> week with 14 categories: Mixed Vocal Ensembles, Mixed Chamber Choirs, Mixed Choirs, Female Vocal Ensembles, Female Chamber Choirs, Female Choirs, Male Vocal Ensembles, Male Chamber Choirs, Male Choirs, Large Male Choirs, Musica Contemporanea, Musica Contemporanea – open category, Folklore and Folklore – open category.

Eight categories have been introduced for the **first time**: Musica Sacra – open category, Music of the Religions – open category, Musica Contemporanea (contemporary music) – open category, Jazz – open category, Gospel & Spiritual – Vocal Ensembles a cappella, Gospel & Spiritual – open category, Popular Choral Music – Vocal Ensembles a cappella, Popular Choral Music – open category and Folklore – open category.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Round: Qualifying

Fully in the spirit of the Choir Olympic Idea of offering participation in the Graz 2008 World Choir Games to a large number of choirs, all choirs – regardless of their level of artistic achievement – are invited to demonstrate their skills in the respective categories by performing a programme of works reflecting their level of achievement. Choirs which receive a Golden Diploma in this round qualify for participation in the Competition.

### Diplomas:

1<sup>st</sup> week: 65 golden, 93 silver and 8 bronze diplomas

2<sup>nd</sup> week: competition is still under way



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## **2<sup>nd</sup> Round: Competition**

The following choirs are eligible for participation in the 2nd round:

- choirs which have qualified by winning a Golden Diploma in qualifying;
- prize winners in other international choir competitions; and
- choirs which have been directly delegated by municipalities, institutions, countries, education and culture ministries etc.

## **Medals of the 5<sup>th</sup> World Choir Games**

1<sup>st</sup> week: 75 gold medals, 99 silver medals and 14 bronze medals

2<sup>nd</sup> week: competition is still under way

## **Champions of the 5<sup>th</sup> World Choir Games**

1<sup>st</sup> week: 13 champions

2<sup>nd</sup> week: competition is still under way

## **New Nations at the World Choir Games**

Algeria, Bahamas, Costa Rica, Ivory Coast, Guernsey, Liechtenstein, Nigeria, Tunisia and Vietnam

## **The International Jury**

consisted of 71 highly qualified experts in choral music recognized worldwide. They came from 34 nations and, in teams of five (in the first round) and teams of seven (in the second round) professionally evaluating the choirs' performances.

## **The Assembly of the World Choir Games**

The assembly was the formal meeting of the Council of the World Choir Games. The Council consists of one representative each from 73 countries around the world. The Council met on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July in Graz. During the assembly the development of the World Choir Games was discussed, reports from the different countries were given and Shaoxing, the host city of the next World Choir Games was introduced. At the end of the assembly, delegates passed a resolution to be handed over to UNESCO. The focal point of the resolution signed by the Council members was "singing with children", and especially a request to the INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL (IMC) not to let up in its hitherto so successful efforts on behalf of music – in particular choral music for children and young people.

## **Premières**

15 compositions were performed for the first time. Further premières followed in the competition programmes of the choirs. Thus the World Choir Games have also been a place of innovation and impetus for choral music in general.



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### **Helpers**

A team of INTERKULTUR Foundation has been working in Graz organising the World Choir Games. The organisers could rely on the support of more than 600 helpers in Graz who looked after the choirs, took on organisational tasks, entered results into computers and thus made the World Choir Games possible.

### **Total pure singing time**

of all categories and choirs amounts to approx. 12,000 minutes, in other words about 8 days of continuous choral singing.

### **Largest category in number**

was category 1 "Children's Choirs". A total of 61 performances took place in this category alone. Other very large categories were categories 27 (Folklore) with 51 performances and category 28 (Folklore – open category) and category 17 (Musica Sacra – open category) with 47 performances each.

### **The most foreign participants came from**

China with a total of 43 choirs registered for participation. China was followed by Germany with 41 registered choirs, followed by Russia with 40. Host country Austria participated with 44 choirs.

### **6<sup>th</sup> World Choir Games 2010 in Shaoxing**

The next World Choir Games will take place in Shaoxing, China. The host city with more than 4.33 million inhabitants is located in the province of Zhejiang, 65 km from the provincial capital Hangzhou. The metropolis of Shanghai is just to the north.

### **Tourism**

135 hostels, hotels and guest houses in the city of Graz and the province of Styria reported approximately 100,000 overnight stays in connection with the World Choir Games.

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