



2nd International Choral Festival Music Without Borders

Kutaisi, Georgia · 16–19 October 2026 · Regulations

Festival dates	16–19 October 2026
Gala Concert	18 October 2026, Kutaisi
Organiser	Music Without Borders Foundation (Fundacja Muzyka Bez Granic), Poland
Contact	fundacjamuzykabezgranic@gmail.com · Polish: +48 603 635 800 · English: +48 693 030 959

General

- 1 The contest is addressed to amateur choirs.
- 2 The Artistic Council decides on the qualification of choirs on the basis of the recordings sent by the groups (CD, DVD or MP3) and the declared competition programme.

Regulations

- 1 The contest programme lasts 12–15 minutes including entering and leaving the stage; for senior and youth choirs 10–12 minutes (senior and youth choirs competing in other categories: 12–15 minutes). Exceeding the time limit may result in losing 2 points.
- 2 The programme should consist of at least four stylistically diverse a cappella choral pieces; one piece accompanied by an instrument written in the score is accepted.
- 3 Participants are encouraged to perform a piece by a Georgian composer — there is a special prize for the best performance.
- 4 Pieces declared in advance are obligatory and cannot be changed.
- 5 The jury of renowned musicians set up by the organisers assesses the performances. Its evaluation is confidential and its decisions are final.

Main criteria

- performance level and difficulty of the programme
- repertoire selection and dramaturgy
- articulation, both verbal and musical
- musical expression: interpretation, style of performance
- sound qualities, voice emission
- intonation

Categories

Category	Requirements
a) Sacred music	Any age group. Exclusively sacred music, at least three pieces, one composed before 1750.
b) Contemporary music	Any age group. Exclusively pieces composed after 1945; at least one by a living composer.



Category	Requirements
c) Folk / ethnic music	Any age group. Folk music or folklore-inspired pieces; at least one work from the choir's country of origin in its native language.
d) Gospel, spiritual, jazz, pop	Performed without microphones or a sound system; one piece may be accompanied by piano.
e) Chamber choirs (12–24 members)	12–15 minutes including entering and leaving the stage; at least three pieces.
f) Vocal groups (up to 12 members)	12–15 minutes; at least three pieces.
g) Mixed choirs	12–15 minutes; at least three pieces.
h) Homogeneous choirs	12–15 minutes; at least three pieces.
i) Children's choirs (up to 15)*	10–12 minutes; at least three pieces.
j) Youth choirs (15–19)*	10–12 minutes; at least three pieces.
k) Senior choirs (over 60)*	12–15 minutes; at least three pieces.

* At least 80% of the choir members should meet the age requirements. The organisers expect a list of singers with full names and dates of birth in age-limited categories; the group leader is responsible for it.

Gala Concert

All choirs take part in the Gala Concert in Kutaisi on 18 October 2026 and prepare one traditional Georgian piece to be performed together; scores will be sent after qualification. Choirs in the contest also take part in the Laureate Concert.

The organisers take no responsibility for illegal performances (copyright). Applying means agreeing that the organisers may record, present and use the materials free of charge to promote the festival.

Prizes

Grand Prix	for the best choir of the festival
Golden Diploma	91–100 points
Silver Diploma	81–90 points
Bronze Diploma	61–80 points
Category Winner	diploma and statue for the highest-scoring choir in a category, provided it receives a Golden Diploma

The Grand Prix and the special prizes are financial prizes.

Special prizes

- best performance of a piece by a contemporary composer (born after 1945)
- best performance of a work by a Georgian composer (for a non-Georgian choir)
- most interesting interpretation of sacred music
- best rendition of a folklore-inspired piece



The jury may award prizes not listed in the regulations and distribute prizes differently. All prizes are taxed according to the law.

Fees and accommodation

Entry fee	EUR 200 for the first category, EUR 100 for each additional category (invoice after qualification), payable by 30 April 2026
Stay package	EUR 310 per person: 3 nights with meals, gala meeting with lunch for all choirs, one guided excursion, transfer
Extras	The organisers will help you plan further trips to explore Georgia.

Deadlines

By	What
15 April 2026	Application card with attachments to fundacjamuzykabezgranic@gmail.com
20 April 2026	Qualification results
30 April 2026	Confirmation of the application fee payment (e-mail)
30 September 2026	Scores of the declared repertoire (electronic)
16–19 October 2026	Festival in Kutaisi

The organisers reserve the right to change the regulations.