

# Isle of Man Festival of Choirs – 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2025

## **RULES**

Notes: - The Isle of Man Festival of Choirs is sponsored by the Department of Enterprise, part of the Isle of Man Government.

Please read these rules carefully. Each choir must be familiar with them.

## **ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE IN MAIN COMPETITION**

1. A choir should have been organised for at least one calendar year prior to the Isle of Man Festival of Choirs and must be able (if required) to substantiate that fact.
2. All members of a choir, excepting the conductor or accompanist, must be amateurs (i.e., people who do not earn their livelihood as singers).
3. A choir must consist of a minimum of sixteen voices.
4. No person may compete as a member of more than one singing group in any one class of the festival.
5. Categories A, B, C and D are for adult choirs only; minimum age 16 years and not more than 30% of members may be between the ages of 16 and 18 years.
6. Winners of categories A, B C and D must be prepared to compete for the Choir of the Festival.
7. A choir cannot appear in the "Choir of the Festival" more than once. Should a choir win more than one class, they will compete in the "Choir of the Festival" in the class in which they obtained the highest marks. Should this occur, the choir finishing second to them in any other class will compete in their place.

## **ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE IN ENSEMBLE COMPETITION**

10. The Ensemble competition is a separate stand-alone competition that will not be able to compete for the Choir of the Festival trophy.
11. An Ensemble must consist of between 4 and 12 voices.
12. Each Ensemble will be required to sing 2 contrasting pieces of no more than 10 minutes maximum

## **REPERTOIRE FOR THE MAIN COMPETITION**

13. Each choir will be required to sing four contrasting pieces of your own choice, one of which must be unaccompanied. Please note that choirs entering the open class should perform one genre only (e.g. Acapella, barbershop, classical, glee, gospel, jazz, pop, show, musical theatre). If choirs enter the open class in addition to any other class, a separate musical programme should be performed.

## Isle of Man Festival of Choirs – 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2025

14. Choirs competing in the 'Choir of the Festival', will be expected to perform a concert repertoire of their choice but allowing only one piece already sung in their class entry. Copies of sheet music are not required (unless using official accompanist), however a list of music (title and composer) to be sung should be submitted 30 minutes prior to the start of the class.

15. The duration of the programme for any category should not exceed 15 minutes, or in the case of the final, 25 minutes. Choirs will be penalised for exceeding time limits.

16. The closing date for entry forms and registration fees is **Friday 30th June 2025**

Entries can be e-mailed to [iomfestivalofchoirs@outlook.com](mailto:iomfestivalofchoirs@outlook.com) or sent in hardcopy to The Isle of Man Festival of Choirs, 35 Cherry Walk, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM2 5NW. Once your entry has been accepted details of payment methods available will be forwarded to the choir organiser. Late entries will be accepted only in exceptional circumstances.

17. One copy of the sheet music for each piece should be forwarded by **31<sup>st</sup> July 2025** to the festival. You should also clearly state the title of the music, the name of the composer and the running order in which the songs will be performed. Photocopies of sheet music will not be accepted.

18. Choirs wishing to avail themselves of the services of the festival's official accompanist (There will be a charge for this service) should advise the Secretary of the Festival at the above address of their requirements no later than **31<sup>st</sup> August 2025** and submit one extra copy of the sheet music

19. A grand piano will be available on the stage of the Royal Hall of the Villa Marina for the performances. Choristers may also bring an additional/ alternative accompaniment e.g., a harp, flute. The use of backing tracks will not be permitted. Choirs will not be allowed to perform on the main stage before the competition, however a 30-minute rehearsal opportunity will be made available in a specific rehearsal room prior to your performance on stage. Chairs, a conductor's stand and a piano or Keyboard will be provided in each rehearsal room.

20. Choirs will be judged according to the following criteria: **Musicianship, Technique, Programme Choice, and Presentation.**

21. Order of appearance for categories and Choir of the Festival will be drawn by the festival director.

### **FINANCIAL/LEGAL LIABILITY**

22. All travel arrangements are the responsibility of the choir including transfers from the airport or ferry terminal to the venue.

23. The Isle of Man Festival of Choirs and the Isle of Man Government accepts no responsibility for any expense incurred by any choir or individual chorister participating in the festival.

### **BROADCASTING AND RECORDING RIGHTS**

## Isle of Man Festival of Choirs – 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2025

24. It is a condition of participation that any choir agrees:

a. that any performance it gives during the Isle of Man Festival of Choirs may be broadcast live and/or recorded for subsequent broadcast on radio and/or television for festival marketing purposes without payment to the choir. All broadcasting rights to any performance at the festival shall belong to the Festival which will be free to dispose of them as it sees fit.

b. that any performance it gives during the Isle of Man Festival of Choirs may, without payment, be recorded and the Festival shall be entitled to possession of any such recording and shall further be entitled to reproduce any such recording and to sell, let for hire, offer or exposure for sale or hire, distribute or otherwise dispose of any recording or reproduction of recording of any such performance in any manner that it sees fit.

### GENERAL

25. The Festival reserves the right to limit the number of entries for each category and to add to or alter these rules and regulations.

26. The Festival reserves the right to cancel a competition if it feels that there have been insufficient entries.

27. The Festival reserves the right to refuse entries.

28. The Festival reserves the right to alter the timetable according to the number of entries received for each category.

29. The decision of the Adjudicator decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into regarding any aspect of their deliberations.

30. A choir which withdraws from the festival is not entitled to a refund of the registration fee.

31. It is contrary to law to perform music which has been reproduced illegally. Should a choir do so, the Festival or Isle of Man Government accepts no responsibility for any action taken by publishers.

32. The Festival or Isle of Man Government accepts no legal or financial responsibility whatsoever in respect of a choir's participation in the festival and fringe activities.

33. Choirs must email a photograph and a short biography of their choir (100 words max) to reach the Festival by no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025. It is important that the above is sent electronically and will only be accepted in hard copy in exceptional circumstances.

34. Participation in the Festival implies acceptance of all the rules.

35. A verbal adjudication will be given for each category.

36. The Isle of Man Government will adhere to its Child Protection Policy (available on request).

37. It is the responsibility of the Choirs (not the organisers) to ensure they have all

## **Isle of Man Festival of Choirs – 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

necessary documentation to enter the Isle of Man. This is only relevant for those travelling from outside the UK; for all UK residents only photo identification is normally required at point of departure.

**Any queries should be directed to Gary Corkhill at the Festival of Choirs to the above address or via email [iomfestivalofchoirs@outlook.com](mailto:iomfestivalofchoirs@outlook.com)**