

## TRABZON CHOIR FESTIVAL SPECIFICATIONS

### FESTIVAL AIM

The Trabzon Choir Festival aims to strengthen unity, solidarity, and tolerance in society through the universal language of music. Choral music brings individuals together, enabling them to cooperate toward a common goal, and is one of the most beautiful ways to transform individual differences into a harmonious whole.

This festival aims to bring choral music to wider audiences in Trabzon and our country, increasing cultural dialogue and social participation, and making singing together accessible to individuals of all ages. By emphasizing the transformative power of singing together, which nourishes the human spirit and brings individuals closer, we prioritize fundamental human values such as love, respect, empathy, patriotism, and cooperation.

The main goals of the festival are:

- To encourage a culture of collective creation and sharing,
- To enable individuals to express themselves through music and contribute to their realization of their self-worth,
- To offer a platform for choirs of various structures and levels to express themselves,
- To contribute to the development of qualified choral music by supporting choir educators,
- To strengthen social bonds and community solidarity through the transformative power of music,
- To prioritize the awareness that every individual has the right to sing, making this tradition accessible to everyone, and encouraging the establishment of new choirs where every individual can sing,
- To enrich cultural dialogue by increasing the interaction of choirs with each other and with every individual in society,
- To support the artistic development of the choirs throughout the preparation process and the festival experience,
- To bring the people of Trabzon and festival participants together with selected works of Turkish and world choral literature,
- To create an environment where everyone dedicated to choral music can share their knowledge and experience through concerts, workshops, and talks organized within the scope of the festival,
- To make Trabzon an important center in the field of choral music.

### TRABZON CHOIR FESTIVAL PRINCIPLES

#### 1. Mutual Respect and Attention

- Every choir listens to the performances of other choirs with attention and respect.
- All participants demonstrate a kind, understanding, and supportive attitude toward each other during the festival process.

#### 2. Solidarity and Sharing

- Choirs view the festival environment not only as a stage but also as a space for learning and sharing.

- Experiences, repertoire, and technical information are voluntarily shared within the legal framework.
- 3. **Cultural Dialogue and Diversity**
  - Different musical traditions and interpretations are accepted as a richness.
  - Every choir is considered an element that strengthens the cultural diversity of the festival.
- 4. **Artistic and Technical Development**
  - Choirs are encouraged to express themselves.
  - Musical development is contributed through workshops, talks, and evaluation sessions.
- 5. **Friendship and Cooperation**
  - The festival is an event that uses music within a spirit of togetherness, not a competition.
  - Friendly relations are established among choirs, and long-term collaborations are supported.
- 6. **Discipline and Time Management**
  - Every choir complies with the directives of the Festival Organizing Committee and officials.
  - Information provided in all processes related to the Festival is regularly followed and applied.
  - All participants comply with the rehearsal, stage appearance, and event times.
  - To ensure the healthy progress of the festival flow, every choir fulfills its responsibilities.
- 7. **The Universal Power of Music**
  - The festival believes in the unifying and healing power of music.
  - It is a priority that music is accessible, shareable, and sustainable for every individual.
- 8. **Environmental Sensitivity and Sustainability**
  - Measures to reduce the carbon footprint are taken and encouraged during the festival.
  - A sensitive approach to recycling, energy saving, and waste management is demonstrated.
  - Participants are encouraged to adopt environmentally friendly practices.

## **RULES AND PROCEDURES RELATED TO THE FESTIVAL**

1. **Participation Conditions:** Trabzon Choir Festival is open to the participation of choirs of all ages, genres, and levels. Choirs of all levels (children, youth, adult, women's, men's, mixed, etc.) can participate in the Festival. Only one choir from each level (preschool, kindergarten, and primary schools) can participate under the name of 'school choir' to represent these institutions. Applications from different choirs such as "class choir" belonging to these institutions are not accepted. There is no restriction for other institutional and school choirs (high school, university).
2. **Application Process:**
  - Choirs wishing to apply for the festival must fill out the **Application Form** available on the website [www.trabzonkorofestivali.com/en](http://www.trabzonkorofestivali.com/en) **between February 1, 2026, and February 20, 2026.** The applicant choir will receive

an automatic email confirming the receipt of the application after submitting the Application Form. The result of the evaluation will be communicated to the relevant choir within 5 days after the application is received.

- The texts of the works to be performed by the applying choir in the Festival and all activities to be carried out must not be contrary to human dignity, must not contain political content, and must not be disruptive to national unity and the integrity of the country or demoralizing.
  - The audio/video recording added to the application form for use in the evaluation process must have been made within the last one year.
  - The compulsory works to be performed by the participating choirs are available on the relevant page of the Trabzon Choir Festival. Choirs are obliged to perform the work listed there.
  - The applications of the choirs will be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee, and the result will be notified to the relevant choir as "accepted" or "not accepted" for the festival. Subsequently, the method of sending the participation fee of **3000TL** (Three Thousand Turkish Liras) will be communicated to the relevant choir. Choirs that do not include the compulsory work in their concert program will be warned once, and if they do not remedy this deficiency, they will be removed from the Festival program.
  - The Late Application procedure applies to choirs unable to complete their procedures within the normal application calendar. In this instance, the participation fee is applied at an increased rate. Late applications for 2026 will be accepted between March 1-10, 2026.
3. **Performance Rules:** Choirs can stay on stage for a minimum of 10 minutes and a maximum of 20 minutes. This duration includes the concert, intervals between works, applause, etc. The performances of choirs that exceed the time limit in their concerts will be terminated when the time is up. Choirs members or conductors must refrain from non-concert-related speeches that would negatively affect the flow of the program during the time allocated to them on stage. All responsibility regarding the works to be interpreted by the choirs at the festival belongs to them.
4. **Organization Details:** The Festival Organizing Committee and every stakeholder of the festival work on a voluntary basis. Participating choirs must be present at the location and time determined and communicated by the Festival Organizing Committee for rehearsals and concerts. Choirs participating in the festival cover their own transportation and accommodation expenses. Choirs needing accommodation can contact the accommodation places recommended on our website. Choirs accepted to the festival can benefit from discounted accommodation at the relevant hotels by presenting their acceptance letters. The Festival Organizing Committee does not assume any responsibility regarding transportation and accommodation. The accommodation places recommended on the website are for informational purposes only; the Festival Organizing Committee does not give any guarantee or accept responsibility regarding these places.
5. **Evaluation and Recording Rights:** Each choir's evaluation is based only on its own concert; there is no comparison with other choirs. The right to take photos, audio, and video recordings during the festival process belongs solely to the Festival Organizing Committee. Audio and video recording for commercial purposes cannot be made without written permission from the Organizing Committee. All copyright and display rights of the concerts and shows organized within the scope of the

Festival belong to the Festival Organizing Committee. All materials and data obtained at the Festival cannot be used without the written permission of the Organizing Committee.

6. **Award Ceremony Participation:** It is mandatory for every choir to attend the award ceremony to be held on the last day of the Festival with at least one representative. Choirs are strongly requested to take this into account when making their concert day preferences.
7. **Concert Day Preference:** The concert day preference indicated in the application form does not mean a definitive program placement for that day. Concert days are arranged according to the festival program.
8. **Powers of the Festival Organizing Committee:** The Organizing Committee reserves the right to cancel applications and terminate all processes related to the festival at any stage if deemed necessary.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR APPLICATION

- a. Choir's resume (Maximum 250 words) and group photograph,
- b. Choir conductor's resume (Maximum 250 words) and photograph,
- c. List of choir members and the name-surname of the accompanist(s), if any,
- d. Concert program and detailed repertoire information,
- e. Contact information of the choir and the choir representative,
- f. Accompaniment and Backing Tracks: Every choir will arrange its own performance accompanist or submit the backing track to the Festival Organizing Committee beforehand. Choirs that will perform works with a backing track must send their track in MP3/WAV format, named as "Choir Name – Work Name", **in a single file** to [info@trabzonkorofestivali.com](mailto:info@trabzonkorofestivali.com) by **April 30, 2026**, at the latest. Accompaniments not sent in this manner or sent after the specified date will not be accepted. **In addition, all choirs must bring their accompaniments on a USB stick on the festival day.**

## ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE FESTIVAL

1. Choirs give concerts in the hall determined during the festival.
2. Activities such as workshops, shows, and special recitals aimed at the objectives of the festival are also planned within the scope of the festival.

## AWARDS

The choirs participating in the Festival are evaluated by the Festival Evaluation Committee based on the artistic features they exhibit in their own recitals, without competing with each other. As a result of the evaluation, artistic awards are given to the choirs in the category deemed most appropriate from the artistic criteria listed below. There is no order of importance among these artistic awards; every award has equal artistic value.

**Awards to be Given as a Result of Evaluations** (In alphabetical order):

- Success in Diction, Articulation, and Intelligibility
- Success in Intonation, Homogeneity, and Choir Timbre
- Success in the Interpretation of Choral Music Genres

- Success in Musical Participation
- Award for Success in Musicality and Musical Dynamics
- Success in Rhythmic Harmony and Rhythmic Togetherness
- Success in Stage Presence, Choir Discipline, and Aesthetic Appearance
- Success in Interpreting Works with Soloists
- Choir Conductor Harmony in Interpreting the Work

In addition, institutions and organizations supporting the festival may present "Special Encouragement Awards" to the choirs they deem appropriate. These awards are determined according to the evaluation criteria of the relevant institutions. The Festival Evaluation Committee reserves the right to make necessary changes in the names and content of the awards.

### **FESTIVAL CALENDAR**

Announcement of Festival Dates	January 30, 2026
Application Period	February 1 – 20, 2026
Late Application Period	March 1 – 10, 2026
Evaluation of Applications and Notification of Results to the Choir	February 21 – March 20, 2026
Submission of Participation Fees	March 1 – March 31, 2026
Sending of Draft Festival Program to Choirs	April 1, 2026
Public Release of the Final Festival Program	May 15, 2026
Festival	June 3 – 5, 2026

\*The Late Application is subject to the conditions under the heading "2. Application Process" of the specifications.

### **FESTIVAL CONTACT ADDRESS**

**Web:** [www.trabzonkorofestivali.com](http://www.trabzonkorofestivali.com)

**E-mail:** [info@trabzonkorofestivali.com](mailto:info@trabzonkorofestivali.com)

**The Organizing Committee reserves the right to make necessary changes in the festival participation specifications and festival program at all stages and to cancel the festival if deemed necessary.**

**[The Trabzon Choir Festival Specifications consist of a total of 4 (four) pages.]**

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