



CITY of DERRY

International Choir Festival



24 – 28 OCTOBER 2018

SYLLABUS



tourism
northernireland

INNER
CITY
TRUST

INTRODUCTION

I'm delighted to introduce the syllabus for the sixth edition of the City of Derry International Choir Festival, which will take place on Wednesday 24 – Sunday 28 October 2018.

Following the outstanding success of the first five festivals, plans are well under way to ensure that Festival 2018 will be an even more enjoyable and inclusive event, with an impressive line-up of national and international choirs performing alongside an ever-increasing number of local choral groups.

As always, one of the highlights of the festival will be the International Competition, in which a maximum of ten selected choirs will compete for the prestigious 'Oak Tree of Derry' perpetual trophy, as well as a significant monetary prize. The quality and range of international choirs participating in this competition has been outstanding, so please get your entry in as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Details of all competition categories and other opportunities for participation can be found in this syllabus. I encourage you to pay particular attention to the increasing number of special awards that were introduced for the 2017 festival and take these into consideration when choosing your repertoire. Please keep an eye on our website for further updates and details of guest artists, adjudicators and special awards.

The competitions and gala concerts will be held in the beautiful settings of St Columb's Hall and the Guildhall, with the more intimate surroundings of The Glassworks being the venue for the late-night concert.

We look forward to welcoming you, your choir and all your supporters to the sixth edition of the City of Derry International Choir Festival in October 2018.

Dónal Doherty, Artistic Director



GET READY FOR A 'LEGENDERRY' FESTIVAL!

Located in the stunning north-west of Ireland, the charming city of Derry~Londonderry is renowned as one of the finest walled cities in Europe, full of fascinating history and culture. This vibrant destination offers a unique combination of rich heritage and a buzzing social scene – Derry has been named 'Friendliest Destination in Northern Ireland' so you will be guaranteed the warmest of welcomes!

Uncover the many cultural delights on offer, take a trip back in time and discover over 400 years of history strolling along the historic 17th century walls, enjoy magnificent historic buildings and cathedrals, visit one of the many museums to uncover this unique destination's fascinating story and journey to peace, or extend your stay and celebrate 31 October in the city, voted 'Best Halloween Destination in the World' by *USA Today*.

In 2013 Derry-Londonderry hosted the inaugural UK City of Culture, with many high-profile events of international calibre taking place throughout the year. The city was also named a 'Top 10 City in the World to Visit' by highly acclaimed travel publication *Lonely Planet*.

TRAVELLING TO THE CITY

The City of Derry is situated in the north-west of Northern Ireland and is its second largest city.

OPTIONS FOR FLYING TO NORTHERN IRELAND

- City of Derry Airport – approx. 8 miles from the city centre
- Belfast International Airport – approx. 58 miles from Derry
- George Best Belfast City Airport – approx. 73 miles from Derry
- Dublin Airport (Republic of Ireland) – approx. 140 miles from Derry

BUS SERVICES

There are a number of bus services to the city from both the north and south of Ireland via the Translink and Bus Eireann public transport services. Each airport also operates a bus service directly to Derry with several buses running per day.

NI RAILWAY SERVICE

There is a regular train service to Derry from Belfast via Antrim, Ballymena and Coleraine.

“The festival is a wonderful celebration of choral music. It boasts an eclectic mix of concerts, competitions, trails and workshops, ensuring there is something for everyone to enjoy. A truly inspirational five days of singing.”

WHAT TO DO IN DERRY

HOTELS

The City of Derry and surrounding area offer an excellent choice of quality hotels, cosy bed & breakfasts, stylish self-catering and comfortable hostels to suit every pocket, many within walking distance of the main festival venue. Prices range from £15 to £85 per person per night and early booking is advised.

EATING OUT

A busy festival is guaranteed to work up an appetite so pay a visit to one of the many restaurants for a bite to eat. Derry was named runner-up in the prestigious Restaurant Association of Ireland's 2015 'Foodie Town Awards' so you can be sure to enjoy the very best of locally sourced produce including the freshest seafood caught locally in neighbouring County Donegal.

“ The people of Derry are extremely welcoming and helpful. The city's situation on the river is also stunningly beautiful. ”

SHOPPING

If retail therapy is what you are interested in, you are spoilt for choice. This fashionista's paradise has two shopping centres, which have a vast array of high street names alongside vibrant independent stores. For those looking for something a little bit different, check out the Craft Village, home to a range of local craft providers, where you can pick up stunning pieces of artwork and clothing.

NIGHTLIFE

Discover Derry's vibrant nightlife, and see home-grown artists and performers in action at one of the many cutting-edge live music venues, or chill out at an array of cosmopolitan cafés and bars. The festival also hosts its own Festival Club on most nights of the festival.

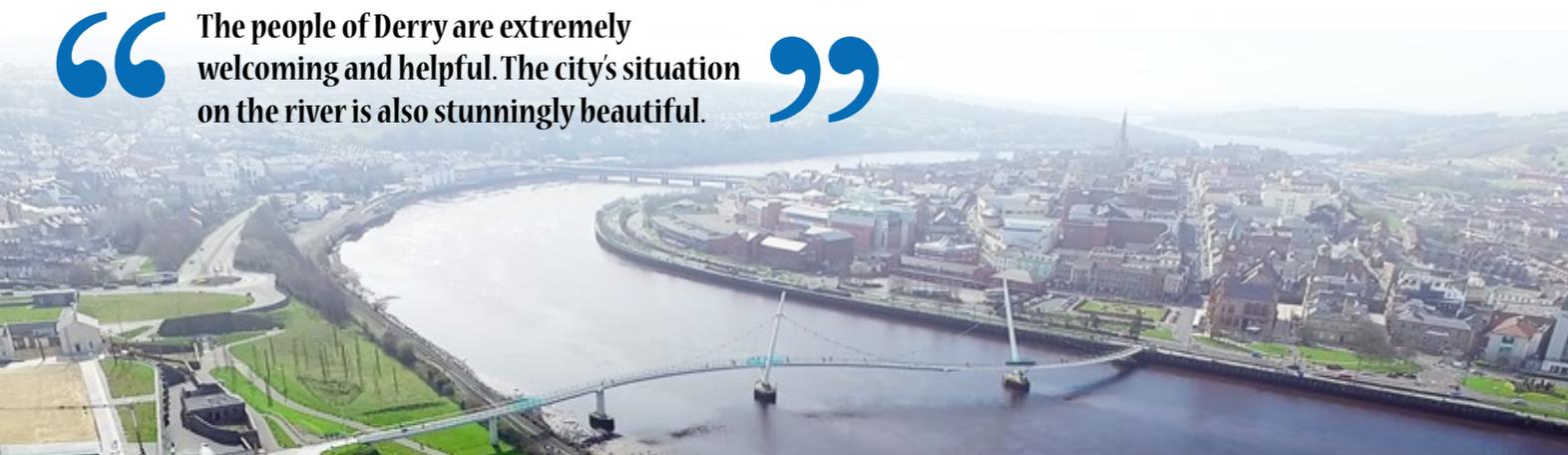
SIGHTS TO SEE IN AND AROUND DERRY

For anyone wishing to extend their stay, in less than one hour you can be at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Giant's Causeway or Bushmills Whiskey Distillery, the oldest licensed distillery in the world, while 90 mins will take you to Belfast to experience the award-winning Titanic Belfast Museum, Crumlin Road Gaol and countless other attractions. To the south of the city lie the Sperrin Mountains in a stunning area of outstanding natural beauty, and to the west you can marvel at the magnificent natural beauty of County Donegal, home to fabulous attractions such as Glenveagh National Park, not to mention some of the best links golf courses in Europe and the gateway to the spectacular 'Wild Atlantic Way' – the longest defined coastal touring route in the world!

Bordering counties Donegal, Tyrone and Antrim, Derry is the perfect base to explore some of Ireland and Northern Ireland's most beautiful scenic locations.

Popular tourist activities in the city and nearby:

- **Walking tour of Derry including the city's historic walls**
- **Peace Bridge, Derry**
- **Tower Museum, Derry**
- **Museum of Free Derry**
- **Star Wars: The Last Jedi filming location, Donegal**
- **Game of Thrones filming locations tour, Antrim**
- **Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, Antrim**
- **Giant's Causeway, Antrim**
- **Ulster American Folk Park, Tyrone**
- **Bushmills Distillery, Antrim**
- **Grianán of Aileáich, Donegal**



SCHOOL COMPETITIONS (UK AND IRELAND)

PRIMARY SCHOOL CHOIRS (UNISON)

Repertoire: Two contrasting pieces, in unison

Time Limit: Not exceeding 8 minutes in total

1st Prize: Trophy and £150

2nd Prize: Certificate

PRIMARY SCHOOL CHOIRS (PART-SONG)

Repertoire: Two contrasting pieces, in two or more parts

Time Limit: Not exceeding 8 minutes in total

1st Prize: Trophy and £150

2nd Prize: Certificate

POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL CHOIRS (UNISON/TWO-PART)

Repertoire: Two contrasting pieces, in unison or two parts

Time Limit: Not exceeding 8 minutes in total

1st Prize: Trophy and £150

2nd Prize: Certificate

POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL CHOIRS (THREE/FOUR-PART)

Repertoire: Two contrasting part songs, in three or four parts

Time Limit: Not exceeding 8 minutes in total

1st Prize: Trophy and £150

2nd Prize: Certificate

BIG SING

All school choirs are invited to take part in a Big Sing workshop that will be scheduled during the competition session. Details will be provided in advance of the festival.

All choirs will receive a certificate of participation.

NATIONAL COMPETITIONS (UK & IRELAND)

FEMALE VOICE

Repertoire: Two contrasting pieces, only one of which may be accompanied

Time Limit: 5 - 8 minutes in total

Age Limit: The majority of singers must be over 15 years of age

No. of Members: Minimum of 12 singers per choir

1st Prize: Trophy and £200

2nd Prize: Certificate and £100

MALE VOICE

Repertoire: Two contrasting pieces, only one of which may be accompanied

Time Limit: 5 - 8 minutes in total

Age Limit: The majority of singers must be over 15 years of age

No. of Members: Minimum of 12 singers per choir

1st Prize: Trophy and £200

2nd Prize: Certificate and £100

MIXED VOICE

Repertoire: Two contrasting pieces, only one of which may be accompanied

Time Limit: 5 - 8 minutes in total

Age Limit: The majority of singers must be over 15 years of age

No. of Members: Minimum of 12 singers per choir

1st Prize: Trophy and £200

2nd Prize: Certificate and £100

YOUTH CHOIR

Repertoire: Two contrasting pieces, both of which may be accompanied

Time Limit: 5 - 8 minutes in total

Age Limit: All singers must be under the age of 21 on the day of competition

No. of Members: Minimum of 12 singers per choir

1st Prize: Trophy and £200

2nd Prize: Certificate and £100

VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Repertoire: Two contrasting pieces, only one of which may be accompanied

Time Limit: 5 - 8 minutes in total

Age Limit: The majority of singers must be over 15 years of age

No. of Members: Minimum of 3 and maximum of 12 singers per ensemble

1st Prize: Trophy and £200

2nd Prize: Certificate and £100

SACRED MUSIC

Repertoire: Two contrasting sacred works, only one of which may be accompanied

Time Limit: 5 - 8 minutes in total

Age Limit: Open to adult and youth choirs

No. of Members: Minimum of 12 singers per choir

1st Prize: Trophy and £200

2nd Prize: Certificate and £100

POPULAR, JAZZ AND GOSPEL MUSIC

Repertoire: Two contrasting pieces in a relevant style, both of which may be accompanied

Time Limit: 5 - 8 minutes in total

Age Limit: The majority of singers must be over 15 years of age

No. of Members: Minimum of 12 singers per choir

1st Prize: Trophy and £200

2nd Prize: Certificate and £100

All choirs will receive a certificate of participation.



“ We thoroughly enjoyed the whole thing. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to hear the other choirs, participate in the workshop and listen to the fabulous adult singers from Norway, as well as singing in the competition! ”

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Open to any youth or adult choir of international standing with a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 60 members. All singers must be over 15 years of age.

REPERTOIRE

The programme must be entirely a cappella, represent an historically balanced range of styles and include at least:

- a work composed before 1750
- a work by a composer from the choir's native country

The contrasting programme should comprise between 3 and 5 pieces and the performance time (excluding applause) should be between 12 and 14 minutes in total. Time penalties will apply to choirs whose performance does not adhere to these limits.

1st Prize: 'Oak Tree of Derry' perpetual trophy and £2,000

2nd Prize: 2nd Place Certificate and £1,500

3rd Prize: 3rd Place Certificate and £1,000

SELECTION PROCESS

Upon receipt of all entry materials, choirs will be selected on the basis of their application. In particular, attention will be paid to the proposed repertoire and to the quality of the performance on the recording submitted.

“ It was a tremendous event; everyone is still talking about it. We were stunned by the quality of the singing. ”

N.B. Selected choirs will be required to participate in the Closing Gala Concert and Awards Ceremony on Sunday evening as well as non-competitive activities

NON-COMPETITIVE PARTICIPATION

The festival welcomes non-competitive participation and can offer the following range of activities to visiting non-competitive choirs:

- Informal public performances at various locations throughout the city as part of the Choral Trail
- A church service in one of the city's churches as part of the Sacred Trail
- A performance in one of the city's community venues as part of our Community Concert series
- Participation in choral workshops led by visiting guest artists and adjudicators

All choirs will receive a certificate of participation.

“ Friendly atmosphere. Superbly organised and we were welcomed wholeheartedly by the very helpful staff and volunteers. ”

SPECIAL AWARDS

The festival is delighted to present a number of special awards in the school, national and international categories of the festival as follows:

- Bernadette Kelly Memorial Award for most promising school choir
- Bishops Daly and Mehaffey Award for an outstanding performance in the school competitions
- Association of Irish Choirs Conducting Scholarship for the most promising conductor in the national competitions or a participant in the conducting masterclasses
- Bishop's Gate Hotel Award for an outstanding performance of a work composed before 1750 in the International Competition
- City Hotel Award to the conductor of the most interesting and varied programme in the International Competition
- Contemporary Music Centre Award for the best performance of a piece by a composer from Ireland (all choral works found in the CMC's online library are eligible for consideration)
- Derry City and Strabane District Council Award for outstanding contribution to the festival

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

DEADLINE

Completed application forms and all supporting materials must be received by the dates specified below. Acceptance of late applications will be at the discretion of the City of Derry International Choir Festival.

International Competition: **Friday 30 March 2018**

School, national and non-competitive applications: **Friday 18 May 2018**

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Completed entry form with proposed competition programme
- Entry fee
- 5 sets of original sheet music of proposed competition pieces
- Choir biography (maximum 250 words)
- Recent high resolution colour photograph of the choir in JPEG format (International Competition only)
- Recent recording of the choir (International Competition only)

COMPETITION FEES

School Competitions: **£50/€60**

National Competitions: **£80/€95**

International Competition: **£150/€180**

Non-Competitive Participation: **£50/€60***

*Fee applicable to choirs taking part in non-competitive activities only. Competing choirs are eligible to participate in non-competitive activities without an additional fee.

Competing school and national choirs may avail of the official festival accompanist and should request this on their entry form. Accompanist fee: **£50/€60**

Choirs who are not selected for participation in the International Competition will receive a full refund of the entry fee submitted.

Sterling payments and cheques should be made to:

Account Name
Walled City Music Trust, No. 2 Choral Festival
Account Address
7 Queen Street, Derry, BT48 7EF
Bank Name
Bank of Ireland
Account Number
1993 5252
National Sort Code
90-49-74
IBAN
GB43 BOFI 9049 5819 9352 52
BIC
BOFIGB2B

Euro payments and cheques should be made to:

Account Name
Walled City Music Trust
Account Address
7 Queen Street, Derry, BT48 7EF
Bank Name
Bank of Ireland
Account Number
2925 9366
National Sort Code
90-49-15
IBAN
IE70 BOFI 9049 1529 2593 66
BIC
BOFIE2D

N.B. Please ensure that the name and contact details of each choir are noted on all bank transfers.

COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

**PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS.
A SEPARATE ENTRY FORM AND FEE IS REQUIRED
FOR EACH COMPETITION.**

Name of Choir

Conductor: Mr/Mrs/Ms

Tel

Contact Person: Mr/Mrs/Ms

Tel

Address

.....

Email address

Website

Number competing in choir (Male) (Female) (Total)

We wish to enter the Competition

Official Accompanist required at a fee of **£50** Yes No

NON-COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

The festival welcomes and encourages non-competitive participation throughout the festival weekend. Please indicate which of the following you would like to take part in:

NON-COMPETITIVE EVENT	DATE	PARTICIPATION
Big Sing Workshop	Thurs 25 Oct (primary schools only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Fri 26 Oct (post-primary schools only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Sat 27 Oct (open to all)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Choral Trail (20 minutes light repertoire required)	Fri 26 Oct	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Sat 27 Oct	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Sun 28 Oct	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Community Concert (20 minutes light repertoire required)	Sat 27 Oct	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Sun 28 Oct	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Sacred Trail (4/5 sacred pieces required for church service)	Sun 28 Oct	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:

**City of Derry International Choir Festival
Magazine Studios, 7 – 8 Magazine Street, Derry, BT48 6HJ, N. Ireland**

Email applications can be sent to: **info@derrychoirfest.com**

Closing dates for receipt of entries are as follows:

International Competition: **Friday 30 March 2018**

School, national and non-competitive applications: **Friday 18 May 2018**

REPERTOIRE

The order of performance cannot be changed once submitted.

(I) Title

Composer/Arranger

Composer's Dates

Duration

(II) Title.....

Composer/Arranger

Composer's Dates

Duration

(III) Title.....

Composer/Arranger

Composer's Dates

Duration

(IV) Title.....

Composer/Arranger

Composer's Dates

Duration

(V) Title

Composer/Arranger

Composer's Dates

Duration

CHECKLIST

- Entry form
- Entry fee
- 5 x sets of original sheet music for proposed competition pieces
- Choir biography (maximum 250 words)
- Recent colour photograph of the choir in JPEG format (International Competition only)
- Recent recording of the choir (International Competition only)

Signature

Position held

Date

N.B. This form should be signed by a mandated, authorised member of the choir, e.g. choir conductor, choir secretary or chair of the governing body/committee.

NON-COMPETITIVE ENTRY FORM

**PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS.
A SEPARATE ENTRY FORM AND FEE IS REQUIRED
FOR EACH COMPETITION.**

Name of Choir

Conductor: Mr/Mrs/Ms

Tel

Contact Person: Mr/Mrs/Ms

Tel

Address

.....

Email address

Website

Number competing in choir (Male) (Female) (Total)

We wish to participate in the following:

NON-COMPETITIVE EVENT	DATE	PARTICIPATION
Big Sing Workshop	Thurs 25 Oct (primary schools only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Fri 26 Oct (post-primary schools only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Sat 27 Oct (open to all)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Choral Trail (20 minutes light repertoire required)	Fri 26 Oct	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Sat 27 Oct	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Sun 28 Oct	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Community Concert (20 minutes light repertoire required)	Sat 27 Oct	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Sun 28 Oct	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Email applications can be sent to: info@derrychoirfest.com

Closing dates for receipt of entries are as follows:
International Competition: **Friday 30 March 2018**
School, national and non-competitive applications: **Friday 18 May 2018**

REPERTOIRE

Please submit some examples of the type of repertoire that your choir usually performs.

SACRED MUSIC

Title	Composer/Arranger	Composer Dates

NON-SACRED MUSIC

Title	Composer/Arranger	Composer Dates

CHECKLIST: Entry form Entry fee Choir biography (maximum 150 words) Signature
 Position held Date

N.B. This form should be signed by a mandated, authorised member of the choir, e.g. choir conductor, choir secretary or chair of the governing

RULES AND REGULATIONS

ELIGIBILITY

1. School competitions are open to schools from the UK and Ireland.
2. School choirs may enter more than one competition in their respective categories (each entry must be made on a separate form and requires a separate fee).
3. National competitions are open to choirs from the UK and Ireland.
4. National choirs may enter more than one national competition (each entry must be made on a separate form and requires a separate fee).
5. The majority of singers in all national choirs must be over 15 years of age, apart from the Youth and Sacred categories.
6. The International Competition is open to any youth or adult choir of international standing.
7. Choirs accepted for participation in the International Competition are excluded from entering any of the national categories.

REPERTOIRE

1. No choir may sing the same repertoire in two different competitions.
2. Piano accompaniment is permitted in all school and national competitions. Choirs may also use up to a maximum of one additional instrument if indicated on the score.
3. Changes to the submitted programme are not permitted.
4. Choirs will be penalised for a programme that does not adhere to the stated time limits for each competition.
5. Adjudicators will award marks for the technical ability and artistic quality of each choir, and for the variety and communication of their programme.

BROADCASTING, RECORDING AND PHOTOGRAPHIC RIGHTS

1. Performances throughout the festival may be photographed, recorded for subsequent reproduction and/or broadcast on radio or television.
2. All broadcasting and photographic rights to the performances will belong to the festival and may be used for promotional use as it sees fit.
3. Choirs will not receive payment for recordings or photographs used and the festival will be entitled to reproduce any such recordings or photographs for sale or promotional use.
4. All choirs with members under the age of 18 years must ensure that the necessary consent is obtained from the young people and their parents/guardians prior to taking part in the festival.

TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION, MEALS

1. All travel costs to and from the festival are the responsibility of each participating choir.
2. All accommodation and meal costs at the festival are the responsibility of each participating choir.
3. Participating choirs are responsible for organising, booking and paying for all travel, accommodation and meals.
4. For competing choirs travelling from outside the UK and Ireland, the festival will provide a per diem subsidy for each choir member in the amount of £15. The subsidy will be provided for up to a maximum of four participatory days, for a maximum of 40 people (including conductor). Per diems are calculated on the number of participatory days that a choir takes part in the festival.
5. For visiting choirs from outside the island of Ireland, the festival will provide all local transport, from the City of Derry Airport or the local train/bus station to their accommodation and back, and throughout the weekend as required by the festival.

GENERAL

1. The decisions of the adjudication panel will be final in all competitions and no correspondence will be entered into regarding any aspect of its work.
2. The Artistic Panel reserves the right to limit the number of entries for any competition.
3. The Artistic Panel reserves the right to cancel a competition if sufficient entries are not received.
4. The Artistic Panel reserves the right to refuse entry into any competition.
5. Entry fees (less any bank charges) will be refunded if a choir is not selected.
6. If a selected choir withdraws from the competition, it will not be entitled to a fee refund.
7. The timetable for competitions is to be used as a guideline only and may change at the Festival Committee's discretion.
8. Illegal reproduction of music will not be condoned by the festival. In the event of any illegal reproduction, the Festival Committee accepts no responsibility for any action taken by publishers.
9. The Festival Committee accepts no legal responsibility whatsoever in respect of any matter pertaining to a choir's participation in the festival and any associated activities.
10. The decisions of the Festival Committee are final.
11. All details are subject to change. Any updates will be made on the festival website and will supersede the information in this syllabus.
12. Participation in the festival implies acceptance of all rules and regulations.

TIMETABLE (PROVISIONAL)

WEDNESDAY 24 OCTOBER

Conducting Masterclasses
Opening Gala Concert

THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER

Primary School Competitions and Workshop
Evening Concert

FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER

Post-Primary School Competitions and Workshop
Choral Trail
Evening Concert

SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER

National Equal Voice, Mixed Voice and
Popular, Jazz & Gospel Competitions
Choral Trail
Community Concert
Big Sing Workshop
International Competition (evening)

SUNDAY 28 OCTOBER

Sacred Trail
National Sacred Music, Vocal Ensemble
and Youth Choir Competitions
Community Concert
Closing Gala Concert and Award Ceremony (evening)

FUTURE FESTIVAL DATES

23 – 27 October 2019 // 21 – 25 October 2020 // 20 – 24 October 2021

