

Festival Participation Regulations (TXT-D-02-01.EN-REV.00-25.04.2026). (EN)

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

These regulations have been prepared to establish the participation conditions, the general structure of the festival, and the obligations of the participants for the **Eskişehir International Polyphonic Choir Festival**, organized in cooperation with the "**Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality**" (EBB) and the "**Eskişehir Polyphonic Choir Association**" (EPKD). The festival prioritizes artistic quality and musical sharing over a competitive environment. All choirs applying to the festival are deemed to have accepted the cooperation within the framework of friendship, in accordance with the festival spirit, and the following general principles. (Administrative, artistic, and operational decisions throughout the festival are carried out by the Festival Committee established under the coordination of EBB and EPKD).

- a)** The festival aims to support polyphonic choral music, increase solidarity and interaction between choirs, and contribute to the national and international choral movement.
- b)** The festival is open to applications from amateur, professional, school, children, youth, and adult choirs. Different age groups, musical styles, and choral forms are supported.
- c)** The festival is a platform that prioritizes artistic sharing rather than competition. Although an Evaluation Board is present, the festival is essentially a musical gathering rather than a competition.
- d)** Concerts, workshops, and events to be held during the festival constitute a binding and planned whole for all participants.

Objectives of the Festival (TXT-D-01-01-REV.00-EN-25.04.2026)

- To promote the spread of music and art among communities through polyphonic choral music, to encourage choral culture, and to enable experience sharing by bringing different polyphonic choral groups together.
- To increase cultural interaction and strengthen social unity through the universal power of polyphonic choral music.
- To encourage and offer opportunities to young people, amateur, and professional musicians interested in art and music.
- To strengthen relationships and collaborations between choirs and their members by providing opportunities for choirs, conductors, and music educators to showcase their work.

Mission: (TXT-D-01-02-REV.00-EN-25.04.2026)

- To increase the visibility and impact of polyphonic choral music in society by integrating it with Eskişehir's identity as a city of art.
- To contribute to arts and culture.

- To provide an inspiring sharing platform for choirs, conductors, and music lovers.

Vision: (TXT-D-01-03-REV.00-EN-25.04.2026)

- To become one of the significant reference points in polyphonic choral music at the national level and a respected destination recognized for its organizational competence and artistic quality on international platforms.
- To become a traditional and qualified meeting center where choirs, conductors, and composers desire to gather.

2. FESTIVAL CALENDAR

The festival calendar is published on the official festival website. The detailed program will be announced on the official website after the participating ensembles are finalized. Participants are highly encouraged and kindly requested to regularly visit our official website for all recent updates and announcements.

3. PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS

- The festival includes mixed, male, female, youth, children, and chamber choirs.
- Choirs working at a professional level or conducting regular rehearsals are preferred.
- Participating choirs and their conductors are obliged to provide official representation throughout the festival.
- Accompaniments, if any, must be performed live. The provision of accompaniment instruments other than the piano belongs to the participating choirs.
- The main stage performances will be held at the **Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality Art and Culture Center Opera House**.
- Street concerts, aimed at carrying polyphonic music to every corner of the city and creating a dynamic interaction, will be held in areas, parks, and open-air stages determined by the Festival Committee.
- Choirs are responsible for their own meals, transportation, and accommodation. The Festival Committee may only provide recommendations for accommodation.

4. APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for festival participation shall be submitted via the "Festival Participation Application Form" available on the official website between the dates announced by the Festival Committee. **The application deadline is announced on the official website.**

- In addition to the Application Form, it is mandatory to submit the following documents:
 - A short biography of the choir conductor.
 - A short introduction of the choir (including past awards and festival participation, if any).
 - A current photograph of the choir.
- Participating choirs are required to upload **(a)** a promotional video not exceeding 1 minute and **(b)** a performance video reflecting their general musical identity recorded within the last 18 months (not exceeding 4 minutes) to a platform such as YouTube, Vimeo, etc., and provide the sharing link in the application form. *(Please ensure that the privacy settings of the videos are set to "public" or "anyone with the link").*
- Each choir may submit only one application. In case of multiple submissions, the first application will be considered valid.
- Submission of the application form does not guarantee participation. All applications will be evaluated by the **Festival Artistic Committee**, taking into consideration **"the performance video, your repertoire, your choir type relative to the allocated quotas, the volume of applications for the current year, hall capacity, and operational capabilities"** provided in your Application Form.
- Following the completion of the application process, selected choirs will be notified with a **"Participation Confirmation Document"**, and accepted choirs will be included in the finalized festival program.
- Choirs whose applications are accepted must complete all festival-related processes within the designated schedule. Failure to complete procedures within the timeframe will result in the cancellation of participation rights.
- In place of choirs whose participation is canceled, the Festival Committee will extend invitations to alternate choirs.

5. REPERTOIRE AND STAGE PROCESS

Repertoire

- **The repertoire of all ensembles participating in the festival** must consist of high-quality polyphonic choral works. It is expected that the repertoire includes at least one (1) work by a Turkish composer and presents a diversity of periods/styles, including unaccompanied (a cappella) works. These artistic elements are considered primary reasons for preference during the pre-evaluation process by the Festival Artistic Committee.
- **The repertoire list** must be submitted clearly in the table format provided in the online Application Form on the website; it must not exceed 7 rows and a total duration of 20 minutes, with

the complete credentials of each work (title, composer/arranger, and duration) distinctly specified in the relevant table on the application.

- **The Festival Artistic Committee** will review the repertoires in terms of content, duration, and category appropriateness, and may request revisions where necessary. Providing the original scores of the pieces is the responsibility of the participating choirs, and these may be requested in PDF format.
- **The Festival Committee** may announce collective festival piece(s) themed around Atatürk, the Republic, or other concepts to be performed together during the festival, at least 1 month prior to the event.

Warm-up and Rehearsal

- Rehearsal times and locations will be announced in advance. Choirs must be at the rehearsal area at least 20 minutes before their scheduled time.
- Choirs missing their scheduled slot will lose their rehearsal right. The Committee reserves the right to change rehearsal/stage times if necessary.

Stage Layout and Equipment

- Each choir is expected to be present in the concert hall during the session in which they will perform.
- Requests for monitor systems or special lighting are subject to approval. The technical team will contact the relevant choir.
- Playback or electronic backing tracks are not accepted, except for children's choirs.
- Choirs using instruments other than piano must specify their technical needs (microphones, jacks, power) in the application form.

Costumes and Stage Discipline

- Costumes and accessories are free. Elements that may damage the stage (smoke, liquids, sharp objects, etc.) are prohibited.
- Banners, slogans, symbols, or clothing representing political views are strictly prohibited on the festival stage.

6. PARTICIPATION FEE

- Participation in the festival is **free of charge**.
- **Participation** is limited to a quota to be determined by the Festival Committee.

7. VISUAL AND COPYRIGHTS

- Recording and broadcasting rights of all performances belong to **EBB** and **EPKD** free of charge and indefinitely under Law No. 5846 on Intellectual and Artistic Works.
- Choirs are responsible for obtaining all necessary copyrights and licenses for the pieces they perform. EBB and EPKD hold no responsibility for disputes arising from copyright obligations.
- In order to complete the application process, participants are required to confirm that they have read and accepted the "**Participation Regulations**" and the "**Clarification Text on the Protection of Personal Data.**" The use of visual and audio data for the promotional activities of the festival is subject to the participant's optional consent within the scope of the "**Explicit Consent Declaration.**"

8. CONTACT

- **E-mail:** info@epkd.org
- **Web:** www.espolifest.org
- **WhatsApp:** +90 538 652 01 80

9. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Eskişehir Courts and Execution Offices are authorized to resolve any disputes arising from the implementation or interpretation of these regulations.