



“CHILDREN OF THE WORLD IN HARMONY” - 2012
THE 20TH INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN’S CHOIR & DANCE FESTIVAL
June 21–26, 2012 - subject to change
ANNOUNCEMENT

Youth choirs and dance ensembles are invited to apply to participate in the 2012 Children of the World in Harmony festival. Groups wishing to apply must agree to the general guidelines below. Since space is limited, applications should be submitted at your earliest convenience. The Festival will be presented from June 21-26, 2012 in and around Petoskey, Michigan, USA.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REGULATIONS

FESTIVAL OBJECTIVES: The objectives of festival are:

- to present outstanding children’s and youth choirs or dance ensembles from around the world,
- to promote and advance children and youth choral singing and dance,
- to bring together children and youth choirs, dance, and other performing ensembles in order to share music and dance, exchange cultural ideas, and experiences, and to promote peace and better understanding among the participants,
- to create a dialogue on peace through joint concerts, social activities, and home stays.

MUSICAL/ARTISTIC OBJECTIVES: The musical/artistic focus of the festival will be the presentation of music and dance of the highest quality drawn from the traditional, folk, classical and contemporary styles of the presenting choirs and dance ensembles.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: The official language of the festival is English.

PARTICIPANTS: Choirs, dance ensembles, and other performing groups interested in applying may request application forms by contacting the Festival Producers, Sara Russell Kukuk or Dr. Jack Kukuk at choralfest@msn.com Application forms are available online.

APPLICATION: All groups wishing to participate must submit a signed application form, a recent photograph of the group and director, a recent DVD, a YouTube link or CD (labeled with group’s and conductor's name), a description of the choir and the conductor, and a non-refundable festival deposit of \$100. Application and deposit deadline is September 30, 2011. Early

applications may work to the advantage of the applicant. The festival organizers may extend this deadline if necessary. Contact the Festival Producers at choralfest@msn.com for application forms and other information. Groups will be notified of their selection by November 15, 2011. All decisions regarding participation will be made by the Festival Producers and Festival Committee.

FEE DEADLINES, NOTIFICATION AND CONFIRMATION: Fifty percent (50%) of the participant's fees are due on or before December 9, 2011. Balance of all fees is due on or before May 4, 2012. Fees may be paid by electronic mail. Ask for details at choralfest@msn.com

VOICES WITHOUT BORDERS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL CHOIR: Choirs who cannot not send a full choir, but who wish to associate with the festival by sending children to sing in the **Voices Without Borders International Festival Choir (VWB)** may nominate up to five singers and one adult. These singers, along with singers from other Participating Choirs and Associate Choirs will form the Voices Without Borders International Festival Choir. Nominations for membership in the VWB choir should be made as soon as possible. Space in this choir is limited. The Choir's director or other authorized adult must accompany the singers to the festival and will supervise them throughout the festival. The festival's artistic committee will select the music and conductor for the VWB Choir. Fees for the VWB Choir members will be the same as for other participants (see below). VWB Choir members must agree to memorize all music prior to coming to the festival.

FEES FOR INDIVIDUALS IN PARTICIPATING & ASSOCIATE CHOIRS AND DANCE ENSEMBLES: (all fees are in US Dollars): All participants, groups and individuals, will provide their own travel to and from the festival, and will arrive in Petoskey, Michigan on the date designated by the festival committee. Participating and Associate choirs and other participating groups pay a non-refundable application fee of \$100USD. The members of these groups will also pay an individual participant fee for each member and accompanying adult to help cover organizational costs for the festival including lodging and meals. Because of the wide differences in ability to pay between countries, a three-category fee schedule has been established by the Festival Committee as follows:

Category A - Western Europe, Canada, China, USA, Bahamas Islands, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan. For A category groups, the fee is \$200USD per person.

Category B - Eastern Europe, Mexico, Brazil, Southeast Asia, Mongolia, South Africa, Middle East, South America and Russia. For B category groups, the fee is \$150USD per person.

Category C - the balance of countries in Central America, Caribbean region, and Africa (except South Africa). For C category groups, the fee is \$100USD per person.

We consider that one adult leader is sufficient for 10 children or youth participants. If a participating group brings more than five adult leader/participants, an additional housing fee will be assessed.

OBLIGATION OF PARTICIPANTS: Participants are expected to memorize all music for the **massed choir** and must attend all rehearsals and performances unless otherwise excused by the Festival Producers.

Adults from each participating group will supervise their own members at all times. Each participant's family or group is responsible for the medical and dental expenses incurred during the festival and on the way to and from the festival.

Each participant must have a certification of insurance with them upon arrival. All participants, directors, accompanists, and adult supervisors give permission to the Festival Committee to photograph, film, videotape and record their voices, images, and performances for use in a Festival tape, CD, DVD, film, video, or printed materials. Participation in the festival signifies acceptance of all of these obligations.

PARTICIPATING GROUPS AGREE TO:

- provide all transportation to and from the festival (Petoskey, Michigan),
 - provide medical insurance for each participant,
 - provide members for the Voices Without Borders International Festival Choir (choirs only),
 - provide complete biographical information on the group and director, a group and director photograph and a repertoire list upon application.
- abide by all international copyright laws and perform only music or dance that in the public domain or for which the group has purchased the music and/or obtained the rights to perform said works.

Festival organizers will not be responsible for the failure of the groups to do so, -supervise the members of their own groups. We consider that one adult leader is sufficient for 10 children or youth participants. If a participating group brings more than five adult leader/participants, an additional housing fee will be assessed.

DEFINITION OF PARTICIPATING GROUPS: Music – Traditional, classic, or contemporary musical groups who sing or perform on traditional or contemporary acoustical musical instruments. **Dance** – folkloric dance groups accompanied by traditional instruments (either live or recorded). Traditional instrumental music ensembles are also eligible.

REPERTOIRE: All music groups are expected to perform some of the traditional songs/music/dance from their own culture, region or country. Groups may also perform classical and contemporary choir music or dance from throughout the world. All groups must send a sample list of the program they expect to perform with the application. If copies of music are used, written permission must be obtained from the publisher giving permission to use copies. If the music is unpublished, the choir must have permission from the

owner to perform the music. We also need written permission giving the festival hosts the right to record or film the music for a festival tape, video tape, CD, or broadcast. Copyright permission to perform the music on your program is your responsibility and choirs will hold harmless the festival presenters and agents for any violations.

Music for the Voices Without Borders International Festival Choir and Massed Choir will be sent to the

participants after final selections are made. All participants, including dancers are expected to sing in the Massed Choir at the conclusion of the Gala Concert and must learn the music prior to arriving at the Festival.

MEALS, LODGING, AND ACCOMMODATIONS: Meals, accommodations, and local travel will be provided in private homes by the festival hosts unless other arrangements are made in advance. Accommodations will be provided in private homes (home stays). In some rare instances, and when necessary; dormitories, hotels, or similar venue may be used.

COMPETITION: There is no competition during the Festival. The festival committee believes this more readily promotes friendship and understanding among the participants.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: Dates and times are subject to change. The festival is scheduled from June 21-26, 2012. A detailed schedule of events will be provided once all participating groups have been selected. Please contact us to confirm arrival dates and times prior to ordering airline tickets.

SOCIAL AND SPECIAL EVENTS: Limited local sightseeing and social activities will be provided by the hosts. A fee may be charged for special events requested by the participants (if available).

FORCE MAJEURE: Voices Without Borders, Inc., the festival hosts, their officers and agents and volunteers will make every effort to produce the festival as outlined in these and other materials. If, for reasons beyond their control, the Festival must be altered or canceled, the festival hosts, their officers or agents may not be held responsible for money received for fees, sightseeing, or other purposes that has already been paid by the festival committee on behalf of the participants and which is not refundable. Fees not otherwise expended will be returned to the applicants. All participants agree to hold harmless the festival hosts their officers, employees and volunteers.

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence must be addressed to:Voices Without Borders

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choralfest@msn.com

Or by-mail to:
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