Private: Sing & Smile – a choir festival-contest in Georgia

Sing & Smile
FOR CHORAL SINGING

This festival-contest is unique: you will be immersed in the atmosphere of medieval Georgian temples with their unique acoustics and will be able to sing in these ancient heritage temples. Participants will experience authentic places, traditions and hospitality of Georgia, tasting local wines and gastronomic experiences, as well as lunch with a live performance of a Georgian choir – a bright touch to a deep immersion in the spirit of the country.

You can talk about Georgia endlessly, and it is impossible to get to know this country in one trip, except to get to familiarise yourself with it. But this experience will leave a trace of incredible beauty in your heart, which will beckon you to return time after time. This is a country whose hospitality is legendary, with the rugged beauty of mountain temples or the taverns of old Tbilisi, unique dance culture and unique polyphony.

6 days – 5 nights
Tbilisi, Georgia

2027	2028
October 20 – 25	October 20 – 25

Goals and objectives of the choir festival-contest

- supporting and stimulating creativity;

- shaping of positive values;
- cognitive journeys and the exploration of cultures;
- passion and love for choral singing;
- enhancement of their artistic and emotional culture;
- development of public speaking skills;

What will participants get?

- **A memorable journey** through a country with a rich choral culture.
- **Performances in ancient Orthodox churches** steeped in history and powerful energy.
- **Competition day and award ceremony** of the participants
- **The excursion programme** is designed to cover as much as possible.
- **International Diplomas.*** We are an accredited Spanish organiser, all our diplomas, certificates and other documents meet European standards and are internationally recognised and QR-coded.
- **Certificates for Educators.** Every teacher will receive a personalised international certificate with a Spanish stamp and evaluation of the prepared competitor, which can be used in a portfolio.
- **Prestige.** “Fiestalonia” collaborates with more than 30 universities, conservatories and choreographic academies around the world. With more than 20 Ministries of Education and Culture in Europe, Asia and America, collaborating with dozens of prestigious international federations.

The programme

Day 1

Tbilisi

Arrival at Tbilisi International Airport.
You are met by Fiestalonia representative.
Transfer to the hotel with a guide, accommodation.
Dinner
Rest.

Day 2

Competition day and award ceremony

Breakfast at the hotel. Competition day and awarding ceremony of the participants.

Breakfast at the hotel.

Return back to hotel, dinner.

Day 3

Tbilisi

Breakfast at the hotel.
Excursion around Tbilisi.
The capital of Georgia is unique. It stands on several mountainous hills, on which the ancient districts of the city “crawl” in layers. Tbilisi has the beautiful Kura River with its picturesque rocky banks, which flows through the city.

Tbilisi was founded by the Georgian King Vakhtang Gorgasali in the fifth century AD. In the 12th century Tbilisi became one of the important political, economic and cultural centres of the Caucasus and the Middle East. As the capital of one of the most powerful countries in the Caucasus region, Tbilisi was the crossroads of the main trade and cultural routes between east and west, south and north, the main route of the “Great Silk Road”.
We will visit the city centre, we will look at life of city dwellers, and our guides will tell you how the city breathes.
You will not only have the chance to admire, but also to learn much about the architectural and cultural monuments of the Old Town, which has been protected for centuries by the “Narikala” fortress with its castellated walls.
Visit Peace Bridge. On the left side of the bridge is temple Sioni, which we will also visit.
Walk around Old Tbilisi, Rustaveli Avenue, Abanotubani (sulphur baths area).

On request (extra charge) you can visit sulphur baths – ‘Georgian Thermal Spa’.

The city of Tbilisi is based on sulphur springs. Alexander Pushkin, going to Arzrum in 1829, stopped in Tbilisi, where he visited the local baths and described in one of his works: “I have never seen anything more luxurious than the Tiflis baths, neither in Russia nor in Turkey…”.
Today they are modern equipped bathhouses, their water is taken from sulphur springs and there is a swimming pool filled with springs.
Sulphur springs are very good for the skin.

Return to the hotel.

Day 4

Tbilisi – Kakheti – Tbilisi.

Breakfast at the hotel, excursion.

Excursion to Kakheti:

Visit to “Alaverdi” Monastery – the cathedral of the first quarter of the 11th century (St. George’s Cathedral) and monastery complex in Akhmeta municipality of Kakheti. Before the construction of Tsminda Sameba in Tbilisi, Alaverdi Cathedral was the highest church building in Georgia. Alaverdi Cathedral has been nominated for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List and “Ikalto” is actually the very first monastery in Kakheti. There are only three temples and a farm building. In the past there was also an academy at the monastery. Ikalto Monastery was founded in VI century by Zenon of Ikalto, one of the 13 Assyrian fathers.

Transfer to the «Twins Old Cellar» wine cellar. Visit and tour of the new type of cellars and the “kvevri” museum. As a guest of the most famous Georgian twins, we will bake Georgian bread, shoti, in a clay oven, ton. We will learn how to make Georgian sweets – churchkhela.

You will have a unique opportunity to feel yourself a Georgian winemaker. We will take part in the harvest and in the process of pressing grapes.

And during lunch, at a traditional Georgian feast we will taste the famous wines of the cellar owners.

Return to Tbilisi.

Dinner at the hotel

Overnight stay in Tbilisi.

Day 5

Tbilisi – Asureti – Tbilisi

Breakfast at the hotel.

Excursion to the Monastery of 13 Assyrians to the Abbot, archimandrite Seraphim Bit-Kharibi.

Services are conducted in two languages – Georgian and Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus. Today divine services are conducted here by spiritual master and abbot of the monastery, His Eminence Seraphim Bit-Haribi.

During the tour lunch is provided.

Return to Tbilisi for dinner with show-program.

Day 6

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to the airport

End of programme

Conditions of participation

- Choirs which have prepared a programme that meets the criteria for spiritual singing are entitled to take part in the choirs.
- All works are to be performed a cappella.
- All girls and women must have their shoulders and heads covered during the performance.
- Each choir may present a programme of up to 30 minutes.

Competition performance

The competition viewing will take place in a closed venue, such as a theater, auditorium, or another suitable hall for the competition showcase.

SINGING TIME: In all categories, the time limit for clean singing is 15 minutes (minimum 7 minutes). This does not include applause and stage time. The exact duration of each piece must be correctly indicated on the Program Confirmation form that we will send you 30 days before the contest.

In those categories where a phonogram is used for performances, please send the phonogram in MP3 format to the specified e-mail address together with the confirmation form.

Please ensure you bring 5 copies of the sheet music for each musical composition to be performed. Scores without titles or composer names printed in the Roman alphabet must have a transcription in Roman characters.
One copy of the score will be retained by the organizer after the competition. The remaining scores can be collected from the organizer after the awards ceremony. Each participating choir is responsible for respecting copyright and performance rights for the songs during the competition. The use of unauthorized or reproduced copies is strictly prohibited.

AGREEMENT: With the application, all participating choirs agree to photography, recordings and broadcasts in sound or television as well as any other recordings made in conjunction with the competition **«Sing and Smile»**.

Jury and judging criteria

The jury of the contest is formed of the most important cultural workers of Spain, France, Canada and other countries of the Eastern Europe and Asia. International jury is formed by the contest's providers. Participation in the gala concert isn't guaranteed for everyone and is confirmed due to the results of the previous shows according to the consolidated legislative decision of the contest providers and the judges.

The jury has the right:

- not to award all the prizes;
- to share prize among performers;
- to award special prizes to teachers for outstanding achievements;
- to make a decision about breaking a performance which exceeds the bounds of the regulations;
- the jury evaluates the participants on one-hundred-point system, the final result is made up of the average quantity of the received scores and the average value of the progress scores;
- the jury's decisions are final and are not subject to review.

Judging criteria

1-Technical Proficiency: This criterion assesses the quality of performance, pitch accuracy, intonation, diction, rhythmic precision, breath control, and other technical aspects.

2-Interpretation: It evaluates the choir's ability to convey emotions and ideas of the musical composition, expressiveness, artistry, depth, and insight into the musical work.

3-Musicianship: This criterion focuses on the choir's musical understanding and expressiveness, their ability to work in unity, maintain tempo and dynamics, and use dynamic nuances effectively.

4-Repertoire: The evaluation includes the selection and diversity of musical repertoire, the complexity of the pieces chosen, and how well the choir adapts to different styles and genres.

5-Ensemble Interaction: This criterion assesses the unity and coordination of the choir during performance, their ability to listen to each other, synchronize movements, and interact with the conductor.

6-Accuracy of Interpretation: It evaluates how well the choir follows the provided scores and accurately interprets the musical notations.

7-Overall Impression: It encompasses the overall assessment of the choir's performance, their level of professionalism, originality, and uniqueness.

Categories and age groups

A

Children's choirs and youth choirs

The performance program may be of the choir's choice and should include at least two different musical styles or time periods.
At least one of the pieces must be performed a cappella (without instrumental accompaniment).

A1 – CHILDREN'S CHOIRS
Age groups: 7-16
Singing time: maximum 15 minutes
Minimum Number of Singers -16

A2 – YOUTH CHOIRS OF EQUAL VOICES
Age groups: **16-25**
Singing time: maximum 15 minutes
Minimum Number of Singers -16

A3 – YOUTH CHOIRS OF MIXED VOICES
Age groups: **16-25**
Singing time: maximum 15 minutes
Minimum Number of Singers -16

B

Vocal Ensembles and Chamber Choirs

The performance program may be of the choir's choice and should include at least two different musical styles or time periods.

At least one of the pieces must be performed a cappella (without instrumental accompaniment).

Age groups:

1st – 7-10 years old
2nd 11-14 years old
3rd 15-18 years old
4th 18-25 years old
5th above 25 years old
6th Mixed Age Group (participants from various age categories)
Singing time: maximum 15 minutes
Minimum Number of Singers -3
Maximum Number of Singers -16

C

Adult Choirs

The performance program may be of the choir's choice and should include at least two different musical styles or time periods.
At least one of the pieces must be performed a cappella (without instrumental accompaniment).

C1 – Female Choirs
Age groups: ***18 and over***
Singing time: maximum 15 minutes
Minimum Number of Singers -17

C2 – Male Choirs
Age groups: ***18 and over***
Singing time: maximum 15 minutes
Minimum Number of Singers -17

C1 – Mixed Choirs
Age groups: ***18 and over***
Singing time: maximum 15 minutes
Minimum Number of Singers -17

D

World Sacred Music

Participants can present choral arrangements and ritual music from Christian Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Islamic, Buddhist, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, and many other traditions. This may also include religious melodies and hymns, prayers, spiritual songs, and ceremonial music.
The performance program may be of the choir's choice.

Age groups: no age restrictions
Singing time: maximum 15 minutes
Number of Singers no restrictions

E

Folklore

Ensembles perform a folklore program. Corresponding choreography and stage performance are also possible. It is advisable to sing in traditional costumes. If there is no musical notation, please prepare a brief description of the program in English.
The performance program can be chosen by the choir.

Age groups: no age restrictions
Singing time: maximum 15 minutes
Number of Singers no restrictions

F

Pop – jazz – gospel

The performance program may be of the choir's choice. Performances may include pieces with instrumental accompaniment, phonograms or a cappella.

Age groups: no age restrictions
Singing time: maximum 15 minutes
Number of Singers no restrictions

G

Academic Singing

Participants may present works from the classical repertoire, including opera, operetta, arias, etc. **At least one of the pieces must be performed a cappella (without instrumental accompaniment).**

Age groups:
2nd – 11–14 years old
3rd – 15–18 years old
4th – 18–25 years old
5th – above 25 years old
6th – Mixed Age Group (participants from various age categories)
Singing time: maximum 15 minutes. Number of Singers no restrictions

What level of performance do I need to be in the programme?

Don't be afraid to participate in the competition, even if you have just started your creative journey! Our main aim is to support your creativity and help you choose the right path for further development.

AWARDS

Each choir will receive an international diploma confirming your creative skills. The diploma will become part of your portfolio and can be used for admission to educational institutions, various scholarships and grants.
Each choir director will receive a numbered certificate.

The jury evaluates the participants on 100-point scale.

Regarding the genres of performing and categories the awards are distributed due to seven age groups

- participants who received up to 70 points become diploma holders;
- participants who received from 70 to 79 points – laureates of the third degree;
- participants who received from 80 to 89 points become laureates of the second degree;

- participants who received from 90 to 99 points become laureates of the first degree;
- participants who received 100 points become Grand Prize winners of the contest **"Sing and Smile"**.
- Grand Prix winners receive a big cup and diplomas (one per group/quartet/trio/duo/solo);
- First place winners receive a standard trophy and diplomas (one per group/quartet/trio/duo/solo);
- Second and third place winners receive diplomas (one per group/quartet/trio/duo/solo);
- All contestants receive diplomas with their results (one per group/quartet/trio/duet/solo).

Each choir is given a personalized certificate in the form of engraving on a special base for its contribution into the cultural international relations.
Each leader and sponsor will be given a personalized thank-you letter on the official numbered letterhead of the kingdom of Spain. Special trophy cups are provided for the winners.
Each contestant in the group can request a personal diploma and medal for an additional fee (before the competition).

The price and what it includes?

Triple – 465 EUR
Double/Twin – 485 EUR
Single – 554 EUR

Tour price includes:

- Accommodation at the hotels Residence Plaza, Green Town, or similar level (check-in from 14:00, check-out by 12:00)
- Singing in two temples (*orthodox chanting required)
- Excursions on the itinerary
- Transport service during the tour
- English speaking guide
- Breakfasts and dinners at the hotel
- Lunches during sightseeing
- Shared airport-hotel-airport transfer

*You can extend your stay for an additional night per person in a room based on breakfast in Triple 30 EUR, Double/Twin 35 EUR, Single 65 EUR.

***Additional performance is possible. *Payment is possible in any currency, according to the exchange rate**

ADDITIONAL FEES

For participation in the additional nomination of groups – an additional fee of 295 euros per group.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES:

****Each contestant in the group can request a named diploma and medal for 14 euros (before the competition, is given during the award ceremony). This option is ordered by up to 90% of all participants.***

****Additional letters of appreciation on a numbered State Emblem paper of the Kingdom of Spain can be requested for 10 euros (before the competition). This option is ordered by up to 80% of all participants.***

****Add excursions to your stay (this option is ordered by up to 90% of all participants).***

****You can order a personalized written comment from the jury on your performance – cost 70 euros per performance (before the competition);***

****Services of a professional photographer and cameraman – your personal video clip at the contest (prices to be specified).***

Ask for the price by email: info@fiestalonia.net **or by phone (WhatsApp, Telegram): +34 688 276 248**

THE APPLICATION CAN BE FILLED OUT AT THE LINK: https://fiestalonia.net/fest/sas-en/