



Città di Chiari



1° INTERNATIONAL CHORAL COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL CITY OF CHIARI 24th - 27th September 2026

Art. 1 – The Piccola Accademia di Musica S. Bernardino, in collaboration with the Salesian Community of S. Bernardino and the Municipality of Chiari, organizes the **1st International Competition "City of Chiari"**, which will take place **in Chiari (BS) on September 24-25-26-27, 2026**. The Competition is open to non-professional choral ensembles. This specification does not apply to choir conductors and any accompanying musicians. During the same days, a non-competitive festival will also be organized.

PARTECIPATION AND PROGRAMMES

• Category A SACRED MUSIC for equal-voiced choirs

Art. 4 – For equal-voiced choirs of no fewer than 10 members, excluding any instrumentalists. Choirs entered in Category A must present a programme of SACRED MUSIC with a maximum duration of 15 minutes (including pauses). The use of instruments is permitted if and as indicated by the composer; the organization will provide only a piano. The use of vocal amplification or pre-recorded music tracks is not permitted. An a cappella piece is mandatory **(MAXIMUM OF 9 CHOIRS ALLOWED)**.

• Category B PROFANE MUSIC for equal-voiced

Art. 5 – For equal-voiced choirs of no fewer than 10 members, excluding any instrumentalists. Choirs entered in Category B must present a programme of PROFANE MUSIC with a maximum duration of 15 minutes (including pauses). The use of instruments is permitted if and as indicated by the composer; the organization will provide only a piano. The use of vocal amplification or pre-recorded music tracks is not permitted. An a cappella piece is mandatory **(MAXIMUM OF 9 CHOIRS ALLOWED)**.

• Category C SACRED MUSIC for mixed-voice choirs

Art. 6 – For mixed-voice choirs of no fewer than 10 members, excluding any instrumentalists. Choirs entered in Category C must present a programme of SACRED MUSIC with a maximum duration of 15 minutes (including pauses). The use of instruments is permitted if and as indicated by the composer; the organization will provide only a piano. The use of vocal amplification or pre-recorded music tracks is not permitted. An a cappella piece is mandatory **(MAXIMUM OF 9 CHOIRS ALLOWED)**.

• Category D PROFANE MUSIC for mixed-voice choirs

Art. 7 – For mixed-voice choirs of no fewer than 10 members, excluding any instrumentalists. Choirs entered in Category D must present a programme of PROFANE MUSIC with a maximum duration of 15 minutes (including pauses). The use of instruments is permitted if and as indicated by the composer; the organization will provide only a piano. The use of vocal amplification or pre-recorded music tracks is not permitted. An a cappella piece is mandatory **(MAXIMUM OF 9 CHOIRS ALLOWED)**.

SCHEDULE OF REHEARSALS



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Art. 8 – Dates, venues, and times of the competition will be communicated by **April 30, 2026**, exclusively via email to the address provided on the registration form.

The awards ceremony will take place on **Sunday, September 27, 2026, at 6:00 PM**, where the winning choirs will be invited to perform in the final award concert, under penalty of forfeiting the prize.

Should a choir fail to arrive at the scheduled performance time, they may perform within one hour of their assigned time, provided the reasons for the delay are deemed valid by the organizing body, but in any case no later than the official closing time for the respective category's auditions.

JURY

Art. 9 – The Jury of the Competition

Coordinated by Artistic Director Enrico Miaroma, the jury will consist of prominent choral experts and will be appointed by the Piccola Accademia di Musica S. Bernardino. The decision of the Jury is final and cannot be appealed.

Andrew Crane-	United States
Francesco Grigolo -	Italy
Tommy Kandisaputra	Indonesia
Janis Ozols	Latvia
Milan Kolena	Slovakia

FINAL EVALUATIONS - RANKINGS

Art. 10 – The Jury will evaluate the following criteria: tuning, vocal quality, fidelity to the score interpretation, and choice of repertoire based on the choir's characteristics.

PRIZES

Art. 11 – The following prizes (before tax deductions) are awarded for each category: -**First prize: € 1,200.00** -**Second prize: € 750.00** - **Third prize: € 500.00**. **Prize payments** will be made exclusively via bank transfer. The choir must have its own tax code (Codice Fiscale) and a bank account in the choir's name (personal accounts are not accepted). The request for prize disbursement must be signed by the authorized representative of the account. In case of ex-aequo awards, the amount will be divided equally. The awarded choirs are entitled to the above prizes only if they participate in the concert, which will take place after the awards ceremony, performing one or more pieces presented in the competition, as chosen by the jury.

SPECIAL PRIZES

- CITY OF CHIARI TROPHY – Plaque for the choir with the best programme and €400.00.
- BEST PIECE PERFORMED BY A CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN COMPOSER – plaque.
- BEST CONDUCTOR –plaque.



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REGISTRATION AND DOCUMENTS

Art. 2 – Registration must be submitted through the online registration form <https://asdfacile.it/pam-festival/> by January 31, 2026 (including the choir's curriculum, the conductor's curriculum, and a high-resolution photograph of the choir). Registrations will be processed in the order received and are subject to approval by the organizing committee. Notifications of selection or non-selection will be sent via email within 30 days of receiving the application. Selected choirs must confirm their registration promptly and will receive an email with a letter from the organizing body with further details.

The choirs must:

Pay the registration fee of Euro 150.00 (non-refundable, except in cases of cancellation of the category or the competition) (per choir and per category selected) to the bank account of "Piccola Accademia di Musica S. Bernardino," Banca di Credito Cooperativo Oglio e Serio, Chiari Branch: ABI: IT 20 U 08514 54340 000000151596.

Submit the repertoire form online by March 31, 2026, and send via ordinary mail at "PICCOLA ACCADEMIA DI MUSICA S. BERNARDINO" c/o SALESIANI DON BOSCO Via Palazzolo, 1 -25032 CHIARI (BS), no later than April 15, 2026, 6 copies of the music scores, bound and in performance order for each competition category. The scores will not be returned.

For assistance in completing the online registration, please contact +393341124168.

If you are unable to submit your application through the "Servizi Online" platform, please contact +393341124168 for assistance.

For accommodation, the organization can provide recommendations for hotels in the area or near Brescia.

If interested, please contact:

comunicazioni@piccolaccademia.info

ADMISSION

Art. 3 – An admission commission will evaluate the choirs based on the review of the choir and conductor's curricula.

In the event of the withdrawal of choirs from the competition after admission, the registration fee will not be refunded.

FESTIVAL

The Festival will take place on Thursday 24, Friday 25, and Saturday 26 September 2026. Up to 4 choirs per evening may participate.

Choirs must present a free programme with a maximum duration of 20 minutes. Instrumental accompaniment is allowed (a piano will be available). Participation is free of charge.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Art. 11 – The organization reserves the right to combine categories in case the minimum number of participants is not reached.

Art. 12 – Participation requires acceptance of the following conditions:



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Each performance may be broadcast live and/or recorded by radio, TV, or internet streaming, with no compensation to the choirs. All rights to broadcast performances during the competition and festival belong to the organizing body, which is free to use them as it sees fit.

Each performance may be recorded without compensation, and the organization may use the recordings to produce CDs or other audio, video, or multimedia content.

Art. 13 – Registered choirs authorize the Piccola Accademia di Musica S. Bernardino, in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679 (on personal data protection), to process their data. The data will be handled manually and electronically in compliance with the regulation. Personal data will only be used to fulfill the necessary obligations related to the service and legal requirements.

Art. 14 – The organizing body reserves the right to make changes to the rules or cancel the competition or specific categories due to force majeure.

Please read these details carefully, as they contain all necessary information for proper participation.

- If there is a change in the key from what is indicated in the score, the Jury must be informed before the performance begins.
- A piano will be available for accompaniment of pieces requiring it.
- Music stands for the conductor and any accompanying musicians will be provided by the organization at the competition venue.
- The Artistic Direction of the competition reserves the right to refuse choirs in certain categories.
- The Artistic Direction reserves the right to amend the rules if necessary.

Art. 15 – Choirs may meet with the jury for a feedback session.

Art. 16 – Registration for the competition implies full and unconditional acceptance of these rules.

All information will also be published on the website www.piccolaccademia.info