



REGULATIONS

Choirs and instrumental ensembles

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INVITATION

United @ Home, our online festival event in May 2020, was a big success! Thousands of people around the world were able to experience the EMJ from their living rooms. Immediately after this event, the organisation started preparing the 69th festival in Neerpelt. The current situation and travel advice – in group – in Europe will make it, unfortunately, impossible to host big international events for our European youth, even in the spring of 2021. But... **the European Music Festival for Young People 2021 will take place online!**

The EMJ wants to give everyone, both vocal and instrumental groups, the opportunity to participate in this unique online event. During this digital festival, all values and main activities of the festival will certainly be present. Participating groups will be able to perform in front of an international jury by means of a pre-recorded, self-imposed repertoire. All jury concerts can be viewed during one of our live streams. The jury will not give points but only a constructive report that can inspire groups for concerts to come. We understand that it is difficult for many groups to rehearse under the current circumstances but we want to emphasise that the main message the festival wants to send out in these times is that of fraternisation and uniting people through music. Making music and feeling united is more important than giving your best performance ever. Choirs that are looking for a challenge have the possibility to study a song and enter in our Balkan Challenge. This song has been written as part of the European WeBEUnited project and is planned to be performed in multiple European countries.

We are also planning workshop and meet and greets with jury members. The spectacular proclamation and evening happening will not be absent either. We already started preparing the necessary infrastructure and talking to professionals to make this possible both technically as content wise. The festival will last the whole day, from breakfast until the evening concert. Interactive sessions for each participating group will be included. The EMJ will once again try and redefine the standard for online festivals in its kind.

We hope to meet you and your choir during this musical top day.

European Music Festival for Young People

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Tel.: +32 11 / 66 23 39 (between 09h00 and 16h00)
Fax: +32 11 / 66 50 48
E-mail: info@emj.be
Website: www.emj.be
Banc account for participating choirs: BE70 3350 0378 0925
BIC or SWIFT code: BBRUBEBB

CATEGORIES

All registered choirs will participate in one of following categories. A participation in several categories is also possible:

INSTRUMENTAL:

- Category I.A: Symphonic bands, fanfares, brass bands
- Category I.B: Jazz ensembles and big bands (a.o. small groups, Big Bands, Dixieland jazz Bands, New Orleans jazz Bands,...)
- Category I.C: Percussion ensembles
- Category I.D: Ensembles for chamber music
- Category I.E: Chamber orchestras, string orchestras and symphony orchestras
- Category I.F: Ensembles for free instrumentation, folk music and other instruments
- Category I.G: Ensembles for ancient music

VOCAL:

- Category V.A1: Children's choirs with children up to the age of 12, with an average age < 11
- Category V.A2: Children's choirs with children up to the age of 14
- Category V.B: Equal-voice youth choirs
- Category V.C: Mixed-voice youth choirs
- Category V.G: Free series: vocal folklore, close harmony, vocal jazz, gospel & spiritual, pop choir, a capella ensembles, vocal ensembles with a limited instrumental accompaniment. The vocal music should prevail.

PARTICIPATE IN THE BALKAN CHALLENGE!

The Balkan Challenge is part of our European project "WeBEUnited", about which you can find more information on the next page. Every choir consisting of SSA or SATB can choose to, in addition to their own repertoire, perform a for the EMJ composed song. This can be an extra challenge to enrich their repertoire with a new song in a lesser known style. The choir would register for their specific category (A1, A2, B, C or G) and additionally for the Balkan challenge. There are three Balkan songs the choirs can choose from: one song for SSA and two songs for SATB. The choirs can take a look at these songs on our website.

THE EUROPEAN PROJECT “WEBEUNITED”

The European Music Festival for Young People wants to give choirs who are looking for an extra challenge the opportunity to study a song written especially for the European cooperation project “West-Balkan and Europe United, musical synergies for young artists”.

For this project the EMJ cooperates with partners from 3 countries in the European Union (Italy, Poland and Hungary) and 6 countries from the West-Balkan region (Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia and Bosnia). The aim of this project is to introduce youngsters to choir music typical for a different region than their own. We and our partners have asked choir composers from the West-Balkan to compose songs and we want to let them be performed by choirs based in the European Union. Simultaneously, compositions written by Belgian, Polish, Italian and Hungarian composers will be performed in the West-Balkan. In this way we want to introduce a, for many, lesser known region to the European youth and achieve cultural exchange.

The cooperation between the different countries was arranged as follows:

- European Music Festival for Young People, Neerpelt, Belgium: Montenegro, Albania and Kosovo
- Universitas Cantat, Poznan, Poland: North Macedonia
- Harmonia Gentium, Lecco, Italy: Bosnia
- Future of Europe International Children and Youth Meeting, Kecskemet, Hungary: Serbia

For the European Music Festival for Young People the following compositions were created:

- Me nji Lule (SATB), composed by Memli Kelmendi (Kosovo)
- Hapi krahët (SATB), composed by Alban Dharmo (Albania)
- Gorskog vijenca (SSA), composed by Marko Kovac (Montenegro)

We want to encourage choirs to study one of these unique and brand new compositions and to incorporate them into their repertoire for the online EMJ 2021. You can download the scores on our website.

More information about our Balkan songs and our project can be found on www.emj.be.

REPERTOIRE AND AGE

Applications need to have reached the Festival secretariat before February 15, 2021.

COVID-19 has thoroughly changed the cultural scene. In contrast to other editions, you will not have had the possibility to rehearse intensely. We take this into account in our participation requirements.

1. REPERTOIRE

Each participating ensemble, choir or orchestra will be asked to bring a **repertoire free of choice**. The duration has to be between 8 and 10 minutes. Pre-recorded accompanying music is not accepted. Everything needs to be performed live.

2. AGE AND OCCUPATION

VOCAL:

- Category V.A1:
 - children's choirs with children up to the age of 12, with an average age < 11 years
 - Minimal amount of singers: 12
 - For children choirs participating in category V.A1 that do not exceed the average age of 8 have an minimal amount of singers of 8
- Category V.A2:
 - Maximum age: 14
 - Minimal amount of singers: 12
- Category V.B:
 - Maximum age: 28
 - Minimal amount of singers: 12
- Category V.C:
 - Maximum age: 28
 - Minimal amount of singers: 12
- Category V.G:
 - Maximum age: 28
 - Minimal amount of singers: 4
- Balkan-challenge
 - Maximum age: 28
 - Minimal amount of singers: 12

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR VOCAL GROUPS:

- In the category V.A1 the age limit may be exceeded with a maximum of 7% of the participants and only if they are born in January, February, March or April 2008 and therefore already became 13 in 2021. The average age of all choir members must be below 11.
- In the category V.A2 the age limit may be exceeded with a maximum of 7% of the participants and only if they are born in January, February, March or April 2006 and therefore already became 15 in 2021.
- For children choirs participating in category V.A1 that do not exceed the average age of 8 have an minimal amount of singers of 8
- In the categories V.B, V.C and V.G the age limit may be exceeded with a maximum of 7% of the total number of singers.
- For all singers who exceed the age limit a permission of participation must be asked, when applying. The organizing committee will evaluate every request individually. The Festival organization has the right to ascertain the age of the participants and will do so in a sample survey.

A deviance of the regulations is only allowed after approval by the festival organization. In case of doubt, the decision of the organizing committee is decisive.

INSTRUMENTAL:

- Category I.A: Symphonic bands, fanfares, brass bands
- Category I.B: Jazz ensembles and big bands (a.o. small groups, Big Bands, Dixieland jazz Bands, New Orleans jazz Bands,...)
- Category I.C: Percussion ensembles
- Category I.D: Ensembles for chamber music
 - The occupation of the ensemble must follow the next requirements:
 - Instrumental chamber music, from duo to dixtuor (based on equality, no relationship soloist – accompaniment).
 - Mixed vocal-instrumental ensemble with a maximum of 4 singers (based on equality, no relationship soloist – accompaniment).
- Category I.E: Chamber orchestras, string orchestras and symphony orchestras
- Category I.F: Ensembles for free instrumentation, folk music and other instruments
 - The ensembles participating in this category must consist of at least 10 members. In case the number of members is less than 10, the ensemble must participate in category D, ensembles for chamber music (with an exception for the ensembles for folk music).
- Category I.G: Ensembles for ancient music: music composed before 1750.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION INSTRUMENTAL GROUPS:

- The maximum age of the musicians is set at 28 years (i.e. they have not reached the age of 29 on April 29, 2021). The age limit may be exceeded by 7% but only if agreed upon by the organizing committee. This organizing committee will evaluate every request individually.
- Every jury concert must be performed live. Pre-recorded music will not be accepted.
- Music for solo instruments for instrumental ensembles and orchestras are only permitted in category B.
- In the categories I.A, I.C and I.E, the director of the ensemble is not allowed to play with the group. In the other categories this is possible, but only after approval of the festival organization. A backline for amplification of instruments is available only in category I.B jazz ensembles and only for guitar, piano and vocals.
- All exceptions must be requested in advance and can only be allowed after submission of the scores.

WHAT ARE THE PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS?

The jury concert have always been the heart of the Festival. In 2021 the jury concert will be replaced by a self-made recording. A renowned international jury will evaluate these and give a non-grading evaluation from a constructive angle.

The presentation film must fulfil the following requirements:

- The repertoire has a maximum duration of 10 minutes.
- The group makes a short separate film in which they introduce themselves. Be as creative as you can be! This introduction video contains at least the name of the group, the city and country they are from and a fun fact about your group.
- The recording has to be recent. For this reason we ask to put up an EMJ poster of 2021 which is well visible in the recording.
- The recording has to reach the EMJ office on April 1 2021 at the latest.
- All videos have to be filmed horizontally (landscape) with a resolution that is as high as possible.

On May 1 2021, the day of our virtual festival, all recordings will be broadcasted. On that day, the directors and ensembles will have the chance to discuss with the jury members during an online meeting. A few weeks after the Festival all choirs will receive an extensive and pedagogically well-founded jury report with a positive and non-competitive evaluation.

The rights to the recording are reserved for the EMJ. No compensation will be payed for the recordings.

TECHNICAL FORMAT

In order to make things work as well as possible, we designed a technical format of standards which the videos have to meet. These standards concern both the recording and the introduction video.

- The videos have to be recorded horizontally
- You are free to choose the device to record: a (video)camera, a smartphone, a GoPro...
- You'll have the best result when recording in HD resolution (1920x1080) at 25 frames per second. If this is not possible, it can be lower in a lower resolution.
- Mind the acoustics! A carpet or curtain will help a lot to absorb the sound and to not bounce it back. Preferably, sing or play towards the curtain.
- The introduction video may not exceed 30 seconds.
- The concert video may not exceed 10 minutes.

REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee for participating in our online festival is €75. This includes the goodie bag we will send to all participating groups. Music organizations who wish to participate with several groups, consisting of different people, have to pay a registration fee per group.

The group receives an invoice of the registration fee after registration. This invoice has to be paid a week after you received it.

Account number: BE70 3350 0378 0925

BIC or SWIFT code: BBRUBEBB

ING Pelt

Leopoldlaan 146

3900 Pelt

Belgium

The references to be mentioned at the payment are:

- Invoice number
- Number of your choir
- Name and place of origin of the choir

Eventual bank charges are always at the expense of the participant. In case of overdue payment of the registration fee and/or the advance, the application will be cancelled!

APPLICATION

A registration for the 69th online festival edition of 2021 is valid if following documents are sent before **February 15, 2021**:

- A registration form (to complete via www.emj.be);
- A list of participants with name, date of birth and gender of all participants;
- A recent photo of the choir;

And if we receive on April 1 2021 at the latest the following recordings:

- The recording of the repertoire of maximum 10 minutes.
- A separate recording in which you shortly present the group. Be as creative as you can!
- A copy of each score of each piece mentioned in the repertoire.
- The recording has to be recent. For this reason we ask to put up an EMJ poster of 2021 which is well visible in the recording.
- The recording has to reach the EMJ office on April 1 2021 at the latest.

All above mentioned documents are preferably sent digitally via info@emj.be.

REMINDER

- Before 15/02/2021: Send in the application forms along with all necessary information.
- One week after registration: Pay the registration fee
- Before 01/04/2021: Send in the aforementioned recordings and scores.

NEXT FESTIVALS

The next – vocal – edition of the EMJ will be organized in **2022**:
from Friday 29/04/2022 until Monday 02/05/2022.

The next – instrumental – edition of the EMJ will be organized in **2023**:
from Friday 28/04/2023 until Tuesday 02/05/2023.

GDPR-LEGISLATION

We handle the data following the GDPR-legislation. Pictures, audio- and video recordings made during the Festival as well as all personal data will be kept in the personal library and used for own practical and non-commercial purposes. They'll only be shared with others if necessary for the practical organisation of the Festival. The videos submitted for the online festival of 2021, will be broadcasted and shared on our social media.