

Limerick Choral Festival 2026

- SYLLABUS & ENTRY FORM -



Friday 6th March – Sunday 8th March

Adjudicators:

Bernie Sherlock (Dublin)

Peter Stobart (Cork)

Closing date for entries:

Friday, 6th February 2026

*Late entries will be accepted up to **Friday, 13th February**
on payment of an additional late entry fee of €30*

www.limerickchoralfestival.com

www.facebook.com/limerickchoralfestival

limerickchoralfestival@gmail.com

- PRELIMINARY FESTIVAL PROGRAMME -

FRIDAY 6 th Mar.	<i>Morning</i>	Primary Schools' Competition Junior Youth Choirs' Competition
	<i>Afternoon</i>	Post-Primary Schools' Competitions Youth Choirs' Competition
	<i>Evening</i>	OPENING CONCERT OF FESTIVAL <u>Sections with excess capacity may be scheduled at this time</u>
	<i>Soirée</i>	FESTIVAL CLUB <i>It is anticipated that a late bar facility will be available for local and visiting adult choirs. Further details will be available in due course.</i>
SATURDAY 7 th Mar.	<i>Morning</i>	Community Choirs' Competition Gospel Choirs' Competition
	<i>Afternoon</i>	Sacred Music Competition Church Choirs (PARTS), Church Choirs (UNISON) Plainchant Competition Early Music Competition
	<i>Soirée</i>	FESTIVAL CLUB <i>A late bar facility will be available for local and visiting adult choirs. Further details will be available in due course.</i>
SUNDAY 8 th Mar.	<i>Morning</i>	Arrangements can be made for visiting choirs to sing at Masses/Services in city churches
	<i>Evening</i>	Closing Organ Recital/Concert

Note: The above schedule may be subject to change depending on volume and profile of entries received. Additional events (e.g. lectures / seminars relating to choral music) may also be scheduled over the course of the weekend. **Any further updates will be posted on our website & Facebook page.**

- ENTRY FEE (per competition) -

€60 (Adult Choirs | €30 (School/Youth Choirs)

- COMPETITIONS -

SECTION A: CHURCH CHOIRS' COMPETITION (PARTS)

- **TWO contrasting pieces of own choice – only ONE of which may be accompanied**
- **Both pieces performed have to fall within the category of sacred music**
- Open to Church Choirs ONLY – unlimited voices

SECTION B: CHURCH CHOIRS' COMPETITION (UNISON)

- **ONE set piece ('Praise my soul') & ONE piece (sacred music) of own choice**
- Open to Church Choirs ONLY – unlimited voices - UNISON

SECTION C: GREGORIAN CHANT COMPETITION

- **ONE set piece ('Attende Domine') & ONE piece of own choice from either the *Liber Usualis* or the *Graduale Romanum***
- Open to all choirs – unlimited voices

SECTION D: SACRED MUSIC COMPETITION

- **TWO contrasting pieces of own choice – only ONE of which may be accompanied**
- **Both pieces performed must fall within the category of sacred music.**
- Open to youth, gospel & adult choirs – any combination of voice

SECTION E: EARLY MUSIC COMPETITION

- **TWO pieces of own choice, which pre-date 1620 – any combination of voice**
- **One piece performed must fall within the category of sacred music.**
- Open to all choirs – unlimited voices

SECTION F: PRIMARY SCHOOL CHOIRS' COMPETITION (Under 13 years)

- **TWO contrasting pieces of own choice**
- **One piece performed must fall within the category of sacred music.**
- Unison or parts, male or female or mixed

SECTION G: POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS' COMPETITION (Equal Voice)

- **TWO contrasting pieces of own choice**
- **One piece performed must fall within the category of sacred music.**
- SSA(A) or TTB(B). Three parts minimum would general be entered in this competition.

SECTION H: POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS' COMPETITION (Mixed Voice)

- **TWO contrasting pieces of own choice – any combination of voice**
- **One piece performed must fall within the category of sacred music.**
- Mixed Voices – SAB; SABar; or SATB. The composition of the upper parts can either be female SA, or male SA – unbroken voices.

SECTION I: SENIOR YOUTH CHOIRS' COMPETITION

- **TWO contrasting pieces in any number of parts – only ONE of which may be accompanied**
- **One piece performed has to fall within the category of sacred music.**
- Open to any combination of voices (16-24 years).

SECTION J: GOSPEL CHOIRS' COMPETITION

- **Two contrasting pieces of own choice – only ONE of which may be accompanied**
- **One piece performed must fall within the category of sacred music.**
- Open to all choirs – unlimited voices

SECTION K: COMMUNITY CHOIRS' COMPETITION

- **Two contrasting pieces of own choice – only ONE of which may be accompanied**
- **One piece performed must fall within the category of sacred music.**
- Open to all non-professional adult choirs – unlimited voices.

SECTION L: JUNIOR YOUTH CHOIRS' COMPETITION

- **TWO contrasting pieces of own choice**
- **One piece performed must fall within the category of sacred music.**
- Open to any combination of voices: upper age limit is 15 years.
- Note: Section not open to individual schools

- RULES & REGULATIONS -



- The closing date for applications to the 2026 Festival is Friday, 6th February 2026.
- Appropriate fee(s) must accompany all entries and is **non-refundable**.
- A separate entry form is required for each competition; please photocopy application form where necessary
- **ONE** piece performed must fall within the category of **sacred music**.
 - In the case of the following four competitions, **BOTH** pieces performed must fall within the category of **sacred music** (Sacred Music Competition, Church Choirs' Competition (PARTS), Church Choirs' Competition (UNISON), Gregorian Chant Competition).
- Total performance for any choir must not exceed eight (8) minutes. Failure to comply with this may result in disqualification
- Use of backing tracks is prohibited in all categories.
- School choirs are NOT eligible to compete in Section I (Senior Youth Choirs' Competition) or Section L (Junior Youth Choirs' Competition).
- One clear copy of each piece chosen must accompany the entry form. In each case, label the scores with the choir's name. Original scores are returned to the choirs by either:
 - collection at the end of the competition after results
 - by post: in this case, you must include a large stamped addressed envelope with your entry form allowing sufficient postage for the package weight
- Change of submitted programme is not permitted.
- The same piece may not be performed by a choir in more than one competition.
- Competitors are encouraged to provide their own accompaniment.
 - However, if you require an accompanist (at your expense), please forward a second copy of the music and we will discuss what arrangements can be made. In such cases, please state this clearly on the application form.
- All perpetual trophies must be returned to the committee on or before 27th February 2026.
- The Organising Committee reserves the right to cancel a competition should there not be sufficient entries
- The decision of the adjudicators is final.
- Limerick Choral Festival Society reserves the right to record, interview, and photograph choirs during the Festival.
- Note: *The Limerick Choral Festival Society is committed to best practice in the welfare and safeguarding of minors.*

Limerick Choral Festival 2026

- ENTRY FORM -

Closing date for receipt of entries
Friday, 6th February 2026

(Late entries with €30 late entry fee will be accepted up to Friday, 13th February, after which no entries whatsoever will be accepted)

NAME OF CHOIR: _____

Name of Choir Director: _____

Name of Accompanist: _____

Number of persons in choir: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Mobile:** _____

E-mail Address: _____

If your choir wishes to nominate an alternative contact (in the event of the above-named person being unavailable), please provide their name and telephone number:

Please indicate **section / competition** being entered: _____

Details of piece(s) being performed (*Note: Only ONE 'own' piece for Sections B and C*):

	<i>Title</i>	<i>Composer</i>
(1)	_____	_____
(2)	_____	_____

Accompanist Required? **Yes** **No**

This form (*fully completed*) together with **(1)** ENTRY FEE, **(2)** one clear copy of each piece to be performed and **(3)** a brief choir biographical note should be returned before date stipulated above to: **Limerick Choral Festival, 15 Shannamore Park, Clareview, Limerick.**

Cheques should be made payable to: **The Limerick Choral Festival Society**
Bank Transfer: **IBAN IE16 BOFI 9043 1781 3220 19**

Signed on behalf of the above-named choir: _____ Date: _____