



## CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

[www.a-cappella-wettbewerb.de](http://www.a-cappella-wettbewerb.de)

### 1 The International "a cappella" Contest Leipzig

The International **a cappella** Contest Leipzig aims at talented young vocal groups from all around the globe. The contest wants to support young ensembles without stylistic restriction and contribute to the exchange between them and professionals. The contest is part of the International Festival for vocal music **a cappella**.

### 2 Initiator and Presenters

The International **a cappella** Contest Leipzig has been initiated by Leipzig-based vocal group amarcord. It is presented by the non-profit association

Verein zur Förderung der Vokalmusik a cappella e.V.,  
Oststr. 118  
04299 Leipzig

and

Dreieck Marketing  
Poetenweg 31  
04155 Leipzig

### 3 Participation

An application including all required materials is precondition to the admission to the contest. On basis of the application material, the jurors choose the participants.

### 4 Application

#### 4.1 Limits

Vocal groups with three to eight singers may apply for the International **a cappella** Contest. The average age of the group's members may not exceed 29 years at the application deadline. (Exceptions due to pandemic: Ensembles who haven't reached the average age in 2020/2021/2022 or have had a change of members since 2020 and are now over the average age can still participate)

The contest performance may include pieces sung with or without amplification. All vocal groups compete in one category and will be judged by the same criteria. At least half of the sung repertoire should be sung one-to-a-part. Former contestants may apply again, apart from Award-winners.

During the contest performance, the vocal groups are not allowed to use music instruments. Loops and effects may be used, when the input signal clearly can be recognised as being produced in the moment of the contest performance by the group. Audio-Samples recorded prior to the contest performance may not be used. PA, mixer and microphones will be provided by the presenters. The vocal groups may bring their own equipment, when the contest manager agrees.

## 4.2 Application material

The application has to include the filled-in application form with the group's biography and the planned music program the group is intending to perform during the contest per e-mail. Live recordings, an up-to-date photograph of the group as well as copies of each member's identity card or passport have to be sent per filesharing.

The audio-files have to include a 20 minutes long live recording. It may be a live recording from one or several concerts. It should include at least five pieces.

Ensembles have to send in the group's biography in English (when possible in German, too), the intended music program naming title, composer and arranger, as well as a photograph in printable resolution (b/w: 600 dpi, colour: 300 dpi) with the name of the photographer.

Proof of age shall be provided by enclosed copies of each member's identity card or passport.

## 4.3 Participation fee

The international **a cappella** Contest charges a participation fee of € 100.00 for each group. The fee shall prevent short-term withdrawals and serve the contest's costs (renting the hall and the technical equipment, expense allowances for clinicians and lecturers ...).

When admitted to the International **a cappella** Contest, the participation fee has to be transferred until February 17<sup>th</sup> with the following subject: International **a cappella** Contest year / name of the ensemble. Find the account details under 14 "Contact and Bank Account".

## 4.4 Application

The application for the International **a cappella** Contest Leipzig follows this schedule:

January 9<sup>th</sup>: Application deadline

February 1<sup>st</sup>: Information on the admission to the Contest

February 14<sup>th</sup>: Binding confirmation on participation and transfer of the participation fee

April 1<sup>st</sup>: Deadline to send the final contest program and the scores

## 5 Admission and Refusal

The jurors announced by the contest management decide on the admission of the applicants to the International **a cappella** Contest. The decision is made on basis of the application material. The applicants will be informed about their admission or refusal until February 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 6 Course of events

The International **a cappella** Contest Leipzig will be staged in Gewandhaus Leipzig. The contest performances will be given in the Mendelssohn-Saal.

Prior to the contest performances, each vocal group has time to check the acoustic and sound of the Mendelssohn-Saal. Dressing rooms will be provided when available.

The contest performance is limited to 20 minutes. It begins while entering the stage and ends while leaving it. Excessing this time limit may cost points. During the performance time, at least four pieces shall be sung. The audience is asked to remain silent and not to applaud.

Following the contest performances, the jurors will meet. During the prize announcement, the awardees will be named in a closed session. After the prize announcement, the participants may consult the jurors to evaluate the contest performances and receive advice and input.

The public prize ceremony will be staged during a concert within the Festival of Vocal Music **a cappella** Leipzig. The winner of the first prize will appear at the final concert of the Festival of Vocal Music **a cappella** Leipzig in Gewandhaus Leipzig.

All participants will receive a detailed schedule after their admission. The schedule may be subject to change.

## 7 Jurors

The jury of the International **a cappella** Contest Leipzig consists of four to five jurors. Each year, a member of the hosting vocal group amarcord is part of the jury. The jurors will be announced by the contest's management.

## 8 Assessment criteria

Each member of the jury shall judge each vocal group using a score of between 0 and 40 points.

Assessment shall be based on the following criteria:

- Technical performance (rhythm, intonation, phrasing, articulation)
- Artistic performance (authenticity, tone, balance, agogics, dynamics, tempo, interpretation)
- Stage presence (expression, including use of gesture, mime and acting)
- Overall impression

Each criteria may be assessed with up to 10 points.

Groups may only be declared prize-winners if they produce a convincing performance in all the criteria specified and make a coherent overall impression demonstrating outstanding artistic potential. The jury reserves the right to withhold prizes or to share them between different entrants. Equal scores may be awarded to different groups. Should a competition performance exceed the specified length, a fixed number of points to be decided before the competition will be deducted from the score.

The winner(s) will initially be chosen on the basis of the mathematical result.

Afterwards, the jury will discuss on the three groups receiving the highest scores. Should disagreement prevail concerning the distribution of prizes or the merits of the top three groups, the chairman of the jury shall be empowered to decide any disputes by means of a casting vote.

## 9 Prizes

At the International **a cappella** Contest, each entrant receives a certificate on participation. Furthermore, several prizes are offered. The prize money will be transferred after the contest.

### 9.1 Leipzig "a cappella" Award

The winner of the first prize receives the Leipzig **a cappella Award** and prize money of € 2,000.00. The winner commits to sing at the final concert of the Festival of Vocal Music **a cappella** Leipzig. This concert will probably be, just like each year before, be recorded and broadcasted by the local radio station MDR Kultur. The winner is invited to give a paid concert within the festival of the following year.

The second winner receives prize money of € 1,000.

The third winner receives prize money of € 500.

### 9.2 Audience Award

Following the contest performances of all participants, the audience votes for the winner of the audience award. Every auditor may vote with one for one ensemble. The ensemble receiving most of the votes receives the audience award.

The winner of the audience award receives a prize money of € 500.

### 9.3 amarcord Special Prize

The hosting vocal group amarcord may grant a special prize. This prize rewards the outstanding interpretation of a piece sung unamplified.

The winner of the amarcord Special Prize receives a prize money of € 500.

## 10 "a cappella" Masterclass

All participants are invited to take part in the **a cappella** Masterclass. For the participants, the workshop is free of all costs. Each vocal group may work with a professional singer and clinician on one of its pieces.

## 11 Travel and Accommodation

The International **a cappella** Contest Leipzig may grant a travel allowance in particular cases and offers prize-reduced accommodation depending on our sponsors and partners. There is no legal claim on travel allowance or prize-reduced accommodation.

## **12 Legal Issues**

The presenters behold the right to record and take pictures of all activities during the International **a cappella** Contest Leipzig and the Festival of Vocal Music **a cappella** Leipzig and use it in connection with the contest and festival. The participants do not have legal claims concerning the resulting material. All participants agree with the publication of the recordings and pictures with the International **a cappella** Contest being the exclusive owner. The performances by contest participants within the International **a cappella** Contest Leipzig and the Festival of Vocal Music **a cappella** Leipzig will not be paid. This also applies for the appearance of the first winner at the final concert of the Festival.

## **13 Miscellaneous**

reserved

## **14 Contact and Bank account**

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## **15 Bank account**

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Sparkasse Leipzig  
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BIC WELADE8LXXX