



Palawan International
Choral Festival

PICF

Palawan International Choral Festival

13 - 17 August 2025, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

The International Choral Festival will be held in Palawan.
We are pleased to invite you to the festival where the choirs
from around the world gather to share the joy of music.

Host  Pilgrim Music Foundation.

<https://www.ppicf.com> / ppicfinfo@gmail.com / Contact: +639629011378 and +639544066470



INFORMATION BOOK

for overseas choir

FESTIVAL AND COMPETITION RULES AND CONDITIONS

The 2025 PALAWAN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CHORAL COMPETITION & FESTIVAL is a three-part event that features the following components: a choral festival, a national competition, and the international competition. This four-day festival will be held from 13-17 August, 2025 in the city of Puerto Princesa in the province of Palawan, Philippines.

- The **festival**, to be participated by non-competing choirs, whether local or international choirs, shall be held from 14 - 16 August, 2025. This will allow participants the opportunity to perform and at the same time immerse themselves in the local culture of Palawan. Local participating choirs will be provided free accommodation during their stay.
- The **National Competitions** to be participated by choirs from the different regions in the Philippines shall be held from 13 - 14 August, 2025. This is a chance for local choirs to bring in the culture of their respective regions and be able to gauge their knowledge and proficiency in choral singing on a national scale. Participants in this level are provided free accommodation; while,
- The **International Competitions** will be held from 14-16 August, 2025. This will give a chance for foreign choirs to experience the warm hospitality of the Palawan's and the tourist spots of Palawan. On the other hand, this will allow local choirs the opportunity to learn from the international choirs and vice versa and forge friendships with each other.

A. FEATURED EVENTS

- **OPENING CEREMONY**

The opening ceremony shall take place on Wednesday, 13 August 2025. All participating choirs shall be introduced and a special program featuring folkloric and traditional music and dances showing the culture of Palawan will be performed.

- **CHORAL FESTIVAL**

Interested choirs who do not wish to join the competitions can register for the festival events. Choirs will be performing in several places in the city of Puerto Princesa or nearby municipalities. They will also join with other non-competing choirs to perform during the closing and awarding ceremonies of the event. A special jury shall assess



the individual performances of the festival choirs and shall be given an evaluation. Apart from the performances, they will have the chance to participate in the workshops to be facilitated by the choral experts.

Festival choirs shall receive a certification of participation along with their evaluation.

- **INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION**

The international competitions will be held from 14-16 August, 2025. All choirs from outside the Philippines are invited to join this level. Philippine choirs who do not wish to participate at the national levels can register directly for the international competitions as long as they are willing to pay the required registration and individual package fees. Only international choirs are entitled to participate and win in certain special awards such as the best conductor and the audience prize awards.

- **GRAND PRIX COMPETITION**

The Grand Prix Competition will be held on the morning of Saturday, 16 August, 2025. Category champions will advance to the Grand Prix Competition. Should there be no champion in a given category, the artistic committee reserves the right to nominate non-winning choirs to advance to the grand prix round should they find the choirs deserving based on the merits of their performance. Choirs that qualify into this round shall be informed on the evening of Friday, 15 August after all category competitions had taken place and after the deliberation of the jury.

- **CHORAL WORKSHOP**

This activity is open to individual singers, conductors, and all participating choirs, particularly the non-competing ones. Each participant will gain enrichment in choral technical knowledge and skills, as well as be actively involved in atelier practice, workshops, collaborations and hands-on training with the choral experts.

- **CHOIR MASTERCLASS**

Open only to participating choirs that will avail of the individual package, the Masterclass is a one-on-one choral clinic given by a choral expert or a member of the artistic committee. The time and schedule of the masterclass will be announced prior to the event. Participants are given the opportunity to improve their choral techniques and overall sound through the expert guidance of the facilitator. Choirs hoping to avail of the masterclass need to sign up in the registration form to reserve their slot and an additional fee of USD200 shall be paid.

- **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHAMPIONS, AWARDING & CLOSING CEREMONIES**

The winners will be announced during the awarding and closing ceremonies on the evening of Saturday, 16 August, 2025. Certificates, diplomas, trophies, and other awards will be given during this time. Choirs that are not present during this time will forfeit their awards. The closing ceremony will be a night to remember for the participating choirs and will be emotional as the organizers and choirs bid farewell to each other.

- **FIESTA BOOTHS**

Fiesta booths selling souvenir items and culinary delicacies will be installed and set up in the competition's performance venues so that participants, both local and international choirs, can experience the Palawan culture.

- **FESTIVAL KITS AND SOUVENIR PROGRAM**

All participating choirs will be given one souvenir program while the members will be gifted with souvenir kits with surprised items inside.

- **SPECIAL TOURS OF THE ISLANDS AFTER THE EVENT**

International choirs can have the option to extend their stay and avail of the day tour packages to the different islands neighboring Palawan.

B. AWARDS AND PRIZES

- **CATEGORY CHAMPIONS**

The choir that obtains a Gold Diploma and receives the highest score in a category shall be declared the "Category Champion". This will be awarded to both national and international levels. There is a possibility that the category champion in the national level can also be awarded the category champion in the international round of competition should the choir obtain the highest score from both levels of the competition. However, category champion will not be awarded if no choir reaches a score of 85%.

- **BEST CONDUCTOR & AUDIENCE'S CHOICE AWARD**

The Artistic committee shall deliberate and choose the winner of the best conductor award and the festival organizer shall deploy a device that will determine the favorite choir by the audience during the entire competition. This privilege shall be given to international participants only.



- **OTHER AWARDS**

Special awards can be given to choirs that elicit special merits during the competition. These are subject to the availability of sponsors willing to donate the awards.

- **CASH PRIZES**

Cash prizes await the overall and category winners of both national and international competitions, the details of which will be announced soon.

C. COMPETITION PROPER

The organizing and artistic committees of the 2025 Palawan National and International Choral Competitions and Festival accept all interested choral groups registering in the categories of choice and will be subject to compliance with the following conditions:

- **COMPETITION PERFORMANCE**

- a. There is an age limit tolerance of 10% of the total singers who are 1-2 years old more/less in accordance to the provision.
- b. Participants must be at the competition venue according to the time scheduled by the committee.
- c. The schedule cannot be changed.
- d. There is no tolerance of schedule changes for participants who are late.
- e. Choreography, unless specified, are allowed but not mandatory.

- **REPERTOIRE**

- a. The repertoire must be received by the committee no later than one month before the festival via the online registration form.
- b. All repertoire to be performed **MUST** be approved by the artistic committee. Unapproved song programs **MUST** be replaced immediately.
- c. Repertoire that has been approved by the artistic committee cannot be changed as well as the order of performances after July 20th, 2025.
- d. Participants who register for more than one category must perform a different set of repertoires based on the category chosen.
- e. Participants in the folklore category that present a repertoire other than English must submit a description (in a separate sheet that is attached to the score) of the song in English.
- f. If the given repertoire fits in another category; the artistic committee reserves the right to change the selected category to a more suitable one.

g. Participants who make it through the Grand Prix round shall perform three (3) songs. The first two (2) songs can be previously performed in the category where the choir qualified. In contrast, the third song, a piece never performed previously, shall be based on the category where the choir got qualified. For example: a choir coming from the pop category qualifies in the grand prix can perform any two songs from the pop category and the third song should be from the pop category as well. A choir that performs a song other than the category where they qualified may get a lower score in the grand prix round for noncompliance.

- **MUSIC SCORES**

- a. Music Scores must be received by the committee no later than ONE MONTH before the festival via the online registration form as PDF file.
- b. Participants **MUST** attach pdf file of Original Scores along with a license from the composer/arranger.
- c. Accompaniment, if any, **MUST** be notated and included in the sheet music.
- d. If there is no original score, participants can show **PROOF OF PURCHASE** of sheet music from an official publisher or Composer/Arranger.
- e. Each participant is responsible for the **COPYRIGHT** of the song being performed in Festival; the committee is not responsible for acquiring the copyright of any song being performed in the competition.
- f. Except from the songs of the Renaissance period, the choir should retain the key of the composed/arranged music, unless they provide a written permission from the composer or arranger.
- g. Choirs that qualify through the Grand Prix round should provide a licensed hard copy of the third song once they are informed. The scores are returned to the choirs after the competition.

- **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE & SOUND CHECK**

- a. Sound checks are intended for all participants so that they can check the acoustics of the room and to find the right standing position for sound and visual quality during performances.
- b. Choirs are not recommended to sing the entire program song during sound check.
- c. The sound check schedule will be prioritized to participants who send their arrival schedule ahead of time.
- d. Sound check is limited to 5 minutes for each category and round.
- e. Participants should follow the sound check schedule assigned by the organizing committee. Those who fail to be present during their respective sound check schedule will not be given another schedule.



• **ACCOMPANIMENT/INSTRUMENTS**

- a. The organizing committee only provides an acoustic piano and/or an electronic piano (the volume of which is set by the committee) to be used during the competition proper.
- b. The use of additional accompaniment instruments must be notified in writing via the online registration.
- c. A maximum of 3 instruments without 'definite pitch' can be used in all categories, unless specified otherwise.
- d. The use of playback and minus one is not allowed in competition performances.
- e. If needed, a set of microphones shall be provided; however, the positions of the microphones are set for all the performances and no choir shall move the positions to their preference.

D. COMPETITION CATEGORIES

I. VOICE-FORMAT CATEGORIES

CATEGORY	NO. OF SINGERS	VOICE	AGE	A cappella
A. Mixed Choir				
A1 vocal ensemble	up to 16 singers	SATB	no age requirement	any 1 or 2
A2 chamber choir	17-32 singers			
A3 full chorus	33-60 singers			
B. Equal Voices				
B1 Male Choir	no number restriction	TT(B)B	no age restriction	any 1 or 2 songs
B2 Female Choir		SS(A)A		
C. Open Age-Group				
C1 Children's Choir	no number restriction	any voice format	90% of the singers should fall within the required age	any 1 or 2
C2 Youth Choir			up to 13 years old	
C3 Senior Choir			12-18 years old	
			50 years old & above	

II. GENRE CATEGORIES

Category	Required Piece	Remarks
D. Sacred	1 Renaissance Sacred Piece 1 Sacred song of choice	anyone can join without age or number restrictions. Both should be sung a cappella.

Category	Required Piece	Remarks
E. Pop / Show Choir	2 songs of choice based on the genre	can be accompanied, choreography is mandatory
F Traditional Folklore	2 folksongs arranged for choral idiom	can be a cappella or accompanied with either tuned or untuned instrument; choreography is not encouraged.

• DESCRIPTION OF THE CATEGORIES

Categories A, B, and C, along with their sub categories

- Any two (2) songs of choice with contrasting styles are to be performed.
- Any one (1) or two (2) songs accompanied by pitched or untuned instruments are allowed. However, accompaniment is limited to one (1) instrument.
- The total time duration of both songs (from the first chord/note of the first song to the last chord of the second song including the gap between songs) is 10 minutes.
- choreography / choralography is allowed but is not part of the criteria.
- for additional requirements, kindly check on the table above.

D. Sacred Music Category

- any two (2) sacred songs should be performed, one of which should be either a medieval or Renaissance sacred music. This kind of music should be composed before 1650. The other piece shall be the preference of the choir.
- both pieces should be performed acapella
- total time duration of both songs (from the first chord/note of the first song to the last chord of the second song) is 10 minutes.

E. Pop / Show Choir Category

- any two (2) popular songs either part of a musical or songs played over the airwaves regardless of time
- choreography is mandatory and is part of the criteria
- medley and/or solo that comprises more than 50% or the song are not allowed
- total time duration of both songs (from the first chord/note of the first song to the last chord of the second song) is 10 minutes.



F. Traditional Folklore

- a. any two (2) traditional or folksongs arranged in the choral idiom.
- b. any one (1) or two (2) songs accompanied by pitched or untuned instruments are allowed. However, accompaniment is limited to one (1) instrument.
- c. choreography / choralography is allowed but is not part of the criteria.
- d. medley and/or solo that comprises more than 50% of the song are not allowed.
- e. total time duration of both songs (from the first chord/note of the first song to the last chord of the second song) is 10 minutes.

• EVALUATION & SCORING SYSTEM

- a. For the national and international levels of competition, the set of criteria will use a scoring system on all categories and rounds, except for the category F2:

i. INTONATION	25%
ii. SOUND QUALITY	25%
iii. FIDELITY TO THE SCORE	25%
iv. OVERALL ARTISTIC PERFORMANCE	25%
Total	100%

- b. The total average score received will determine the appropriate DIPLOMA awarded to the choirs based on the merits of their performance

I. Scores 85 and above	GOLD DIPLOMA
II. Scores 70 - 84,99	SILVER DIPLOMA
III. Scores 50 - 69,99	BRONZE DIPLOMA

- c. To determine the category champions for both national and international levels, the scores of the choirs that obtained the Gold Diploma shall be ranked accordingly. The rankings will be added and the choir that gets the lowest added ranked score shall be proclaimed **CATEGORY CHAMPIONS**.
- D. For the grand prix round of competition, each panel of jury shall rank the top 3 choirs based on their expert assessment (no set of criteria shall be given). The ranks shall be added and the choir that gets the lowest added ranked score shall be declared the **GRAND PRIX CHAMPION**; unless otherwise contested by either one of

the juries, then this will be deliberated upon until the collegial decision has been made and finalized.

E. The decision of jury is final and cannot be contested.

- **PERFORMANCE TIME**

a. Performance Time is the duration from the sound of the first note/chord of the first song until the last note/chord of the second song is sounded, including pauses between songs.

b. For the category competitions, a choir is given 10 minutes to perform both songs.

c. For the Grand Prix round, a maximum of 15 minutes is given.

d. If the total duration exceeds the specified time, the total score will be reduced by a penalty of one point per minute.

E. Schedule

Day 1 : Tuesday Aug.12,2025

Register & Stage rehearsal for Filipino Choirs (National Competition)

Day 2 : Wednesday Aug.13,2025

National Competition / Filipino Choirs

Register & Stage rehearsal for International Choirs (International Competition)

Welcoming Ceremony

Day 3 : Thursday Aug.14,2025

International Competition 1

Category : A,B,C / Concert

Day 4 : Friday Aug.15,2025

International Competition 2

Category : D,E,F / Concert / Workshop & Master Class with Juries

Day 5 : Saturday Aug.16,2025

International Competition3

Workshop & Master Class with Juries

Grand Prix Final

Closing Ceremony



F. DEADLINE & Fee INFORMATION

■ Registration Fee

Group Registration (Category): For the first event: 300 USD / For the succeeding events: 150 USD

Individual Registration Package:

Early Bird Registration (Deadline: January 20th, 2025)

A Type (3 Star Hotel): \$459 per person / \$ 659(single room)

B Type (4 Star Hotel) : \$559 per person / \$ 759(single room)

C Type (5 Star Hotel) : \$659 per person / \$ 839(single room)

■ Regular Registration (Deadline: March 24th, 2025)

A Type (3 Star Hotel): \$499 per person / \$699(single room)

B Type (4 Star Hotel) : \$599 per person / \$799(single room)

C Type (5 Star Hotel) : \$699 per person / \$899(single room)

■ Late Registration (Deadline: July 20th, 2025)

A Type (3 Star Hotel): \$529 per person / \$729(single room)

B Type (4 Star Hotel): \$629 per person / \$829(single room)

C Type (5 Star Hotel): \$729 per person / \$929(single room)

※ Inclusions:

Meals for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies

Meals (Lunch and Dinner) from Noontime of August 12 to Noontime of August 16

3 – Star Hotel Accommodation for 5 days and 4 nights.

In - land Transfers

Participation in the Festival Workshop (Exclusive individual workshops)

Festival Packet: Includes Shirt, ID, Access to Festival Events, and Souvenir Program

▶ Registration of PICF Festival 2025 can be done in our Google Form, please access:

<https://forms.gle/HraxSBzp2KijS34E6>

F.BANK INFORMATION

Bank Name : iM Bank(Daegu Bank)

Address : 2310, Dalgubeol-Daero, Susung-gu, Daegu City, South KOREA

Swift Code: DAEBKR22

Name: Pilgrim Music Foundation

Bank Account No : 532-10-119233-8

Phone No : 82-10-8355-4691

► Please Include bank service fee so the organizer can receive the full amount.

G. Contact

a. Phone No.: +63-962-901-1378 / +63-954-406-6470

b. Email: ppicfinfo@gmail.com

c. Website: www.ppicf.com

IMPORTANT!

No refunds for any reason, including force majeure. (Wars, Riots, Revolutions, Natural Disasters, Strikes, Fires and other Disasters declared by the local or central Government). If an activity is cancelled due to government policy (Community Activities Restrictions Enforcement or CARE), registration fees and others can be transferred to the next activity.



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Mabuhay!

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