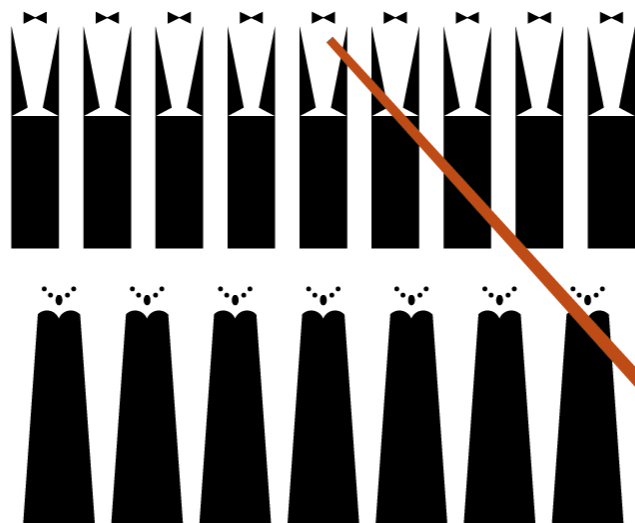


**THE PROF. JÓZEF ŚWIDER
12TH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC
XII MIĘDZYNARODOWY FESTIWAL MUZYKI
IM. PROF. JÓZEFA ŚWIDRA**

18-20.06.2027



Music Without Borders Foundation

fundacjamuzykabezgranic.pl | festiwalswider@us.edu.pl

Festival objectives

- to cultivate singing traditions and develop interest in choral music;
- to promote the music of Józef Świder and composers connected with Cieszyn Silesia;
- to exchange artistic, cultural and educational experience;
- to popularise choral literature from different periods and styles, including contemporary choral music;
- to improve the performance standards of amateur choirs;
- to bring academic and artistic research into dialogue.

Festival programme

- 7th National Academic Conference 'Repertuar poszukiwany cd.' - 18 June 2027;
- International Choral Competition - Prof. Józef Świder - 19 June 2027 at the Cieszyn Cultural Centre 'Dom Narodowy'; if many choirs qualify, auditions in some categories may begin on 18 June;
- festival concerts in towns across Silesia - 18-20 June 2027;
- Laureates' Concert - 19 June 2027.

01

Competition participation rules

The competition is open to amateur choirs from Poland and abroad. Admission is decided by the Artistic Council appointed by the organisers, on the basis of the submitted recording and an assessment of the proposed competition programme.

Competition programme

- 12-15 minutes including entry and exit; for children's, youth and senior choirs: 10-12 minutes. If those choirs also enter other types of ensemble, the 12-15 minute limit applies;
- at least three stylistically varied a cappella choral works; one work may include an instrument if the instrumental part appears in the score;
- exceeding the time limit may reduce the score by two points;
- works submitted in the programme are binding and may not be changed.

The organisers encourage choirs to perform a work by Józef Świder and a work by a composer connected with Silesia. The best performances may receive special cash prizes. These choices are voluntary.

The jury is appointed by the organisers. Voting is confidential and the jury's decisions are final. Assessment covers performance level and programme difficulty, repertoire selection and dramaturgy, verbal and musical articulation, expression, interpretation and stylistic accuracy, tone production, vocal technique and intonation.

02

Competition categories

A choir or ensemble may enter more than one category, but no more than two as standard. Entry in a third category is possible after consultation with the Festival Director. Each additional category costs PLN 400. In the application, the first two categories are marked as primary; the third, additional category awaits the Festival Director's approval.

Sacred music

For ensembles of all ages. Sacred music only; at least three works, including one composed before 1750.

Contemporary music

For ensembles of all ages. Three works composed after 1945, including at least one by a living composer.

Folk / ethnic music

Ethnic, folk or folk-inspired music. At least one work from the choir's country of origin, performed in that country's language.

Gospel, spiritual, jazz and pop

No microphones or amplification. One work may use piano or keyboard. Works are performed in their original language; improvisation is permitted but not required.

Types of ensemble

Chamber choirs (12-24 singers)

Programme: 12-15 minutes, at least three works.

Vocal ensembles (up to 12 singers)

Programme: 12-15 minutes, at least three works.

Mixed choirs

Programme: 12-15 minutes, at least three works.

Equal-voice choirs

Programme: 12-15 minutes, at least three works.

Children's choirs (up to age 15)

Programme: 10-12 minutes, at least three works. At least 80% of members must meet the age criterion.

Youth choirs (ages 15-19)

Programme: 10-12 minutes, at least three works. At least 80% of members must meet the age criterion.

Academic choirs

Programme: 12-15 minutes, at least three works.

Senior choirs (over age 60)

Programme: 10-12 minutes. At least 80% of members must meet the age criterion.

The ensemble manager is responsible for ensuring that performers meet the age requirements.

03 Laureates' Concert and participants' duties

- participating choirs take part in the Laureates' Concert on 19 June 2027;
- ensembles prepare the traditional Cieszyn songs 'Ojcowski dom' and 'Płyniesz Olzo'; electronic scores will be supplied after qualification;
- absence from the Laureates' Concert may reduce the score by five points and result in the withdrawal of cash prizes;
- the organisers are not liable for unlawful performances or related copyright claims;
- application constitutes consent to the free recording and distribution of the performance and to the use of materials for Festival promotion.

04 Awards

The Festival Grand Prix and all special awards in the on-site competition are cash prizes.

Honorary diplomas

Gold Diploma	91-100 points
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Silver Diploma	81-90 points
Bronze Diploma	61-80 points

The highest-scoring choir in a category receives a diploma and statuette, or a Category Winner Diploma, provided it has earned a Gold Diploma.

Special jury awards

- best performance of a contemporary work;
- most interesting interpretation of a sacred work;
- best performance of a work by Prof. Józef Świder;
- most interesting performance of a work by a composer connected with Upper Silesia or Cieszyn Silesia;
- most interesting interpretation of a folk-inspired work.

Special awards funded by partners

Photojournalists' Award 'For emotion and artistic expression through the lens' — PLN 1,000, funded by STOLZ Photography Team.

- Juliusz Roger Silesian Association of Choirs and Orchestras Award for the best performance of a work in Polish - commemorative diploma and PLN 1,000.

The jury may grant additional awards and change the distribution of prizes. Prizes are taxable under applicable law.

05 Participation costs

- PLN 500 for the first category and PLN 400 for each subsequent category; two primary categories may be selected, while a third additional category requires consultation and the Festival Director's approval;
- after qualification, the University of Silesia will issue an invoice payable within 14 days; non-payment excludes the choir from auditions; the fee is non-refundable after withdrawal;
- the organisers provide a hot meal for ensembles taking part in the competition;
- choirs cover accommodation, meals and transport; the organisers assist with accommodation booking, but campus places are limited.

06 Deadlines

Competition applications: by 31 March 2027 via the form at fundacjamuzykabezgranic.pl/en/competitions

- by 30 April 2027 - notification of admission to the Festival;
- by 31 May 2027 - confirmation of payment sent to festiwalswider@us.edu.pl;
- 18-20 June 2027 - Festival; competition and Laureates' Concert: 19 June 2027.

The organisers reserve the right to amend these regulations.

07

Accompanying concerts

Concerts take place in towns across Upper Silesia and Cieszyn Silesia from 18 to 20 June 2027. Polish and international choirs are invited to participate.

Participation conditions

- a programme of an appropriate performance standard, lasting at least 20 minutes; a work by a composer connected with Cieszyn Silesia is welcome;
- application by 30 April 2027 to festiwalswider@us.edu.pl;
- entry fee: PLN 500; choirs taking part in the competition pay no additional fee for accompanying concerts;
- after qualification, the University of Silesia will issue an invoice payable within 21 days; the fee is non-refundable after withdrawal;
- ensembles cover accommodation, meals and transport; the organisers assist with accommodation booking, but campus places are limited;
- refreshments will be provided after the concert; participants receive an honorary diploma and will be included in the 12th Festival's promotional materials.

08

Contact

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