



FICFE

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FEMALE CHOIRS IN LATIN AMERICA

FICFE Composition Contest
4th Edition | 2026
in tribute to Amparo Ángel
- Colombian composer -

Original Works and
Popular Music Arrangements
for Female Choir and Children's Choir

CATEGORIES

Category A

Original Composition
from 3 female voices
a capella or with instrumental accompaniment

Category B

Choral Arrangement of Popular Music
from 3 female voices
a capella or with instrumental accompaniment

Category C

Original Composition or Choral Arrangement of Popular Music
for children's choir up to 3 voices
a capella or with instrumental accompaniment



TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Presentation

The **FICFE Composition Contest** aims to promote the creation and dissemination of new works for women's and children's choirs, encouraging innovation, the exploration of vocal and expressive resources, and a meaningful connection between text and music.

Composers and arrangers of any nationality and without age limit are welcome to participate.

2. Categories

- **Category A** | Original Composition from 3 female voices a capella or with instrumental accompaniment
- **Category B** | Choral Arrangement of Popular Music from 3 female voices a capella or with instrumental accompaniment
- **Category C** | Original Composition or Choral Arrangement of Popular Music for children's choir up to 3 voices a capella or with instrumental accompaniment

Each participant may submit more than one work in any category, completing the registration process for each submission.

3. Awards

Unique Prize

One **unique prize** will be awarded per category, consisting of:

- 200 USD (two hundred U.S. dollars).
- Official certificate.
- Promotion of the work through **FICFE**'s official channels (website and social media).



Special Awards



LA VOZ
MUSIC PUBLISHING

The jury may also grant **Special Awards**, independently from the main Unique Prizes. These consist of the **edition and publication** of one or more selected works by the publishing house **La Voz Music Publishing (LVMP)**, <https://www.lavozmusicpublishing.com/>.

This recognition may be awarded to works by **Latin American composers**, or to works that the jury considers representative of Latin American cultural richness —through their themes, language (Spanish, Portuguese, or Indigenous languages), rhythms, and other relevant cultural or musical elements.

Selected works will become part of **La Voz Music Publishing's catalog**, benefiting from worldwide distribution and visibility.

Authors whose works are selected will receive **royalties according to LVMP's publishing policies**, established in a contract between each author and La Voz Music Publishing.

These Special Awards are entirely at the discretion of the jury and are **not part of the main prizes**.

Notes on the Awards

The jury reserves the right to **declare any category void**, leaving its corresponding prize without effect.

If the jury decides to grant any Special Mention, the participant will receive a certificate.

Prize Payment Method

Payment arrangements for the monetary prize will be agreed directly with each winner. The prize amount is set in **U.S. dollars (USD)**; however, if it is not possible to issue the transfer in that currency due to logistical or banking restrictions, the payment may be made in the **local currency of the winner's country of residence**, applying the official exchange rate in effect at the time of the transaction.

Any fees related to the transaction —including bank charges, transfer fees, exchange rate costs, or shipping expenses— will be the responsibility of the winner and will be deducted from the total prize



amount. Therefore, the **net amount received** may vary depending on the payment method and applicable fees.

Force Majeure

FICFE will not be held responsible for any total or partial failure to fulfill its obligations if caused by events beyond its reasonable control (including pandemics, conflicts, natural disasters, technological or financial infrastructure failures, governmental restrictions, etc.). In such cases, **FICFE may adjust schedules, modify the award delivery method, or adapt the conditions**, informing participants in a timely manner.

4. Deadlines

- Registration deadline and submission of works: Monday, April 20th, 2026.
- Announcement of results: Thursday, June 18th, 2026.

5. Registration

- **Registration fee:** **15 USD** (fifteen U.S. dollars) per submitted work.
- **Payment methods:** PayPal, debit/credit card, Western Union or bank transfer (available options may vary for residents of Mexico, the United States, or the European Union).
- **How to register:** Participants must visit the **FICFE official website** (<https://www.ficfe.com/>) and follow the steps detailed in the registration process:
 - Read Terms & Conditions.
 - Choose the category/ies in which you wish to participate.
 - Compose your work(s) according to the guidelines established in these Terms & Conditions.
 - Assign a **pseudonym** to each submitted work (a different one for each piece).
 - Register (or log in) to the **FICFE Members Area**:



Important: If you have not yet registered in the FICFE Members Area, please do not wait until the last minute. Access must be manually approved by the administration.

This process may take some time (is not always immediate) and is essential to ensure the security of our community and to maintain the integrity and seriousness of the Contest, making sure that all participants belong to the protected environment of the FICFE Members Area.

In the Members Area, you'll find everything you need, including:

- The available **payment methods**.
- The **Affidavit Form**.
- The **Registration Form**.
- Complete the payment (and keep the receipt).
- Read the **Affidavit** text (available in the FICFE Members Area).
- Fill out, sign, and download the **Affidavit Form** (directly in the FICFE Members Area).
- Complete the **Registration Form** (in the FICFE Members Area).
- The Organization will send an official **confirmation email**.

Required files for Registration

To make participation easier and more accessible, **only the essential materials** will be required at the time of registration. Each participant must submit the following:

- **Full score** in PDF format, identified **only with the pseudonym**
- **Reference audio file** (MP3 or WAV).
- **Image of ID document** (PDF, JPG, or PNG).
- **Proof of payment** (PDF, JPG, or PNG). A single proof of payment may be used if submitting multiple works (the same receipt is uploaded for each entry).



- **Signed Affidavit Form** (PDF — downloaded from the platform after signing).

Complementary Files (Only if Awarded)

Additional files will be requested **only from participants whose works are awarded or selected for publication or dissemination**. However, we encourage composers to start managing these materials in advance:

- Written **copyright permissions** (text and/or original work in case of arrangements), signed by the author(s) or rights holder(s).
- Short **biography** (up to 80 words) in **Spanish and English**.
- A **portrait photo** of the participant.
- In case of receiving a **Special Award** (edition and publication by La Voz Music Publishing):
 - **Score in MUS/MUSX/XML format** for professional engraving.
 - Full text of the work in the **original language**, with **English translation** (and Spanish translation if needed).
 - **Text in IPA** (International Phonetic Alphabet).
 - Short **program note** or description of the work.

Additional Notes:

- All transfer fees, taxes, and exchange rate costs are the responsibility of the participant.
- Registration fees are **non-refundable**.
- If a single proof of payment corresponds to only one work, but is uploaded to multiple entries, **all entries under that receipt will be disqualified**. If several works are submitted together, one collective payment is acceptable (the same receipt must be uploaded for each submission).



6. Affidavit Signature

Upon registering, each participant must sign an **Affidavit**, through which they confirm the statements listed in Section 11 of these Terms & Conditions.

This document can be **signed directly within our FICFE Members Area** — there is no need to download, print, sign by hand, and rescan the form.

Within the platform, participants will find the **section dedicated to the Affidavit**, where they can **fill in their information, sign digitally, and download the PDF** once completed.

Please note that the information entered into the platform is **not stored on our server**, so it is essential to **download the signed document** in order to upload it later in the Registration Form.

A **separate Affidavit and Registration Form** must be completed for each submitted work, as detailed in Section 5.

7. Work Requirements

- Only **unpublished works** that have not been premiered, awarded, or previously published — and that have not been commissioned for payment— will be accepted.
- Maximum duration: **4 minutes**. Any work exceeding this limit will be disqualified.
- Works must comply with the following formats:
 - **Female Choir:** Soprano, Mezzo, and/or Alto, with or without divisi, up to a total of **3 to 6 voices**.
 - **Children's Choir:** 1st, 2nd, and/or 3rd voices, with or without divisi, **up to a total of 3 voices**.
- Scores must be **clear and easy to read**, submitted in **PDF format** and identified only with the **pseudonym**.
- Any type of **musical notation** is welcome, as long as it is understandable and includes all necessary indications.
- **Arrangements** of popular music from any country are accepted.



However, for a work to be eligible for **publication by La Voz Music Publishing**, if the original composer is not Latin American, the arrangement must include elements that reflect **Latin American identity** —such as its theme, use of Indigenous or regional languages, rhythms, or other culturally representative features.

- It is the **full responsibility of the participant** to ensure that the text (and the original work in the case of arrangements) is free of copyright restrictions, is in the public domain, or that the participant has obtained the necessary **written and signed permissions** from the author(s) or rights holder(s).
- These permissions must be submitted **only if the work is awarded**, together with the other complementary files requested.

Participants are encouraged to **begin managing these permissions in advance**, even if they are not required in the initial stage.

Once the results are announced, winners will have a **maximum of 15 calendar days** to submit the required documentation.

- If the winner does not submit the required permissions and complementary files **within the established deadline**, the **recognition and the prize will automatically be cancelled**.
- The Organization will not be held responsible for unauthorized use of texts or copyrighted material in arrangements.

8. Submission and Anonymity

- Each work must be submitted **under a pseudonym** (the composer's real name must not appear anywhere on the score).
- A **separate Affidavit and Registration Form** must be completed for each submitted work, including all required documents and files mentioned in Section 5.
- Failure to comply with the anonymity requirement will result in **automatic disqualification**.



9. Evaluation Criteria

- Originality and creativity.
- Vocal writing and expressive possibilities, including effective use of vocal ranges.
- Relationship between music and text/concept.
- Clarity and quality of musical notation.
- Balance between artistic value and practical performability.

FICFE encourages the submission of works that are **truly performable** by choirs of different levels.

The most appreciated will be those that, with intelligence and sensitivity, find a **meaningful balance** between artistic depth and practical accessibility: pieces that may appear sophisticated or complex, yet remain clear, singable, and rewarding to rehearse and perform.

It is important to highlight that **technical difficulty does not necessarily imply higher quality**. Works that are excessively difficult may never be performed —or may only be accessible to a very small number of professional choirs— limiting their potential for dissemination and artistic impact.

Therefore, **FICFE** encourages the creation of works that can be performed beautifully by a **wide range of ensembles**, contributing to the growth of the repertoire for women's and children's choirs.

10. Jury

The jury is composed of five distinguished Maestras with recognized international careers:

- Daria Abreu Feraud (choir and orchestra conductor, Cuba/Mexico)
- Paula Artigas (arranger and choir conductor, Argentina)
- Ana Lucía Gaborím (educator and choir conductor, Brasil)
- Claudia Londoño (choir conductor, Colombia)
- Mónica Pacheco (composer and choir conductor, Argentina)



The jury's decision shall be final and binding. The jury reserves the right to declare any contest category void, leaving any prize associated with that category null and without effect.

The jury's ruling will be communicated in a written statement and sent by email to all participants in the Contest on **Thursday, June 18, 2026**. In addition, it will be published on our website and social media channels.

11. Copyright and Publishing Rights

By registering, the participant shall sign (within the Members Area on the FICFE website) an **Affidavit** declaring:

- That **FICFE** holds the exclusive rights to the submitted works for this contest until the jury's decision is published on **FICFE**'s website and social media.
- That, if the work receives a **Special Prize** (publication by **LVMP**), the composer will agree with the publisher on the contract, terms, and all necessary arrangements for the publication and dissemination of the work.
- That, if the work **is not awarded** a prize, the composer authorizes **FICFE** to share the score on its website free of charge **until December 31, 2027**, to contribute to the growth of the female and children's choral repertoire. From January 1, 2028, the composer retains full freedom to decide whether the work remains published on the site or requests its removal.
- That **FICFE** has the right to disseminate the winning works within the contest framework, without limiting the author's rights.
- The texts used (and the original works, in the case of arrangements) are authored by the participant. If not, the participant must guarantee (and demonstrate) the legality of the material's use and assume full responsibility in case of claims by the original author of the text/original work.

If awarded a prize, The Organization will contact the participant requesting the **complementary files** mentioned in point 5 of these Terms and Conditions.

The participant agrees to indemnify and hold **FICFE** harmless from any claims, demands, expenses, or penalties arising from non-compliance with these terms, including claims related to third-party rights (texts, music, phonograms), as well as any reasonable legal costs.



12. Acceptance of Terms and Responsibilities

FICFE and/or The Organization shall not be held responsible for lost, damaged, plagiarized, incorrectly submitted, not received, late, corrupted, illegible materials, or those with erroneous data under any circumstances, even if due to technical failures, errors in file naming, or payment system issues. It is the participant's responsibility to ensure that files are correctly uploaded and that the payment receipt is valid.

Multiple works sharing the same payment receipt will be disqualified, provided the **amount** corresponds to a **single piece**. Joint payment is allowed when submitting multiple works (the same receipt is presented for each submission).

If plagiarism, unauthorized use of protected material, or false declarations or authorizations are detected, the work will be automatically disqualified, and if previously announced as a winner, the **prize will be nullified**.

The applicant agrees, if awarded, to have their name and work disseminated in the manner, place, format, medium, and/or any other means determined within the **FICFE** framework.

Submitted works must be original. They should not be edited, recorded, or have been presented or awarded in any other contest. They must not have been composed under a paid commission. They should not have been performed previously in a concert or public event or broadcasted by any means.

All submitted works will be uploaded, and their composers will be mentioned on **FICFE**'s website as recognition of their participation in this contest and in promoting and developing music for female and children's choirs.

By registering, the participant authorizes **FICFE** to use their name, work, and brief biography to communicate results, promote the contest, and publish the winning material according to these Terms and Conditions. Personal data will be used in accordance with applicable data protection regulations and will not be shared with third parties without authorization.

Force Majeure:

FICFE will not be held responsible for any total or partial failure to fulfill its obligations if caused by events beyond its reasonable control (including pandemics, conflicts, natural disasters, technological or financial infrastructure failures, governmental restrictions, etc.). In such cases, **FICFE** may **adjust schedules, modify the award delivery method, or adapt the conditions**, informing participants in a timely manner.



Participation in the FICFE Composition Contest implies full acceptance of these Terms and Conditions. Any situation not covered will be resolved by The Organization and/or the jury.

These Terms and Conditions are subject to any modifications and will always be published on the festival's website. It is the responsibility of interested parties to review them regularly at <https://www.ficfe.com/>.