

**YOUNG CHOIR OF THE YEAR – 2018**  
**OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM and TERMS & CONDITIONS**



These terms were amended on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

**THE DEADLINE FOR US RECEIVING APPLICATIONS HAS BEEN EXTENDED. THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS Thursday 14th December 2017.** YOU CAN APPLY VIA EMAIL OR POST.

[PLEASE READ THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM AND USE CAPITAL LETTERS]

**HOW MANY MEMBERS ARE PERFORMING IN THE CHOIR?**

[MAX 40]

**ARE YOU ENTERING JUNIOR OR SENIOR SECTION?**

[tick box]

<b>JUNIOR</b>	<b>SENIOR</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>NAME OF CHOIR</b>	
<b>NAME OF MAIN CONTACT</b> <small>[This is normally the Choir Director – who will act as the main contact throughout]</small>	
<b>CHOIR ADDRESS</b>	
<b>CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS</b>	
<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER</b>	
<b>OUT OF HOURS TELEPHONE NUMBER</b>	
<b>ALTERNATIVE CONTACT TELEPHONE</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> HYMN /WORSHIP SONG CHOICE</b> <small>+ Duration + Published Hymn Book * MUST BE 3 MINS OR UNDER</small>	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> INSPIRATIONAL CHOICE</b> <small>+ Duration + Published Hymn Book *MUST BE 3 MINS OR UNDER</small>	

Please tick to confirm you have received parental consent for each member of your choir to enter this competition.

If you applying via email attach this application form with your MP3 file to [songsofpraise@bbc.co.uk](mailto:songsofpraise@bbc.co.uk) and put **Young Choir Of The Year** as the subject. For more information go to [www.bbc.co.uk/songsofpraise](http://www.bbc.co.uk/songsofpraise)

WE CAN ONLY ACCEPT FILES OF 10MB AND UNDER SO YOU MAY NEED TO SEND EACH SONG IN A SEPARATE EMAIL. PLEASE ENSURE YOU INCLUDE THE NAME OF YOUR CHOIR AND A CONTACT NUMBER WHEN YOU EMAIL.

If you are applying by post complete and send this form with your CD to:

Songs of Praise Young Choir of the Year 2018, 114 -116 Broadway, MediaCityUK, Salford, M50 2UW.

Check list before sending:

- Application form
- Signed competition rules
- List of dates of birth of members singing on the CD, MP3 [no names please] in age order, youngest first
- The entry CD or MP3- NB May have to email each song separately

<b>For Office Use Only please leave blank</b>		<b>Entry No:</b>
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## **Songs of Praise Young Choir of the Year 2018 Competition Terms & Conditions**

**THE DEADLINE FOR US RECEIVING APPLICATIONS HAS BEEN EXTENDED. THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS Thursday 14th December 2017.** YOU CAN APPLY VIA EMAIL OR POST.

### **Who May Enter**

1. Entries are invited from any young choirs made up of children in full time education in the UK (including Channel Islands and Isle of Man) A choir may enter either the 'Junior' section (for children aged 12 years or under) or the 'Senior' section (for children aged 12 to 18.)
3. The children's ages are taken to be as on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017.
4. For the purpose of this competition, the maximum number of choir members is **40**; we will not accept entries from choirs that exceed this number. School choirs are welcome to enter but teachers may not form part of the choir.
5. Choirs should not include any children who are closely related to a member of BBC staff, Avanti Media or Nine Lives Television staff or anyone connected to this competition. Proof of eligibility may be requested. All members of the choir must meet the eligibility requirements set out in the terms & conditions at all times.

### **How to Enter**

6. Initial entry to the competition will entail submission of a CD or MP3 recording that comprises 2 performances:
  - o one **Christian hymn or worship song** selected from any published hymnbook or online publication.
  - and one **inspirational song based on the Christian faith**Entries must not be longer than 3 minutes each.
7. If a choir chooses to commission *an arrangement* for their competition pieces any cost incurred must be met by the choir or school, not the competition organisers.
8. A completed Official Entry Form from the Songs of Praise website must accompany the initial entry CD/MP3 recording. The dates of birth, but not the names of the choir members, must be submitted with the entry form.
9. One adult (e.g. Choir Director) must be nominated as the choir's main contact. The personal details you provide will only ever be used by the BBC, Avanti Media and Nine Lives for the purposes of administering this competition and will not be shared with any other party. The entry CD/MP3 file must contain only the performances being submitted for this competition and performed by the choir members intending to go forward into the later stages of the competition. The named contact will be responsible for obtaining all permissions necessary from the parents of the children participating (or the school if it is a school choir taking part) before entering.
10. CDs and completed entry forms must be sent by post to the following address: Young Choir of the Year Competition, Songs of Praise, 114-116 Broadway, MediaCity UK, Salford, M50 2UW.  
MP3 files and completed entry forms must be sent by email to: [songsofpraise@bbc.co.uk](mailto:songsofpraise@bbc.co.uk)  
These are the only methods of entry.  
Closing date for entries is **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017**. Entries received after this date will not be considered.

### **Progression to the televised semi-finals and final.**

12. A panel of shortlisting judges, appointed by Songs of Praise will listen carefully to the quality and style of the singing as demonstrated by the performances on CD or MP3. They will select **5** choirs for the junior semi-final and **5** choirs for the senior semi-final, but will not be judging the technical quality of the recording although it would be beneficial for you to read the Sound Recording guidelines at the end of this document.  
Once a choir has been notified that they have made it into the semi-finals they will be required to send any musical arrangements of the submitted entries to the Songs of Praise production office. (Songs of Praise, 114-116 Broadway, MediaCity UK, Salford, M50 2UW.)  
The judges will be selecting choirs throughout the competition using the following criteria:
  - ☐ Technical ability e.g. tuning, diction, voice quality, balance, ensemble, dynamics, overall sound

- ☒ Musical Expression e.g. musicality, communication, phrasing, passion, energy, commitment and interpretation of the text
13. Those invited to appear in the televised semi-finals will be informed in January 2018 after which Songs of Praise *may* visit the choir to record some background material that will not form part of the competition result.
  14. Immediately after the televised semi-finals the celebrity judges will select 3 junior and 3 senior choirs to go through to the competition final (recorded on the same day as the semi-final).
  15. The competition semi-finals and final will be held in March 2018 and be filmed for broadcast on BBC Television in April 2018. Children in the choirs will be expected to remain under the supervision of their adult supervisor or school staff during the television recordings.
  16. The hymns and songs chosen for performance in the final of the competition must be agreed with the competition organisers. For those selected to take part, choirs should use **KEYBOARD** accompaniment **ONLY**. **NO OTHER INSTRUMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED**. We expect that choirs will provide their own accompanist for the choir's competition pieces. The producers of the programme reserve the right to ask the semi-finalists to make adjustments or change their competition entry - for example if other choirs are submitting the same hymn/song.
  17. At the conclusion of the final, one choir from each section (Junior and Senior) will be selected as overall winner, the others being 'runners-up'.
  18. The title of "Songs of Praise Young Choir of the Year (Junior or Senior)" is held for one year only. Winning choirs will be eligible to re-enter the competition following a gap of three title-years. A choir may make only one entry per category to the competition this year. The title should not be used for any initiative, which could bring the BBC into disrepute or any commercial activity without the BBC's prior approval.
  19. The rules of this competition are compliant with the BBC's current code of conduct, which is available at [www.bbc.co.uk/guidelines/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/guidelines/). Entry for the competition implies acceptance of the present rules. The decision of the judges is final, without appeal and no subsequent correspondence on their decisions will be entered into. In case of any dispute concerning nominations, matters of eligibility or interpretation of these rules, the decision of the BBC shall be final.

**Additional Information**

20. Parental consent must be given for each child to take part in the Songs of Praise competition and the permission for each child to appear in the television recordings must be sought by the choir organisers, or the school - if the choir are entered by a school. The competition organisers are legally required to apply to the LEA for a license for each child under 16 years old to perform. An application has to be made to the LEA in which the child lives, not where the child goes to school. Choirs that make it through to the television recordings - will be asked to sign a standard BBC All Rights Contract.
21. Entries must not infringe the rights of any other party. The competition organisers accepts no liability if entrants ignore these rules and entrants agree to fully indemnify the BBC against any claims by any third party arising from any breach of these rules.
22. Entrants must agree to take part in any post-competition publicity if required.
23. The BBC reserves the right to replace choirs whose entry breaches any of these Terms and Conditions or, if in its opinion, entries that do not reach the required standard.
24. The BBC reserves the right to cancel this competition or amend these terms and conditions at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, and if circumstances arise outside its control.
25. The BBC, its sub-contractors, subsidiaries and/or agencies cannot accept any responsibility whatsoever for any technical failure or malfunction or any other problem with any server, Internet access, postal system or otherwise which may result in any entry being lost or not properly registered or recorded. Proof of sending is not proof of receipt.
26. These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of England and Wales. I have read the above rules and regulations and agree to adhere to them.

Name and position .....

Signature.....

Name of Choir .....

Entries should be sent BY POST to:

**Songs of Praise Young Choir of the Year 2018**  
**114-116 Broadway, MediaCity UK, Salford, M50 2UW**

Entries should be clearly labelled and mailed to arrive not later than: **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

For further information please see the Songs of Praise website.: [www.bbc.co.uk/songsofpraise](http://www.bbc.co.uk/songsofpraise)

**Summary - Songs of Praise Young Choir of the Year 2018**

- Please choose one hymn from any published Christian hymn book or online publication. To enter the competition your choir will also need to choose one other song that **is inspired by or based on the Christian faith**.
- Choirs are reminded that they should provide piano instrumental backing for both choices.
- Choirs are advised to consider how their chosen song or hymn will come across on BBC television.

**List of date of birth of members singing on entry (no names please) in age order YOUNGEST first. Please DOUBLE-CHECK the age rules before entering.**

	Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY)		Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY)
1		21	
2		22	
3		23	
4		24	
5		25	
6		26	
7		27	
8		28	
9		29	
10		30	
11		31	
12		32	
13		33	
14		34	
15		35	
16		36	
17		37	
18		38	
19		39	
20		40	

**SOUND RECORDING GUIDELINES FOR INITIAL ENTRY TO THE COMPETITION**

Whilst your choir will not be judged on the production quality of the recording, it is vital to get the best recording of your choir, in order to paint an accurate picture of how your choir really sounds.

For example, your choir may be well balanced, but if the recording equipment is not appropriately placed it may pick up more of one part, or even individual voices, which will make your choir sound unbalanced on the recording. Remember, the recording is the only reference the shortlisting judges have of your choir's sound.

The following simple guidelines will help you to achieve a better-recorded sound.

**1. CHOICE OF EQUIPMENT**

Not all choirs are blessed with state-of-the-art recording studios but you really do not need one to achieve a

suitable recording; a basic set-up is adequate.

The minimum you'll need is two microphones, or one stereo microphone, and a recorder.

It's better to record in stereo (i.e. independent left and right signals) in order to capture the full sound of the choir.

## 2. PLACEMENT OF MICROPHONES

This is key to achieving a suitable recording.

The best way to approach this is to think of recording like you would filming the choir. You would want to get everybody in the shot and the choir to be centre of the picture.

Microphones should be a few feet away from the choir in order to achieve a balanced sound. The further away the microphones are the more balanced the choir will sound. You may need to experiment with what is suitable distance.

Simply get the choir to sing a few bars and then have a listen. If you discover you are picking up individual voices, or the sound is too 'in your face', then move the microphones or choirs backward.

Do bear in mind this is a choir competition; microphones should be placed to pick up the choir, with piano accompanying the choir and not the other way around.

## 3. NOISE REDUCTION

Try to record with as little background noise as possible.

## 4. LEVEL

In order to achieve the correct level for the recording, get the choir to sing the loudest parts of the songs they will record and make sure the recording does not distort.

## 5. PRODUCTION

In the world of recording and with the rapidly developing sound technology at our disposal, recording engineers often use techniques to make a recording sound more commercial and to give the best possible sound.

As this is a competition where the choirs are required to sing live, we recommend that only recordings which are a true representation of the choir singing live are submitted. We discourage choirs from employing specific production techniques to make a sound more balanced, or sound bigger. Many conductors are not responsible for the recordings so please do pass this on to anyone who may be responsible for making the recording of the choir.

Choirs should not use the following production practices and techniques:

i) Dynamics Processing - the choir should be recorded without dynamics processing, i.e. compressors, limiters, expanders, gates. The judges do judge dynamics, and therefore need to hear the true dynamic range of the choir.

ii) Auto-tuners should be avoided. Again, the choir is being judged on tuning;

iii) Tracking/layering voices should be avoided. This is where individual voice parts are recorded, so they can be manually balanced by a sound engineer. This also includes a technique known as 'double-tracking', where a choir records multiple times to give a warmer, smoother, fuller sound. If you are a choir of 20, and sound like 200 voices on the recording because of production techniques, how will that be achieved live?

iv) Recordings should be unedited. By all means edit out noises before or after the recording, but editing individual phrases to make it sound as though the choir is coming in and cutting off together will not work in the choir's favour.

v) Sound effects - e.g. reverb etc/... should be avoided – we are keen to hear the choir's natural vocal sound and reverb can mask this; other sound effects (delays, etc...) should also be avoided.