



REGULATIONS

Choirs and mixed ensembles

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INVITATION

At the end of April and the beginning of May 2020 Neerpelt will again bubble with youthful musical talent. Youngsters from all over Europe and beyond will gather here to sing and make music together in an atmosphere of fraternization.

The European Music Festival wishes to be the epicentre for youngsters from diverse cultures, where they can meet and appreciate each other through music.

The Festival is the meeting place for thousands of youngsters singing together and fraternizing in an enthusiastic mood. A renowned international jury evaluates the performances of the participants from a constructive angle.

The combination of social commitment and making music together makes the European Music Festival for Young People a unique event in Flanders and Europe!

Neerpelt is already preparing for the 68th edition of Europe's largest celebration of music. Over one hundred choirs and mixed ensembles are welcome from **Thursday 30/04/2020 until Monday 04/05/2020**.

We hope to meet you and your choir in Neerpelt during these musical top days.

European Music Festival for Young People

Address: Toekomstlaan 7 bus 2, 3910 Pelt, Belgium
Tel.: +32 – 11 - 66 23 39 (between 09h00 and 16h00)
Fax: +32 – 11 - 66 50 48
E-mail: info@emj.be
Website: www.emj.be
Banc account for participating choirs: BE70 3350 0378 0925
BIC or SWIFT code: BBRUBEBB

VOCAL EDITION

PROGRAMME

The Festival programme depends on the chosen formula. Following 2 participation formulas can be selected.

FORMULA 1: ALL-IN WEEKEND FORMULA

from 30/04/2020 until 04/05/2020

Thursday 30/04/2020:

- Arrival between 9 am and 7 pm
- Evening diner (until 8 pm)
- Participation at the opening spectacle (Kick-off and "A Taste of Neerpelt")

Friday 01/05/2020:

- Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- Participation at the jury concert OR at a workshop and/or other concert
- Entrance to all other jury performances
- Entrance to the evening festivities, as participant or visitor

Saturday 02/05/2020:

- Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- Participation at the jury concert OR at a workshop and/or other concert
- Entrance to all other jury performances
- Entrance to the evening happening, as participant or visitor

Sunday 03/05/2020:

- Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- Participation at the jury concert OR at a workshop and/or other concert
- Entrance to all other jury performances
- Entrance to the closing festivities

Monday 04/05/2020:

- Breakfast + departure before 10 am

FORMULA 2: PARTICIPATION FOR ONLY ONE DAY
on 01/05/2020, 02/05/2020 or 03/05/2020

- Arrival between 8 am and 12 pm
- Participation at the jury concert
- Entrance to all other jury concerts
- Entrance to the evening programme on 30/04/2020
- Entrance to the evening concerts on 01/05/2020, as participant or visitor
- Entrance to the evening happening on 02/05/2020, as participant or visitor
- Entrance to the closing festivities on 03/05/2020
- If wanted, meals to choose, after reservation

For organizational reasons, the European Music Festival for young people will stipulate the day of performance.

CATEGORIES

All registered choirs will participate in one of following categories. A participation in several categories is also possible:

- Category A1: children's choirs with children up to the age of 12, with an average age below 11
- Category A2: children's choirs with children up to the age of 14
- Category B: equal-voice youth choirs
- Category C: mixed-voice youth choirs
- Category D: pennant series children's choirs
- Category E: pennant series: equal-voice youth choirs
- Category F: pennant series mixed-voice youth choirs
- Category G: free series: vocal folklore, close harmony, vocal jazz, gospel & spiritual, pop choir, a capella ensembles, vocal ensembles with a limited instrumental accompaniment. The vocal music should prevail.

Every jury concert must be performed live. In advance on tape recorded accompanying music will not be accepted.

To qualify for the **pennant categories** the choirs must have gained a remarkable result at an international festival and/or competition or at least can prove a thorough artistic experience. Every choir registering for a pennant category is obliged to prove its level of quality by sending in a recent video recording.

The definite category allotment will be made by the organizing committee.

REPERTOIRE AND AGE

Applications need to have reached the Festival secretariat before October 28, 2019.

Following conditions must be considered while selecting the correct category and composing the jury concert's programme.

Category	Maximum age	Minimum number of singers	Minimum duration of repertoire	Maximum duration of repertoire	Programme
A1 (4)	12	12 (4)	10 minutes (3)	12 minutes (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A traditional folk song from your own country, performed in a unisono and a capella way - At least 2 choral works - Compulsory song (1)
A2 (4)	14	12 (4)	10 minutes (3)	12 minutes (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A traditional folk song from your own country, performed in a unisono and a capella way - At least 2 choral works - Compulsory song (1)
B	28 (6)	12	10 minutes (3)	12 minutes (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A traditional folk song from your own country, performed in a unisono and a capella way - At least 2 choral works - Compulsory song (1)
C	28 (6)	12	10 minutes (3)	12 minutes (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A traditional folk song from your own country, performed in a unisono and a capella way - At least 2 choral works - Compulsory song (1)
D	15 (5)	12	15 minutes (3)	18 minutes (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A traditional folk song from your own country, performed in a unisono and a capella way - A song from the Renaissance up to and included the Romantic period - One contemporary piece composed by a composer from your own country - The compulsory song (1) <p>Eventually completed with other choral works</p>

Category	Maximum age	Minimum number of singers	Minimum duration of repertoire	Maximum duration of repertoire	Programme
E	28 (6)	12	15 minutes (3)	18 minutes (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A traditional folk song from your own country, performed in a unisono and a capella way - A song from the Renaissance up to and included the Romantic period - One contemporary piece composed by a composer from your own country - The compulsory song (1) - Eventually completed with other choral works
F	28 (6)	12	15 minutes (3)	18 minutes (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A traditional folk song from your own country, performed in a unisono and a capella way - A song from the Renaissance up to and included the Romantic period - One contemporary piece composed by a composer from your own country - The compulsory song (1) - Eventually completed with other choral works
G	28 (6)	4	15 minutes (3)	18 minutes (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The compulsory song "Ik seg adieu" (2) - Completed with a repertoire, free of choice following the demanded music styles

IMPORTANT INFO:

- (1) Next to the own repertoire every choir in the categories A up to and included F must perform **a compulsory song** composed for the European Music Festival Neerpelt by Flemish composers. These compulsory songs will be sent at the end of December 2019, together with the confirmation of participation.
- (2) In the category G the compulsory song is the Flemish folk song "Ik seg adieu" of which an original arrangement (vocal or vocal/instrumental and lyrics ad libitum) has to be made. This folk song will be distributed digitally upon registration. Not only the execution of it but also the quality of this arrangement will be considered in the judgment of the jury concert.
- (3) The compulsory song is NOT included in this time limit.

- (4) In the category A1 the age limit may be exceeded with a maximum of 7% of the participants and only if they are born in January, February, March or April 2007 and therefore already became 13 in 2020. The average age of all choir members must be below 11.
 - (4) In the category A2 the age limit may be exceeded with a maximum of 7% of the participants and only if they are born in January, February, March or April 2005 and therefore already became 15 in 2020.
 - (4) Children's choirs participating in the category A1 and not exceeding an average age of 8 years are not obliged to sing the compulsory song but can if they want to. In these choirs, the minimum number of singers is 8.
 - (5) In the category D the age limit may be exceeded with a maximum of 7% of the participants. The average age of the choir however, can't be higher than 13.
 - (6) In the categories B, C, E, F and G the age limit may be exceeded with a maximum of 7% of the total number of singers. For all singers over 28 a permission of participation must be asked, when applying. The organizing committee will evaluate every request individually. The Festival organization has the right to ascertain the age of the participants and will do so in a sample survey.
 - Every choir chooses its jury performance's **repertoire** according to the regulations mentioned above and will determine the rank order of the pieces on the application form. The advisory committee music will strictly supervise whether every choir and ensemble registers a correct programme and for the right category. In case of problems, this advisory committee will stipulate an advice for category- and/or programme changes.
- After having received the compulsory song changes to this rank order as well as to the programme can be made **until 01/03/2020** but only after explicit and written agreement by the organizing advisory committee. As from 01/03/2020 onwards the presented programme must be performed in the given order.

Not complying to all these regulations can result in a lower score

A deviance of the regulations is only allowed after approval by the Festival organization. In case of doubt, the decision of the organizing committee is decisive.

JURY CONCERT

The jury concert is the heart of the Festival. It is the crowning glory of the many hours of rehearsals, an appreciation of the efforts. A renowned international jury evaluates from a constructive angle the performances of all participating choirs. Every choir will receive a diploma during the proclamation. After that all conductors are offered an opportunity to meet the jury members.

A few weeks after the Festival all choirs will receive an extensive and pedagogically well-founded jury report with a positive and non-competitive evaluation.

The diploma states:

- First prize "summa cum laude" for choirs receiving 98, 99 or 100%
- First prize "cum laude": for choirs receiving 90 until 97%
- First prize: for choirs receiving 80 until 89%
- Second prize: for choirs receiving 70 until 79%
- Third prize: for choirs receiving 60 until 69%
- Mention: for choirs receiving 59% or less

Choirs with a result of 90% or more will also receive the Festival medal.

No cash prizes or prizes in kind will be awarded. The right of recording is reserved to the EMJ. No allowances will be paid for possible sound and/or video recordings of the performance (All rights reserved).

LAUREATE CONCERT

On Friday 01/05/2020, Saturday 02/05/2020 and Sunday 03/05/2020 evening concerts will be organized presenting **the laureates** of the performing categories, judged by the jury that day. The selected choirs with very good marks are obliged to take part in this concert taking place in the theatre of the "Provinciaal Domein Dommelhof". For organisational reasons, every selected choir is **obliged** to take part in this concert.

Those choirs getting very high marks during their jury performance are selected to sing during this excellent concert visited by many friends, jury members and renowned music experts.

The programme to perform is a selection of pieces from the jury concert and will be determined by the jury members and members of the organizing committee.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Proclamation

The proclamation, the highlight of every Festival day, is attended massively by all participants and hundreds of visitors. The sports hall of the "Provinciaal Domein Dommelhof, for the occasion converted into a huge theatre, is the framework for this dazzling and exceptionally attractive proclamation. All choirs that finished their jury concert during the day are present and are pleased to be able to receive their diploma and jury results.

Happening

The happening is an evening concert, performed by various beforehand selected choirs and visited by a very large audience. All selected choirs will have the opportunity to perform an individual as well as a mutual programme, finished off during a professionally conducted workshop.

The very popular happening programme offers a diversity of music, enjoyable by everyone.

The programme to perform will be determined in discussion with the conductor, the organizing committee and a member of the jury.

Other concerts

Extra concerts will be organized in Neerpelt and surrounding villages on Thursday 30/04/2020, Friday 01/05/2020, Saturday 02/05/2020 and Sunday 03/05/2020: afternoon-, evening-, opening-, school-, fraternization- and aperitif concerts and Festival masses. If you want to be selected for a participation in one of these concerts, you can indicate so on your application form. The program to be performed during these extra concerts will be decided after the selection of choirs has been announced.

Fraternization concerts

During the Festival days, fraternization concerts are organised in Pelt and surrounding villages. Every choir that sings this concert is supposed to present themselves and their culture to the audience. The idea of fraternization is the main goal of these concerts. Participating choirs will therefore bring an easy and open programme. The concerts are free accessible and very much loved by the local audience.

Workshops

The Festival also organises workshops with diverse topics on vocal music. The main idea is to have participants from different countries sing together. The workshops will mainly be presented by Belgian music experts having a great international fame. If you wish to participate in a workshop, you can indicate so on your application form. These workshops are free of charge for groups that choose the weekend formula.

For organizational reasons, it is only possible to participate in the workshops after prior subscription.

The number of participants per workshop is limited. Therefore, the Festival organizing committee decides which group will participate. This participation therefore also is obliged.

ACCOMMODATION

The Festival organisation takes care of your accommodation. You can choose between following accommodation formulas:

FORMULA 1: weekend stay from 30/04/2020 until 04/05/2020

FORMULA 2: One-day participation on 01/05/2020, 02/05/2020 or 03/05/2020

We offer following accommodation possibilities:

Stay in a

- a. **luxury bungalow park:** about 30 km from Neerpelt
 - With overnight stay in an “economy type” bungalow
 - With free access to the local covered swim- and play paradise

- b. **holiday village:** between 15 and 30 km from Neerpelt
 - With overnight stay in a chalet or bungalow

- c. **group accommodation:** about 1 to 10 km from Neerpelt
 - with overnight stay in shared sleep sleeping facilities
 - the sanitary will be used jointly

- d. **host family:** about 1 to 10 km from Neerpelt

Host families are considered as Festival volunteers and are not paid for their cooperation to the Festival. That’s why the places in host families are limited. The shortage of host families is made up by accommodating these participants in group accommodations.

FORMULA 1: all-in weekend stay from Thursday 30/04/2020 until Monday 04/05/2020

Formula 1 consists of:

- 4 nights
- Hot dinner on 30/04/2020
- Full board on 01/05/2020, 02/05/2020 and 03/05/2020
- Breakfast on 04/05/2020
- A few programme booklets per choir
- One Festival bracelet per participant
- Free entrance to the opening spectacle and the firework on 30/04/2020
- Participation in the jury concert
- Free entrance to all other jury concerts
- Free entrance to workshops (after subscription) and/or other concerts
- Free participation and entrance to the evening happening and other concerts on 30/04/2020, 01/05/2020, 02/05/2020 and 03/05/2020; as participant or as visitor
- Free participation at the closing festivities on 03/05/2020
- Free use of the "hop on hop off" bus, a bus service between the different jury locations

Prices:

	Prices per person per long weekend
1a: luxurious bungalow park	€ 260
1b: holiday village	€ 165
1c: group accommodation	€ 165
1d: host family	€ 165
Extra packed lunch (at departure or excursion)	€ 5,50
Registration costs	€ 8,50 (*) see maximum invoice registration cost

**FORMULA 2: Participation for one day only
on Friday 01/05/2020, Saturday 02/05/2020 or Sunday 03/05/2020**

Formula 3 consists of:

- Several programme booklets per choir
- One Festival bracelet per participant
- Participation in the jury concert
- Free entrance to all other jury concerts
- Free entrance to the opening spectacle and the firework on 30/04/2020
- Free participation and visits to the evening happening and other concerts on 30/04/2020, 01/05/2020, 02/05/2020 and/or 03/05/2020; as participant or as visitor
- Free participation at the closing festivities on 03/05/2020
- Free use of the "hop on hop off" bus, a bus service between the different jury locations

The choir takes part at the Festival only on 01/05/2020, 02/05/2020 or 03/05/2020

Because of organizational reasons, the European Music Festival for Young People determines the day of your jury performance.

If desired, a day group can also make use of the catering facilities of the Festival at following prices – only after reservation before **25/03/2020**:

Prices

	Prices per person
Hot lunch	€ 9
Evening meal (bread meal)	€ 6,50
Packed lunch	€ 5,50
Registration costs	€ 8,50 (*) see maximum invoice registration cost

(*) Maximum invoice registration cost

For the participation cost, there is a maximum of **500 EURO** and a minimum of **75 EURO** per choir.

For music organizations who wish to participate with several choirs, consisting of different persons, following maximum prices are set:

- the first choir: **maximum 500 EURO – minimum 75 EURO**
- the second choir: **maximum 300 EURO – minimum 75 EURO**
- the third and all following choirs: **maximum 250 EURO – minimum 75 EURO**

The choir with the highest number of participants is the first ensemble.

- In the maximum invoice, the maximum number of accompanying adults is 5.
- Groups that choose the weekend formula receive a discount of 50 % on this participation fee.

The extra registration and accommodation costs for all additional accompanying adults will be counted separately on the group invoice. The registration cost amounts 8,50 EURO per person, the accommodation costs amount a surplus of 20% on the normal accommodation costs.

Persons, who participate in several choirs, only pay the registration cost once.

Important notes

- The organizing committee, when assigning the final accommodation, considers your selected preference as well as the accommodation's availability.
- All participating group will receive a document with practical information in March 2020. Among other information, this document includes what or what not to bring yourselves.
- Accommodation and meals will only be provided for the numbers stated on the application form. Changes must be reported to the secretary **before 25/03/2020**. Vegetarian meals and special diets must be reported before **25/03/2020** as well. All demands that reach the Festival secretariat after that date cannot be provided.
- The Festival accommodates bus drivers together with the rest of the group, in the same accommodation. We provide a separate room but no separate living unit. It's possible that sanitary facilities must be shared with others. If bus drivers demand a separate accommodation, a supplement will be charged. The amount of this supplement depends on the price and availability of the accommodation and will be determined as soon as the demand has reached the Festival secretariat (**01/03/2020 at the latest**).
- All participants are responsible for order, cleanliness and maintaining the peace of co-occupants and the local population. The Festival organisation has the right to discharge participants if they don't comply with these regulations.
At arrival in Neerpelt, all participating choirs will be demanded to subscribe a responsibility form. With this form, costs related to eventual damages, caused by participants, and costs covering extra expenses while not complying to local regulations, will be redressed.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Visa

Participants that need a visa to come to Belgium should inform the Festival secretariat **three months before the Festival** (which is before the end of January 2020). They will take care of the documents needed to apply for the visa at the Belgian embassy.

Busses

Not all venues are at walking distance. Choirs that travel by plane or train and therefore have no bus at their disposal can order a bus service at the Festival secretariat **before 30/03/2020**. Costs for these bus transports will be added to the group's invoice.

Insurance

We advise the groups to contract for a travel or cancellation insurance.

APPLICATION

A registration for the 68th Festival edition of 2020 is valid if following documents are sent before **October 28, 2019**:

- A registration form (to complete via www.emj.be);
- A list of participants with name, date of birth and gender of all participants
- A copy of each score of each piece mentioned in the repertoire
- A curriculum vitae of the national composer, if demanded for the jury programme
- A recent photo of the choir
- A recent sound recording or a recording to be watched via the internet of at least one entire song, free of choice – obliged for all choirs
- A recent video recording or a qualitative recording to be watched via the internet of at least one entire song, free of choice (only for those choirs that register for the pennant categories)

All above mentioned documents are preferably sent digitally via info@emj.be.

The organizing committee decides whether a choir will be selected to participate or not. Only completely valid applications that arrive **in time** are eligible.

Before the end of December 2019, all choirs will be notified about their selection and assigned category and will also receive their compulsory song.

The Festival organization has the right to limit the number of participants per country and to refuse registrations that were not delivered in time.

During the jury performance, every choir needs to have **THREE copies** of the scores. These scores are not to be sent in with the registration, but they need to be brought along by the choir and, just before the jury performance, handed over to the jury.

The copy, sent in together with the registration form, remains in the Festival's archives. In Belgium, the use of photocopies is forbidden by law. Violation of the law is at your own risk. We therefore advise to use original scores.

COSTS AND INVOICES

A detailed invoice, covering the **registration costs** along with an advance of **at least 80% of the total accommodation costs** will be sent before the end of **December 2019** and must be transferred before **February 15, 2020** at the latest to:

Account number: BE70 3350 0378 0925

BIC or SWIFT code BBRUBEBB

ING Neerpelt/Overpelt

Leopoldlaan 146

3900 Overpelt

Belgium

The references to be mentioned at the payment are:

- Invoice number
- number of your choir
- name and place of origin of the choir

Eventual bank charges are always at the expense of the participant.

In case of overdue payment of the registration fee and/or the advance, the application will be cancelled!

If a selected group withdraws from the Festival after 01/03/2020, the registration costs will be considered as a compensation for administrative costs; eventually increased with reservation costs for lodging and meals.

We advise the groups to contract for a travel or cancellation insurance.

The balance will be settled before 15/04/2020 at the latest, having considered the paid advances. All participants are obliged to settle all remaining balances before or at arrival.

The Festival accepts no credit cards and no reimbursements of travelling expenses will be paid.

REMINDER

- Before 28/10/2019: Send in the application forms along with all necessary information
- Before 31/01/2020: Apply for visa
- Before 15/02/2020: Transfer the advance (after receipt of the invoice)
- Before 01/03/2020: Ask permission for possible changes in your repertoire
- Before 01/03/2020: Ask specific accommodation wishes for bus drivers
- Before 01/03/2020: Send in the arranged folk song (only for participants in the Category G.
- Before 25/03/2020: Hand in the definite number of participants (for accommodation and meals)
- Before 25/03/2020: Apply for vegetarian meals and special diets
- Before 25/03/2020: Make meal reservations for choirs participating for one day (if needed)
- Before 30/03/2020: Make a reservation for bus transports, if needed

NEXT FESTIVALS

The next – vocal – edition of the EMJ will be organized in **2020**:

from Thursday 30/04/2020 until Monday 04/05/2020

The next – instrumental – edition of the EMJ will be organized in **2021**:

from Friday 30/04/2021 until Monday 03/05/2021

IMPORTANT

We handle the data following the GDPR-legislation. Pictures, audio- and video recordings made during the Festival as well as all personal data will be kept in the personal library and used for own practical and non-commercial purposes. They'll only be shared with others if necessary for the practical organisation of the Festival.