

The 2nd Malta International Choir Festival Composition Competition

*This edition of the Malta International Choir Festival Composition Competition is dedicated to the memory of one of Malta's preeminent composers: **Benigno Zerafa**¹.*

Malta has regularly hosted international choir festivals and competitions since 1988. The islands of Malta and Gozo can boast of a very thriving choral scene and – with over 350 churches serving a population of about 430,000 – the choral tradition is, understandably, built around and mostly focused on sacred music.

In 2017, the Ministry for Tourism and the Malta Tourism Authority will be holding another edition of the Malta International Choir Festival between 2 and 5 November. As part of the structural components of the festival the organising committee is pleased to launch the 2nd edition of the Malta International Festival Composition Competition. The aim of this competition is to choose the best composition that will be performed and recorded during the festival.

Participating composers are very welcome to attend the festival but international participants would be required to fund their own travel and accommodation.

Competition Regulations

1. The competition is open to composers of any nationality and age.
2. The composition should be written for SATB choir *a cappella*, ideally with very limited or no *divisi* writing. Whilst composers are encouraged to demonstrate their best abilities through the submitted works, one should also be as practical as possible and due attention will be given to the efficiency with which one's musical ideas are communicated to the performers.
3. The nature of the work shall be sacred (or inspired by a sacred theme).
4. The selected text should either be in public domain or else requires the written consent of the author or the copyright holder (to be enclosed with the

¹ Benigno Zerafa (1726–1804), Maltese composer, studied first under the *maestro di capella* at St Paul's Cathedral Mdina, Pietro Gristi, and from 1738 under the compatriot composer Girolamo Abos at the Conservatorio dei Poveri di Gesù Cristo in Naples. Zerafa was *maestro di capella* at the Mdina Cathedral from 1744 until his retirement in 1787 when he was succeeded by his assistant Francesco Azopardi. Most of his music is preserved at the Mdina Cathedral Archives.

application). Text can be in any language but works set to languages other than Latin or English need to be accompanied by an English translation and, if applicable, guidelines for pronunciation.

5. The composition must have never been publicly performed, published or recorded before November 2017.
6. The duration of the work should not exceed 7 minutes.
7. There is a participation fee of € 15 for every composer. However, composers may submit more than one work but in such cases an administrative fee of €10 for every extra work will be charged. Each work must be accompanied by a different application form and *nom de plume*.
8. Payment of the participation fee/s should be made by bank transfer on:

<i>Bank</i>	Bank of Valletta plc (Republic Street, Valletta branch)
<i>Beneficiary</i>	Malta Tourism Authority
<i>Account number</i>	10202546093
<i>IBAN number</i>	MT57 VALL 2201 3000 0000 1020 2546 093
<i>Swift code</i>	VALLMTMT
<i>Currency</i>	Euro
<i>Payment description</i>	MICFCC (Name of the composer)
9. Adjudication will take place in three phases:
 - i. Selection of 10 compositions for the semi-final round;
 - ii. Selection of 3 compositions for the final round;
 - iii. Selection of best work.
10. There will be one (1) prize-winner who will receive a monetary prize of €1000 (one thousand Euro), a diploma and the first performance and recording of the work during the festival.
11. The Jury will consist of three reputable international composers and/or conductors. The jury shall be chaired by Rev. John Galea (Artistic Director of the Malta International Choir Festival) as a non-voting President of the Jury.
12. The results of the competition will be announced on the festival's website by not later than end of June 2017.

13. The decisions of the Jury are final and no correspondence will be entered into about the results. Feedback about individual works will only be given during the festival.

14. The application shall be submitted as follows :

- a. 3 copies of the score (2 bound and 1 loose sheets), preferably not hand-written and identifiable only through the title of the work and the *nom de plume*;
- b. written statement by the author or copyright holder of non-public domain texts allowing the use of the text for this competition;
- c. copy of payment confirmation or cheque;
- d. completed application form and signed declaration in a sealed envelope marked only by the name of the work and the *nom de plume*;
- e. translation of text into English and/or guidelines for pronunciation (if applicable).

15. Competition material must be sent to the following address:

The Malta International Choir Festival

Attn: Mr Martin Morana

Festival Administrator

Malta Tourism Authority

Level 3, Block 2

Smart City

Xgħajra

by not later than March 31, 2017.

16. Submitted competition material cannot be returned after the conclusion of this competition.

Summary

<i>Nature of work</i>	Sacred
<i>Written for</i>	SATB a cappella (with the option of <i>divisi</i>)
<i>Participation fee</i>	€15 per composer (for the first work submitted)
<i>Administration fee</i>	€10 per additional work submitted
<i>Submission deadline</i>	31 March 2017
<i>Results published by</i>	End-June 2017
<i>Website</i>	www.maltachoirfest.com



COMPOSITION COMPETITION APPLICATION FORM

Title (Mr/Ms/Mrs/Dr ...) _____ Nationality _____

Full Name _____

Address _____

Country _____ Post Code _____

Country code _____ Phone/Mobile Number _____

Date of Birth _____ I.D. / Passport _____

E-mail address _____

Nom de plume _____

Title of work _____

Checklist:

- 3 copies of the score (2 bound and 1 loose sheets) identifiable only through the title of the work and the *nom de plume*;

- written statement by the author or copyright holder of non-public domain texts allowing the use of the text for this competition;
- copy of payment confirmation or cheque;
- completed application form and signed declaration in a sealed envelope marked only by the name of the work and the *nom de plume*;
- translation of text in English and/or guidelines for pronunciation (if applicable).

I, the undersigned, declare that:

- the above information is correct and bind myself to inform the competition administration if any changes occur;
- I have read and understood and accept as binding the regulations of the competition;
- I accept that the Jury's decision is final and that no correspondence will be entered into about the results of the competition;
- the composition mentioned above is my own original work;
- the text used for the composition is in public domain and/or am in possession of the necessary permission in writing from the author of the text;
- if this composition is awarded first prize I allow the photocopying of the score for the purposes of the first performance and allow the first performance and recording of the above work to take place during the Malta International Choir Festival held between 2 and 5 November 2017 without claiming any kind of rights (performance or otherwise) from the festival;
- I agree to indemnify the Malta International Choir Festival committee for any liabilities, claims, actions, losses, damages, lawsuits, and expenses, including legal expenses of whatsoever nature and kind imposed upon, and from or against proceedings against, in respect of any violation of the law or the rights of a third party caused by the undersigned. This clause shall survive the actual competition and festival.

Signature

Date