

vokal.total

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

1. INITIATOR AND PATRONAGE OF VOKAL.TOTAL

The International A Cappella Competition vokal.total is initiated and held by the nonprofit association

vokal.total
Graz, Austria
ZVR: 363263881
c/o: Steirischer Sängerbund
8010 Graz, Landhausgasse 12

and stands under the patronage of Mr. Ward Swingle (the founder of „The Swingle Singers“) who has given his name to the Ward Swingle Awards.

2. DEFINITIONS

For the sake of clarity, we want to derive some definitions used later on in this text. The term „applicant“ refers to a group that is willing to participate at vokal.total and has handed in the required application form and deposit (see section 4). An applicant is not yet approved to actually take part in the competition. The term „participant“ on the other hand refers to an applicant that has met all necessary requirements and is allowed to compete at vokal.total.

3. RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE

In the first place, the right to participate in vokal.total is preliminarily granted to all applicants that fulfill the specific requirements as employed by the defined categories (see section 4).

In the second place, the actual participants will be chosen from the group of applicants by an expert panel to retain the quality of the competition.

4. FINANCIAL DEPOSIT

As we have encountered numerous unacceptable short-term cancellations by participants in the past we feel forced to collect financial deposits from our applicants. We want to stress out that this deposit is **not a participation fee** and will thus be refunded entirely to the participating group after the competition - taking part in vokal.total remains free of charge!

For the year of 2012 the amount of the deposit has been set to **€ 200,-** and has to be transferred together with the application by means of money transfer on our bank account or cash at our office address (see section 13). The deadline to receive the applicant's money is one week after the end of application time as announced.

5. APPLICATION AND CATEGORIES

The International A Cappella Competition vokal.total is held in the following categories: **Jazz, Pop, Classical** and **Comedy**.

Each category has some special requirements as described below.

Applicants can sign up for one or more categories but the decision, whether an applicant may start in a certain category still remains with the organizer.

The time window to apply starts with the public announcement on our website www.vokaltotal.at and ends at least two month before the beginning of the competition.

5.1. GENERAL LIMITATIONS

Performing on stage at vokal.total has to be done using **handheld microphones or small diaphragm spot microphones** as supplied by our technical staff. Participants are allowed to bring their own technical equipment in accordance with our technical director. Performing ‚unplugged‘ is generally not possible due to the acoustic circumstances at the venue ‚Dom im Berg‘ (classical groups please refer to section 5.4 for special information).

As vokal.total is held as an a cappella competition we want to stress out that **no instruments** are allowed performing on stage except for very basic percussion. We do allow effect and loop devices, though, as long as the input signal can still be determined to be nothing but a singer's live voice. Pre-recorded audio samples are not allowed at vokal.total.

5.2. REQUIRED MATERIAL

Applicants have to present themselves in representative audio and video material. While audio is mandatory and shall be of highest quality possible (uncompressed PCM audio or mp3/aac/ogg of bitrates higher 256kbps) the video material should represent the applicant while performing live on stage. If no such recording is available a similar audio recording may be handed in.

Means of submission are either hardware (CD, DVD, VHS) or digitally via upload on our homepage or link to an external download source.

5.3. A CAPPELLA JAZZ ENSEMBLE

- The number of ensemble members must not exceed **12 persons**.
- **Male, female** as well as **mixed** ensembles are accepted.
- Participants in the Jazz category must perform music that reflects the harmonic, rhythmic, and stylistic elements of jazz groups such as the New York Voices, Real Group, Swingle Singers, HiLos, Manhattan Transfer, Take Six, Singers Unlimited, and so on. At least one swing piece is required.
- Preferably own arrangements shall be presented but of course interpretations of existing arrangements and standards are welcomed equally.

5.4. A CAPPELLA POP ENSEMBLE

- The number of ensemble members must not exceed **12 persons**.
- **Male, female** as well as **mixed** ensembles are accepted.

- Pop literature may consist of self-made songs as well as arrangements of existing songs (covers) of any provenience. Thus, in the pop category all languages are allowed.

5.5. A CAPPELLA CLASSICAL ENSEMBLE

- The number of ensemble members must not exceed **8 persons**.
- **Male, female** as well as **mixed** ensembles are accepted.
- **No microphones** are allowed/necessary as the competition takes place in a classical concert hall.
- Participants in this category have to cover
 - a. Renaissance or Baroque
 - b. Romantic
 - c. 20th or 21st century (composed after 1920)
 by one piece each.
- All further pieces performed are unrestricted
- **Five original scores** must be handed in by every participant for every piece.
- The application has to be accompanied by a brief document that associates the pieces to the compulsory periods as well as the respective composer's dates of birth (and death).
- The deadline to declare the performed pieces as well as when to hand in the scores will be published together with the notice of acceptance and thus affects only participants.

5.6. A CAPPELLA COMEDY ENSEMBLE

- The number of ensemble members must not exceed **12 persons**.
- **Male, female** as well as **mixed** ensembles are accepted.
- Due to the necessary audience interaction in this category the allowed languages are only **German** and/ or **English**.
- Stage props may be used to extend the comedic performance but at a reasonable extend in relation to the duration of the performance
- Judges will assess musical quality as well as originality, arrangements, lyrics, audience appeal and stage performance.
- Preferably own songs shall be presented but of course interpretations of existing arrangements are welcomed equally.

5.7. EMPEROR OF MIC BEATBOX BATTLE

Participation at Emperor Of Mic is not publicly advertised. Hence, applications for this competition can not be processed.

5.8. ADDITIONAL NOTES

- **No ,rotations'** are allowed: a group participating at vokal.total must not exchange singers throughout the contest even if competing in different categories. In this

case the group could apply as two groups instead - there are no limitations regarding ,overlapping casts'. Allowed though is performing songs in reduced ensemble size if e.g. a score is designed for a certain cast.

- If a participant competes in different categories the performance must also differ according to the category definitions. No song must be performed in two or more categories.

6. NOMINATION, REJECTION AND RETREAT

Nomination of participants is done for every single applicant and category on basis of the supplied materials as mentioned in section 5.2. The executive body is an expert panel that chooses participants from the applicants according to their musical adequacy in order to ensure the quality of the competition. Thereby the organizer retains the right to either

- a. reject a group's application from single categories,
- b. suggest a change of category in which a group applies to compete if another than the desired category matches the panel's impression of the applicant better or
- c. exclude an applicant entirely from the competition without justification. In this case the deposit is refunded to the applicant.

After the end of the application time window every group will receive notice if and in which categories it is invited to compete at vokal.total.

In the case an applicant decides to retreat from participating at vokal.total the deposit remains with the organizer as a consequence. Same is the case if a participant retreats or does not appear at the competition date.

7. TRANSPORT AND ACCOMMODATION

vokal.total is not capable of bearing any costs of transportation or accommodation for its participants. Usually we can offer 4-5 possibilities of group accommodation at different price levels (starting at approx. €20,- per person per night) but we are strongly dependent on our tourism partners.

8. PROCEDURE AT THE COMPETITION VOKAL.TOTAL

The performances of the participants are structured by the categories. The actual performance times are random but influenced by factors like arrival times, soundcheck times or other temporal aspects. There is no legitimate objection against the elaborated time table. In severe cases of scheduling conflicts the organizer can attempt to rearrange the time table on short notice and commits to inform all affected participants by the changes in sufficient time.

Before each performance all participants have the possibility to prepare for the show at the office of the Sängerbund but they are obligated to return to the venue **at least 45 minutes before their scheduled appearance** on stage as long as not announced differently by the organizer.

The duration of the **performance is limited to 25 minutes** including entry and exit and should be used to perform **at least four songs**. Any overtime will be fined by the judges.

Basis of judgement is primarily the musical performance although issues like stage presence, originality or intensity will play a part in the judges' vote.

After their performance all participants are urged to **remain at the venue** as the judges may call certain participants to a run-off if no clear decision can be found.

All winners of a Ward Swingle Award (see section 9.1) are **obliged to perform at the winner's concert** of vokal.total.

There are **no fees designated** for any performances in the course of the competition or the winner's concert.

9. AWARDING OF PRIZES

In the course of the competition two kinds of awards are given to participants:

9.1. THE WARD SWINGLE AWARD

The winner of the Ward Swingle Award is nominated by our judges. They also decide upon the awarding of the bronze, silver and gold diplomas.

The Ward Swingle Award is remunerated with **€ 1.500,-** and will be payed out to the winner of the first prize after the show in cash or by money transfer.

These awards are given in all four categories.

9.2. THE AUDIENCE AWARD

The winner of the audience award is chosen by the audience at the end of a competition.

As in some cases the competition is divided by a longer intermission, there is an additional voting at the end of the first block. The winner of this voting has the chance to open the second block with a short performance and is thus included into the evening voting.

There is no prize money for the audience award.

9.3. MATERIAL PRIZES

Due to sponsoring agreements we can offer material prizes in some cases. As these agreements are not stringent for both parties vokal.total can not be held liable for any shortcomings or retreats of our sponsoring partners.

9.4. SPECIAL AWARDS

The judges are at liberty to bestow special awards to participants such as for outstanding performance, arrangements, soli or similar.

There are no monetary or material prizes for this kind of award.

Any special award is given upon initiative of the judges and is not an integral part of the Ward Swingle Awards.

10. OUT OF GRAZ

All participants are given the possibility to apply for extra shows in the temporal and local vicinity of the competition. The selection of the actually performing groups is exclusively up to the local organizers.

vokal.total will provide the fees for the artists. Hosting at the venue (catering, etc.) as well as all technical stage and PA equipment have to be provided by the local organizer and can not be invoked from vokal.total.

11. LEGAL ISSUES

The participant declares that vokal.total is the only owner of audio and video rights of material recorded during the course of vokal.total.

In addition, all participants commit the rights for the audio and video material submitted in the course of the application to vokal.total for further reproduction and sale by the organizer as for e.g. the vokal.total sampler of every year sold at the venue.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

reserved

13. CONTACT AND BANKING

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