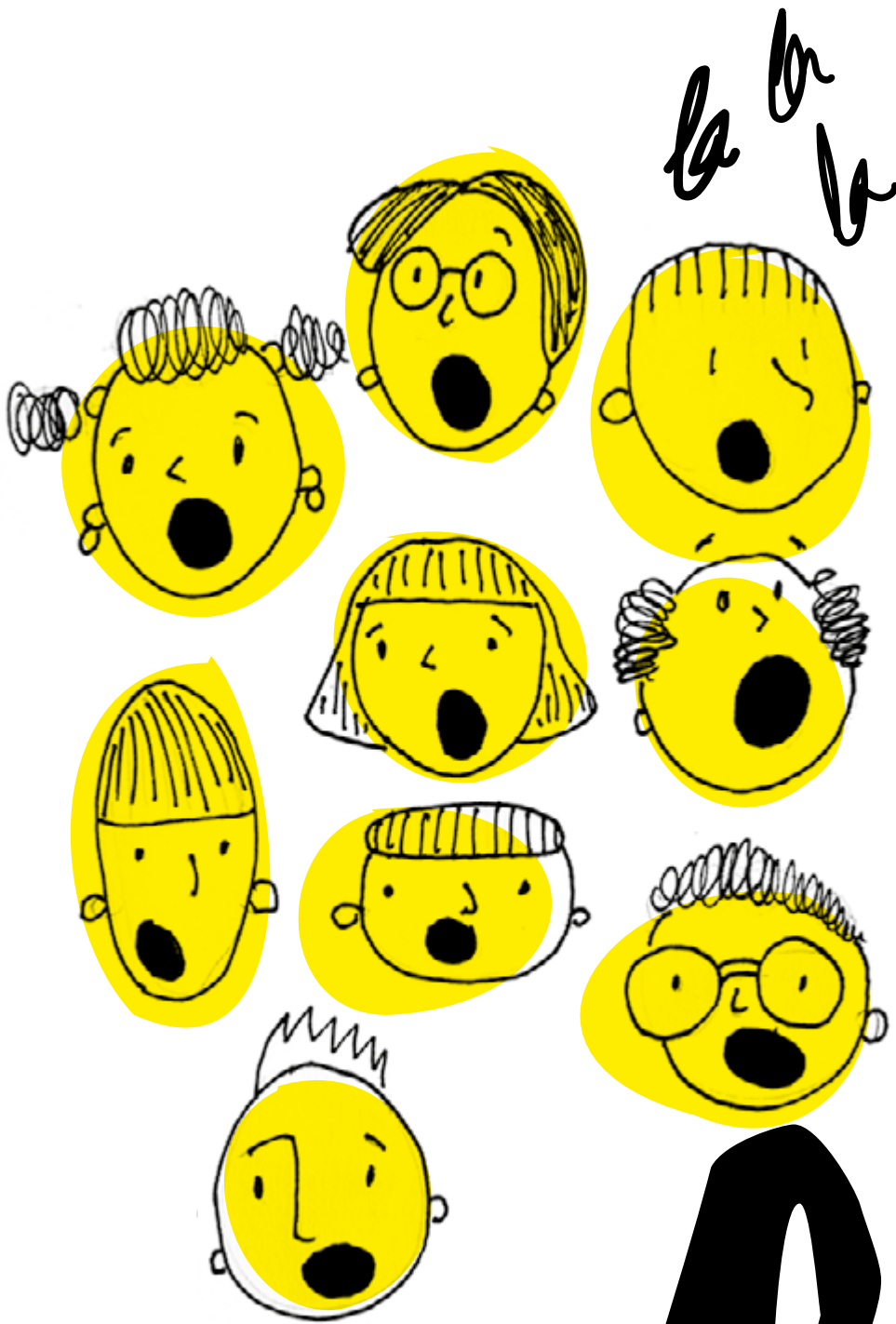




57.

Tolosako
abesbatza
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TOLOSA CHORAL CONTEST



29 / 10 / 2026

01 / 11 / 2026

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The Centre of Initiatives of Tolosa organizes for the 57th time this event according to following Rules:

This competition is open to all amateur choirs. The amateur qualification does not concern the conductors of the choirs.

DATES

28th of October: Arrival of the choirs

29th of October – 31th of October: Competition

1st of November: Closing Act, with the **obligatory participation** of the awarded choirs in each modality.

CATEGORIES AND MODALITIES

The competition is developed according to the following categories:

CATEGORY 1 – **CHAMBER CHOIRS**

CATEGORY 2 – **CHILDREN'S CHOIRS**

CATEGORY 1 – CHAMBER CHOIRS

- 1.1. In this Category Choirs of Mixed Voices and Equal Voices made up of a **minimum of 17 singers and a maximum of 40** can participate. The choir breaking these number limits will be penalized, as it is explained in point 11.
- 1.2. The programmes to be performed at the contest in this Category must be finally approved by the Artistic Committee of the Contest.
- 1.3. The participants have the obligation to participate in the following modalities:

- a) Modality I: **BASQUE SONG AND POPULAR MUSIC**
- b) Modality II: **POLYPHONY**

MODALITY I: BASQUE SONG AND POPULAR MUSIC

These are the compulsory works according to the type of voices and the requirements to be met by the programmes submitted:

- a) Obligatory rendering for Mixed Voices: ZERUPEKO IZAR, Eva Ugalde (1973)
Obligatory rendering of Equal Voices: BESARKATU NINDUZUN, Josu Elberdin (1976)
 - b) A **popular Basque composition** or an **original composition with text in Basque language**.
 - c) A **Folklore work** from the choir's country of **POPULAR CHARACTER**.
 - d) Works of popular character (Folklore, Jazz, Pop, Show-choir...)
- It is allowed the use of a small instrumental accompaniment. The organization will only provide a piano.
 - The programme to be performed (including the obligatory score) **will last, at least, 15 minutes and, at most, 18 minutes of real singing time (applauses and pauses are not included)**. The choir breaking these time limits will be penalized as it is explained in point 10.

- If the maximum 18 minutes time of performance is not reached, other supplementary songs may be chosen.
- The mixed choirs must present a repertoire for 4 or more voices.
- None of the songs will last more than half of the total performance time

MODALITY II: POLYPHONY

These are the compulsory works according to the type of voices and the requirements to be met by the programmes submitted:

- a) Obligatory rendering of Mixed Voices: AVE MARIS STELLA, Josep Ollé i Sabaté (1987)
 - Obligatory rendering of Female Voices: O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM, Xabier Sarasola (1960)
 - Obligatory rendering of Male Voices: AVE MARIA, Albert Alcaraz (1978)
 - b) One piece composed **before 1800**
 - c) One piece composed **between 1801 and 1980**
 - d) One piece composed **after 1980.**
- The programme to be performed (including the obligatory score) **will last, at least, 15 minutes and, at most, 18 minutes of real singing time (applauses and pauses are not included)**. The choir breaking these time limits will be penalized as it is explained in point 10.
 - If the maximum 18 minutes time of performance is not reached, other supplementary songs may be chosen.
 - The mixed choirs must present a repertoire for 4 or more voices.
 - It is recommended that one unique song, either from section “c” or “d” has a small instrumental accompaniment. The organization will only provide a piano. The rest of the programme must be performed **exclusively “a cappella”**.
 - None of the songs will last more than half of the total performance time.
 - At least one of the presented songs has to be from the choir’s native country.
 - It is recommended that the songs belong to different and varied styles and characters.

CATEGORY 2 – CHILDREN CHOIRS

- 2.1 Within this Competition Children Choirs will be considered those that are composed of a minimum of 20 singers and no more than 40 singers. The choir breaking these number limits will be penalized, as it is explained in point 11.
- 2.2 The Children must have been born no earlier than 2009. The choir that does not observe these terms will be eliminated.
- 2.3 Each of the participating choirs should perform the following compositions:
 - a) Obligatory rendering: KATALINTXU, David Azurza (1968)
 - b) **A popular Basque composition or an Original composition with text in Basque language.**
 - c) **2 or 3 free choice works.**
- 2.4 It is allowed the use of a small instrumental accompaniment at most in a song, regardless of whether the compulsory piece requires piano accompaniment. The organization will only provide a piano. The rest of the programme must be performed **exclusively “a cappella”**.
- 2.5 The programme to be performed (including the obligatory score) will last, at least, 12 minutes and, at most, 15 minutes of **real singing time** (applauses and pauses are not included). The choir breaking these time limits will be penalized as it is explained in point 10.
- 2.6 The programme to be performed at the contest in this Category must be finally approved by the Artistic Committee of the Contest.

PRIZES

The following prizes will be given for each Modality:

1st. Prize: Trophy and 1.000 EURO

2nd. Prize: Trophy and 750 EURO

3rd. Prize: Trophy and 500 EURO

The prizes will be paid on the same day of the Closing Act.

TOLOSA KUTXA “GRAND PRIX” AND THE EGP

All the choirs participating in any of the several Contests within this **57th Tolosa Choral Contest** compete, at the same time, to obtain this **Tolosa Choral Contest Grand Prize** awarding the nomination to the European “Grand Prix” representing Tolosa. The prize is 2.000 euro which will be given at the moment of his participation in the European “Grand Prix” for which has been nominated.

The European “Grand Prix” for Choral Singing is a Contest organized by the International Choral Contests of **Arezzo** in Italy, **Debrecen** in Hungary, **Jūrmala** in Latvia, **Maribor** in Slovenia, **Varna** in Bulgaria and **Tolosa**.

The choirs winning in any of these Contests will compete in 2027 in AREZZO (Italy), for the **European Grand Prix for Choral Singing**.

The conditions to obtain the aforesaid nomination are the following:

- To have obtained the maximum scoring of the Contest in any of the various Categories.
- It must be made up of a minimum of 12 singers.
- It must be a choir composed exclusively of unpaid singers.
- Not to be nominated previously, on the same year, in any of the other contests of the Grand Prix.
- Except case of Force Majeure circumstances, a choir that refuses to take part in the European Grand Prix will not be eligible to compete in any of the six competitions organized by the cities mentioned. The penalty shall remain in force for ten consecutive competitions, starting with the one in which they did not participate. As a result of the back out, a substitute choir may take its place.

HELP FROM THE ORGANIZATION

For distances over 200km, the Organization will cover the lodging expenses (bed and meals), from the dinner of 28th October to lunch of the 1st November, 2026.

The travelling expenses to Tolosa will be at charge of the participating group.

INSCRIPTIONS

1. Applications to take part in this Competition are now open. The deadline will be the **10th of May, 2026**. Applications can be made through our web page at:

<https://www.cittolosa.com/en/choral-contest/sign-up/>

The application **should include the following documents and be sent to xabi@cittolosa.com** :

1. Short CV of the choir and its activities and conductor (20 typewritten lines max.)
2. Two good (sharp) and interesting photos of the choir
3. A recent live recording
4. One PDF copy of each selected pieces for the competition

Once the choir is selected, the choir will send 8 copies of the chosen compositions – 7 copies for the jury members and 1 copy for the archive of the competition (photocopies allowed only with publisher's written approval – or composer's written approval for manuscripts). All eight copies should be sent by post to the official address of the organiser. The scores submitted by the participating choirs will not be returned and will remain for the archive of the Competition.

Note: Titles of songs and the names of authors should be clearly typed or marked down in their original language.

2. Application will not be considered valid until the aforesaid Application Form has been duly fulfilled.
The acceptance or exclusion of the Contest will be communicated to the choir within the 30 days after the deadline.
3. The conductor decides the order in which the works are to be performed. **The Organization has to be informed of this order before September 1st, 2026**. No changes will be admitted after this date.
4. Awarded choirs **must stay for the Closing Act** and take part in it. The approximated duration of this Act is **until 14:00 on the 1st of November**.
5. The participants have the obligation to be present during the entire period of the Contest and they must be ready to cooperate in the concerts that will take place in the villages around. The participants will have to prepare an **'a cappella'** concert with a programme of 75 minutes length.

JURY AND RESULT

6. The Jury will be made up of seven musical personalities from different countries. One month before the Competition is due to take place the members of the Jury will be published.
7. The Jury bases their decisions on the following characteristics:
 - Expressive and timbre richness.
 - Observance of the musical notation.
 - Variety and quality of the presented programme.

8. Each member of the Jury will give up to 100 points for the global performance of each group. Maximum and minimum scoring obtained by the choirs will be cancelled and the verdict of the Jury will be made adding the scoring of the rest of its members.

9. The Jury, unanimously, has the power not to attribute prizes to the choirs that have not reached, at least, the following percentages:

85% of the total of points for the first prize.

80% of the total of points for the second prize.

75% of the total of points for the third prize.

10. The penalty for each minute out of the fixed time limit will be of 5 points.

11. The penalty for each singer out of the fixed limit in each category will be of 5 points.

12. **The Closing Act** is not valid for the classification.

13. **The decision of the Jury will not be subject to appeal.**

14. The classification and scorings obtained will be given to all participating choirs.

FINAL DISPOSITIONS

15. The Organization may record and videotape the performance in the Competition and the additional concerts, and the choirs are not allowed to claim any right of performance or image for distribution.

16. In the Category 2. CHILDREN CHOIRS, the members of the choir must present the day of the Contest, before entering the stage, the Identity Card or Passport with photo issued by the competent authority.

17. The Centre of Initiatives of Tolosa will be pleased to send any additional information regarding the interpretation of these rules and reserves the right to modify them if it would be advisable.

18. It is understood that each choir participating in this **57th TOLOSA CHORAL CONTEST** fully accepts and adheres to the rules and regulations of the Competition.

CONTACT

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