



International Choral Festival  
15<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> July, 2012  
Phuket, Thailand

**ORGANISER**

**Victoria Choral Academy  
Transinex Travels (Singapore)**

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

**Prof. Nelson Kwei**

**FESTIVAL CHAIRMAN**

**Adrian Soo**

Victoria Choral Academy and Transinex Travels proudly presents the 1<sup>st</sup> **ASIA CANTATE**, premier International Choral Festival to be held in Phuket, Thailand from 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2012.

This festival aspire to bring together choirs from around the world and premier choirs in the region to compete in a multi-level competition set in the picturesque island of **Phuket**, one of the top holiday destination in Asia.

Singers will experience the excitement of competition, the pleasure of performance, the joy of achievement and the charming culture of Asia.

**ASIA CANTATE** will also be introducing the first ever **Voice of Asia** Prize. It will be awarded to the choir with the best performance of a piece of Asian choral music and they will be specially featured in future events & festivals.

# Phuket, Thailand

The biggest island in Thailand, Phuket is commonly referred to as the 'Pearl of South'. It nestles in the balmy Andaman Sea waters on the Indian Ocean coastline located in the south of Thailand.

The island's terrain is incredibly varied, with rocky headlands, long broad sandy beaches, limestone cliffs, forested hills, small estuaries, lagoons, and tropical vegetation of all kinds. Its large size has allowed microclimates to develop in different areas of the island.

Spectacular scenery, stunning tropical sunsets and warm blue sea awaits you at Asia's most popular beach destination. This fun island provides an unbeatable combination of perfect silky soft white palm-lined beaches and superb hospitality of Thailand, the Land of Smiles.

You will find some of the best restaurants in Thailand, see unforgettable sunsets, touch glorious beaches, experience unique tours, submerge in some of the best diving sites in the world and much, much more.

Phuket is truly a tropical wonderland that offers something for just about everyone.

## FESTIVAL PROGRAMMES

### Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony of **ASIA CANTATE** will take place on **15<sup>th</sup> July**. The opening event comprises of the assembly of all participating choirs and the official opening concert by top choirs specially chosen by the festival office.

### Friendship Concert

Participating choirs can request to participate in the Friendship Concert, which will be held on the **17<sup>th</sup> July** of competition. Each performing choir shall present a 10 minute programme.

### Masterclass and Workshop

Workshops will be presented by selected Adjudicators for all participants, which will be held on last day of the festival. More information will be provided later.

## Conductors' Forum

Choir conductors and representatives will have the opportunity to attend this forum chaired by the Artistic Director. The speakers will be the adjudicators. They will address and evaluate on the musical aspects of the competition, possible evaluation of competition results with each participating choir.

## Award Presentation Ceremony

After the competition, the awards and diplomas will be presented in the course of a ceremony to take place in a festival atmosphere in the convention hall. The category winners will be honoured with an award presentation ceremony and the festival fanfare.

## Grand Prize Concert

After the end of the competition and the presentation ceremony, the category winners will present their winning choral pieces to the other participants and visitors. The winner for the concert will then be chosen and the festival's **Grand Prize** will be awarded.

## Closing and Special Awards Ceremony

The closing ceremony of the **Asia Cantate** will take place on the **17<sup>th</sup> July**. Outstanding Children's Choir will receive the **Young Singers Award** and outstanding Senior Choir will receive the **Golden Voices Award**. The winners for **Festival Grand Prize, Conductor Prize** and the prestigious special **Voice of Asia** Awards will also be announced.

## General itinerary for the festival

<b>DAY 1 (15<sup>th</sup> July 2012, Sun):</b>	Afternoon Evening	Arrival and Registration (Tea) Briefing for Conductors & Choir Rehearsal for choirs
<b>DAY 2 (16<sup>th</sup> July 2012, Mon):</b>	Morning  Afternoon Evening	Opening Ceremony (B/L/D) & Competition Competition Competition
<b>DAY 3 (17<sup>th</sup> July 2012, Tues):</b>	Morning Afternoon  Evening	Competition (B/L/D) Announcement of Results & Friendship Concert Closing Ceremony
<b>DAY 4 (18<sup>th</sup> July 2012, Wed):</b>	Morning	Departure of choirs (B)

# CHORAL COMPETITION

## Categories

### **A, Mixed Choir (SATB)**

- A1, Open Category (No Age Limit)
- A2, Youth Category (For ages 19 and below)

### **B, Equal Voices Choir (SA or TB)**

- B1, Open Category (No Age Limit)
- B2, Youth Category (For ages 19 and below)

#### Rules and Guidelines for Categories A & B:

1. One *original choral composition/arrangement* from choir's home country or its cultural region;
2. One *original composition/arrangement NOT* from choir's home country or its cultural region;
3. One freely chosen choral piece.
4. Minimum 1 song to be sung *a capella*.
5. The total singing time for 3 songs *must not* exceed **15** minutes for **Open Category** (A1 & B1) and **12** minutes for **Youth category** (A2 & B2).
6. There should be a minimum of **25** singers in the choir *excluding* conductor *and/or* accompanists.

### **C, Children's Choir (For ages 13 and below)**

#### Rules and Guidelines for Category C:

1. One *original choral composition/arrangement* from choir's home country or its cultural region;
2. One *original choral composition/arrangement NOT* from choir's home country or its cultural region;
3. The total singing time for both songs *must not* exceed 8 minutes.
4. There should be a minimum of **24** singers in the choir *excluding* conductor *and/or* accompanists.

### **D, Chamber Choir (No Age Limit)**

#### Rules and Guidelines for Category D:

1. One *original choral composition/arrangement* from choir's home country or its cultural region;
2. One *original composition/arrangement NOT* from choir's home country or its cultural region;
3. One freely chosen choral piece.
4. Minimum 1 song to be sung *a capella*.
5. The total singing time for 3 songs *must not* exceed 15 minutes.
6. There should be a minimum of **8** and maximum of **24** singers in the choir *excluding* conductor *and/or* accompanists.

## **E, Senior Choir (For ages 50 and above)**

### Rules and Guidelines for Category E:

1. Two freely chosen choral pieces
2. The total singing time for both songs *must not* exceed 8 minutes.

## **F, Folklore (No Age Limit)**

### Rules and Guidelines for Category F:

1. Two choral arrangements of folk songs from choir's home country or its cultural region should be sung. National costumes are welcomed.
2. The total singing time for both songs *must not* exceed 8 minutes.

## **General Rules and Regulations:**

1. Choirs competing in Category C are **NOT** allowed to compete in Category B.
2. Choirs competing in categories with age limits must strictly adhere to them. In case of doubt the organisers reserve the right to check the age of singers.
3. Competition pieces are **NOT** to be repeated.
4. All competition pieces are to be approved by the artistic committee.
5. Only live accompaniments are allowed. The use of any kind of playback or soundtrack is **strictly prohibited**.
6. Original compositions by composers born in the 20<sup>th</sup> century are to be performed in the original key except if the composer has given a written instruction concerning keys.
7. Choirs that wish to sing in the transposed keys for the earlier works are to inform the festival office in advance and indicate on the scores submitted.
8. Singing time during the competition is to be strictly observed. Choirs that exceed singing time will be penalised. For every 15 seconds exceeded, 5% of the total points will be deducted.
9. For every competition piece, choirs need to submit **7** original copies of the score to the organiser, of which **1** copy will be kept in the festival archive after the competition. Photocopied scores of published works will **NOT** be accepted.
10. Unauthorised audio/visual recording during competitions and concerts is strictly prohibited.
11. No acoustic checks are allowed prior to the competition.
12. Decisions of the adjudicators are final and cannot be contested.

## **Judging and Evaluation**

### **Criteria for evaluation:**

1. Musicality (Interpretation, expression, style)
2. Technical competency (Intonation, rhythm, diction, dynamics, tone)
3. Overall artistic impression

*Important Note:* If an actual performance exceeds the limit of allocated performance time as set for the category, 5% of the total score of the choir will be deducted for every 15 seconds exceeded.

## **Adjudication:**

A panel of internationally renowned adjudicators of various nationalities will evaluate the competition. All decisions of the jury are final and cannot be contested.

## **Awards and Prizes**

### **Awarding system:**

According to the average of the total scores given by each jury member, choirs will be given the following diplomas:

GOLD Diploma	A grade	90 points and above
	B grade	85 points to 89.90 points
	C grade	80 points to 84.90 points
SILVER Diploma	A grade	75 points to 79.90 points
	B grade	70 points to 74.90 points
	C grade	65 points to 69.90 points
BRONZE Diploma	A grade	60 points to 64.90 points
	B grade	55 points to 59.90 points
	C grade	50 points to 54.90 points

### **Category Winners:**

In each category the choir that is awarded the Gold diploma with the highest score will be the category winner and will receive a trophy and certificate as category prize.

### **Special Jury Awards:**

The jury may hand out special prizes for outstanding artistic achievements:

*Young Singers Award* for the most promising Children's Choir.

*Golden Voices Award* for the most outstanding Senior Choir.

*Voices of Asia Award* for the most outstanding performance of an Asian choral music

### **Conductor's Prize:**

The conductor with the most outstanding performance may be awarded a prize.

## **The Grand Prize Competition**

All category winners with at least a Gold diploma will have the opportunity to take part in the **Grand Prize** Competition.

The programme for each competing choir consists of two freely selected pieces. However, the artistic committee must approve the pieces.

The total singing time must **NOT** exceed 10 minutes.

# FESTIVAL PACKAGE FEES

*(INCLUDES MEALS/ HOTEL/ FESTIVAL FEES)*

	<u>Single Room</u>	<u>Twin Share</u>	<u>Triple Share</u>
<b>Deluxe Festival Hotel</b> 4 Stars Hotel Phuket Town & Festival Venue	<b>S\$798</b>	<b>S\$598</b>	<b>S\$588</b>
<b>Premium Accommodation</b> 4 Stars Hotel Phuket's Patong beachfront @ similar	<b>S\$898</b>	<b>S\$698</b>	<b>S\$688</b>
<b>Superior Accommodation</b> 3 Stars Hotel Phuket Town	<b>S\$768</b>	<b>S\$568</b>	<b>S\$558</b>
<b>Standard Accommodation</b> 2 Stars Hotel Phuket Town	<b>S\$698</b>	<b>S\$498</b>	<b>S\$488</b>
<b>Budget Accommodation</b> Dormitory Phuket Town <b>(LIMITED to first 3 choirs only; based on first come first serve basis)</b>	<b>S\$598</b>	<b>S\$398</b>	<b>S\$388</b>

**\*All prices are in Singapore Dollars (SGD)**

Festival package inclusions:

1. **Festival fees** for participation in the entire duration of the festival, including all ceremonies and concerts.
2. Usage of practice rooms (which will be allocated by the organizers in accordance to number of categories the choir is participating)
3. Accommodation for 3 nights.
4. Meals provided:
  - a. Tea reception only on 15<sup>th</sup> July (Sun)
  - b. Breakfast / lunch / dinner provided on 16<sup>th</sup> (Mon) and 17<sup>th</sup> July (Tues)
  - c. Breakfast only on 18<sup>th</sup> July (Wed)
5. Specially designed festival T-Shirt.
6. Festival souvenir programme book.

## Festival package **EXCLUDES**:

1. Airport transfers
2. Registration fees for each competition categories (Refer below)
3. Individual masterclasses where separate payments are required
4. Additional rental of practice rooms not allocated by the organiser

## Registration fees for each competition category

For the first category that the choir competes in, registration fees for the choir are at **SGD 400**. For every additional category the choir competes in, registration fees are at **SGD 250** per category registered.

## Pre- and post- festival tour packages

Pre-festival and post-festival tour packages can be arranged through the organisers if required. Please contact the organisers for more information. (Refer to the contacts below)

## **Payment Details**

**For payment by Telegram Transfer (TT)** - payer should indicate 'AVOS - name of choir on the remittance advice for easy reference and tracking. TT bank details are:

Beneficiary Account name : **Transinex Pte Ltd**  
Beneficiary Account No. : 033-016537-4 (CURRENT ACCOUNT)  
Beneficiary bank : DBS Bank  
SWIFT Code : DBSSSGSG  
ABA/ routing : 021000018  
Branch : 252 North Bridge Road  
# 02- 26 A / B Raffles City  
Shopping Center  
Singapore 179103

**For payment by cheque** (if any) – should be addressed to: '**Transinex Pte Ltd**', and indicate '**1<sup>st</sup> ASIA CANTATE** - name of choir' on the back of the cheque or on a cover note.

### **Payment date:**

Registration fees should be paid upon submission of application form.

50% of the full payment of the festival package should be paid by **30<sup>th</sup> March 2012**.

Balance payments should be paid by **30<sup>th</sup> June 2012**.

## Cancellation charges and refund:

**Registration fees are non-refundable.**

### **For festival package fees:**

- If cancellation is made after 15 April 2012, **50%** of the total cost will apply.
- If cancellation is made after 1 June 2012, **75%** of the total cost will apply.
- If cancellation is made after 1 July 2012, there will be no refund

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

1. Fully completed application form is to be submitted.
2. Always indicate the full name of the composers and/or arrangers of the pieces chosen.
3. A sound recording (CD or MD) of the participating choir. The recording should not be older than two years. (Please indicate the date of recording.)
4. A brief biography / profile of the choir. (Soft copy)
5. A brief biography of the choral director. (Soft copy)
6. A reproducible photo of the choir (in landscape format), not older than two years. (Soft copy)
7. Seven original copies of each competition piece.  
Original scores are especially required for published works. Deadline for submission of scores: **01 MAY 2012.**

*Label all recordings, photographs and other material with your choir's name. Incomplete or late applications will not be admitted. The festival office reserves the right to refuse applications for artistic or organisational reasons. The application fees will only be refunded if the choir has been rejected.*

In order to facilitate the preparation and planning of the festival, we kindly request you to send us your fully completed application form as soon as possible. Failure to submit all required documents before festival due date, your choir will not be printed on the publication of the festival booklet.

**DEADLINE OF APPLICATION: 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

## **EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!**

Choirs that submit their application forms and makes deposit payment by **30<sup>th</sup> December 2011** will enjoy 50% off registration fees for each competition category.

*Registration fee is waived for the first choir that registers with deposit payment from their country.*

Choirs and participants from the host country, Thailand will enjoy a special festival package rate. Please inquire for the arrangements separately with the organiser.

For more information on registration, logistics, and tour packages, kindly contact:

Transinex Travel

Email to : [avos@spicetravel.com.sg](mailto:avos@spicetravel.com.sg)  
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For queries pertaining to artistic direction, please contact:

Victoria Choral Academy

Email to : [info@vca.com.sg](mailto:info@vca.com.sg)

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