

Choir

Venue: Helderberg and Stellenbosch:
(Visitation per school)

Venue: Overberg:
Laerskool Overberg, Caledon

Date: 17 - 21 August 2026



Convenor: Yvette Kruger

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General Rules

- Choirs may enter a program of **3 contrasting works**, e.g. sacred/own choice/jazz works. (Sacred works **excluding gospel songs** but including American spirituals.
 - 3 sacred, 3 own choice or 3 jazz works if the works are contrasting.
- Time limit: Maximum 15 minutes per category (setup included)
 - Repertoire must be age appropriate.
 - Cycles may not be presented. Medleys will be allowed.
 - Songs may be transposed.
 - *A cappella* works are allowed.
- One copy of each work must be presented to the adjudicator on the day of adjudication.
- The accompaniment may include the use of additional instruments.
 - A maximum of three instruments (excluding piano) allowed.
- Soloist(s) should be limited to a single soloist and may only be chosen from pupils/members of the school and group. A solo should be an integrated part of the choral work and should not be more than 25% of the choral work unless specified otherwise.
- The title and composer of the songs must be filled in on the participant form in the order of performance. Also mention name of conductor and accompanist(s) on the participant slip.
- Supervision is each participating school's own responsibility.

Entry Fees

- All Choirs R500.00 per entry
- **ENTRY PERIOD**
 - **Monday, 1 June – Monday, 22 June 2026**
 - The entry system is programmed to **shut down at midnight on 22 June 2026**.
 - Unfortunately, **NO LATE ENTRIES** are possible once the entry system has closed.
 - All **invoices should be downloaded** and **PAID** before or on **22 June 2026**.
- **PROGRAM / TIMETABLE**
 - Preliminary programs of respective sections will be **e-mailed to affiliates** as soon as the conveners are ready. (during the June holidays)
 - Affiliates will have one week after the re-opening of the schools **to double check their enrollees**. (age, names, sections, dates)
 - **Rectifications** should be e-mailed to the respective conveners **no later than Friday 24 July 2026**.

CHOIR SUB-SECTIONS

Age Groups

Pre-Primary School	Gr R
Junior Primary School	Gr 1 - 3
Senior Primary School	Gr 4 - 7
High School	Gr 8 - 12
Open	Adults

- **MIXED CHOIR**

A mixed choir is an ensemble that features both male and female voices. It is the most common and standard type of choral group, which allows a wider range of rich complex musical arrangements.

- **GIRLS / LADIES' CHOIR**

A girls' choir is an ensemble formed exclusively by young female singers who primarily perform vocal music arranged for soprano and alto voices (SSAA).

- **BOYS / MEN'S CHOIR**

A boys' choir is a vocal ensemble made up of young males who have not yet undergone puberty, allowing them to maintain a high-pitched childhood vocal range. Within these choirs, members are primarily classified as trebles (boy sopranos) or meanes (boy altos). In many traditional cathedral settings, they perform alongside adult men who sing the tenor and bass parts.

- **CHAMBER CHOIR**

A chamber choir is an intimate, small to medium-sized elite group of vocalists, typically consisting of 8 to 40 singers, that performs highly refined classical, religious, or contemporary music. They sing complex, predominantly classical or a cappella repertoire that requires a high level of vocal finesse.

- **VOCAL ENSEMBLE**

A vocal ensemble is a collective of singers who harmonize their voices to create unified musical expressions. While often used interchangeably with "choir", an ensemble typically features smaller, highly skilled groups of typically 8 to 16 singers, focused on highly blended, stylized performances ranging from a cappella pop to classical.

Key Characteristics

- **Ensemble Size:** Ranges between 8 and 40 voices, though many ensembles operate with 12 to 24 singers for optimal agility.
- **Repertoire:** Focuses primarily on a cappella singing (unaccompanied), madrigals, art songs, polyphonic pieces, and complex modern works.
- **Ensemble Dynamic:** Each singer often holds an independent vocal part, meaning every member acts as a featured soloist rather than blending into a large, uniform section.
- **Skill Level:** Because the group is small, each singer's voice is highly exposed. For this reason, chamber choirs are almost always **auditioned, elite groups** requiring advanced sight-reading skills, precise pitch, and vocal control.
- **Sound Quality:** The smaller number of voices creates an intimate, crystal-clear, and balanced acoustic texture where individual vocal lines can be easily distinguished.

HELDERBERG EISTEDDFOD 2026

VITAL DETAILS

General rules:

- When an **age** is specified, the participant's age on **1 January** is applicable.
- **Dress code** for participants
 - Own choice – preferably not school uniforms.
- **Participant's slips** and copy of work
 - Please download the appropriate participant's slip from the website and submit with a copy of your work (sheet music) to the adjudicator on the day of participation.
- The same item may not be performed by the same participant in more than one subsection of a category.
- Results are final and may not be negotiated with adjudicators.
- No participants, teachers or parents are allowed to confer with the adjudicators until after the adjudication.

Entries:

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 - After the re-opening of the schools, affiliates will have one week **to double check their enrollees**. (age, names, sections, dates)
 - **Rectifications** should be e-mailed to the respective conveners **no later than Friday 24 July 2026**. **NO name changes or replacements** will be accepted thereafter.
 - **Withdrawals** should be reported to the respective convener at least 24 hours before the performance.
 - SADLY, **NO refunds** for withdrawals or erroneous

Awards:

Certificates are being printed **according to the spelling that you submitted on the enrolling system**.

90% and higher	Cum Laude
85% – 89%	Gold Plus
80% – 84%	Gold
75% – 79%	Silver Plus
70% – 74%	Silver
60% – 69%	Bronze
50% – 59%	Certificate of participation