Choir of the Year 2027

Rules and Information Pack

Grand Final: Sunday 7 March 2027
Venue: St Helen & St Katharine, Abingdon
Entry Deadline: Friday 8 January 2027

Choir Information & How to Enter

- The competition is open to all GSA Full Member and Associate Member schools.
- Each choir may include a maximum of **40 pupils**.
- **Junior Choirs:** Open to pupils up to and including Year 8.
- **Senior Choirs:** Open to pupils in Years 9 to 13.
- Pupils may only participate in the category appropriate to their year group and cannot perform in both categories.
- Choirs must be made up of pupils currently attending the school they represent.
- Each school may enter a maximum of one Junior Choir and one Senior Choir.

Initial Round- Video Submissions

- Schools must submit their entries by **Friday 8 January 2027.**
- All entries must be submitted through the official online entry form.
- Each choir must submit a video recording of their performance. Two separate videos may be submitted if preferred.
- Live accompaniment is permitted, but pre-recorded accompaniment is not.
- Each choir must perform **two contrasting pieces** of their choice, with a combined performance time of no more than **eight minutes**.
- Pieces may be in any musical style, including seasonal or Christmas music.

- The title and composer of each piece must be provided with the entry.
- All recordings must be filmed during the 2026–2027 academic year. Recordings from previous academic years will not be accepted.
- All recordings must follow the competition rules outlined below.
- Successful choirs will be notified following the judging of the initial round.

Grand Final- Sunday 7 March 2027

- **Six Junior Choirs and six Senior Choirs** will be selected to perform at the Grand Final at St Helen & St Katharine.
- Finalists may perform the same pieces submitted in the initial round or choose new pieces.
- Each choir must perform two contrasting pieces, with a combined performance time of no more than eight minutes.
- Further information, including timings, arrival instructions and arrangements for the day, will be shared with finalists in advance.

Competition Rules

- Members of staff may not sing as part of the choir.
- Pre-recorded accompaniment is not permitted.
- Each piece submitted for the initial round must be recorded in one continuous take.
- Recordings must not be edited or electronically enhanced. This includes, but is not limited to:
    - Auto-tuning or pitch correction.
    - Dynamic processing.
    - Layering or tracking of voices.
    - Audio editing, mixing or other electronic enhancements.
- Any entry found to have used prohibited editing or enhancements may be disqualified.
- Recordings must feature the school's current choir. Any significant changes to choir membership between the initial round and the Grand Final must be communicated to GSA in advance.
- Performances will be judged against the following criteria:

Technical Control

Intonation, tone quality, diction, ensemble, balance, blend, dynamics and overall sound.

Musical Expression

Musicality, communication, phrasing, energy, commitment and interpretation of the music and text.

Judging and Decisions

- The judges' decisions are final.
- GSA will not enter into correspondence regarding results, judges' comments or decisions.
- In the event of any dispute concerning the interpretation of the rules, the organisers' decision will be final.

Attending the in-person Grand Final

- Finalist choirs are welcome to bring their own accompanist.
- Each school is responsible for the supervision, safeguarding and welfare of its pupils throughout the event.
- Schools must ensure that appropriate parental or guardian consent has been obtained for all participating pupils.
- Photography and media permission information will be sent separately to finalist schools ahead of the Grand Final.
- GSA may arrange photography and filming during the event for use on its website, social media channels and in promotional materials, subject to the relevant permissions.
- Schools may be named in post-competition publicity; however, individual pupils will not be named.

We look forward to celebrating the musical talent, creativity and dedication of pupils across our GSA schools.