

Choral Fest Costa Rica 9th Edition / June 24 to 28, 2026



Voices joined for peace / San José, Costa Rica / We want to change the world, one note at a time.

Introduction:

Welcome to the 9th Choral Fest Costa Rica for Peace, a festival that brings together choirs from all over the world to celebrate the transformative power of music. Framed by the beautiful landscapes of Costa Rica, this multicultural gathering offers a unique experience to promote peace, artistic growth, and cultural exchange.

The Choral Fest Costa Rica for Peace is a participatory festival, aimed at promoting understanding, empathy, community, and a sense of belonging. We have a place for you. Join us to celebrate peace and friendship through choral music. Don't wait, register your choir now and get ready for the musical adventure of your life!

Come and turn your choristers into promoters of peace!

Why Attend the Costa Rica Choral Festival?

Inspiring Performances: Engage with a passionate audience at performances specifically curated to showcase the diverse talents of each choir.

Cultural Immersion: Experience the rich culture and hospitality of Costa Rica, connecting with choristers from other parts of the world.

Educational Opportunities: Participate in workshops led by internationally renowned conductors.

Memorable Adventures: Enrich your visit with pre- or post-festival tours to Tortuguero or Arenal Volcano, creating lasting memories of Costa Rica's natural beauty.



Why Attend the Costa Rica Choral Festival?



Elevate the Impact of Your Choir Through Music.

In a world where division and conflict often dominate the headlines, Choral Fest Costa Rica offers a sanctuary of harmony and unity. We believe that music is a universal language that transcends borders and brings people together. By participating in this festival, your choir will be part of a powerful movement to promote peace through the beauty of choral music.

Festival Highlights.

Wednesday, June 24: Opening Ceremony

Welcome ceremony at 6 p.m. to kick off the festival with an evening of fellowship and musical highlights.

Thursday, June 25: Costa Rica Peace Concerts

Morning workshops followed by educational concerts in communities west of San José.
Free afternoon for sightseeing and experiencing local culture.

Friday, June 26: Costa Rica Peace Concerts

Sightseeing tour through eastern San José, Cartago, Orosi, and Ujarrás.
Evening peace concert.

Saturday, June 27: Gala Concert and Celebration Dinner

Joint rehearsals with guest conductors.
Gala concert with combined performances, culminating in a festive dinner.

Sunday, June 28: Post-Festival Tour

Departure or optional tours to explore more of Costa Rica. Group transfers to Juan Santamaría Airport provided.

Participation Categories:

Youth and Children's Choirs (SSA or SATB, ages 8-25)
Male or Female Voice Choirs
Mixed Voice Adult Choirs (SATB)

Requirements:

Recent recording of the choir (MP3, video, YouTube).
Recent photo of the choir (300dpi, .tif or .jpg format).
Recent photo of the conductor (300 dpi, .tif or .jpg format).
Proposed repertoire, including name, composer, arranger, and duration of each piece.
Brief biography of the choir and conductor (maximum 200 words).
Ensemble of at least 16 participants.

Selection will be based on vocal quality, intonation, expressiveness, and repertoire diversity. Submit your application in advance. Spaces fill on a first-come, first-served basis.



What is offered?

Performances: Organization, logistics, and promotion of all concerts.
Group transportation: Private bus with air conditioning and driver for all festival activities.
Group transfer to and from the airport.
Accommodation: Four nights in high-quality hotels (double or triple occupancy).
Meals: Half-board plan. Daily breakfast and lunch or dinner for 4 days according to assigned itinerary. Farewell festive dinner.
Certified guide services to assist each choir throughout the festival.
Tours: Visits to key tourist attractions according to the assigned itinerary.



Fees and Registration:

Fee per participant: US\$720
Director exempted with groups of 16 or more participants.
To confirm a spot, a 30% deposit is required.

Early booking discount:

November 15, 2025: Confirm participation and receive a 5% discount per participant.
January 15, 2026: Registration closes.

Let your voice sing for peace

In these challenging times, let your choir be a beacon of hope and unity. Join us in Costa Rica for a festival that celebrates the transformative power of choral music and delivers a message of peace that the world needs to hear. We look forward to welcoming you and your choir to this extraordinary event.



Explore More of Costa Rica!

Caribbean Jungle Tour of TORTUGUERO:

Immerse yourself in a stunning natural paradise with our exciting package for 3 days and 2 nights in the majestic Caribbean jungle of Tortuguero. Get ready for a unique experience before or after the festival!

Depart from San José at 6 am, duration of two nights, three days. It's a fantastic trip. If you do it before the festival, plan to be in San José on Sunday, the 21st, and you'll return on Wednesday, the 24th ready for the opening ceremony.

Tortuguero will welcome you with its fascinating waters, lush jungles, and amazing biodiversity. Enjoy boat rides through winding canals, where you can observe exotic birds, playful monkeys, and, if lucky, majestic sea turtles.



The package includes:

Ground and boat transportation to and from San José.

Two nights' accommodation in Tortuguero, 1 night in San José.

Meals: 8 meals during these three days.

Guided tour by certified guides.

Total immersion in the tropical rainforest with great opportunities to see wildlife.

The cost per person in a double room is US\$450

and in a triple room is US\$395.

Plan to arrive in San José on June 21 if you want to do it before the festival. If starting on June 28, plan for departure on July 1.



www.choralfestcostarica.org

Adventure to ARENAL VOLCANO:

Enhance your festival experience by visiting the beautiful area of Fortuna and its iconic Arenal Volcano.

After the festival, continue your adventure in Costa Rica with a trip to one of the country's most famous destinations. Arenal Volcano, with its perfect cone shape, offers breathtaking landscapes and numerous activities for both thrill-seekers and nature lovers.

Relax in natural hot springs, hike through lush tropical forests, and explore the diverse wildlife that inhabits this region. This extension promises unforgettable experiences and breathtaking views.



This additional trip can be scheduled before or after the festival. It can be for one night or for two nights. Taking into account the arrival or departure of your flights, it can be scheduled to make the most of the time you have in the country. The package we offer includes transportation and guide services, accommodation for one or two nights with breakfast. For a group of at least 16 participants, the approximate cost per person is US\$195 (1 night) to US\$295 (2 nights) based on double occupancy. NOTE: It is also possible in combination with Tortuguero. Make the most of your visit.





Josu Elberdin Badiola, Guest Director 2026

Josu Elberdin Badiola (Pasaia, 1976) is a pianist, singer, organist, and composer. He trained at Pasaia Musikal and holds a degree in Social Education from UPV. Since 2000, he has been a teacher at the Pasaia School of Music and the principal organist in Trintxerpe. He teaches choral conducting courses in several countries and has served as a judge in national and international competitions. He is a member of the Technical Committee of the Tolosa Contest. He has composed award-winning works commissioned by festivals such as Europa Cantat and the World Choral Symposium. His work stands out in the children's choral and symphonic repertoire, published by Walton, Helbling, and CM Ediciones.

- Guest Conductors in previous editions:
- 2017 Maestros Javier Busto (Spain) and César Alejandro Carrillo (Venezuela)
- 2018 Maestros Tim Sharp (USA) and Digna Guerra (Cuba)
- 2019 Maestra Beatriz Corona (Cuba)
- 2021 Virtual Festival.
- 2022 Maestro José Bermejo (Spain)
- 2023 Maestro Stacey Gibbs (USA)
- 2024 Maestro Julio Santos (Guatemala)
- 2025 Maestro Josu Elberdín (Spain)



Video Tim Sharp, A.C.D.A. Director



Video Digna Guerra, Director

Vincent Oakes, director of the Chattanooga Boys Choir, shared on his page:

"The past eight days with the Chattanooga Boys Choir and our incredible team in Costa Rica have been absolutely amazing. We have had the privilege of performing five outstanding concerts in San José and its surroundings, participating in enriching master classes with choral luminaries like Digna Guerra and Tim Sharp, collaborating with local schools and several local and international choirs.

We immersed ourselves in the vibrant customs (and delicious food!) of this wonderfully generous culture, explored stunning volcanoes and the rainforest ecosystem, and marveled at historic landmarks.

This journey has truly been extraordinary, and I could not be prouder of our talented choristers, nor more grateful for our dedicated and attentive team who ensured all our needs were met.

The theme of the event was aptly "A choral festival for peace." Over the week, it became increasingly evident that singing serves as a





The Transformative Power of Music

Inspire change: Music has the incredible ability to touch hearts and minds, inspiring people to reflect on their actions and aspire to a better world. As a choir director, you have a unique opportunity to lead your ensemble in performances that not only entertain but also convey a message of hope and unity.

Create connections: When your choir sings at Choral Fest Costa Rica, you will connect with other choirs from around the world. These connections foster understanding, respect, and lasting friendships, all of which are essential ingredients for peace.

Celebrate diversity: Embrace the diversity of cultures and musical traditions represented at the festival. Each performance is a celebration of the rich tapestry of human experience, reminding us that our differences make us stronger.

Why Choir Directors Love Choral Fest Costa Rica

Empowering Young Voices: As a director, you play a crucial role in shaping young minds. By bringing your youth or children's choir to the festival, you will provide them with an unforgettable experience that will teach them about the power of music and the importance of peace.

Professional Growth: Interact with renowned directors and participate in workshops that will enhance your skills and broaden your musical horizons. The festival is an opportunity for professional growth and creative exchange.

Lasting Legacy: When you return home, the festival's impact will resonate in your community. The lessons learned and experiences shared will continue to inspire choir members and audiences long after the festival ends.

Join Us in Our Mission for Peace

Choral Fest Costa Rica is more than just a choral festival; it is a call to action for all attendees. By participating, you are advocating for peace and using the power of music to make a difference. We invite you to join us in this noble mi

