



# World Youth Choir 2024 Auditions

*Session hosted in Germany  
Touring Germany, the Netherlands and Italy (tbc)*

Contact: [manager@worldyouthchoir.org](mailto:manager@worldyouthchoir.org)

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WYC 2024 session organisers:



bundesjugendorchester  
DEUTSCHER MUSIKRAT



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## Information about the 2024 session

In the Summer of 2024, the World Youth Choir will have a special session joining the National Youth Orchestra of Germany – Bundesjugendorchester (BJO) - for a programme with Beethoven's 9th Symphony and a commissioned work by Tan Dun called "Nine - Ode to Compassion". The Session will be a unique experience for the 80-100 young singers from around the world and for the audiences who will attend their high-quality concerts.

The rehearsal session will be hosted in **Weikersheim (DE) from 18th August to 28th August**, where the choir and orchestra will have time to work on the pieces both separately and as a combined ensemble. This will be an opportunity to not only make music together but also get to know musicians from other countries and discuss the impact of international cooperation projects on their professional development, through complementary networking activities which will be present in the programme.

Following the rehearsals, the World Youth Choir and National Youth Orchestra of Germany will go on **an exciting international tour of concerts (29th August to 8th September)**, featuring the World premiere of Tan Dun's piece "Nine - Ode to Compassion". The concert tour will take the choir and orchestra to prestigious festivals and concert halls in different cities in Germany, to the Netherlands and Italy (tbc), the final concert will take place on the opening weekend of the Beethovenfest in Bonn (DE).

### Dates

- Arrival day: 18th August 2024
- Departure: 8 September 2024

### Working language

Events are conducted in English. Intermediate level of English is required.

### Requirements to participate:

We are looking for singers who:

- are passionate and experienced high level choral singers or soloists;
- are between 17 and 26 years old on August 1, 2024;
- have basic or professional music education;
- are ready to improve their singing and social skills;
- want to meet new friends all over the world;
- are eager and curious to learn in a multicultural environment.



### Conditions provided

For the selected singers, from arrival at a host country until departure, all accommodation, transportation, meals and music materials are provided by the organisation, and a certificate of participation (diploma) is issued to each singer.

Selected participants are responsible for:

- Travel to and from the host country/final concert tour destination
- Preparation of the chosen repertoire in advance, at home (music material in a digital package will be sent to all selected singers by email)
- Visas and all other official documents as well as health and travel insurance, etc.
- Pocket money

### Why should you join?

Beyond the project itself, the World Youth Choir is a way to network with choral youth in the world. Selected singers/session participants are considered cultural “ambassadors” of their country. In return they make friends with young people from all over the world, learn of new/different singing techniques, improve interpretation as well as stage performance capacity while singing choral music of various styles, time periods and the many genres of each continent, learn about other cultures and bring back home choral music from different world countries.

The World Youth Choir by its music, performances and presence (sessions) in different regions of the world, each or every other year, sends a message of peace, brotherhood, and the vitality of life itself. UNESCO named the World Youth Choir “Artist for Peace” in 1996, recognising its success as a platform for intercultural dialogue through music.

### Participation fee

The participation fee for singers is 100€, to be paid to the World Youth Choir Foundation after the results of the international jury by the selected singers.

In addition, each participant is granted a free, one-year membership in the International Federation for Choral Music.

### *Organisers of the 2024 World Youth Choir Session*

- Deutscher Musikrat; [www.musikrat.de](http://www.musikrat.de)
- Bundesjugendorchester; [www.bundesjugendorchester.de](http://www.bundesjugendorchester.de)
- European Choral Association; [www.europeanchoralassociation.org](http://www.europeanchoralassociation.org)
- In partnership with: Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM)

### *World Youth Choir Patrons*

- International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM); [www.ifcm.net](http://www.ifcm.net)
- Jeunesses Musicales International (JMI); [www.jmi.net](http://www.jmi.net)
- European Choral Association; [www.europeanchoralassociation.org](http://www.europeanchoralassociation.org)

## Artistic team & Repertoire



### Tan Dun

**Conductor of the World Youth Choir 2024 session**  
**Composer of the commissioned piece “Nine - Ode to Compassion”**

The world-renowned artist and UNESCO Global Goodwill Ambassador Tan Dun, has made an indelible mark on the world’s music scene with a creative repertoire that spans the boundaries of classical music, multimedia performance, and Eastern and Western traditions. A winner of today’s most prestigious honors including the Grammy Award, Oscar/Academy Award, Grawemeyer Award, Bach Prize, Shostakovich

Award, and most recently Italy’s Golden Lion Award for Lifetime Achievement, Tan Dun’s music has been played throughout the world by leading orchestras, opera houses, international festivals, and on radio and television. Most recently, Tan Dun was named as Dean of the Bard College Conservatory of Music. As dean, Tan Dun will further demonstrate music’s extraordinary ability to transform lives and guide the Conservatory in fulfilling its mission of understanding music’s connection to history, art, culture, and society.

As a conductor of innovative programs around the world, Tan Dun has led the China tours of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and Japan’s NHK Symphony Orchestra. His current season includes leading the Orchestre National de Lyon in a six-city China tour, the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra in a four-city tour of Switzerland and Belgium as well as engagements with the Rai National Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic, Hong Kong Philharmonic and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra where he was recently named Artistic Ambassador. Tan Dun currently serves as the Principal Guest Conductor of the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra. In 2016, Tan Dun conducted the grand opening celebration of Disneyland Shanghai

which was broadcast to a record-breaking audience worldwide. Tan Dun has led the world's most esteemed orchestras, including the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Orchestre National de France, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Filarmonica della Scala, Münchner Philharmoniker, the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, among others.

For more information about Tan Dun's life and work please visit [www.tandun.com](http://www.tandun.com)

**Jörn Hinnerk Andresen**  
**Conductor of the World Youth Choir**  
**2024 session**

Jörn Hinnerk Andresen was born in the region of Schleswig-Holstein. He studied conducting, piano and harpsichord in Dresden and Amsterdam.

After having worked in Zwickau and Koblenz, he joined the Munich Gärtnerplatztheater in 2008 as choral director and kapellmeister. Not only has he conducted over sixty operas, operettas and musicals, but also has performed a wide repertoire of Baroque music with the Baroque orchestra 'Cappella Confluentes' of which he is founding conductor. Furthermore, he regularly worked for over five years with the choir of the Vienna State Opera at the Salzburg Festival and has been frequently invited to conduct the radio choirs of several German broadcasting stations, Danish Radio and Radio France. Since February 2015, Jörn Hinnerk Andresen is choral director of the Saxon State Opera Choir Dresden. He is closely associated with ensembles such as Lauttencompagny Berlin, of which he is a regular guest conductor, Staatskapelle Halle, Vocal NORD TOMSØ, the choir of the Munich State Opera and the Batzdorfer Hofkapelle.



Having been a lecturer at the Universities of Music in Cologne and Dresden and a mentor of the German Music Council in the Choral Conductors' Forum for several years, Jörn Andresen now holds the chair for choral conducting at the Mozarteum Salzburg for the winter semester 2019/20.

### **Soloists**

The 2024 World Youth Choir and Bundesjugendorchester performances will feature four World Youth Choir alumni as soloists.

### **Repertoire**

The repertoire of the 2024 World Youth Choir session will be performed with the National Youth Orchestra of Germany – Bundesjugendorchester (BJO). The programme will be composed of Beethoven's 9th Symphony and a commissioned work by Tan Dun called "Nine - Ode to Compassion".

## Auditions

The applicants' audition should be recorded with the support of a recruiter and the candidate should perform/record in the following order:

**1. Range test:** One scale sung forte a cappella on an open vowel presenting the entire voice-range, not exceeding 1'20" in total.

**2. Sight-reading:** Applicants should record the melody as a piece of sight-reading. They should use up to 10 minutes to look the exercise through (not using a piano, except for pitch) and record the first attempt in front of the jury/recruiter. The exercise must be sung a cappella.

- a. The sight-reading melody is provided to the candidate by the recruiter/jury on the day of the audition, and it should not be prepared in advance. A prepared exercise can be noticed in the recording and will be disqualified.

**3. Prepared score:** One obligatory choral excerpt from Beethoven's 9th symphony. Recruiters should provide the obligatory choral excerpt in advance to all candidates in order to let them demonstrate their best ability in preparing at home. The candidate should prepare at home and, at the audition, record their part, while an accompanying person plays the other parts. The voice part sung by the applicant should not be doubled by the piano.

**4. Aria of choice:** Singers must prepare and sing an aria of their choice, to be performed at their audition and submitted their application.

The singers selected at national audition(s) are qualified for the final international selection scheduled by World Youth Choir International Jury (January 2024). The audition materials of those selected should be digitally submitted to the World Youth Choir management through the online application form only and by the national recruiter or a national recruiting institution/organisation providing all information requested.

World Youth Choir alumni can apply directly to the international selection through a direct application.

**Documents and information necessary to successfully submit an application:**

- **Singer information** required by the international application form
  - Singers should provide the information requested by the recruiter
  
- **Singer photo**
  - The singer's face should be clearly visible
  - JPEG file, preferably
  
- **Colour scan of singers' passport.** For singers who are residents of the European Union and/or can travel to the countries of the tour using their national Identity Document (ID), the passport scan can be substituted by an ID scan.
  - First page. Front and back, in case of ID scan.
  - JPEG file, preferably
  
- **4 mp3 audition files**
  - Vocal range
  - Sight reading
  - The obligatory choral excerpt
  - An aria of the singer's choice

Deadline for submissions to the international jury: **December 22nd, 2023.**

Recruiters might define an earlier deadline, in order to be able to process and submit the applicant's information.

For more information please visit [www.worldyouthchoir.org](http://www.worldyouthchoir.org) or contact [manager@worldyouthchoir.org](mailto:manager@worldyouthchoir.org).