

5th A VOYAGE OF SONGS

International Choral Festival 2011

July 11th – 15th at The Pearl River Delta, Zhuhai, China

ORGANISER	Victoria Choral Academy Transinex Travel
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	Nelson Kwei , Artistic Director Adrian Soo , Chairman
SUPPORTED BY	Choral Director's Association (Singapore)

A VOYAGE OF SONGS

Victoria Choral Academy and Transinex Travels, proudly presents the **5th A VOYAGE OF SONGS**, International Choral Festival, to be held on 11th – 15th July 2011 in Zhuhai, China. This festival was first held in Genting Highlands (Malaysia) in 2003, Shah Alam (Malaysia) in 2005, Pattaya (Thailand) in 2007, and Penang (Malaysia) in 2009. All 4 festivals took place successfully with more than 6000 participants from all over the world. This time, in order to achieve even greater heights, this festival will be targeting more than 2000 participants. The objective of its organisers is to promote greater appreciation of choral music, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, through an exchange of music and culture between choristers from different countries and the various judges. This would strengthen the choral movement in the region and establish friendships among the participants.

The Pearl River Delta, Zhuhai, China

Zhuhai (珠海) is a prefecture-level city on the southern coast of Guangdong Province in the People's Republic of China. Located in the Pearl River Delta, Zhuhai borders Jiangmen to the northwest, Zhongshan to the north, and Macau to the south. Zhuhai was one of the original Special Economic Zones established in the 1980s. Zhuhai is also one of China's premier tourist destinations, being called the Chinese Riviera.

The name Zhuhai, means “**pearl Sea**”, and the modern city of Zhuhai sits at the mouth of the famous Pearl River where river and ocean meet. With a territory of more than 7,660 square kilometers, about 80% of which ocean, Zhuhai boasts 146 islands, many with their own secluded beaches and unspoiled scenery. These islands, like clusters of pearls, stretch out across the delta towards Zhuhai's neighboring cities of Shenzhen, Hong Kong and Macau, all within easy reach.

Zhuhai vested the glory of "National outstanding tourist city" issued by national council, and "Best example on improving residence environment of mankind" issued by U.N. Zhuhai is indeed an exceptional city. There are a lot of tourism programs in Zhuhai. Such as the New Yuanming Palace, Touring around Macao, the Pearl Land, Zhuhai Zhuxian Cave, Water World of Baiteng Lake, Shijing Shan Cableway, the tranquil islands and clean sandy beach would give you an ever lasting impression.

You may travel by air, land or sea into Zhuhai:

- a) By air, via Zhuhai Sanzao Airport (**ZUH**) which is located in Jinwan District.
- b) By land, at the present, there is an expressway linking Zhuhai and Foshan. Heavy traffic between Zhuhai and Macao has led to the construction of a new cross-border corridor, the Lotus Bridge, built in November 1999 to divert traffic away from Gongbei Port of Entry. Gongbei Port of Entry is the main enter from Macau.
- c) By sea, an attractive and clean environment and good deep-port condition are advantages of Zhuhai. Endowed by a long coastline, Zhuhai is the only city on the western Pearl River Delta with natural deep-water ports. Zhuhai has two international seaports: Jiuzhou (九州港) and Gaolan (高蘭港). Gaolan Port is one of the leading ports in Guangdong Province, while Jiuzhou Port focuses on heavy passenger sea transport from Hong Kong.

Chu Kong Passenger Transport operates a ferry service between Zhuhai's Jiuzhou Port, Hong Kong and Shekou (蛇口,) which is the Shenzhen ferry port. A service between Jiuzhou Port and Hong Kong International Airport for air passengers using the airport began on 10 July 2007.

More information:

<http://www.zhuhai.gov.cn/english/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhuhai>

<http://www.okzhuhai.com/>

Suggested itinerary:

Your country → Macau → (road) Zhuhai competition → Macao → your country or v.v

Your country → Hong Kong → (ferry) Zhuhai competition → Hong Kong → your country or v.v

Your country → China Guangzhou → (road) Zhuhai competition → Guangzhou → your country or v.v

Your country → Zhuhai competition → your country or v.v

CHORAL COMPETITION

Categories for competition

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.

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.

Judging and Evaluation

Criteria for evaluation:

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

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.

Grand Prize Winner: The winner of the Grand Prize Competition (refer to below) will receive the special Grand Prize Trophy.

Special Jury Awards:

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

Conductor's Prize:

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

Delegations:

Particularly outstanding choirs may be delegated for the next competition.

The Grand Prize Competition

All category winners with at least a Gold diploma 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.

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 20th 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 one 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.

FESTIVAL PROGRAMMES

Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony of **A VOYAGE OF SONGS 2011** will take place on 11th of July 2011. 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 night of day 3 (13th July 2011) 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 Day 4 (14th July 2011) 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 of the Winners

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 Ceremony

The closing ceremony of the 5th **A VOYAGE OF SONGS** will take place on the 14th of July 2011. A festival choir consisting of selected members of each participating choir will present the festival anthem conducted by the Artistic Director. The winners for Grand Prize, Conductor Prize and the Special Jury Awards will also be announced.

Proposed general itinerary for the festival

- DAY 1 (11th July 2011):** Arrival and Registration/ Briefing for Conductors
- DAY 2 (12th July 2011):** Morning – Opening Ceremony
Afternoon – Competition
Evening – Competition
- DAY 3 (13th July 2011):** Morning – Competition
Afternoon – Competition
Evening – Competition
- DAY 4 (14th July 2011):** Morning – Choral Workshop/ Masterclass
Announcement of Results
Afternoon – Closing Ceremony/ Grand Prize Award
Evening – Friendly Concert
- DAY 5 (15th July 2011):** Farewell...Departure of groups

FESTIVAL PACKAGE FEES

Festival accommodation for Choirs

Festival package (with meals and accommodation inclusive) fees per participant list is compulsory:

All Prices in Singapore Dollars (SGD)

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Twin</u>	<u>Triple</u>
5 Stars Hotel COMPETITION VENUE	S\$ 699	S\$ 529	S\$ 529 (Limited)
4 Stars Hotel	S\$ 659	S\$ 509	S\$ 509 (Limited)
Standard 3 Stars Hotel	S\$ 609	S\$ 489	S\$ 489 (Limited)

Festival package (with meals and accommodation) 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 4 nights.
4. Meals:

- a. Tea reception only on 11st July.
- b. Breakfast/lunch/dinner provided on 12nd, 13th, and 14th July.
- c. Breakfast only on 15th July.
5. Festival T-Shirt. (1 per participant)
6. Festival souvenir programme book (1 for every 10 participants).

Festival package **EXCLUDES**:

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

Kindly contact organisers for separate arrangement if airport/ land transfers are required.

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 'AVOS - 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 **30th March 2011.**

Balance payments should be paid by **30th June 2011.**

Cancellation charges and refund:

Registration fees are non-refundable.

For festival package fees:

- If cancellation is made after 15 April 2011, **50%** of the total cost will apply.
- If cancellation is made after 1 June 2011, **75%** of the total cost will apply.
- If cancellation is made after 1 July 2011, 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 2011.**

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: 30th March 2011

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL:

Choirs that submit their application forms and makes deposit payment by **30th Decemeber 2010** will enjoy 50% off registration fees for each competition category.

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

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

Transinex Travel

Email to : avos@spicetravel.com.sg
leongkw@transinex.com.sg

Mailing address : The Adelphi
1 Coleman Street,
04-31 Singapore 179803

Tel : +65 6338 3733 / 6333 4238
Fax : +65 6336 6345

For queries pertaining to artistic direction, please contact:

Victoria Choral Academy

Email to : info@vca.com.sg

Mailing address : 30, Eastwood Road
#03-11
Singapore 486365

Website : www.vca.com.sg