



**KOBE
JAPAN**

JANUARY 25 – 29, 2018

**SING'N'PRAY KOBE
INTERNATIONAL CHOIR FESTIVAL & COMPETITION**

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION



GREETING



Dear singers,

Early 2018 choirs from across the globe will sing together in Kobe, Japan. I am happy to invite all of you to this joyful celebration of peace through singing. With this Sing'n'Pray event INTERKULTUR is both, entering the beautiful country of Japan for the first time, and starting a new series of Sing'n'Pray events. Isn't it very important in these days for people to strive for peace in the world?

Considered one of Japan's most fascinating cities, Kobe is the sixth-largest city in Japan and is the capital city of the Hyōgo Prefecture. The city is not far from Osaka, where the Kansai International Airport is the closest international gateway. Thanks for the support of our partners from Hyogo Choral Association and from Hyogo Prefecture Government, I'm confident that together we will make this event unforgettable for all participants!

Come to Kobe with INTERKULTUR and Sing'n'Pray with us! Hardly a sentence applies here better than that of St. Augustine: "Those who sing pray twice!"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Cowie".

INTERKULTUR

in cooperation with
Hyogo Choral Association

Supported by
Hyogo Prefecture Government

President INTERKULTUR
Günter Titsch (Germany)

Honorary Artistic Director
Yoshio Saida (Japan), Chairman of Hyogo Choral Association

Artistic Committee
Prof. Dr. Ralf Eisenbeiß (Germany), Senior Artistic Director
Ko Matsushita, (Japan)
John Pamintuan (Philippines)
Christian Ljunggren (Sweden)

Organizing Committee
Masahiro Kishimoto (Japan), Festival Director
Thomas Schüle (Germany), Project Manager

INTERKULTUR Executive Committee
Günter Titsch (Germany)
Qin Wang (China)
Stefan Bohländer (Germany)
Dr. Christoph Wirtz (Germany), Secretary General

EVENT SCHEDULE *Subject to change*

	THURSDAY JAN 25, 2018	FRIDAY JAN 26, 2018	SATURDAY JAN 27, 2018	SUNDAY JAN 28, 2018	MONDAY JAN 29, 2018
Arrival/Departure	ARRIVAL				DEPARTURE
Rehearsals		Rehearsals and Stage Rehearsals			
Workshops		Afternoon/evening: Workshops with Ko Matsushita and John Pamintuan			
Concerts		Friendship Concerts "International Melody"		13:00 "Pray from Kobe" Concert and Ceremony	
Evaluation & Competition		Evaluation Performances	Competitions		
Official Events	Evening Opening Event			Evening Awards Ceremony	
Tourism	Sightseeing & excursions (depending on the choir's event schedule)				

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

Choirs may choose from the following:	1. Non-competitive participation	2. Competitive participation
Competition*		X
Non-competitive Festival Participation**	X	
Evaluation Performance*	X	X

* Friendship Concert performance included. / ** at least two performances within the festival.

1. NON-COMPETITIVE PARTICIPATION

<p>FRIENDSHIP CONCERTS</p>	<p>Participating choirs may register to perform in local concert settings together with other international choirs. Those will take place in public places in Kobe.</p> <p>Choirs must prepare approximately 20 minutes of their own music pre-approved by the INTERKULTUR artistic committee. The concert should be preferably a cappella or with own instruments. (Piano or E-Piano and in churches an organ can be provided upon request.)</p>
<p>for all participating choirs</p>	<p>Choirs can also take part in Friendship Concerts ONLY (Non-competitive Festival Participation).</p>
<p>EVALUATION PERFORMANCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three (3) pieces of the choir's choice • performed before a panel of qualified international jurors who provide immediate positive artistic and pedagogical advice for improvement • certificates of participation will be awarded, as well as evaluation ratings and recommendation letters for future INTERKULTUR competitions upon request
<p>for non-competing choirs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of singers: unlimited • Singing time: maximum 15 minutes • Accompaniment: unlimited • Duration: 45 minutes
<p>EVALUATION PERFORMANCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presentation of the competition program the day before competitions begin • performed before a panel of qualified international jurors who provide immediate positive artistic and pedagogical advice for improvement
<p>for competing choirs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the evaluation does not involve preliminary decisions regarding the competition result.

2. COMPETITION

MUSIC OF SPIRIT AND FAITH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: compositions of the choir's choice • Number of pieces. unlimited • Number of singers: unlimited • Singing time: The singing time should be at least 8 minutes and must not be longer than 15 minutes. • Accompaniment: all pieces may be accompanied. • Amplification: amplification of voices and instruments is not permitted. <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Depending on the number of registrations, the Artistic Committee reserves the right to split this category e.g. in children's/youth choirs and adult choirs.</p>
<p>In this category choirs may perform music of all religions, churches and denominations, as well as general songs of spirit and faith.</p>	

2.1 Competition Rules

GENERAL RULES

- a) All non-professional choirs are welcome to compete in this event. With the exception of the conductors, its members must all be amateurs, e.g. they are not allowed to earn their livelihood by professional singing.
- b) The order of performances within a category is scheduled at random.
- c) **INDIVIDUAL CONCERTS AND PERFORMANCES:** During their stay the participating choirs are not allowed to give further concerts or performances without the organizer's approval in advance.

MULTIPLE PARTICIPATION

- a) Individual choir members may participate in smaller ensembles formed out of their primary choir but may NOT sing in more than one primary choir.
- b) Conductors are permitted to conduct only one choir per category. A choir may also perform with several conductors.

MUSIC

- a) ACCOMPANIMENT means that at least one pitched instrument is used. In categories requiring a cappella selections, a maximum of three instruments without definite pitch may be used (percussion instruments).
- b) CHANGES OF KEY: The compulsory piece must be sung in the original key. For other selections; if the choir wishes to change the key, the jury must be informed in writing if a choir wishes to change the key from what is written in the printed score prior to the competition.
- c) After APPROVAL OF PROPOSED PROGRAM by the artistic directors, it will be returned for final review and confirmation by the respective choir. The choir must respond within 14 days of delivery with any changes to the program. If there is no response within 14 days, the program will be considered final; therefore neither titles nor performance order may be changed. Changes made without informing the organizer will result in a disqualification. Choirs are responsible for possible performing rights of their program.
- d) ACTUAL SINGING TIME: Actual singing time is the duration of the performance time only. It excludes entrance, exit, and applause.

SHEET MUSIC

- a) 5 scores of every piece must be submitted with the registration forms.
- b) Scores submitted must conform to internationally recognized sheet music standards (five lines of notes).
- c) Scores that do not bear the titles, names of composers etc. printed in the Roman alphabet must bear a transcription into the Roman alphabet (clear handwritten notes suffice).
- d) One score remains with the organizer after the competition. Remaining scores may be collected from the organizer after the awards ceremony. Uncollected scores will not be sent by mail.
- e) No scores have to be submitted for gala or friendship concerts.
- f) Please note that published choral compositions may only be sung using the original scores or authorized copies. The use of unauthorized copies or handwritten copies is not allowed! All scores must be sent by mail as hardcopy. Scores sent as files (PDF or similar) will not be accepted.
- g) If your scores are published as score book, please submit only one book but preferably authorized copies.

MUSICA MUNDI® Evaluation System

- Choirs will be evaluated by international acknowledged choral experts in accordance with the general MUSICA MUNDI evaluation system (30 point system). The decision of the jury cannot be contested.
- The performance of each choir will be evaluated according to the following:
 - I) Technical Evaluation
 - a) *Intonation*
 - b) *Sound Quality*
 - II) Artistic Evaluation
 - c1) *Fidelity* to the score in general categories or
 - c2) *Interpretation Practice* in Jazz, Pop, Gospel or
 - c3) *Authenticity* in folklore categories
- c) *Overall Artistic Impression*

Example of a score sheet:

	a)	b)	c)	d)
Piece 1 - ...				
Single criteria	26	26	24	24
Total score	25			

- The jury decides first whether a choir may be qualified for a diploma or not. Choirs receiving no diploma will get a certificate of participation. Choirs that may qualify for a diploma will be given a score between 1 and 30 points.
- The final result is made up of the average of all given points or by the average of the intermediate results respectively.
- In categories for which the number of pieces is not determined, the jury will evaluate only the overall performance according to the above mentioned criteria.
- If a choir exceeds the maximum singing time, their final result will be reduced by jury decision.

Diplomas

According to the score, Bronze, Silver, and Golden Diplomas will be awarded. In the event the choir does not achieve a diploma, the choir will receive a certificate of participation. The choir with a golden diploma and the highest score in each category becomes the Category Winner. Special Awards and Conductor's Award are also awarded.

Diploma	Level									
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Bronze 1 - 10.49	1-1.49	1.5-2.49	2.5-3.49	3.5-4.49	4.5-5.49	5.5-6.49	6.5-7.49	7.5-8.49	8.5-9.49	9.5-10.49
Silver 10.5 - 20.49	10.5-11.49	11.5-12.49	12.5-13.49	13.5-14.49	14.5-15.49	15.5-16.49	16.5-17.49	17.5-18.49	18.5-19.49	19.5-20.49
Gold 20.5 - 30.00	20.5-21.49	21.5-22.49	22.5-23.49	23.5-24.49	24.5-25.49	25.5-26.49	26.5-27.49	27.5-28.49	28.5-29.49	29.5-30

3. TERMS & CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

3.1 Registration & Registration Deadline

The deadline for registration is **September 11, 2017**. *Early Bird deadline is June 19, 2017.*

3.2 Registration-Checkliste

The following documents must be provided together with the registration forms by deadline:

- REGISTRATION FORMS DULY FILLED IN
- REGISTRATION FEE (PLEASE ENCLOSE PROOF OF PAYMENT). The amount may also be paid with Visa or Mastercard (see registration forms).
- AUDIO RECORDING: Please send an .mp3, WAV, WMA, or CD with at least three (3) pieces (preferably a cappella) not older than two years. Please write the titles and composers of the pieces as well as the date of recording
- SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF CHOIR: Please send the biography in English as an editable text document (e.g. Word)
- PHOTOGRAPH OF CHOIR: Make sure that it is suitable for reproduction (landscape format, as a file jpg or bmp, no PDF format, min. 300 dpi, as original min. 12 x 7,5 cm). The picture should not be older than two years.
- MUSIC SCORES OF COMPETITION REPERTOIRE: Scores sent as PDF or similar files will not be accepted. Five (5) copies for competition, three (3) for Evaluation Performance.

3.3 Costs

Registration Fee

To participate in the event the following registration fees have to be paid per choir/ensemble and category as follows:

	Non-competitive participation	Competitive participation
Competition*		200€
Non-competitive Festival participation**	200€	
Evaluation Performance*	200€	200€

*Friendship Concert Performance included. / ** at least two performances are included

The registration fee must be made payable to INTERKULTUR in full upon registration by bank transfer or by credit card (Visa or MasterCard). Any banking costs that arise must be paid by the registrant.

Once off discount of 50% for the first category of participation and further Early Bird discounts will be granted on the event package - if completed registration documents and fee have been received by deadline.

In case a choir cancels its participation the registration fee will not be refunded.

BANK DETAILS

The bank details to pay the registration fee are as follows:

Account Holder:	INTERKULTUR	Name of Bank:	Deutsche Bank
Address:	Marktplatz 4, D-35390 Giessen	Bank Code:	513 700 24
Account Number:	028 042 001	SWIFT-Code (BIC):	DEUTDEDB513
IBAN for EU countries:	DE59513700240028042001	Purpose:	J18-NAME OF CHOIR

Event Packages

With the event package INTERKULTUR offers participants of its events a special service: We take care of all the details and through authorized agencies of the INTERKULTUR event series we offer an event package. This package includes, amongst others, accommodation in different hotel categories as well as other local services. For local choirs that do not require overnight stay, an event package without hotel services is of course also available.

Since the event package includes also the participant fee, the reservation is required for all participants.

All included services and rates are described in the authorized travel agency offer enclosed to this participant information.

The purchase of an accommodation package is **four (4) nights minimum**. If a registration is received without specific information the down payment invoice will be made and sent on the basis of double rooms in Standard Class.

Registration is binding for the choir, in regard to both participation in the festival and the travel services provided by the authorized agencies. Confirmation of the order (deposit invoice) through the authorized agencies constitutes a travel contract in the sense of § 651a BGB (German Civil Code). The General Conditions of Travel (*ARB Allgemeine Reisebedingungen, General Conditions of Travel*) of the authorized agencies shall apply. They are enclosed in each offer. Please read these conditions carefully. Ignorance of these legally valid conditions does not provide exemption from any resulting obligations. The costs due to the authorized agencies for the event package are due on the date indicated on the invoice. Banking information is also located on the invoice.

We would like to draw your attention expressly to the fact that participation in the event is only possible if the costs due have been received net and by deadline. Delay in payments may affect the benefits of your participation. Any costs incurred due to such action are to be borne by the group.

Travel Expenses

The journey to the event including the travel expenses is the sole responsibility of the choir members and additional persons. Sightseeing excursions aside from the event and airport transfers are not inclusive and must be booked separately.

3.4 Language of Correspondence

English is the sole language that is reflected on official documents. This includes, but is not limited to, the Participant Information, travel documents such as schedule and vouchers as well as invoices. These are all legally binding.

Verbal information is available in the following languages: German, Chinese, French, Italian, Russian, Spanish and Hungarian.

Please make sure that your choir is accompanied by at least one English speaking person who can assist you with translation during the event.

3.5 Organizer

Organizers according to law are the Interkultur Management GmbH (Platz der Einheit 1, 60327 Frankfurt, Germany - Registered at AG Frankfurt, HRB 77821 - represented by Günter Titsch, President INTERKULTUR) and the Hyogo Choral Association.

3.6 Liability

INTERKULTUR is responsible for the artistic and musical design and the execution of the events. Its liability comprises of all organizational matters of the event. Any liability with regard to organizer's liability is expressly excluded. Any liability of such kind would be that of the authorized agencies and / or the management of the respective congress or concert halls, catering and transport companies. The authorized agencies accept liability as travel organizer in the sense of § 651a German Travel Law and on the basis of the "*Allgemeinen Reisebedingungen*" (ARB) mentioned above. With his / her signature on the registration form, the signatory accepts the terms of the "*Allgemeinen Reisebedingungen*" ARB (*General Conditions of Travel*) and the organizer's liability for him / herself and for all persons registered.

3.7 Audio and Audiovisual Recordings

All rights regarding the audio and audiovisual recordings of the event ("Recordings") as well as their exploitation are herewith being granted exclusively to INTERKULTUR by the choir / artists. All rights granted to INTERKULTUR hereunder may be exploited by INTERKULTUR in perpetuity without any limitation as to time, territory and/or manner of exploitation free of any rights of third parties. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this includes in particular the following exclusive rights in the Recordings which can also be transferred by INTERKULTUR to a third party at INTERKULTUR'S discretion:

INTERKULTUR shall be exclusively entitled to reproduce the Recordings wholly or partly by way of producing vinyl discs, music cassettes, compact discs, DATs, Mini Discs, Digital Compact Cassettes or other sound carriers and by producing video cassettes, picture discs, compact disc videos, DVDs or other audio-visual carriers or other data carriers or by means of other technical devices and to sell or otherwise distribute these reproductions by retail, wholesale or other distribution channels such as clubs, mail order or TV-response. This also includes the right to exploit the Recordings in the context of online and especially internet applications of any kind and of any system, regardless of the way of transmission and business model, and to use, upload and distribute these Recordings in data bases, networks (e.g. internet and all its services) or anything similar of any kind and especially to disseminate and transmit these Recordings to users of databases / networks via cable or other ways of transmission for the purpose of perception and/ or reproduction and/ or distribution against payment or free of charge. This also includes the right to publicly perform or broadcast the Recordings by private or public broadcast stations, including digital radio services, via cable, satellite or other technical transmission services either against payment or free of charge (including the right to collect in INTERKULTUR'S own name broadcast fees accruing in connection with the public performance or broadcast of the Recordings). INTERKULTUR'S rights also include the right to edit and/or alter the Recordings (e.g. by producing mixes or remixes), to couple the Recordings with other recordings (e.g. with recordings of other artists) and the right to release and sell the Recordings on so-called "special product" audio- or audio-visual carriers. Furthermore, INTERKULTUR shall be entitled to grant synchronisation rights in the Recordings for movies, videos, TV and/or movie commercials, image films etc., to translate them into other languages, to use them for multimedia purposes of any kind or to rearrange them in any other way (e.g. to create remixes or do sampling). This also includes the exclusive right to use the Recordings in games / PC games as well as other and also interactive multimedia productions (incl. so called "websites") for goods, services and advertising purposes of any kind.

Finally, this includes the non-exclusive right to use the choir's /artist's name as well as images of the choir / artist in the context of the exploitation and the advertising and promotion measures mentioned above.

INTERKULTUR does not pay any money to the ARTIST for the exclusive grant of rights mentioned above. The ARTIST accepts explicitly that the positive promotion effect resulting from an exploitation of the Recordings by INTERKULTUR represents an adequate return service for this transfer of rights. In case of a commercial release of the Recordings on CD, the parties will negotiate separately in good faith about an adequate royalty to be payable to Artist according to standard business practice.

3.8 Changes

The organizer reserves the right to make changes and amendments to the existing information material and/or the Participant Information in the event of unforeseen technical, organizational or artistic circumstances or act(s) of God. The organizer also reserves the right to make changes to the program contents and schedule.

3.9 Imprint

Content: Prof. Dr. Ralf Eisenbeiß, Stefan Bohländer; Layout: Jelena Dannhauer, Ina Irmisch

EUROPE

Russia

Kazakhstan

Mongolia

China

India

Myanmar

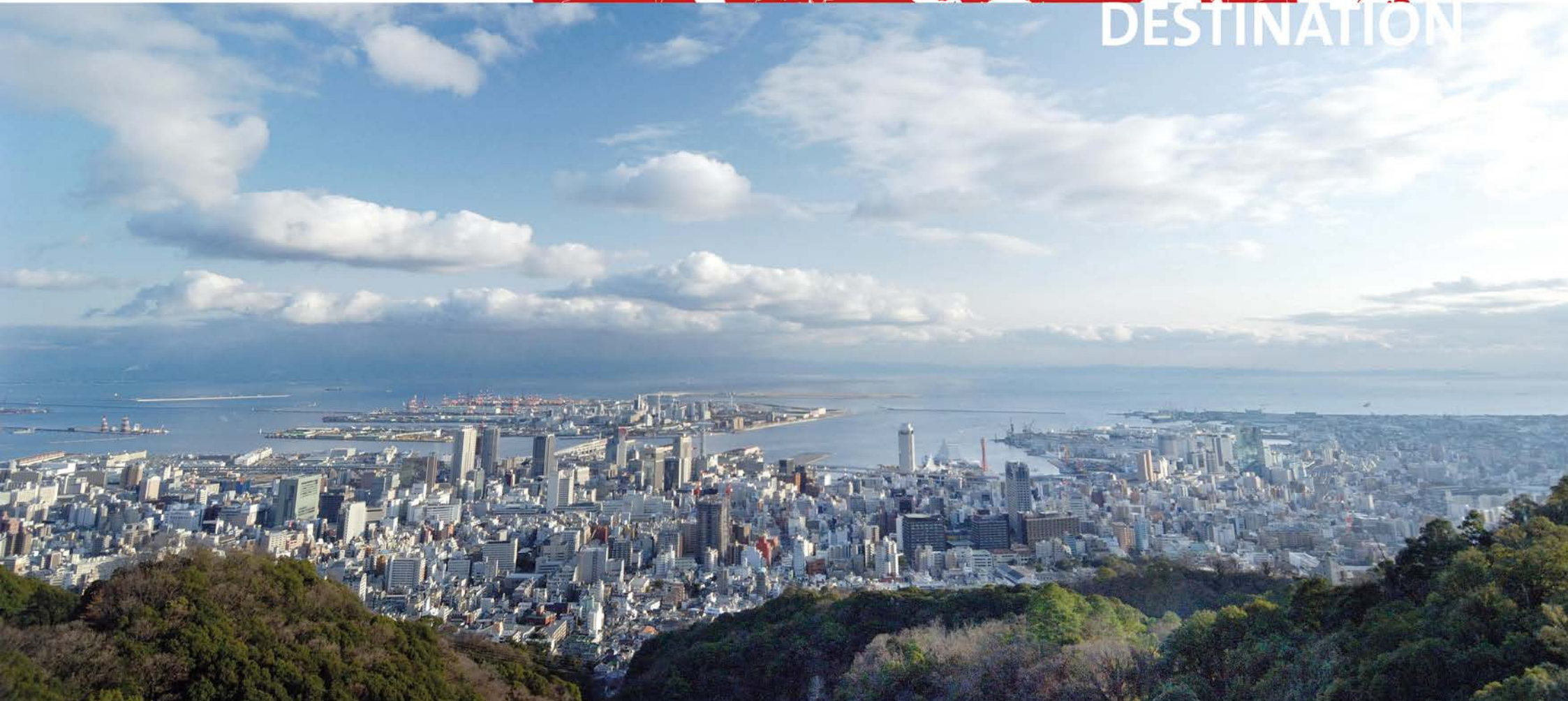
South
Korea

JAPAN

KOBE

ASIA

DESTINATION





“Please let me tell you again how wonderful it has been to work with all of you this year! As the pictures prove, the students had a fantastic time and were very happy with the festival overall! I so appreciate the organization, panel of judges, and welcoming atmosphere of the competition and this kind of festival is such an incredible learning experience for our students!”

Roane State Community College Choirs, USA (Málaga 2015)

“Meeting new people, exchanging experiences and sharing something we all love – that is what for me INTERKULTUR and its events are all about.”

Jelena Dobrota, Female Chamber Choir “Banjalucanke”, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Venezia 2011)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Early Bird deadline: **June 19, 2017**

Registration deadline: **September 11, 2017**



Photo credits: front page: © INTERKULTUR, inside: 1 © Melissa Speelman,
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