



**World
Choir
Games**

2012
cincinnati usa



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Cincinnati USA to host site visit for Interkultur team to continue 2012 World Choir Games planning

CINCINNATI (OH) –When Cincinnati USA was awarded the 2012 World Choir Games in June 2009, the stage was set for planning the largest convention in the history of the region. As preparations continue, the Cincinnati Organizing Committee of the 2012 World Choir Games will host a European contingent of organizers and partners from **Oct. 18–22** for an official site visit to tour potential venues, coordinate event logistics and operations and update media contacts and local supporters on the progress of the Games.

The Committee will welcome several representatives from Interkultur, the Germany-based founder and organizer of the World Choir Games, including Mr. Günter Titsch, president, as well as Maestro Gábor Hollerung, Dr. Christian Eick, Ms. Piroska Horváth and Mr. Wolfgang Coym. They will spend most of their time in Cincinnati with project organizers with World Choir Games 2012, Inc., but will also meet with a variety of local and regional dignitaries and partner organizations. Activities will include:

- Official handover of the World Choir Games flag from Mr. Titsch to Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory at City Hall;
- Meeting with Werner and Sabine Geissler, recently announced Global Chairs, and Lee and Shannon Carter and Judge Nathaniel and Lillian Jones, also recently announced as the U.S. Co-Chairs of the Cincinnati Organizing Committee of the 2012 World Choir Games;
- Roundtable on tourism opportunities with representatives from the Cincinnati USA Regional Tourism Network, the Cincinnati USA Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Northern Kentucky Convention & Visitors Bureau;
- Attendance at meetings of the Cincinnati City Council and the Hamilton County Commissioners;
- Reception with Cincinnati arts organizations and other civic leaders hosted by ArtsWave;
- Walking tour of downtown Cincinnati venues and a review of other potential venues across the region;
- Meetings with members of the 2012 World Choir Games Music Advisory Committee (leaders from area choirs and music organizations) as well as the Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Symphony Orchestra.

“We are making so much progress on a day-to-day basis and we’re very excited to host our friends from Interkultur to keep that positive momentum moving forward,” said Dan Lincoln, president & CEO of the Cincinnati USA Convention & Visitors Bureau and director of the Cincinnati Organizing Committee of the 2012 World Choir Games. “We’re building an extraordinary team of supporters and partners passionate about

helping Cincinnati put its best foot forward, and every part of that team will have a chance to contribute this week.”

Founded in 2000, the World Choir Games is the largest international choral competition in the world, taking place every two years. The 2012 World Choir Games in Cincinnati – held July 4-14 – will be the first ever hosted in the United States. The event is expected to have a local economic impact of \$73.5 million, attracting 20,000 competitors from 70 countries around the world. As many as 200,000 spectators are expected. In 2009, Cincinnati USA beat out 20 cities in a rigorous review. Representatives of Interkultur conducted three site visits in 2008 and 2009 before selecting Cincinnati USA as the 2012 host city. Now, the site visits are focused on planning and preparation.

“There are so many elements to coordinate, from venue selection to choir recruitment to marketing, sponsorships and promotion,” Lincoln said. “Mr. Titsch and his team at Interkultur are great collaborators. They have organized six previous Games and continue to share that knowledge with us throughout the process. And since 2012 will be the first time for the Games in the United States, they appreciate our unique cultural perspectives about making sure American creativity, enthusiasm and opportunity are well represented.”

Interkultur has ties to 120,000 choirs and 4.8 million choral singers around the world. In the 20 years since it was established, more than 5,000 choirs and some 230,000 singers from 100 nations have taken part in the World Choir Games and Interkultur’s regional choir competitions.

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MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday, Oct. 20

9:30 a.m.: Mr. Titsch and members of the Interkultur delegation will be introduced at the Hamilton County Commissioners meeting (County Building, 138 East Court St., Room 603). There will be a county proclamation.

1:15-1:30 p.m.: Mr. Titsch and members of the Interkultur delegation will visit Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory in the mayor’s office in City Hall. Mr. Titsch will officially hand over the World Choir Games flag to Mayor Mallory. Mayor Mallory will introduce the Interkultur delegation to City Council in council chambers (2 p.m.). There will be a city proclamation.

- ***If a media outlet cannot attend the flag handover but is interested in photos or video afterward, please let us know and we will accommodate you as best we can.***