Legato Projects Team
Final report and recommendations
Various Voices Festival 2030 bids

Introduction

Various Voices is the quad-annual European LGBTQ+ / Queer Choral Festival. Legato Choirs called for bids to host our 17th **Various Voices Festival 2030.**

The rigorous process involves a series of assessments by a panel of experts from the Legato Projects / Various Voices Team, working with the bidding groups. The Legato board will make the final decision on the host for the Various Voices 2030 festival, considering the recommendation of the assessment panel and your advisory member choirs' choice. Board members with a conflict of interest do not vote and are not involved in the selection.

The Legato Various Voices Team has provided ongoing support and mentoring during the bidding process and will oversee the host team during the Festival cycle, with an agreed timeline of tasks set out in the License Agreement. The host team agree to pay a license fee and share any festival surplus with Legato to support our ongoing activities to serve our members. Our objective is to ensure that the maximum number of our members get the opportunity to enjoy the festival, with a legacy to support future festivals and Legato's work.

Legato will be fair, clear and transparent to all stakeholders during the whole of the Festival cycle. The full bidding and help documents can be viewed online here: https://www.legato-choirs.com/vv2030/e0cf4d62-b818-4164-a24c-ab0b05c6e7c9

The timeline for the 2030 festival application and decision

15 August 2023	Call for bids.
1 December 2023	Expressions of interest submissions received
1 February 2024	A Shortlist of applicants was announced.
1 July 2024	Applicants submit bid documents for an initial assessment.
1 September 2024	Assessment of each bid made for final edit submission.
1 November 2024	The final bids with a video were submitted.
12 January 2025	Legato members' choice link is circulated
10 February 2025	Legato members' choice poll opens
15 February 2025	Legato members' choice poll closes
1 April 2025	The bidding teams will be advised about the boards' decision
To be advised	Formal announcement to members – Host for 2030 festival
16 June 2026	Handover ceremony in Brussels at Closing Ceremony

The Shortlist

Three bids made it to the shortlist, and their final bid document and video can be reviewed and downloaded during the member choirs' choice period.

The recommendation and comments for the Legato Board and members

The final bid documents and video assessment have a maximum score of 100

<mark>The assessor scores were:</mark>

1. <mark>Brighton 79.6</mark>
2. <mark>Reykjavik 74.6</mark>
3. <mark>Manchester 68.4</mark>

<mark>**The assessment panel recommends Brighton as the most competent and achievable bid**</mark> <mark>and thinks that Reykjavik is also competent and achievable.</mark>

Comments from the assessment panel

- The three shortlisted bid teams are to be commended for the professional and enjoyable bids that they submitted and thanked for the serious amount of time and energy that they have devoted to our Legato family.
- All the bids had a clear festival vision in their proposals.
- Brighton and Rekjavic had experience as previous festival bid applicants.

Brighton

We were impressed by the mix of venues, the plans to cope with variable festival attendees, city engagement and impact and the attention to accessibility. The level of detail on a range of fun activities and concerts, including elements to appeal to classical music lovers as well as show tune divas, with the education programmes, demonstrated the ability to meet a wide range of tastes and choir and attendee needs. Access to university accommodation will help with personal costs. The bid document met the festival brief and is concise and readable in several languages. The video is fun and informative.

We felt the sponsorship and grant proposals were modest, but it is always best to be cautious with income.

We do not advise that bids include example registration costs although all did, predicting six years in advance cannot be relied upon or be guaranteed.

Reykjavik

Hosting the festival would have a significant impact on Reykjavik and Iceland and for the attendees, the backdrop of the natural wonders of the Icelandic landscape would be impressive and memorable.
The rather lengthy bid document filled our imagination with images of this vibrant city. The Harpa has impressive performance spaces with creative and fun-sounding performance activities and workshops. The open natural spaces for socialising and the trip to the nearby island sound magical. The Youth Conference as suggested is a creative and inclusive opportunity. As a destination, Iceland does have a reputation for affordability but this is addressed in the bid.

Despite the evidence of grants and sponsorship for Pride, we felt these amounts may be overambitious and we always advise caution with festival income. Some elements were not as clearly explained to enable the visualisation of the festival.

Manchester

We were impressed with this first-time bid, in five languages, the concise colourful bid document and the informative video. We liked the focus on new music, education, city engagement and fun social activities and the in-depth detailed planning.

Your Choice

You can decide how you will choose your preferred location for 2030. Please do not share the bid or video or post on special media outside of your choir.

Emails will be sent to your official communication email address

- 12 January 2025   Legato members' choice link is circulated
- 10 February 2025   Legato members' choice poll opens
- 15 February 2025   Legato members' choice poll closes

Canvassing for votes in advance or during the member choir vote is prohibited, so please advise us if this happens.

The VV Project Team plans a major review of the team**,** the process and the documentation after the selection process is complete.

Any questions comments, suggestions or offers of help should be directed to: projects@legato-choirs.com