

WORLD ACCORDION ORCHESTRA VIII – GENERAL INFORMATION

On behalf of the *Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes*, I would like to welcome you to this exciting international accordion event. Thank you for your participation in the *World Accordion Orchestra VIII* which represents accordionists from many different countries. This will be the eighth year the orchestra has been organized. The CIA is very proud to have you participate in it and we know it will become one of the most enjoyable experiences in your musical life.

The WAO VIII will perform three pieces which have been selected very carefully. The first will be *Medley from The Sound of Music* conducted by Jacob Noordzij; the second, *A Tribute to Bernstein*, conducted by Werner Weibert; and the third, *Let There Be Peace on Earth*, conducted by Joan Cochran Sommers, during which the orchestra will be joined by a large choir of singers. Many members of the CIA Executive Committee, the CIA Music Committee, and Official Delegates to the CIA World Congress will also perform with the orchestra. It will be possible for this large orchestra to perform the pieces well, both musically and technically, providing each individual player prepares his parts in a professional manner. The two rehearsals must be devoted to overall performance matters regarding balance and interpretation details, plus taking care of the usual routine performance matters. This is not a time for sight-reading of parts, please!

The time and place for these mandatory rehearsals will be announced online. At the present time, the first rehearsal will be on Friday at 2 PM; the second rehearsal will be on Saturday at 2 PM. Both of the rehearsals as well as the evening concert performance by the *World Accordion Orchestra VIII* will take place in the magnificent *Europe Hall* at the *Salzburg Congress Center*. Please be on time and ready to rehearse promptly.

All members must provide their own music and music stands; there will not be any extras available in Salzburg. However, members traveling from overseas will be furnished a music stand. Please bring a pencil to the rehearsals just in case you wish to make any notes. Members traveling from overseas may also make arrangements to borrow an instrument if absolutely necessary. Please contact Werner Weibert for information: w.weibert@kabsi.at

Please place your name on everything: music, music stands, accordions, and accordion cases. This will help prevent any misplacement or loss. And, as with any professional symphonic orchestra, we ask that you do not bring anything on stage during the performance, such as purses, phones, cameras, water bottles, etc. Concert dress will be black shoes, black trousers or skirts, and black or white shirts or blouses. Gentlemen, please wear a tie and black socks; coats will not be required. There are always many photographs taken and much publicity surrounding these *Coupe Mondiale* concerts; therefore, we would like for all of us to look very professional onstage.

Every orchestra part is important whether it is numbered 1 or 7, and all players are equally responsible for the success of the performance. You may have a 3rd part on one piece but a 5th part on another piece since the arrangements do not all have the same number of parts overall. Practice with suggested metronome markings in mind, but remember that these are only guidelines; you must be prepared to watch the conductors at all times. Correct attention to register (switch) markings, dynamics and musical expression will be expected of this professional group of invited musicians.

Seating assignments will be made available immediately before the first rehearsal. Although changes may have to take place during the rehearsals, please do not change seats arbitrarily during either rehearsals or concert. There will be no changes in seating between pieces! Once onstage you must remain in that assigned seat, please.

If, for any reason, you have been assigned a part but will not be performing with the orchestra, you are urged to notify Joan Sommers as soon as possible because of the need for balance within the orchestra parts and the seating arrangements. If you have questions about the music, the rehearsals, or the concert, please do not hesitate to speak with your conductor if you are a member of the invited orchestras taking part, or to contact Joan Sommers at any time. Her e-mail address is Joansommers@kc.rr.com

Again, thank you for making the 2014 *World Accordion Orchestra VIII* an important part of your musical life. Good luck to you in your preparation. I look forward to meeting you in October, if not before.

Please visit www.coupemondiale.org for all details regarding the 2014 *Coupe Mondiale* in Salzburg, Austria.

Joan Cochran Sommers, Vice-president, Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes
Coordinator of the World Accordion Orchestra