



QUEER
CHOR
CHOIR AS F*CK

SCHWEIZ

APPLICATION FACTSHEET

2026/2027

About the choir

We are queerchor schweiz. We are a safer space and a community for queer singers as well as their audience. Not only do we want to bring our music and our stories to the stage, but we also want to make our voices heard in the cultural-political sphere. To us, queerchor schweiz means performing choral music whilst living and breathing unadulterated, raw queer joy. We sing on a high level across vastly different genres and draw on a wide range of queer forms of expression.

Our choir, queerchor schweiz, is a standing ensemble that rehearses once a month for one/two days (Saturday and/or Sunday) across Switzerland (exact dates below). We perform small concerts throughout the year based on our repertoire and have an intense phase with several concerts about once a year, for which we prepare a more elaborate programme. Choir members are expected to prepare the music individually ahead of rehearsals. Rehearsals take place in English. This is because our singers have diverse linguistic backgrounds – something to celebrate! However, if rehearsing in English is difficult for you, please let us know and we can find a solution.

Upcoming programme

*Let us open our hands to those of others.
(What are these wounds, in my hands, and in yours?)
Walls are not the answer.
We are all creatures.
-Caroline Shaw-*

For our next programmes our choir is set to achieve new musical heights with orchestral accompaniment with a project that's bigger and better than ever! And we'll continue to create a respectful, meaningful and accommodating space for musically inclined queers to celebrate queer joy through music, theatre, and community!

Starting in August 2026 with concerts in spring of 2027, we'll be going back to Caroline Shaw, a queer American composer and queerchor schweiz favourite. The choir will thematically explore themes of wounds, refuge and physicality through her piece "To the Hands". This is a six-movement piece for a SATB choir with accompaniment by a string quintet orchestra written in 2016 during the peak of a global refugee crisis. The work takes up motives of baroque composer Dietrich Buxtehude's "Jesus Membra Nostris" (the body parts of our Jesus). Caroline Shaw's composition plays with this celebration of the vulnerable body that yearns to be held, without explicitly religious references. We will combine this work with dark symphonic pop arrangements. As always, we will be working with a theatre director to collaboratively stage a performance based on and growing from our choir pieces. We will develop a choreography that involves more than just uniform entrances and exits, work with text, explore the possibilities of the voice beyond singing, and make a statement.

After a break in May 2027, we will resume rehearsals and start working towards a new concert programme, alongside repertoire concerts. Stay tuned for more!



Organisers

Benjamin Graf (he/him; musical director and initiator)

I studied choral conducting and organ at Zurich University of the Arts from 2017 to 2020 and have been involved in various musical projects: During my studies, I established and conducted the Orpheo Zurich youth choir project, with which I performed various concert programs. As a church musician in Zurich (Volketswil and Zurich–Wipkingen), I made music in many different contexts, from children's choir projects to organ concerts. After completing my bachelor's degree, I decided to give my passion for language, philosophy, history, and spirituality even more space. That's why I started studying theology and sociology, which took me first to the University of Zurich for two years and then to Humboldt University in Berlin for another two years. During my time in Berlin, I co-founded the queer worship collective queerumvier and was active in a small drag collective. Since 2021, I have been part of the band Traute Fiebrich. Since 2024/25, I have been artistic assistant in the Swiss Youth Choir and cultural manager at Schenkhaus in Zurich.

Board / Vorstand

Katharina Kolatzki (she/her; Co-President), **Linus Truninger** (they/she; Co-President), **Elliott Dill** (they/no pronouns; Awareness), **Anaïs Dolder** (she/her; Social Media), **Alma Vonmoos Grace** (she/her; Social Media, Awareness), **Marcio Marinho** (they/he; Administration), **Silvia Staub** (she/they; Communication), **Eva Tschopp** (she/her; Organisation), **Ben Warren** (no pronouns; Finances), **Ale Perucchi** (no pronouns; Fundraising), **Désirée Akwamo** (she/her; social programme)



Rehearsals & Concerts 2026/2027

Rehearsals take place on Saturdays or Sundays *for a whole day or a whole weekend each in Zurich, Lucerne or Bern*. Details will follow on a later date after your admission to the choir. If needed, we will solidarily organize sleeping accommodations at the respective cities. Concerts may take place throughout Switzerland.

What	Date, Place
Rehearsal day 1	Sunday, 23. August 2026, Bern
Rehearsal day 2	Saturday, 26. September 2026, Zürich
Rehearsal day 3	Sunday, 27. September 2026, Zürich
Rehearsal day 4	Sunday, 18. October 2026
Rehearsal day 5	Saturday, 21. November 2026, Bern
Rehearsal day 6	Saturday, 09. January 2027
Rehearsal day 7	Sunday, 10. January 2027
Rehearsal day 8	Saturday, 13. February 2027
Rehearsal day 9	Saturday, 06. March 2027
Concert day 1	Saturday, 20. March 2027
Concert day 2	Sunday, 21. March 2027



Concert day 3	Saturday, 03. April 2027
Concert day 4	Sunday, 04. April 2027
Rehearsal day 10	Saturday, 05. June 2027
Rehearsal day 11 / Concert day 5	Saturday, 26. June 2027
Rehearsal day 12 / Concert day 6	Sunday, 11. July 2027

Yearly membership contribution

In order to continue the choir, we are dependent on financial support to organize rehearsal rooms and pay the artists involved. The recommended membership fee is CHF 150.00 per member per year. People who receive unemployment benefits or have an uncertain residence status do not have to pay a contribution. If you cannot afford the regular contribution of CHF 150.00 for other reasons, that is also fine and you will be able to give CHF 100.00 or less. However, if you have the financial means, we and all those who do not have this opportunity would be grateful if you could pay CHF 150.00 or support our choir even further by paying the solidarity contribution of CHF 200.00. This will enable us to finance the work of the artistic team and the rental of rehearsal spaces.

Absences

The project is based on a great deal of voluntary work and individual commitment, so we expect participants to be present at all rehearsals. We have tried to keep the rehearsal schedule manageable. This means that we don't have much time to rehearse the programme. To ensure that rehearsals run smoothly, it is important that everyone is present and prepared. We expect you prepare an announced set of pieces ahead of each rehearsal. The choir can accept a maximum of two rehearsal days missed per participant. If you already have more scheduling conflicts but would really like to participate, please contact us directly (info@queerchorschweiz.ch).

We kindly ask you to indicate all your attendances when registering. If further absences occur later on, please contact us swiftly via email or approach an awareness team member.



Audition & registration

If you would like to sing with us for the next year, please apply under the following link: [queerchor schweiz registration 26/27](#). You will be asked to indicate your contact data, your choir experience and vocal range, your availabilities for rehearsals and to consent to the awareness concept (see below).

Your registration includes a short audition, which we will use to decide whether you can sing with us. One option is to audition in person with Beni Graf on the morning of Sunday, June 28th, 2026, at Schenkhaus, Seefeldstrasse 91, 8008 Zürich. Please sign up for an audition slot [here](#).

Otherwise, you can also send us a short recording to kuenstlerische.leitung@queerchorschweiz.ch. We are not looking for a highly produced recording in CD quality, but rather to get to know your voice. Therefore, it is enough to record yourself with your cell phone and make sure that you can be heard clearly. We would like to hear two short recordings from you. For the first piece, you can choose between two options; the second is a short warm-up exercise.

1st Recording: (choose one of the two options)

Sam Smith: Gloria (T. 1 bis T. 16), lyrics from “Demons on my shoulder” until “dreaming of more, more”; You can find the sheet music [here](#).

OR

Folk song: Alle Vöglein sind schon da, 1st verse

This song is available in two different vocal ranges. Choose the version that suits your vocal register. If you are unsure, go with the version that feels better for you. Beni can hear whether you are more suited to the higher or lower register.

For soprano and tenor:

1. Al - le Vö - gel sind schon da, al - le Vö - gel,
al - le! Welch ein Sin - gen, Mu - si - zern,
Pfei - fen, Zwit - schern, Ti - ri - liern! Früh - ling will nun
ein - mar - schiern, kommt mit Sang und Schal - le.

For alto and bass:

Al - le Vö - gel sind schon da, al - le Vö - gel
al - le. Welch ein Sin - gen, Mu - si - zern,
Pfei - fen, Zwit - schern, Ti - ri - liern. Früh - ling will nun
ein - mar - schiern, kommt mit Sang und Schal - le.

2nd Recording (single option only)

Vocalise (make sure that your execution is as correct as possible.)

Feel free to adjust the initial note to your vocal range; sing the exercise four or five times, starting a semitone higher each time.

passé den Startton gern an deine Stimmlage an;
sing die Übung vier-fünffmal und starte jedes Mal einen Halbton höher.



Please do not send us edited or pre-produced recordings, as this is unfair to the other auditionees.

Please send us your registration and recording to kuenstlerische.leitung@queerchorschweiz.ch by **July 5, 2026** at the latest. If you have any questions or other concerns, please contact us at: info@queerchorschweiz.ch. You will be notified by July 11, 2026, whether you have been accepted into the choir. We will make our selection primarily based on the recordings. If we have more applications than places in the individual register groups and the musical level of two applications is the same, we will give preference to the application that was received first, including the recording.

Awareness

We have an awareness concept. It is designed to protect choir members as much as possible from any form of discrimination, violence, and boundary violations. To register for the project, you must read it and behave accordingly during rehearsals and performances. You will find the awareness concept [here](#).