



## THE DELPHIC GAMES OF THE MODERN ERA

### A Worldwide Dialogue of Cultures

Just as the Olympic Games bring people together across the globe through their enthusiasm for sports, the Delphic Games of the modern era unite people of all nations and cultures through their fascination for the arts.

Based on centuries-old traditions dating back to ancient Greece, the Delphic Games promote the dialogue between all cultures. Across the globe, they offer outstanding representatives of arts and culture a unique stage for competing, lecturing, presenting and for an intercultural exchange of ideas. In organizing the games, the Delphic Movement supports forward-looking developments in arts and culture, yet at the same time seeks to preserve the cultural heritage of humankind.

By preserving national and ethnic identities, the Delphic Games strengthen fundamental human values, contribute to intercultural understanding among peoples, and support international peace.

### From ancient to contemporary

For almost 1000 years, the Delphic Games were part of life in ancient Greece. Up to the year 394 AD, they were celebrated as one of the most important events of the nation's cultural life and always took place in the year preceding the Olympic Games. Whilst the Olympic Games focused on physical competition, the Delphic (Pythian) Games were devoted to artistic competition. They were accorded such a high status in ancient times that all armed conflicts ceased for the duration of the Games.

A hundred years after the relaunch of the Olympic Games of the modern era, the founding assembly of the International Delphic Council (IDC) took place in 1994 in Berlin. Representatives of 20 countries followed the invitation of J. Christian B. Kirsch and the International Delphic Movement was born.

### International Delphic Council (IDC)

Worldwide umbrella organization for culture

The IDC is the supreme authority of the Delphic Movement. The members of the IDC include National Delphic Councils (NDCs) and prominent representatives from the fields of the arts, culture, education, industry, and associations and institutions of all kinds. The leading body of the IDC is the Executive Board. In honour of ancient Greek tradition the board is called Amphictyony and consists of twelve elected members.

The most important task of the IDC is to strengthen the Delphic Movement and to regularly organize international Delphic Games and Delphic Junior Games with the goal to promote understanding amongst peoples and cultures around the globe.

Delphic Ambassadors, among them international icons such as Nelson Mandela, support the work of the IDC.

*Through the reintroduction of the Delphic Games, you have created an exceptional opportunity for people of different cultures to meet in the spirit of tolerance and understanding, and promote the ideals of international co-operation and universal dialogue pursued by this organisation.*

Koïchiro Matsuura  
UNESCO Director General, May 2000

*I can think of no model more worthy of emulation than the Greek. They placed the refinement of body, mind, and spirit on one invisible altar to life. I applaud your new impulses and your targets.*

Lord Yehudi Menuhin  
Violinist and Conductor, April 1997

*It was for me a great pleasure to get acquainted with your initiative of reviving the International Delphic Games, and I do support it. I wish you great successes on this not easy but vital way.*

Mikhail S. Gorbachev  
President of Soviet Union, February 1996

*It's a moving moment to state, that the "continuously talking water" of the Castalian spring did not stop flowing and that there are still people sensitive to hearing it.*

Konstantinos Lefas  
Mayor of Delphi, December 1994



**INTERNATIONAL  
DELPHIC COUNCIL**  
Linking Arts & Cultures



## The Delphic Games

**Applications** to host the Delphic Games are invited from cities and regions worldwide. The applications proceed according to the guidelines of the International Delphic Council (IDC).

**The International Games Commission** of the IDC selects the host from among the accepted candidates. In conjunction with the host's Organising Committee (OrgCom), the Games Commission decides on the scheduling and organization of the Games. The Games Commission and the OrgCom together oversee the preparation and financial planning of the Games.

**The International Media Commission** of the IDC is in charge of concepts to publicize and broadcast the Games.

**The International Arts Commission** of the IDC, together with the host, defines the programme of the respective Games and determines which disciplines will be part of the games. All six Delphic categories together shape the games' identity. The Arts Commission recommends criteria for the nomination of the artists and is the advisory body for the appointments of jury members.

**The International Heritage Commission** of the IDC develops concepts for the preservation of the world's cultural heritage.

**The Juries** consist of representatives of national and international art federations, competitive events, festivals and artistic agencies. Juries also include experts from artistic academies, universities and colleges, as well as artists renowned in their fields. In some artistic disciplines and depending on the technical possibilities, the audience has a chance to contribute to the evaluation of the performances.

**The Delphic Games** take place according to IDC Guidelines. The programme and guidelines of the games are adjusted and coordinated in great detail together with each respective host.

**The participants** of the Delphic Games are nominated according to the results of national heats or are otherwise appointed in accordance with the IDC statutes. Participants are professionally trained and highly experienced artists and cultural activists.

Participants in the Junior Delphic Games are aged 14 and up, including young adults who are training to become artists and self-taught artists up to the age of 28 who have not yet had an opportunity to become professionals.

### **Delphic Games until now**

#### **1997 - I. Delphic Junior Games 1997**

*Tbilisi/Georgia:  
„A day to dream“*

#### **2000 - I. Delphic Games 2000**

*Moscow/Russia:  
„New Millennium“*

#### **2003 - II. Delphic Junior Games 2003**

*Düsseldorf/Germany:  
„Creativity & Peace“*

#### **2005 - II. Delphic Games 2005**

*Kuching/Malaysia:  
„Revitalising Endangered Traditions“*

#### **2007 - III. Delphic Junior Games 2007**

*Baguio City/Philippines:  
„Building Bridges with Arts & Culture  
for our Children's future“*

#### **2009 - III. Delphic Games 2009**

*Jeju City/Korea:  
„In Tune with Nature“*

#### **2011 - IV. Delphic Junior Games 2011**

*Johannesburg/South Africa:  
„Provoke, Innovate, Inspire“*

### **The six Art Categories of the Delphic Games of the Modern Era**

#### **Acoustic Arts**

*Singing, instrumental music, electronic sounds ...*

#### **Performing Arts**

*Dance, theatre, circus, puppet show ...*

#### **Lingual Arts**

*Literature, lectures, story telling, moderation ...*

#### **Visual Arts**

*Painting/graphic, sculpture/Installation,  
photography/film, architecture, design, fashion,  
handicraft ...*

#### **Social Arts**

*Communication, internet, media, pedagogic, didactic ...*

#### **Ecological Arts**

*Landscape and city planning, preservation and  
conservation of nature, buildings and memorials and  
monuments ...*



## Delphic Games Identity

**The Symbol of the Delphic Games** of the modern era consists of an endless ribbon fashioned out of six semicircles in the colours orange, yellow, green, blue, violet, and red on a white background. They symbolize the connection of the six Delphic art categories.

**The Delphic Poet** harks back to documentation of the ancient Delphic Games by the Greek poet Pindar. The Application Committee appoints a well-known writer or journalist of the host country to this post. The Delphic Poet communicates and reflects the concepts and values of the Delphic Games and, in addition, chronicles the games.

**The Water Ceremony** at the Castalian spring is of the same importance for the Delphic Games as fire for the Olympic Games. Six months prior to the Delphic Games/Junior Delphic Games, a delegation from the host country travels to Delphi, Greece, to ceremoniously fetch water from the holy Castalian spring and to convey this water to the place where the next games will be held. The water of Delphi is then part of the Opening Ceremony.

With the water ceremony, the Delphic Games symbolically return to their origin, the Castalian spring, located on a southern slope of Mount Parnassus in Delphi, which in ancient times was dedicated to Apollo and the muses. The water from the spring was used for ritual bathing by visitors to the Delphic oracle and by pilgrims who came to Delphi which to the Greek mind was the 'centre of the universe.'

**The World Culture Forum (WCF)** takes place three days before the Opening Ceremony. National and international representatives from the fields of culture, art, education, politics, the media and industry come together to discuss common interests and explore new forms of synergy. The highlight and closing of the WCF is the attendance of the Opening Ceremony.

**The Opening Ceremony** presents outstanding protagonists of art and culture in the host country, giving expression to creativity, the zeitgeist, traditions and important cultural values.

**The Delphic Games** offer diverse forms of participation:

- Artistic competitions take place in all disciplines which lend themselves to live performances in front of an audience and jury.
- Competition in the form of exhibitions and presentations is reserved for those disciplines not suitable for live performances, but whose results can be presented to a jury for evaluation.
- There is also a competition of documentary films that show artistic and cultural highlights of the participating nations which were filmed up to four years previously.

**The Supporting Programme** consists of artist forums, round table discussions and gala performances which are not evaluated by a jury.

**The Agora** is an important artists' meeting point that also functions as information and press centre.

**The Closing Ceremony** is staged by the host. The programme should reflect a combination of the artistic highlights of the games and lead into a farewell ceremony that includes all participants.

## The Delphic Awards

### Medal

*in gold, silver and bronze for comparable competitive disciplines*

### Lyre

*for exceptional individual artistic performances as a part of a larger synthesis of the arts*

### Laurel

*for outstanding and incomparable artistic performances*

### Certificate

*for all active participants of the Games*



### Additional Information

*about the Delphic Games, the IDC, and participation can be found at:*

[www.delphic-games.com](http://www.delphic-games.com)

*Please address requests about membership, hosting, sponsoring, cooperation and collaboration to:*

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