

2026 NATIONAL MARTYRS CHORAL FESTIVAL KICKS OFF

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MARTYRS' DAY 2026

By Vision Reporter

The search for the 2026 National Martyrs Choral Festival champion has kicked off. The premier nationwide competition aims at celebrating faith, heritage and vocal excellence.

The 2026 edition invites both Catholic and Anglican choirs from across the country to participate in what organisers have described as a "proclamation of faith over fear."

This year's theme, *Bridging Faith Through Harmony*, underscores the historical resilience of the martyrs while providing a modern platform for the country's most talented liturgical performers to showcase their skills on a national stage.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The road to the 2026 finals begins with a digital call for entries. Choirs wishing to participate are required to record a video of their ensemble performing a hymn and submit it to the official festival WhatsApp number: 0776877528. To ensure a



Uganda's former prime minister, Amama Mbabazi (third-right) handing over sh10m dummy cheque to St Charles Lwanga Lubaga Cathedral Choir, the winners in the Catholic category at Serena Conference Centre in May, last year

structured selection process, each submission must clearly state the name of the choir, affiliated church and respective diocese.

Max Adii, the project co-ordinator, who doubles as the station manager for Wan Luo TV, said the digital submission phase is designed to ensure inclusivity, allowing choirs from remote regions to compete with established urban ensembles.

Once the submission window closes, Adii said, a panel of adjudicators will

review the entries to select the top performers.

"These selected choirs will not only be featured across Vision Group's extensive network of television channels, but will also compete for prestigious awards during the live televised finale," he noted.

He added: "The festival is more than a competition; it is a spiritual journey and a celebration of our identity. By integrating digital submissions, we are opening the gates to every diocese

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Last year's competition set a high benchmark for vocal precision and emotional resonance, with the victors becoming household names within the choral community.

In the Catholic category, the St Charles Lwanga Lubaga Cathedral Choir emerged as the undisputed champions. The second was Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Secondary School, Kasawo, representing the Lugazi Diocese. The third-place position was awarded to the All-Saints Choir from Christ the King Catholic Parish in Arua Diocese.

In the Anglican category, the Morning Glory Choir of St Apollo Kivebulaya Church of Uganda claimed the top prize, followed by the Rwenzori Diocese Kampala Fellowship Choir. The Shepherd's Choir from Lira emerged third.

The festival, which has become a cornerstone of Uganda's religious and cultural calendar, serves as a formal tribute to the courage and sacrifice of the Uganda martyrs.

in Uganda, ensuring that voices of the faithful are heard from the peaks of the Rwenzori to the plains of Karamoja."

SPONSORSHIP

The 2026 National Martyrs Choral Festival is organised by Vision Group and supported by a consortium of high-profile partners, who share a commitment to community development and cultural preservation. This year's primary sponsors include Uganda Christian University (UCU), Pepsi and Equity Bank.

UCU's involvement highlights the

festival's connection to academic and spiritual excellence, while Equity Bank and Pepsi bring a level of corporate prestige that ensures the event's logistical success. The partnership between Vision Group and these entities reflects a shared vision of promoting social cohesion through the medium of sacred music.

Organisers have noted that the live broadcast of the festival across all Vision Group TV channels, including Bukedde TV, Wan Luo and TV West, will provide unprecedented visibility for the participating choirs and sponsors, reaching millions of viewers across the East African region.