

BERTSOLARI TXAPELKETA NAGUSIA 2022

The National Bertsolaris Championship 2022 comes to an end in Pamplona's Navarra Arena pavilion on 18th December.

13,000 fans will be making it a date at the Navarra Arena in Pamplona to follow the final, to be held over the morning and afternoon. Performances will begin at 11am in the morning and 5pm in the afternoon. The final will be followed by a host of media and enthusiasts will also be able to follow the event from home.

These are the eight singers who have made it to the finals: Aitor Mendiluze Gonzalez, Alaia Martin Etxebeste, Amets Arzallus Antia, Beñat Gaztelumendi Arandia, Joanes Illarregi Marzol, Maialen Lujanbio Zugasti, Nerea Ibarzabal Salegi and Sustrai Colina Acordarrementeria.

Iñaki Murua Jauregi is to present the *txapela* (a traditional large beret, symbol of the winner) to the winner; this role is in recognition of all the years of work he has done to promote *bertsolari* improvised singing. In addition, the award ceremony for these prizes will also feature representatives of other fields in which Bertsozale Elkarte is active: culture, the Basque language and improvised singing at international level. All the prizes will be works of art created by artists from the Basque Country.



The bertsolari singers

Aitor Mendiluze Gonzalez (b. Andoain, 1975)

He first came across bertsolari singing at school. He has won the Gipuzkoa Bertsolaris Championship twice, in 1995 and 2007. This is the seventh time he has taken part in the National Championship, and his sixth time as a finalist. In 2017 he was runner-up.



Alaia Martin Etxebeste (b. Oiartzun, 1987)

She made her debut in the world of bertsolari singing at the age of 12. She has come third in the Gipuzkoa Championship twice (in 2011 and 2019) and second in 2015. This is the third time she has taken part in this championship and her first time in the final.



Amets Arzallus Antia (b. Hendaia, 1983)

He started out in the world of bertsolari singing at a very early age, influenced by his family. He has won the Navarrese Bertsolaris Championship four times, adding this to four other wins at the Xilaba championship of Lapurdi, Baxenabarre and Zuberoa. In 2013 he won the National Bertsolaris Championship, and in 2009 he came second. This is the sixth time he has entered and his fifth final.



Beñat Gaztelumendi Arandia (b. Añorga, 1987)

His love for bertsolari singing comes from his family. He won the Gipuzkoa Bertsolaris Championship in 2015 and again in 2019, the last time it was held up to now. He has taken part in the grand championship four times, and this is his third time in the final.



Joanes Illarregi Marzol (b. Leitza, 1999)

He has been linked to bertsolari singing from an early age. He has taken part in the Navarra Bertsolaris Championship three times, reaching the finals twice. This is the first time he has taken part in the grand championship for bertsolari singers.





Maialen Lujanbio Zugasti (b. Hernani, 1976)

She embarked on a busy singing career at the age of 15. She won the Gipuzkoa Bertsolaris Championship in 2003, and in 2009 and 2017 won the National Bertsolaris Championship, which makes her the current reigning champion. She also came second in 2001 and 2013. She is taking part in this championship for the seventh time, having reached the finals in all seven.

Nerea Ibarzabal Salegi (b. Markina-Xemein, 1994)

She started bertsolari singing at the age of 12. In 2016 and 2018 she reached the finals of the Bizkaia Bertsolaris Championship, and in 2021 she won it, making her the reigning champion of Bizkaia province. This is her second time at the National Bertsolaris Championship, and her first final.



Sustrai Colina Acordarrementeria (b. Urruña, 1982)

He first sang in public in 1992. He has won the Xilaba championship of Lapurdi, Baxenabarre and Zuberoa twice, in 2014 and 2016. This is his sixth time at the National Bertsolaris Championship, having reached the final all six times. In 2017 he finished third.

People responsible for presenting and directing performances in the final

Alaitz Rekondo Ferrero, Aritz Bidegain Aire, Idoia Anzorandia Kareaga and Ion Zaldúa Brit.

Judges

Ainhoa Sarasua Lascaray, Aitor Jimenez Tolosana, Amaia Otxotorena Gamio, Eneko Bidegain Aire, Eneritz Azkue Basurko, Joseba Beltza Bengoetxea, Joseba Santxo Uriarte, Miriam Juaristi Urizar and Nerea Bruño Artazkoz.





Trials

Morning (11am) - 15 *bertsolari* singers competing

- Two-part dispute on a given topic, three *bertso* stanzas, each of eight longer lines (*zortziko handi*).
- Two-part dispute on a given topic, three *bertso* stanzas, each of eight shorter lines (*zortziko txiki*).
- Solo, three *bertso* stanzas in eight shorter lines (*zortziko txiki*).
- Two-part dispute on a given topic, three *bertso* stanzas, each in six short two-line points.
- "Ganbara" performance: solo, three *bertsos* on a given topic, to any tune and metre.

Evening (5pm) - 10 scored *bertsos*

- Two-part dispute on a given topic, three *bertso* stanzas, each of ten shorter lines (*hamarreko txiki*).
- Two-part dispute on a given topic, making up eight *bertsos* of eight short lines (*zortziko txiki*), in two-line points.
- Solo, three *bertsos* on a given topic, to any tune and metre.

Hand to hand:- 10 scored *bertsos*

- Two-part dispute on a given topic, three *bertso* stanzas each, to the tune *Iparragirre abila dela*.
- Two-part dispute on a given topic, four *bertso* stanzas, each of eight shorter lines (*zortziko txiki*).
- "Ganbara" performance:
 - Solo, with one word as the topic to continue in a *bertso* of nine short points.
 - Solo, three *bertsos* on a given topic, to any tune and metre.



Prizes and the people presenting them

As well as bertsolari singing, Bertsozale Elkartea also wanted representatives of other fields in which it works - culture, the Basque language and improvised singing at international level - to play a part in the prize-giving.

Presenting the *txapela* hat to the winner: Iñaki Murua Jauregi (b. Gabiria, 1956)

Bertsolari singer and a great promoter of the form at all levels.

He took part in the National Bertsolaris Championship for the first time in 1982, reaching the finals in 1986 and 1989. He was also a finalist at the Gipuzkoa Bertsolaris Championship in 1991 and 1995.



Along with others, he has worked tirelessly for bertsolari singing in his home town, for example in the creation and running of the Osinalde bertso competition. Outside Gabiria, he has worked for the Basque Country as a whole: from 2005 to 2018 he was the president of Euskal Herriko Bertsozale Elkartea.

Both as president of the association and otherwise, Murua has always played a highly active part in the bertsolari movement. He remains today a very prominent figure in Bertsozale Elkartea. Always friendly and caring, he is a much-loved figure at every level of the bertsolari world, young and not-so-young singers, staff at Bertsozale Elkartea, volunteers and partners among them.



From second to eighth place

Irantzu Idoate Funosas (b. Hazparne, 2005) is to present the second prize. A young *bertsolari* singer, she is the current Basque national schools champion for 2022.

Sagrario Aleman Astitz (b. Etxaleku, 1952) will be presenting the third and sixth prizes. Among other roles, she has been head of the Arturo Campion Basque school in Pamplona for many years, as well as being one of the leading figures in the movement to revive the Basque language in Navarra.

Edurne Azkarate Sobrino (b. Oion, 1993) is an actress and will also be taking part in the prize-giving. In 2017 she presented the television programme *Aulki Jokoa* about that year's grand championship for *bertsolari* singers. Among other activities, she has appeared in the stage play *Zaldi Urdina*, directed the *Lanku Kultur Zerbitzuak eRRe* show and starred in the recent film *Irati*. She will hand over the fourth and seventh prizes.

Paulu Zedda (b. Sinnai, 1964) takes part in "*cantada*" improvised singing in Sardinia, as a "*cantadori*". Bertsozale Elkartea has long had relations with the improvised singers of Sardinia, largely thanks to Zedda. He will be presenting the fifth and eighth prizes.

The prizes

Itziar Alduntzin of Donostia (San Sebastián) had the job of embroidering the *txapela*. The winner will also receive a sculpture by the artist from Berriatua **Mikel Lertxundi**.

The sculpture *Eskutik Eskura* (the result of a suggestion by Koldo Tapia and the work of Xabier Laka) in 2017 completed a series of four championships, and already has the names of the runners-up in those competitions on each of its four sides. Thus, this year the second prize-winner will receive another work of art: a bronze sculpture made by the artist from Andoain **Iker Valle**

The *bertsolari* singers coming from third to eighth place will receive paintings by **Jose Luis Zumeta, Dora Salazar, Carmelo Ortiz de Elgea, Marta Cardenas, Mariano Arsuaga** and **Olatz Irigarai**.



Practical information

Times

9.00am Doors open at the Navarra Arena
11.00am The day's performances begin
2.30pm Morning performances end (*expected)
4.00pm Doors open at the Navarra Arena
5.00pm Afternoon performances begin
8.30pm Afternoon performances end (*expected)

Getting to the Navarra Arena

Bertsozale Elkartea asks that attendees use the buses provided by the organisers and public transport. It is very important for everybody that this request is taken into account, to avoid traffic jams and incidents that could hinder the course of the day.

Bertsozale Elkartea has organised buses together with the company Bertsozale Aizpurua Autobusak. Also, Pamplona local public bus services 1, 6, 9, 11 and 16 connect the Navarra Arena (or its surrounding area) with the city centre and other neighbourhoods. Times and prices: www.infotuc.es.

Bertsozale Elkartea appeals to anybody coming by car to share a vehicle. Those coming to Pamplona on the A-15 motorway should take exits 83 and 83B. To park near the Navarra Arena there are several car parks, both on the campus of the Public University of Navarra and at the Galaria shopping centre (La Morea). The organisers recommend using the car parking at the shopping centre as a priority option.

At the Navarra Arena

Each area (stands, track, ends) has its own entrance and spectators cannot move from one area to another. There will be toilets and a bar service on all levels (except on the second level, where there is no bar). The information area will be beside Gate A; we want the final to be a place free from sexist aggression; to respond to any sexist aggressions that might occur during the day, a purple point will be provided in this area. There will also be a children's area on the track level.



Sharp objects (including large umbrellas) and glass, cans, alcohol and inflammable objects cannot be taken into the venue. Items of this kind must be left between 8am and 11.30am at the cloakroom provided in El Sadar stadium and collected at the end of the morning performances. There will not be a cloakroom service in the afternoon.

Food

The company Zubillaga Catering will offer a set meal for 24 euros in the UPNA sports venue. Meat and vegan options will be available. Tickets can be purchased up or on to 15th December on the web portal www.bertsosarrerak.eus.

People bringing food from home can eat it under cover in El Sadar stadium. The bar in the stadium will be open and toilets available; lunch will be accompanied by live music.

Many fans are expected to come to the final, so we must ask for patience and respect. The organisers' instructions must be followed at all times. We would like to thank everybody attending for doing so.

Find out more in the portal www.bertsosarrerak.eus.



Further information

Representatives of other forms of improvised singing elsewhere in the world and researchers

The final will be attended by local and international researchers, as well as experts and representatives of organisations promoting other forms of improvised singing. It will also be attended by *glosadors* and *glosadores* (representing improvised singing in Catalan) and fans from Catalonia, on their own account.

- Manolo Maseda and Séchu Sende, of the Proxecto Educativo Regueifesta, Galicia.
- Alexandre Nebot i Ventura and Carles Buguera i Martin, of Cor de Carxofa, Catalonia.
- Maribel Servera and Mateu Xuri, of the association Glosadors, Mallorca.
- Paula Cristina da Silva Fernandes and Roberto Carlos Freitas Moniz, of the association Xarabanda, Madeira.
- Antoni Orrú, Prof. Busianu Pilosu and Paulu Zedda, of Cordinamentu Artes Musicales et Poèticas de Tradizioni Orali de Sardegna, Sardinia.
- Jone Miren Hernandez and Pío Pérez, of the Mikel Laboa chair at the University of the Basque Country.
- Iñaki Arrieta, Larraitz Ariznabarreta and Xabier Irujo of the University of Nevada.
- Other researchers: Alfredo Asiain, Amaya Carricaburu, Antxoka Agirre, Beñat Krolem, Edmilson Ferreira, Emilio Ros, Giovanni Ragni, Jesus Fernandez, Jon Sarasua, Juan Joxe Zubiri, Prof. Marco Lutz, Marta Fernandez, Rafael Yuste and Xian Naya.

Media coverage

As well as coming to the pavilion itself, enthusiasts can also follow the final on 18th from home. Thanks to cooperation between EITB and Bertsozale Elkartea, the final can be followed live throughout the day both on ETB1 and on the portals www.bertsoa.eus and www.eitb.eus. Also, different media collaborating with the championship will report on these live broadcasts on their own websites.

Finally, some radio channels will broadcast the final live, and a large number of journalists for print media will be at the Navarra Arena to cover the event.

A team of over 350 people working on the event.

To make sure everything to do with the final goes according to plan, Bertsozale Elkartea will have more than 350 people working on it. These people will be duly identified and will assist attendees before, during and after the event. The job of the staff and employees of Bertsozale Elkartea is to ensure that everything goes as well as possible, so the organisers would ask attendees to cooperate with them at all times and follow their instructions.



Championship winners over the years

Year	Venue	Champion
1935	Donostia	Iñaki Eizmendi Basarri
1936	Donostia	Manuel Lujanbio Txirrita
1960	Donostia	Iñaki Eizmendi Basarri
1962	Donostia	Manuel Olaizola Uztapide
1965	Donostia	Manuel Olaizola Uztapide
1967	Donostia	Manuel Olaizola Uztapide
1980	Donostia	Xabier Amuriza
1982	Donostia	Xabier Amuriza
1986	Donostia	Sebastian Lizaso
1989	Donostia	Jon Lopategi
1993	Donostia	Andoni Egaña
1997	Donostia	Andoni Egaña
2001	Donostia	Andoni Egaña
2005	Barakaldo	Andoni Egaña
2009	Barakaldo	Maialen Lujanbio
2013	Barakaldo	Amets Arzallus
2017	Barakaldo	Maialen Lujanbio

Further information: <https://bdb.bertsozale.eus/en/web/aldizkakoa/view/1671-bertsolari-txapelketa-nagusia>



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