

THE NATIONAL BERTSOLARIS CHAMPIONSHIP 2022

The 18th National Bertsolari Championship is to begin on 24th September, ending on 18th December. This is the tenth championship organised by Bertsozale Elkartea (the Association of the Friends of Bertsolaritza).

The National Bertsolaris Championship 2022 will consist of 14 performances. It will begin in Getxo for the first time, and the final will take place in the Navarra Area in Pamplona.

This year's edition is to feature 42 bertsolaris. There will also be a 14-member group of conductors of pieces and a jury with 21 members.

Five years have passed since we held the last National Bertsolaris Championship. They have been highly uneven years for the cultural activities and, like the rest of the arts, in the last two years bertsolaritza has suffered from an unprecedented situation: almost completely inactive, placing bertsolaris in very difficult circumstances, turning the world of this art form upside down from one day to the next, forcing bertso schools to close and many activities to be cancelled.

However, this awful situation has also had its positive side: we have had to support each other in our difficulties: the solidarity, the creative capacity of our movement and our own self-organisation have helped us to keep going.

Moreover, as the everyday pace slowed down, we were able to focus on major issues, like the role of culture in society and decent working conditions for artists, questions on which we have spoken out clearly and concisely in recent months. The forced stop has enabled us to learn a lot but has also left us with outstanding matters.

This is the context in which the National Bertsolaris Championship 2022 is being held. The participants are eager, bertsolaritza is picking up and we have noted special interest on the part of bertsolaritza enthusiasts. The organisers in turn will attempt to meet the expectations raised, in a responsible way.

It is time to focus on the art of this improvised verse singing art: bertsolaritza.





MAIN FEATURES

Participation

Finalists in the National Bertsolaris Championship 2017 and top-placed entrants in regional championships are eligible to take part in this year's event. A total of 42 bertsolaris will be taking part.

36 bertsolaris will sing in the first phase: 2 from Araba, 10 from Biscay, 16 from Gipuzkoa, 5 from Navarre and the top 3 in the Xilaba championship (the competition for Labour, Lower Navarre and Soule). The finalists from the previous National Bertsolaris Championship will go into the semifinals and the 2017 winner, Maialen Lujanbio, will go straight into the final.

Aitor Sarriegi and Igor Elortza have declined to sing in the championship, and as they sang in the final at the last event, nobody will take their place. Beñat Lizaso, Etxahun Lekue, Jokin Uranga, Jon Maia and Odei Barroso have also declined the privilege, and their places will be taken by Beñat Iguaran, Haritz Mujika, Imanol Uria, Maialen Akizu and Patxi Iriart.

Sponsors and partners

The National Bertsolaris Championship 2022 is sponsored by the bodies that have annual agreements with Bertsozale Elkartea: the Basque Government Cultural and Language Policy Department, Euskarabidea and the Culture Department of the Government of Navarre: Gipuzkoa Provincial Authority, Biscay Provincial Authority, Laboral Kutxa and Villabona Town Council.

The local authorities hosting the performances in the championship, together with the bertso schools in each place, have given invaluable assistance to the organisers of each session.

Finally, the championship will have the support of media throughout the Basque Country, which will help to broadcast the event. Bertsozale Elkartea would like to thank them for this contribution.





Advantages for Bertsozale Elkartea members

Members are the indispensable grassroots for all the association's activities. For this reason, and to say thank you, Bertsozale Elkartea will benefit from a range of privileges during the championship.

- They will get a discount on tickets for all performances.
- Each member will have a reserved ticket for the final between the 23rd June and the 30th June.

The championship on the Internet

The National Bertsolaris Championship 2022 has two complementary websites to publicise it.

www.bertsozale.eus: the championship has a special sub-site on the association's official site. This will contain complete information on the championship: details of participants, of performances, tables, news, summaries and more.

www.bertsoa.eus: the championship will have a space of its own within the themed website where enthusiasts can follow performances live, see recordings and interviews with participants and more.

Those interested can follow the championship through the association's official social networks ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Youtube](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)) as well as on the social networks of the themed channel [Bertsoa.eus](#) ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Youtube](#), [Twitter](#)). #BTN22 is the key hashtag to follow the championship.

The image of the championship

The image and media for the championship were developed by the association's communication committee and by Lanku Kultur Zerbitzuak, together with the communication firm Dixidu.



Hitzetik Hartzera and live broadcasts

You can also follow the championship on television. The new season of Hitzetik Hartzera starts on 18th September and will be broadcast every Sunday on ETB1. This television series, the result of collaboration between EITB and Bertsozale Elkarteak, will feature programmes specifically devoted to the championship from September to December.

In addition, all the semifinals will be broadcast live on ETB4 and also on www.eitb.eus and www.bertsoa.eus.

Foreign improvisers and researchers

As in previous years, the association will be inviting foreign improvisers and researchers to see the championship final at first hand. We will be providing more information soon.

Winners in the history of the National Bertsolaris Championship

Year	Venue	Winner
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

PARTICIPANTS

BERTSOLARIS



Agin Laburu Rezola
Astigarraga, 1985
3rd time in the championship



Amaia Iturriotz Etxaniz
Urretxu, 1993
1st time in the championship



Aitor Bizkarra Ruiz
Abadiño, 1996
1st time in the championship



Amets Arzallus Antia
Hendaia, 1983
6th time in the championship



**Aitor Etxebarriazarraga
Gabiola**
Gernika-Lumo, 1993
1st time in the championship



Ane Labaka Mayoz
Lasarte-Oria, 1992
1st time in the championship



Aitor Mendiluze Gonzalez
Andoain, 1975
7th time in the championship



Asier Azpiroz Iztueta
Zubieta, 1991
1st time in the championship



Alaia Martin Etxebeste
Oiartzun, 1987
3rd time in the championship



Beñat Gaztelumendi Arandia
Añorga, 1987
4th time in the championship



Beñat Iguaran Amondarain

Amasa-Villabona, 1988

2nd time in the championship



Imanol Uria Albizuri

Algorta, 1993

1st time in the championship



Eneko Lazkoz Martinez

Etxarri-Aranatz, 1983

2nd time in the championship



Iñaki Apalategi Astigarraga

Beasain, 1982

3rd time in the championship



Eñaut Martikorena Lizaso

Hernani, 1995

1st time in the championship



Iñigo Mantzidor Larrañaga

'Mantxi'; Zarautz, 1977

4th time in the championship



Gorka Pagonabarraga Agorria

Durango 2000

1st time in the championship



Joanes Illarregi Marzol

Leitza, 1999

1st time in the championship



Haritz Mujika Lasa

Asteasu, 1995

1st time in the championship



Jone Uria Albizuri

Getxo, 1990

4th time in the championship



Iban Urdangarin Lardizabal

Ataun, 1985

2nd time in the championship



Julio Soto Ezkurdia

Iruñea, 1987

4th time in the championship



Maddalen Arzallus Antia

Hendaia, 1990

3rd time in the championship



Nerea Elustondo Plazaola

Legazpi, 1981

4th time in the championship



Maialen Akizu Bidegain

Urretxu, 1996

1st time in the championship



Nerea Ibarzabal Salegi

Markina-Xemein, 1994

2nd time in the championship



Maialen Lujanbio Zugasti

Hernani, 1976

7th time in the championship



Oihana Bartra Arenas

Bilbo, 1984

4th time in the championship



Manex Agirre Arriolabengoa

Aramaio, 1982

2nd time in the championship



Oihana Iguaran Barandiaran

Amasa-Villabona, 1991

2nd time in the championship



Miren Amuriza Plaza

Berriz, 1990

4th time in the championship



Onintza Enbeita Maguregi

Muxika, 1979

5th time in the championship



Miren Artetxe Sarasola

Hendaia, 1985

4th time in the championship



Patxi Iriart Hiribarren

Hiriburu, 1988

1st time in the championship



Peru Abarrategi Sarrionandia

Aramaio, 1997

1st time in the championship



Unai Gaztelumendi Arandia

Añorga, 1988

2nd time in the championship



Saioa Alkaiza Guallar

Iruñea, 1991

13th time in the championship



Unai Mendizabal Jauregi

Zizurkil, 1992

1st time in the championship



**Sustrai Colina
Acordarrementeria**

Urruña, 1982

6th time in the championship



Xabat Galletebeitia Abaroa

Lekeitio, 1986

2nd time in the championship



Unai Agirre Goia

Hernani, 1975

6th time in the championship



Xabier Silveira Etxeberria

Lesaka, 1976

5th time in the championship

CONDUCTORS OF PIECES

As well as creating and preparing the pieces to sing in the sessions, this group will be responsible for presenting them. It is made up of 14 members: Ainhoa Larretxea Agirre (b. Bera, 1996), Alaitz Rekondo Ferrero (b. Lesaka, 1980), Amaia Castorene Luro (b. Baigorri, 1988), Amaia Lujanbio Agirre (b. Baiona, 1980), Ander Aranburu Arriola (b. Lizarra, 1985), Ane Ezenarro Beristain (b. Eibar, 1991), Aritz Bidegain Aire (b. Baiona, 1982), Beñat Vidal Gurrutxaga (b. Plentzia, 1986), Idoia Anzorandia Kareaga (b. Barakaldo, 1983), Imanol Artola Arretxe 'Felix' (b. Amezketa, 1989), Ion Zaldúa Brit (b. Amasa-Villabona, 1978), Leire Garatxena Larrabe (b. Ajangiz, 1991), Maialen Belarra Eñeterreaga (b. Doneztebe, 1992) and Zihara Enbeita Gardoki (b. Gernika-Lumo, 1976).

JUDGES

This year the group of judges will be made up of 13 people: Ainhoa Arregi Elosua (b. Bilbo, 1972), Ainhoa Sarasua Lascaray (b. Itsasu, 1997), Aitor Jimenez Tolosana (b. Bilbo, 1962), Amaia Otxotorena Gamio (b. Ereñotzu, 1989), Bakarne Urreaga Etxeberria (b. Hernani, 1978), Egoitz Iradier Martinez de Albeniz (b. Zaldondo, 1996), Ekaitz Elorriaga Anduaga (b. Gasteiz, 1981), Eneko Bidegain Aire (b. Baiona, 1975), Eneritz Azkue Basurko (b. Mutriku, 1982), Iñaki Aurrekoetxea Arkotxa (b. Gernika-Lumo, 1970), Joseba Beltza Bengoetxea (b. Etxarri-Aranatz, 1983), Joseba Santxo Uriarte (b. Getxo, 1962), Jurgi Fuentes Goikoetxea (b. Mungia, 1981), Karlos Ibarguren Olalde (b. Errenteria, 1965), Leire Beloki Lizarralde (Oiartzun, 1979), Maialen Berra Zubieta (b. Baiona, 1993), Mirari Azula Aurrekoetxea (b. Lekeitio, 1973), Miriam Juaristi Urizar (b. Zaldibar, 1991), Nerea Bruño Artazkoz (b. Atarrabia, 1978), Saioa Mitxelena Irazoki (b. Bera, 1978) and Zigor Leunda Eizmendi (b. Amasa-Villabona, 1978).



CALENDAR

FIRST PHASE		
Saturday 24th September, 5.00pm	Getxo	Muxikebarri Zentroa
Sunday 25th September, 5.00pm	Arrasate	Amaia Udal Antzokia
Saturday 1st October, 5.00pm	Gotaine-Irabarne	Herriko Gela
Sunday 2nd October, 5.00pm	Gasteiz	María de Maeztu auditorium - Europa Congress Palace
Saturday 8th October, 5.00pm	Donostia	Victoria Eugenia Theatre
Sunday 9th October, 5.00pm	Lizarra	Los Llanos arts centre
SEMIFINALS		
Saturday 22nd October, 5.00pm	Elizondo	Baztan fronton court
Saturday 29th October, 5.00pm	Donibane Garazi	Jai Alai Ezker Pareta
Saturday 5th November, 5.00pm	Irun	Ficoba
Saturday 12th November, 5.00pm	Durango	Landako Gunea
Saturday 19th November, 5.00pm	Amurrio	Bañueta Kiroldegia
Saturday 26th November, 5.00pm	Baiona	Lauga
Saturday 3rd December, 5.00pm	Bilbo	Bizkaia Frontoia
FINAL		
Sunday 18th December, 5.00pm	Iruñea	Nafarroa Arena



PHASES AND QUALIFYING

The National Bertsolaris Championship will be divided into three phases: first phase, semifinals and final.

First phase:

In this phase 36 bertsolaris will perform, all of them having qualified in provincial championships. Six groups of six singers will be made up, each group to compete in a single session. The winner of each session will go straight through to the next phase. The group going through to the semifinals will be made up of the singers with the highest scores.

Semifinals:

24 singers will compete in this phase, the five finalists from 2017 who have entered and the 19 who qualified in the first phase.

The semifinal phase will consist of two rounds, with four sessions in the first and three in the second. The scores from both will be added together. However, the six singers with the highest score in the first round will not take part in the second. The make-up of the groups will change from the first to the second round.

Final:

Eight bertsolaris will compete: Maialen Lujanbio, the winner in 2017, and the seven who scored highest in the semifinals. The day will be divided into three sessions, with eight singer performing in the morning session, and the afternoon session will also start with them. Finally, the two singers with the highest scores will face off against each other. The champion will be the bertsolari who cores the highest over the whole day.





FIRST PHASE

GETXO, 24th September. Muxikebarri Zentroa, 5.00pm.

- Agin Laburu Rezola
- Eneko Lazkoz Martinez
- Nerea Elustondo Plazaola
- Oihana Bartra Arenas
- Peru Abarrategi Sarrionandia
- Unai Mendizabal Jauregi

ARRASATE, 25th September. Amaia Antzokia, 5.00pm

- Asier Azpiroz Iztueta
- Iñaki Apalategi Astigarraga
- Joanes Illarregi Marzal
- Miren Amuriza Plaza
- Saioa Alkaiza Guallar
- Xabier Silveira Etxeberria

GOTAINE-IRABARNE, 1st October. Herriko Gela 5.00pm.

- Alaia Martín Etxebeste
- Ane Labaka Mayoz
- Julio Soto Ezkurdia
- Nerea Ibarzabal Salegi
- Oihana Iguaran Barandiaran
- Patxi Iriart Hiribarren



GASTEIZ, 2nd October. María de Maeztu auditorium - Europa Congress Palace, 5.00pm.

- Amaia Iturriotz Etxaniz
- Haritz Mujika Lasa
- Iban Urdangarin Lardizabal
- Manex Agirre Arriolabengoa
- Miren Artetxe Sarasola
- Xabat Gallettebeitia Abaroa

DONOSTIA, 8th October. Victoria Eugenia Theatre, 5.00pm.

- Aitor Etxebarriazarraga Gabiola
- Beñat Iguaran Amondarain
- Eñaut Martikorena Lizaso
- Jane Uria Albizuri
- Maddalen Arzallus Antia
- Onintza Enbeita Maguregi

LIZARRA, 9th October. Los Llanos arts centre, 5.00pm.

- Aitor Bizkarra Ruiz
- Gorka Pagonabarraga Agorria
- Imanol Uria Albizuri
- Iñigo Mantzizidor Larrañaga 'Mantxi'
- Maialen Akizu Bidegain
- Unai Gaztelumendi Arandia

QUALIFYING SYSTEM

SEMIFINALS 1ST ROUND

ELIZONDO 22-10-2022	DONIBANE GARAZI 29-10-2022	IRUN 05-11-2022	DURANGO 12-11-2022
Unai Agirre Goia	Ametz Arzallus Antia	Sustrai Colina Acordarrementeria	Beñat Gaztelumendi Arandia
Winner in Arrasate	Winner in Gasteiz	Winner in Donostia	Aitor Mendiluze Gonzalez
Winner in Getxo	1st on points	Winner in Gotaine-Irabarne	Winner in Lizarra
5th on points	2nd on points	3rd on points	4th on points
6th on points	7th on points	8th on points	9th on points
13th on points	12th on points	11th on points	10th on points

SEMIFINALS 2ND ROUND

AMURRIO 19-11-2022	BAIONA 26-11-2022	BILBO 03-12-2022
Winner in Donibane Garazi	Winner in Irun	Winner in Durango
Winner in Elizondo	1st on points	2nd on points
5th on points	4th on points	3rd on points
6th on points	7th on points	8th on points
11th on points	10th on points	9th on points
12th on points	13th on points	14th on points

FINAL

IRUÑEA, 18th December. Nafarroa Arena, 11.00am.

Maialen Lujanbio Zugasti



TICKETS

Tickets for all the sessions will go on sale on 23rd June at www.bertsosarrerak.eus.

Members of Bertsozale Elkartea **will have a reserved ticket for the final between 23rd June and 30th June.**

As well as on the website www.bertsosarrerak.eus, tickets to the final will be on sale at Bertsozale Elkartea in Navarre (Travesía de las Huertas, 2 bajo, Pamplona) from 23rd to 30th June (except Saturday and Sunday). Opening hours will be from 10.00am to 2.00pm and from 4.00 to 6.00pm.

Tickets for the other sessions will be on sale from September at the venues where they are held, providing they do not sell out.

	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS	YOUNG PEOPLE Born from 2004 (including 2004)
FIRST PHASE	€10	€12	€6
SEMIFINALS	€14	€17	€10
FINAL	€30	€42	€20

A bus and catering service will be provided for the final. Information available shortly.



PRESS OFFICE

Accreditations

Media and journalists must apply for accreditation to get into the performance and events organised during the competition, at the address komunikazioa@bertsozale.eus.

There will be accreditations both for a single session and for all the sessions in the championship.

During the performances, some resources only may be recorded, by prior request. Recording the sessions from beginning to end is not allowed. If a recording of a session is needed, please contact the press office.

Contact

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