

The ISU World Figure Skating Championships begin

The ISU World Figure Skating Championships begin at Hartwall Arena on Wednesday. In total 193 athletes will be representing 36 different countries; 36 men, 37 women, 28 pairs and 32 ice dance couples will be participating in the competition.

The competition opens on Wednesday with the Ladies Short Program. The day continues with the Opening Ceremony and ends with the Pairs Short Program competition.

Over 200 performers will participate in the Opening Ceremony, including dancers of the Finnish National Ballet and Opera, singers Diandra and Waltter Torikka, and musician Lenni-Kalle Taipale. Worlds medalist Laura Lepistö and European medalist Kiira Korpi will be among the skaters seen on the ice, joined among others by Finland's world-class Synchronized skating teams Marigold IceUnity, Rockettes and Team Unique

The theme of the Opening Ceremony is "light". The team of choreographers behind the ceremony, Sini Aarnio-Kurki, Paulina Carlson, Tiina Haimi, Evelina Lorek and Nina Sandsund, have wanted to include the Finnish spirit in the show, while leaving a memorable impression on all spectators of this major event.

The Opening Team aspired to make the ceremony a grand spectacle. "We considered different ways to fill the whole space in the Arena, and realized that this theme would be perfect. In honor of the centennial jubilee year we are recreating the natural light that can be found throughout Finnish nature. Light gives power and it enchants like figure skating."

The Organizing Committee of the 2017 World Championships has set 65 000 sold tickets as the target for the competition. The Organization has already almost reached this goal.

Henri Nordenswan, General Secretary of the competition, believes the Organization will reach the target. "At the moment we have already sold 62 000 tickets."

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