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NEWS FROM IFCM

NEWS FROM THE 2023 WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC (WSCM)

Announcing the WSCM2023 Theme: Changing Horizons

The WSCM2023 Planning Committee is delighted to announce the theme “**Changing Horizons**” for the upcoming 13th WSCM, to be held in Doha, Qatar, 30 December 2023 – 5 January 2024.

“Changing Horizons” speaks both to this specific IFCM flagship event and to the global choral community on a number of levels. It suggests a new and broader understanding of choral music that includes styles, regions, and traditions of ensemble singing which have been previously excluded from the conventional definition of choral music. There is enormous creative wealth in these parallel artistic expressions and experiences that has the potential to enrich the evolution of collective singing. To change the horizon is to take our art form and extend its boundaries. The horizon limits our own vision, but horizons need not be stagnant; beyond every horizon, there will always be more to discover.

“Changing Horizons” also speaks to a world dramatically and unexpectedly altered. Covid-19 has impacted choral singing in a way that could never have been anticipated. The pandemic has brought great hardship but also incredible innovation and growth. Singers, conductors, and composers everywhere have worked to find new ways to blend and transmit the human voice and, in doing so, have redefined the experience of choral singing. It is the rehearsals and performances made possible by technology. It is changing understandings of what it means to be an audience member or an ensemble singer. It is composers creating works of art that are inspired and shaped by restrictions and building on these new realities. And it is a deepened appreciation, in all of us, that we will never again take for granted what it means to sing together. The pandemic will end, but our choral world will emerge more resilient and interconnected by these shared experiences.

Finally, “Changing Horizons” speaks to the literal horizon of desert and ocean that is so defining to the experience of life in Qatar. Wind sculpting the sand and the sea creates a physical world whose boundaries are forever shifting and adapting. The edges of the horizon are ephemeral, fleeting, and beautiful like the experience of music itself.



WSCM2023 will bring together the very best the choral world has to offer with outstanding and relevant choirs, singers, speakers, presenters, conductors, composers, and more. In this new era of changing horizons, there is opportunity for all of us to share and to learn. We look forward to welcoming the choral world to Qatar in December 2023.

Patronage of the 13th World Symposium on Choral Music by the State of Qatar's Ministry of Culture and Sports

The Planning Committee for the 13th World Symposium on Choral Music (WSCM) is delighted to announce patronage by the State of Qatar's [Ministry of Culture and Sports](#) for the WSCM2023.

In a statement addressed to the WSCM Planning Committee at its first meeting in January 2021, His Excellency, Salah bin Ghanem Al Ali, Minister of Culture and Sports, expressed his support and enthusiasm for the project.

We at the Ministry of Culture and Sports are thrilled to be involved in the 2023 World Symposium on Choral Music and we are honored that the International Federation for Choral Music has selected Qatar to host their flagship event.

We appreciate the trust the IFCM has placed in this team and this country. I am confident that the 2023 WSCM will be a celebration of choral music unprecedented in this region. And I am certain that it will be an opportunity for greater cultural understanding and appreciation as global choral communities come together to share their art here in Qatar.

The State of Qatar has an impressive track record nurturing, supporting, and patronizing music and the performing arts. There is a long tradition of vocal and instrumental music from the Gulf and the broader Arab region that flourishes in Qatar. In the last twenty years, the State's focus has expanded to include the promotion of musical styles and practices from Western traditions. This promotion comprises many programs and services. From establishing and supporting institutions such as [Qatar Music Academy](#), the [Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra](#), and the [Music Affairs Center](#) to the organizing of and providing venues for performances and



مكتب الوزير MINISTER'S OFFICE

المحترم السيد / Giovanni Pasini
Chairman and Artistic Director
Qatar National Choral Association
هاتف: ٧٠١١٨٨٨٧

الوجبة

السيد / محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم

تهدىكم وزارة الثقافة والرياضة أطيب التحية.

بالإشارة إلى كتابكم الصادر إلينا بتاريخ ٢٠٢١/١/٢٧ بشأن طلب الموافقة على رعاية وزارة الثقافة والرياضة للجمعية (الجمعية الوطنية للموسيقى الكورال ٢٠٢٢).

نود التفضل بالإحاطة بموافقة مساعدة الوزير على رعاية وزارة الثقافة والرياضة للجمعية المشار إليها أعلاه على أن يتم الاتفاق على تفاصيل تقديم الدعم خلال الاجتماعات التي ستعقد بين الوزارة ومؤسساتكم الوفرة.

وتفضلوا بقبول فائق الاحترام.

حسين بن راشد الكبيسي
مدير مكتب الوزير

competitions, the Qatari State plays an instrumental role in fostering an environment in which the practice and appreciation of music can grow.

The patronage of WSCM2023 by the Ministry of Culture and Sports is yet one more example of Qatar's commitment to promoting the arts at home and reaching out to the international cultural world. The WSCM2023 Planning Committee looks forward to working with the Ministry of Culture and Sports to prepare an event that is diverse in regions and styles represented, inclusive of choirs and speakers from previously underrepresented cultures and regions, and equitable in providing assistance and incentives to choirs, speaker, and participants who might not otherwise have the means to participate.

The Qatar's choral community invites the international choral community to join them in 2023 for this once-in-a-lifetime choral event!

IFCM CHORAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION 2022

The International Federation for Choral Music has organized four [international choral composition competitions](#) since this project was created in 2010. The aim of these competitions is to promote the creation and distribution of new, innovative, and accessible choral repertoire. Also, to promote and encourage composers to creation and distribution. IFCM announces its Fifth International Competition for Choral Composition to promote new works in choral music and to encourage innovation in choral writing which fits the needs of a 21st-century choir. We are looking for compositions that combine originality, imagination, and creativity within the context of contemporary global themes.

[Rules and Regulations](#)

Deadline for applications is **15 January 2022**.

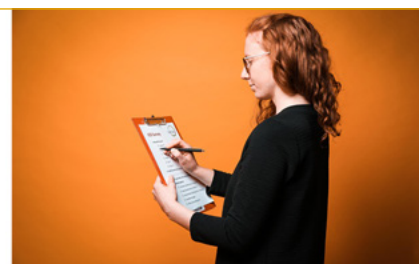


INTERNATIONAL CHORAL BULLETIN SURVEY

1981-2021:

40 years of International Choral Bulletin

Survey in English



MAY 2021

Volunteers connecting
our choral world



IFCMeNEWS

The [International Choral Bulletin](#) (ICB) was launched 40 years ago. Over these four decades, ICB has become a lengthier publication, has changed to colour print, has added an online option, and is now a multilingual information tool for choral music around the world. It's time to ask you, the ICB readership, how YOU want your *International Choral Bulletin* to develop in the coming years!

The ICB team has created a survey in all four official IFCM languages. Please take five minutes to answer these [questions](#). Your ICB team thanks you for your time!

ICB CHORAL REVIEWS

Have you discovered an exciting book about choral music? a CD? a fascinating playlist or an amazing choir video? Tell us about it! Contact the [ICB Editor](#).

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Tell us about it!**



Choral Reviews

icb.editor@ifcm.net

CONDUCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS: LATIN AMERICA VIRTUAL SEMINAR

IFCM's [Conductors without Borders](#), in alliance with the choral organizations [Voce in Tempore](#) (Mexico), [Fundación Schola Cantorum de Venezuela](#) and the Faculty of Music of the [Universidad Autónoma de México](#) (UNAM) will offer a virtual seminar for conductors in order to contribute to the training of choral conductors in all countries of the



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region.

The seminar, to be held 24-26 September 2021, will focus on vocal pedagogy, rehearsal and conducting techniques and strategies, analysis and study of scores, and choral repertoire. A plenary session will be planned to discuss the choral situation in post-pandemic Latin America and the transforming power of choral singing. Open to all choral conductors of the region, the seminar will be in Spanish.

In these uncertain and difficult times, spaces for education and dialogue are fundamental to the continued development of a solid choral movement committed to serving the new social and personal realities. Join us!

ASIA PACIFIC YOUTH CHOIR in Kuala Lumpur

We are looking forward to the next [Asia Pacific Youth Choir](#) (APYC) session in Summer 2022, postponed from 2020 due to the ongoing pandemic.

NEWS FROM IFCM FOUNDING MEMBERS

JAPAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION (JCA)



Children are our future! — JCA Kodomo Online Chorus Festival 2021

Japan Choral Association's annual *Kodomo* (Children) Online Chorus Festival was held on 28 March 2021. Sixteen children's choirs (484 singers) shared performances online and at a concert hall in Hamamatsu City, Shizuoka, the home of world-known manufacturers of musical instruments such as Yamaha and Kawai.

During the festival, three choirs from the host city performed in-person at the main venue while choirs from other regions shared recordings of their singing after exchanging greetings online. The live YouTube broadcast was seen by 3,715 viewers. The festival closed with a virtual performance of "Hymn to the Future," composed by the two lecturers of this year's festival, Ko Matsushita (composer) and Keishi Ito (lyricist). This special closing work was performed by 505 singers and 52 instrumentalists, including adult musicians who volunteered to perform with

the children's choirs. The virtual performance can be viewed [here](#).

A delightful benefit of moving the festival online was that five choirs participated for the first time, as it was easier for smaller groups and those in remote areas to participate. Boxes of biscuits were sent to the participating choirs from *Yamazaki Biscuits Company*, a supporter of



the festival, on the day prior to the festival, adding to the joy of the event.

EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION - EUROPA CANTAT (ECA-EC)

Upcoming Online Events of the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat

Singing in professional choirs | Webinar

20 May 2021, 11:00am CEST

Organised in the frame of the EPIC project and in collaboration with TENSO, this webinar will focus on the theme of singing in professional choirs. If you are curious as to what conductors want from your audition, how to approach a choir that has no auditions announced, how to find the best choir to apply to, or how to find where you fit in as a professional singer, then look no further!

The webinar will be led by TENSO coordinator, Laura Lopes. Check the ECA-EC official [digital channels](#) for more information!

The [EPIC project](#), co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union, provides emerging musicians with invaluable skills and professional experience that complement their formal training and can help them boost their career at the international level.

Advocacy through storytelling | Online Workshop

11 June 2021, 3:00pm – 6:00pm CEST

One of ECA-EC's capacity building workshops developed for staff of cultural organisations, this workshop will explore how organisations can use storytelling as a powerful tool to support their advocacy work. All singers want to have their voices heard. However, it is just as important that singers are a strong voice for the sector, telling compelling stories of how the

arts (choral singing in particular) holds the potential to transform the lives of individuals and communities, contributing to well-being, cohesive societies, and economic prosperity. Guiding the participants will be the wonderful Julie Ward.



Register right [here](#)!

The SHIFT Inclusion | Interview Series

In the context of the [SHIFT](#) project, ECA-EC is proud to announce an upcoming series of video interviews in which experts address various aspects of what it means to be inclusive as an organisation. ECA-EC project manager, Sophie Dowden, held the first interview with Maria Vlachou of [Acesso Cultura](#) on inclusive recruitment, boards, membership, and events. This interview is available to watch on the [SHIFT website](#).

[SHIFT – Sharing Initiatives for Training](#) is an Erasmus+ funded strategic partnership project, bringing together several cultural networks with the ambition to contribute to a better and more sustainable future as recognised in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. SHIFT aims to develop training for cultural leaders on topics of environmental sustainability, gender and power relations, inclusion, and cultural leadership.

AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)

Recently released - Recommendations for returning to choral rehearsals

On 19 March 2021, the (mainly) U.S.-based Performing Arts Aerosol Research Study coalition released an updated and streamlined guidance document which includes an explanation of the Center for Disease Control's new distancing guidelines and what these recommendations mean in terms of safely singing together again. Read the [one-pager](#).

ACDA's May 2021 issue of *Choral Journal*, edited by T.J. Harper, focuses on international activities. Articles address the International Exchange Program Conducting Fellows, ACDA's Costa Rica chapter, the International Activities Mentorship Program, an international webinar series, and other activities.

The ACDA virtual national conference, [Diversity in Music](#), was a great success. For a limited time, individuals can still join ACDA and register for the conference with the ability to view all sessions and recordings through December 2021.

ACDA's [regional conferences](#) have been scheduled for 2022! Calls for performing choirs and interest sessions are open in most regions.

- ☐ Eastern Region (Boston, Massachusetts), 9-12 February 2022
- ☐ Midwestern Region (Chicago, Illinois), 16-19 February 2022
- ☐ Southern Region (Raleigh, North Carolina), 23-26 February 2022
- ☐ Southwestern Region (Little Rock, Arkansas), 28 February – 3 March 2022
- ☐ Western Region (Long Beach, California), 2-5 March 2022
- ☐ Northwestern Region (Spokane, Washington), 9-12 March 2022

NEWS FROM IFCM MEMBERS

IFCM IS VERY HAPPY AND PROUD TO WELCOME A NEW MEMBER

In the National Organisation category:

- ☐ [China National Traditional Orchestra](#), Beijing, China

OBITUARY: MICHEL THIRION, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE FESTIVAL NANCY VOIX DU MONDE



It is with great sadness that the organizing committee of the International Choral Festival *Nancy, Voix du Monde* announce that its Founder and President, **Michel THIRION**, passed away on April 19.

Since its creation in 1979, Michel had been working to ensure that the Festival was a convivial gathering of choirs from all over the world in all their diversity and in a non-competitive spirit. It allowed 260 choirs from 63 different countries to live an exceptional experience in Nancy. Michel was and will long be remembered as a tireless president who carried the passion for choral singing, conviviality, exchange, humanism, solidarity

and dialogue. More about his life [here](#).



NEWS FROM THE FUNDACIÓN SCHOLA CANTORUM DE VENEZUELA

Overcoming the inevitable impact of pandemic restrictions, [Fundación Schola Cantorum de Venezuela](#) embraced the new reality and expanded its online capacity to provide ongoing contact with all the actors in the choral community. One component of this digital initiative is compiling the institutional collection of recordings, seminars, and masterclasses and making these resources available through the La Schola [YouTube channel](#).

In 2020, a partnership was developed with the German Embassy in Venezuela to produce three

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our choral world*



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videos celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Ludwig van Beethoven. Two videos are illustrated stories of Beethoven and the third is a Latin American version of the “Ode to Joy”. In 2021, choirs have responded enthusiastically to resuming face-to-face rehearsals with Covid-19 protection measures. Conductors and choristers have expressed that, when they sing together in their familiar rehearsal/performance environments, the unity of the group is renewed as well as their commitment to continue raising their voices for a better world.

WHAT'S ON IN MAY AND JUNE 2021 IN OUR CHORAL WORLD

66th Cork International Choral Online, Ireland, 28 Apr-2 May 2021 - www.corkchoral.ie

68th European Music Festival for Young People Online, Neerpelt, Belgium, 30 Apr-3 May 2021 - www.emj.be

11th World Choir Festival on Musicals and Competition, Thessaloniki, Greece, 7-10 May 2021 - www.diavloslink.gr

Musica Sacra International Festival, Marktoberdorf, Germany, 21-25 May 2021 - <https://www.musica-sacra-international.org/>

We invite you to visit the [Calendar of Choral Activities](#) published by the European Choral Association — Europa Cantat and the American Choral Director Association ACDA's Network [ChoralNet](#) to check on the choral events planned in the coming months.