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in other languages [HERE](#)

NEWS FROM IFCM

LOOKING FOR A CONCERT TOUR IN CHINA IN JULY/AUGUST 2020? HERE IS AN EXCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITY!

IFCM is cooperating with partners in China on a set of international choral festivals in July and August 2020 and is calling for choirs interested in joining one or several of these festivals:

- The [15th China International Chorus Festival](#) (CICF – see below) in Beijing, 23-29 July
- The [International Folk Song Choral Festival and IFCM Voices Conference](#), in Kaili, 31 July-4 August.
- The [China Inner Mongolia International Choral Week](#), in Hohhot, 6-9 August.

Selected choirs will have local transportation, food and accommodation covered by the local organizers!

The international travel expenses are the responsibility of the choirs.

If you are interested, please send the following material at office@ifcm.net before **December 31, 2019**: a motivation letter, CV of the choir and conductor, pictures, contact details, links to recordings.

[More on the travel conditions for choirs attending one, two or all three festival\(s\).](#)



International Folk Song Choral Festival in Kaili, August 2018 © Andrea Angelini

THE 15TH CHINA INTERNATIONAL CHORUS FESTIVAL (CICF) AND IFCM WORLD CHORAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Beijing, China, 23-29 July 2020

Founded in 1992 and ever since, one of the largest-scale and highest-level international chorus festivals held in China, the CICF is a cultural event which brings together hundreds of choirs from China and abroad. According to some general statistics, the past 14 festivals have

attracted more than 2000 choirs and more than 70000 choristers.

With its theme "Come to Beijing, listen to the songs of the world" and its aim to "Build an harmonious world together for the future—Peace and Friendship", the CICF invites choirs from different countries and regions, from different nationalities and colors, to come together and compete on the same platform.

- [Conditions of participation](#)
- [More info on the application](#)
- [CICF Competition Evaluation System](#)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE SELECTED TOP-CLASS CHOIRS FEATURED DURING THE CICF?

Selected choirs will have local transportation, food and accommodation covered by the CICF! The international travel expenses are the responsibility of the choirs.

Discounted food and accommodation package deals will be offered by the CICF to any other participating choirs.

If you are interested, please send the following material at office@ifcm.net before December 31, 2019: a motivation letter, CV of the choir and conductor, pictures, contact details, links to recordings.

CICF Websites

- In English: <http://en.cicfbj.cn/>
- In Chinese: <http://www.cicfbj.cn>



China International Chorus Festival Competition 2018

WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC 2020

Tim Sharp visits WSCM2020 host, New Zealand

New Zealand recently hosted Tim Sharp, Executive Director of the American Choral Directors Association and Vice President of IFCM, who was there as a guest adjudicator and workshop clinician for the New Zealand Choral Federation's secondary school choir phenomenon, *The Big Sing*.

While he was in New Zealand, Tim not only managed to squeeze in an [interview on NZ radio](#), he also had a quick chat with the event organisers.

You've recently been in New Zealand – how did it go?

It was an amazing experience as I witnessed such fine musicianship on the part of the New Zealand conductors and their exemplary choral performances.

New Zealand is an exotic and desirable location, and its reputation for friendliness, beauty, and significantly, excellent choral performance is a leading factor and is known throughout the choral universe. The sheer beauty of New Zealand will add a dimension in 2020.

Who comes to the Symposium and who, in your experience, benefits from it?

The WSCM has always been an event that the choral leaders of the world want to attend. The reason it is so important to us is that we witness best practices, experience amazing performances that we see in no other setting, gather literature that we would never know about, network with people that are just as zealous as we are about the choral experience. It also attracts those who are looking for the out-of-the-ordinary and the extraordinary.

As someone who's been to New Zealand a few times now, how will our unique location as a small nation in the South Pacific with a strong indigenous heritage impact the discussions and vibe of the Symposium?

With choral music, we are story-tellers at heart with our ensembles, and this reality has been captured by the New Zealand architects at work for the 2020 WSCM. I have personally been moved by the Māori experience and how the people of New Zealand have learned to live and work and perform in empathy with their heritage.



WSCM2020 update

The Advance Ticket for the WSCM2020 deadline is 31 December. Why not give yourself the gift of a career-boosting (and maybe even life-changing) opportunity for Christmas?

For registration information and prices, please [pop over to their web site](#).

Introducing... WSCM2020 choir, Voz En Punto

WSCM2020 recently posted on Facebook about Mexico's Voz En Punto, who are headed to New Zealand for the event in 2020, and the response was unprecedented. This popular choir clearly has a huge following!

Founded in 1990 by its director José Galván Castañeda, Voz en Punto has a unique musical approach that celebrates Mexico's rich musical heritage through voice. Their performances focus on fully embracing and enriching Mexico's musical culture and the group feel just at home performing in a concert hall as in a public square, almost always singing a cappella. The choir's repertoire includes popular, early, and contemporary music.

[Please find more info here.](#)



Introducing... WSCM2020 choir, Carmina Slovenica

Led by artistic director Karmina Šilec, Slovenia's Carmina Slovenica has a unique choregie (vocal theatre) approach that unites music with fascinating vocal techniques and theatre. Well-known for precise vocal discipline, exuberant physicality and musical imagination, Carmina Slovenica explores works from the forefronts of the contemporary music scene.

[Please find more info here.](#)



CALL FOR ARTICLES IN THE INTERNATIONAL CHORAL BULLETIN (ICB)

Would you like to be published in an international choral journal distributed to thousands of IFCM members and associates around the world? Send us your article!

Since 1983, the ICB, IFCM's scholarly journal/magazine, has been read by thousands of choral lovers around the world. The ICB is published four times a year (January, April, July, October). This is a fabulous opportunity to have your research, scholarship, and expertise shared with the

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international choral community. We are inviting papers (900 to 1500 words, written in English, French, German, Italian or Spanish) specially related to the technical and historical aspects of choral music. [Submit your articles here](#). We can't wait to read you!



We are also inviting to join our team of volunteers, all translators from English, French, German, Italian and Spanish into French, Spanish, German or English.

WORLD CHORAL DAY 2019 - JOIN WITH YOUR CHORAL CONCERTS

We are happy to announce that the World Choral Day, a singing tradition since 1990, will happen again this year on the **second Sunday of December (December 8, 2019)**, with the possibility to join with your choral events during **the entire month of December**.

The World Choral Day is an international choral event initiated by Alberto Grau with the main aim to extol the values of solidarity, peace, and understanding through choral music. Since 1990, millions of singers across the globe have been involved in World Choral Day concerts, festivals, sing-alongs, choral seminars, and other choral events. It is very easy to join from anywhere in the world. All participating choirs are invited to [register their concerts](#) by completing a short form and then [download the proclamation](#) which is available in 27 languages. This



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CHORAL MUSIC monthly electronic newsletter

<http://ifcm.net/>

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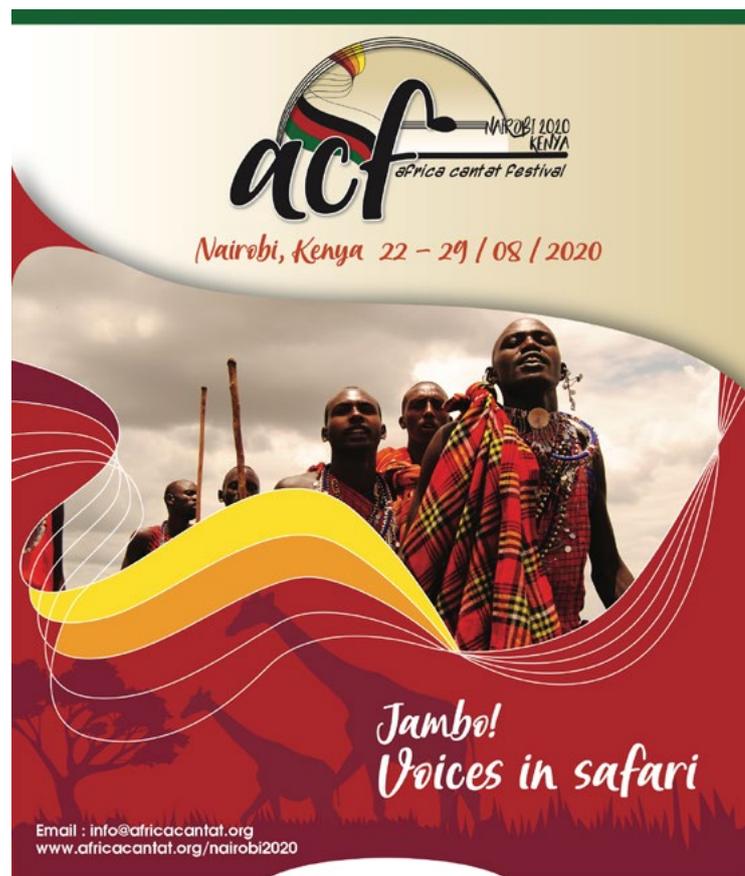
proclamation shall be announced at the beginning of every World Choral Day event. Your event(s) will be promoted through the World Choral Day website and IFCM's social media platforms. Once your concert has taken place, please **share with us your concert posters, photos and video recordings** so that we can share them on our communication channels and make your event visible globally.

If you would you like to join a global choral event with your choir and share your love for choral singing with thousands of other choirs from all around the globe, then the **World Choral Day** is just for you! [More information](#)

FIRST AFRICA CANTAT FESTIVAL, NAIROBI, KENYA, AUGUST 22-29, 2020

Very first! Africa Cantat Festival, Nairobi, Kenya, August 22-29, 2020

Africa Cantat is a one-week festival bringing together choirs and singers from Kenya, from other parts of Africa and from the rest of the world. The festival offers the opportunity to experience singing together and learning from professional international conductors, surrounded by a unique beautiful Kenyan landscape. During the festival, you'll get the opportunity to attend a one-week „Warsha“ (workshop in Kiswahili, the national language of Kenya). Each conductor of the workshops will bring a unique repertoire to the festival. You will also get a chance to participate in the Open Singing or to perform a concert, if you come with your choir.



With the support of





There will be an additional programme for conductors to exchange and to get inspired by the cultural diversity of the participating choirs and conductors.

For more information, [visit our website](#) or contact us [directly via email](#)

Come to Nairobi and enjoy the diversity of choral music from different regions in Africa and other countries worldwide! Jambo Kenya!

CONDUCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS:

THE BEGINNING OF A THREE-YEAR CYCLE IN BENIN

Thanks to the initiative of Serge N'Tcha M'Po, choral conductor and President of the recently created Federation Harmonie Cantat of Benin, a very first session of Conductors Without Borders was organized in Abomey-Calavi in the suburbs of Cotonou, Benin, from September 3 to 7, 2019. This training course presentation should lead to a three-year cycle of CWB sessions but financial resources are needed to cover this cycle. Fortunately, Mr. N'Tcha M'Po and Thierry Thiébaud, CWB coordinator, met with the Counsellor of Cooperation and Cultural Action of the French Embassy in Cotonou and decision was taken to draft a triennial partnership agreement between the French Institute of Cotonou and A Coeur Joie International for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022. It was also decided to set up this convention at the end of the year and to start the training cycle in early 2020. The resulting budget will probably not cover the total cost of this training the first year. Additional support for the CWB project will be required. This will allow the 11 participants selected to conduct the final concert of this session to improve their skills and to many more to benefit from the same opportunity during the next three years.

[Read the Report on the first session of CWB in Benin in French](#)

[More about Conductors Without Borders projects around the World](#)



THE 13TH IFCM WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC 2023 GOES TO... QATAR!

Following the successful presentation of the bid by the Qatar National Choral Association, the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) is very excited to announce that the world's most prestigious, non-competitive choral event will take place in Doha, Qatar in 2023.

Through this decision, IFCM addresses a geographical and cultural region that has thus far been hidden on the global choral map, and we are looking forward to an exciting exploration of the musical treasures of the Middle East and Central Asia. The Symposium in Qatar provides IFCM and the WSCM 2023 hosts with the opportunity to create a new network and enhance exchange and cooperation within and beyond this area.

The international choral community through the IFCM congratulates the Qatar National Choral Association on its winning bid and wishes the WSCM 2023 hosts every success and support in their preparations for this unique event in 2023.

2020 WORLD YOUTH CHOIR AUDITIONS

Are you or any of your choristers/students...

- Between 17 and 26 years old on July 1, 2020,
- A passionate choral singer,
- From a background of basic or semi-professional music education,
- Ready to meet new friends all over the world,
- Able to speak English at an intermediate level,

8-12th JULY 2020
DEBRECEN, HUNGARY



BÉLA BARTÓK
29th INTERNATIONAL
CHOIR COMPETITION
AND FOLKLORE FESTIVAL

The *fort* **WWW.BBCC.HU/EN**
of new choral music

**APPLY
NOW!**

- Seeking a different professional challenge, and
- Eager to learn in a multicultural environment?

Then you are ready to apply for the 2020 World Youth Choir!

In **July and August 2020**, the World Youth Choir will have a special session in the frame of the festivities for the Beethoven 250th Birthday Anniversary Year. Joining the National Youth Orchestra of Germany (Bundesjugendorchester), the 2020 WYC programme will be Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 and a commissioned work by Tan Dun entitled "Nine".

- Session dates: July 30, 2020 (day of arrival) to August 20, 2020 (day of departure).
- Location: Rehearsal session in Bonn, Germany, followed by a tour with concerts in Germany, Netherlands, Austria and Italy
- First concert: August 8, 2020 - Beethoven 2020 Gala concert with the first performance of Tan Dun's "Nine".
- Artistic Team: Tan Dun (USA), composer of the commissioned work, will conduct the first concerts in the tour, including the Gala concert in Bonn; Jörn Hinnerk Andresen (Germany) will conduct the remaining concerts. Soloists will be World Youth Choir alumni.



WORLD YOUTH CHOIR 2020

Apply before December 15th!



Additional opportunity

The European Choral Association – Europa Cantat, one of the patrons of the World Youth Choir, will be putting together a special European Youth Choir for the final concert of the Beethoven Anniversary year 2020 on December 17th 2020. The choir will also perform Beethoven's 9th symphony with the West-Eastern Divan Ensemble conducted by Daniel Barenboim. In addition they will perform a short cappella programme directed by Simon Halsey (UK) who will also prepare the choir. Singers under 30 with a European citizenship or living in a European country can apply for this project with the same audition material – however, deadline for applications is 31/10/2019. For more information see www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org —> activities.

Important Dates

September 2019 - Worldwide recruitment will start via national recruiters and/or direct application for countries without national recruiters. The official information will be announced via the World Youth Choir website and social media.

October 31, 2019 - Deadline for applying to the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat for the project with Daniel Barenboim and Simon Halsey as additional opportunity.

December 1, 2019 - Deadline for submitting audition materials to the international jury for the 2020 World Youth Choir session. NOTE: Audition deadline dates in countries with National Recruiters may be earlier in order to facilitate national juries.

End of January 2020 - The international jury will announce the selected singers for the World Youth Choir 2020 summer session.

See [WYC website](#) for more audition details (to be published soon).

NEWS FROM IFCM FOUNDING MEMBERS



SMART SINGING
EUROPA CANTAT JUNIOR
5-13 August, 2020, Vilnius, Lithuania

OUR ATELIER CONDUCTORS:

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
|  BASTILIO ASTULEZ Basque Country, Spain |  CHRISTIAN FRIS-ROSFELD Germany/Denmark |  ELISE BRADLEY Canada |  ELISENDA CARRASCO Cataluña, Spain |
|  HIRVO SURVA Estonia |  KARMINA SILEC Slovenia |  MAUD HAMON-LOISANCE France |  VALERIJA SKAPIENE Lithuania |



#SMARTSINGING
FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUTH CHOIRS
5-13 August, 2020 Vilnius, Lithuania

Get ready for a festival that will change the way you experience choir!

EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION – EUROPA CANTAT (ECA-EC)

Europa Cantat junior festival, 5-13 August 2020, Lithuania

Children and youth choirs, don't miss the opportunity to attend the Europa Cantat Junior festival in Vilnius, 5-13 August 2020. Discover Lithuania's wonderful capital, with its impressive concert halls and beautiful old town and spend a whole week learning how singing can make you feel better and be smarter.



Besides getting the chance to meet others who love singing as much as you do, we are excited to have ateliers conducted by Hirvo Surva (Estonia), Bastilio Astulez (Spain), Elise Bradley (Canada), Elisenda Carrasco (Spain), Christian Fris-Rosfeld (Germany/Denmark), Maud Hamon Loisance (France), Karmina Silec (Slovenia), Valerija Skapiene (Lithuania) and more to be announced soon.

Conductors, what's in it for you? Regardless of coming as individual or with your choir, Jan Schumacher (Germany) will organize the International Study Tour, offering you a lot of insight.

Deadline for applications: 31/1/2020.

Don't miss it! Find more about the festival on: <http://www.europacantatjunior.org/2020>

AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)

Registration Open!

Boychoir Symposium - Nov. 1-2, 2019 (**New location:** Houston, TX)

A two-day retreat and symposium for those who teach boys to sing! Featuring sessions and discussions on topics ranging from the male changing voice, best administrative practices, supporting all boys who love to sing, and the role and value of boychoirs in a changing world. \$50 registration; hotel information is available on the website.

Save the Dates:

Children's Choir Conductor Retreat - Jan. 18-19, 2020

ACDA Regional Conferences - Mar. 2020. Exhibitor registration for all conferences will open

in early September 2019, and attendee registration will open in October.

- Central & North Central Regions - Mar. 4-7 (Milwaukee, WI)
- Eastern Region - Mar. 4-7 (Rochester, NY)
- Southwestern Region - Mar. 4-7 (Little Rock, AR)
- Western Region - Mar. 4-7 (Salt Lake City, UT)
- Northwestern Region - Mar. 10-14 (Spokane, WA)
- Southern Region - Mar. 10-14 (Mobile, AL)

[2nd National Symposium on Research in Choral Singing](#) - May 1-2 (Atlanta, GA)

[ACDA National Conference](#) - Mar. 17-20, 2021 (Dallas, TX)

ChoralNet (ChoralNet.org), ACDA's global online community has been revamped.

The site has a new look and some new features;

- **Featured Performances** are back! To submit your choir's video for consideration, click on New Post >> New Video. (A YouTube link is now required.)
- **My Posts** is back. You can find your own posts easily, and your ability to edit and delete them is restored.
- **Events** is its own category for posts. To submit: New Post >> New Event. (Event type information is now required, such as start date and end date.)
- **Community** contains user questions and posts (excl. events), including the old classifieds.

NEWS FROM IFCM MEMBERS

European Music Council Press Release



In the frame of the EMC Annual Meeting of 27 September 2019, the EMC members unanimously decided that EMC will take action in its activities to help achieve a climate neutral world by mid-century as enshrined in the Paris Agreement.

Since its Annual Meeting in June 2017, the EMC reflected on the [Climate Neutral Now](#) initiative of UNFCCC, and the EMC aims at joining this campaign during the 10th European Forum on Music in June 2020 in Bonn, which will focus on "Climate Action: Music as a Driver for Change". Already now, EMC is raising awareness for a more sustainable behaviour in the music sector:

- [Tips for office and event management](#)
- [Session on "Global Warming Awareness" at the 9th European Forum on Music](#)



- A collection of useful ideas and links in the [STAMP toolbox](#)
 - Dedicated activities within Erasmus+ funded [SHIFT project](#), starting in December 2019
- Many EMC members already have a greater awareness of environmental challenges, you will find their initiatives [here](#).
Music can be a Driver for Change – let us use this potential to raise awareness for environmental challenges.

NEWS FROM CHORAL CANADA

National Youth Choir of Canada 2020 Call for Singers

<http://www.choralcanada.org/national-youth-choir.html>

<http://www.choralcanada.org/choeur-national-des-jeunes.html>

National Youth Choir of Canada 2020 Call for Apprentice Conductor

<http://www.choralcanada.org/conducting-apprenticeship-program.html>

<http://www.choralcanada.org/programme-dapprentissage-en-direction-chorale.html>

ADVERTISE YOUR CHORAL EVENT TO THE WORLD in the ICB and on our websites

Advertisement spaces are now available on <http://ifcm.net/> and <http://icb.ifcm.net> as well as in the quarterly ICB and eICB. Rates and dimensions are on the Reserve A Space form
Take advantage of the excellent usage statistics of our websites and media to promote your choral events!

WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR CHORAL WORLD IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2019

2-6 Oct: Cracovia Music Festival 2019, Cracow, Poland - www.mrf-musicfestivals.com

3-6 Oct: Bratislava Cantat II, Slovak Republic - www.choral-music.sk

4-6 Oct: 15th International Choir Contest Flanders, Genk, Belgium - www.ikv2019.be

7-13 Oct: International Choir Festival Corearte Barcelona 2019, Spain - www.corearte.es

9-13 Oct: 3rd Kalamata International Choir Competition and Festival, Greece -

<https://www.interkultur.com/>

10-13 October: Musica Festival Bad Hofgastein 2019, Salzburg, Austria -

www.musicultur.com

12-13 Oct: 10th Choral Singing Contest of South American Folk and Popular Music, Buenos Aires, Argentina - www.aamcant.org.ar

12-15 Oct: 2nd Botticelli International Choral Festival, Florence, Italy -

<http://www.florencechoral.com/>

12-16 Oct: 13th In Canto sul Garda International Choir Competition, Riva del Garda & Arco, Italy - www.meeting-music.com

13-18 Oct: Singing in Rome, Italy - www.lacock.org

17-20 Oct: Claudio Monteverdi Choral Festival and Competition, Venice, Italy -

www.venicechoralcompetition.it

18-20 Oct: 9th International Competition for Young Conductors, Versailles, France -

www.artchoral.org

19-25 Oct: Sing Ireland Conductor Study Tour, City of Derry, Ireland -

<https://www.singireland.ie>

23-27 Oct: 8th Canta al Mar International Choral Festival, Calella, Barcelona, Spain -

<https://www.interkultur.com/>

24-27 Oct: 1st Jakarta World Choir Festival, Jakarta, Indonesia -

<https://www.bandungchoral.com/jwcf2019>

25-28 Oct: Cantate Barcelona, Spain - www.music-contact.com

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30 Oct-3 Nov: Dubrovnik International Choir Festival & Competition, Croatia - www.meeting-music.com

31 Oct-4 Nov: Dakar International Singing Festival, Côte d'Ivoire - <https://www.facebook.com/DAKARSINGING/>

31 Oct-3 Nov: FICA'19 International Choral festival, Aveiro, Portugal - <https://www.voznua.com/en/fica/about/>

7-10 Nov: ON STAGE with Interkultur in Prague, Czech Republic - <https://www.interkultur.com/>

11-17 Nov: International Choir Festival Corearte Brazil 2019, Caxias do Sul, Brazil - www.corearte.es

14-17 Nov: Young Prague Festival, Prague, Czech Republic - www.music-contact.com

15-18 Nov: Singers in Residence - Sing Along Concert in Vienna, Austria - <https://www.interkultur.com/>

15-17 Nov: 15th International Warsaw Choir Festival Varsovia Cantat , Poland - www.varsoviacantat.pl

18-23 Nov: 1st International Festival for Female Choirs in Latin-America, Puerto Madryn, Chubut Province, Argentina - <https://www.ficfe.com>

19-24 Nov: International Choir Festival Corearte Medellin 2019, Colombia - www.corearte.es

25-30 Nov: 17th Festival Paraibano de Coros, Choral Festival of Paraíba, FEPAC 2019, João Pessoa, Brazil - <http://www.festivalparaibanodecoros.com>

26 Nov-1 Dec: 37th International Choral Festival of Karditsa, Greece - <http://festivalofkarditsa.blogspot.gr/>

28 Nov-2 Dec, 5-9 Dec, 12-16 Dec, 19-23 Dec 2019, Vienna Advent Sing, Austria - www.music-contact.com

28 Nov-1 Dec: Budapest International Choir Fest, Hungary - <http://www.megaartsm.com>