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Our deepest gratitude to our committed IFCMeNEWS Translators who made it possible for a lot of us to read this enews in our own language in 2019: Lore Auerbach (German), Anna Bobrikova and her Team (Russian), Jacob Chang (Korean), Carlo Leonardi (Italian), Nadine Robin (French), Shuhei Sanada (Japanese), Ariel Vertzman (Spanish), Jieling Wang (Chinese). Thank you!

NEWS FROM IFCM

WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC 2020

Take it from the top

Whether WSCM2020 is your first time, or you've been attending for decades, the Symposium is for you.

British choral conductor **Janet Lincé** is a comparatively recent convert to the joys of World Choral Symposia, having first attended in Barcelona in 2017.

"A small group of us British choral practitioners decided then and there that we were hooked," she says. "It was an amazing atmosphere generated by so many like-minded singers, conductors, choral gurus and just hundreds of keen music lovers."

She can't wait for the 2020 Symposium in Auckland. "I know it will offer yet more unbeatable choral experiences with the excitement of hearing dozens of fantastic choirs from numerous different cultures performing at their very best and introducing brilliant repertoire at every turn. I, for one, can't wait to see and hear some of the fabulous Kiwi choirs on their home turf! Auckland is also the obvious springboard for visiting some of the other great sights that make Aotearoa New Zealand so tantalising. Roll on July 2020," she says.

By contrast, **Philip Brunelle**, the artistic director and founder of VocalEssence (and past Vice President of IFCM) is a WSCM veteran. "I have been involved with the World Symposium for 30 years and I view it as one of the most important ways for every choral musician to get a view of our music worldwide," he says. "The fantastic choirs that are chosen, the amazing sessions that are organised, and the opportunities to engage with wonderful choral leaders from around the world - these are experiences that will only happen at an IFCM World Symposium. Don't miss it!"

BRITISH VOCAL ENSEMBLE VOCES8 TO PERFORM



In their Auckland debut, it has been announced that renowned British octet VOCES8 will perform two concerts for WSCM2020 delegates, each with unique repertoire. Beloved the world over for their rich sound quality and charismatic style, the brilliant young

ensemble, formed in 2003 by former choristers of Westminster Abbey Choir, performs an extensive repertory – including everything from 13th century choral works to their own jazz and pop arrangements – in its a cappella concerts and collaborations with leading orchestras, conductors and soloists.

With a catalogue of acclaimed recordings which have reached the top of the classical charts, VOCES8 brings faultless sound, versatility and diverse musical expression to every performance.

WSCM2020 Artistic Director John Rosser says, "Securing VOCES8 is a real coup for us. We can't wait to share this world-famous ensemble's wonderful sound and charismatic style with our colleagues, our choirs and the general public."

Tickets to the concerts, which take place on Sunday 12 and Tuesday 14 July, will be available to WSCM2020 delegates as part of their Symposium package.

"The singing of VOCES8 is impeccable in its quality of tone and balance. They bring a new dimension to the word 'ensemble' with meticulous timing and tuning." - Gramophone Magazine

MEET THE WSCM2020 CHOIRS

Introducing Gondwana



Gondwana © Sam Allchurch

The renowned Australian children's choir Gondwana will speak (or rather, sing) directly to the theme of the Symposium, "People and the Land | He tangata, he whenua." Comprising singers from the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, the Sydney Children's Choir and Gondwana Voices, Gondwana has established an international reputation for beautiful and imaginative choral performance. Its repertoire will include works commissioned by Gondwana, reflecting stories, language and events that have shaped the Australian continent and its people.

Read more about Gondwana [here](#).

[Video](#)

Get to know Norwegian Youth Choir and Nordic Voices

Artistic creativity, versatility and technical precision are the trademarks of Nordic Voices, a six-voice a cappella group that has been making waves not only in Norway but as far afield as

South Africa, Taiwan, Bolivia and the USA.

For WSCM2020, this genre-defying ensemble will join forces with the celebrated Norwegian Youth Choir to explore the choral music of Norway, intertwined with musical elements from the indigenous cultures of Iran and Tibet.

Read more about the Norwegian Youth Choir and Nordic Voices [here](#).

Nordic Voices will also feature in Frank Havrøy's [presentation](#).

[Video](#)



Presenting the New Zealand Youth Choir

Said to be "one of the jewels in the choral crown of New Zealand" by conductor David Hamilton, the youth ensemble is dedicated to sharing music from Aotearoa and the greater South Pacific with audiences from across the globe.

The ensemble performs internationally and most recently won the Grand Prix at the 2016 IFAS in the Czech Republic and Choir of the World title at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod in Wales!

More info on the choir is [here](#).

[Video](#)



WSCM2020 IN THE MEDIA

WSCM2020 Artistic Director **John Rosser** was recently interviewed on [Radio New Zealand](#), talking about the event, including the many esteemed presenters and choirs.

Have a listen [here](#).

ADVANCE TICKET DEADLINE

[Register before 31 December](#) and you'll still be eligible for the [Advance Ticket prices](#). Don't miss out on this final and not-to-be-repeated discount!

AUCKLAND ACCOMMODATION DEALS

WSCM2020 has secured a number of special delegate accommodation rates at several Auckland hotels for the July event. If you have any queries in regard to these offers or have a specific accommodation enquiry, please send them by [email](#).

IFCM DONATES PRIZE AT THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR YOUNG CONDUCTORS

The [9th International Competition for Young Conductors](#) was organized last week in Paris by the Institut Français d'art Choral (IFAC) in partnership with the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat (ECA-EC). The International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) was pleased to donate the 3rd Prize Award (750 Euros) to Jonas Rasmussen from Denmark.

The winners:

- 1st Prize: Ingrid Roose, Estonia
- 2nd Prize: Justus Barleben, Germany
- 3rd Prize: Jonas Rasmussen, Denmark

Special Prizes:

- Special prize of the Noël Minet Fund: Yeonju Lee, South Korea
- Special prize of the European Youth Choir Festival Basel: Tanguy Bouvet, France
- Special prize of the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat: Kristina Bogataj, Slovenia
- Best interpretation of a French baroque piece: Quintin Beer, United-Kingdom
- Best interpretation of the commissioned work "Brightest Star": Jonas Rasmussen, Denmark
- Prize of the Choir of Paris Orchestra: Ingrid Roose, Estonia
- Audience prize: Justus Barleben, Germany



Jonas Rasmussen receiving the Prize from IFCM Operations Manager, Iva Radulovic

Sponsoring



CHOIR OF THE NATIONS
conducted by Gábor Hollerung

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www.inchoral.org!

WORLD CHORAL DAY 2019

World Choral Day is happening 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. We are happy that more than 100 concerts are already registered on the website, coming from 30 countries around the world. Please remember you can register your concert any time between now and the end of December to join the celebration.

IFCM itself is contributing to this celebration with its own World Choral Day [concert](#) at the Palacete dos Condes de Monte Real, the site of the new IFCM headquarters. This exclusive concert, already sold out, will feature the Escola Superior de Música de Lisboa (ESML) Chamber Choir from Lisbon.

How to join World Choral Day with your choral events?

Any choir and any choral concert can become part of the World Choral Day global chain. All you have to do is [register your concert](#) by completing a short inline form any time between now and the end of December 2019; it takes only 5 minutes. Please don't forget to [download the proclamation](#) which is available in 27 languages. This 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. Don't forget to download the [sheet music](#) and an mp3 [recording](#) of the official song of World Choral Day 2019 (Cantando) and enjoy being one of the thousands of voices from all around the world singing the same piece for the same cause.

Watch this short [video](#) that will guide you through the practical steps for registering your concert:



We are happy to announce that the World Choral Day proclamation is now also available in **Arabic language**, thanks to the contribution of the Arab Choral Network! [Download](#) the proclamation in Arabic language and/or in any of the 31 other languages.

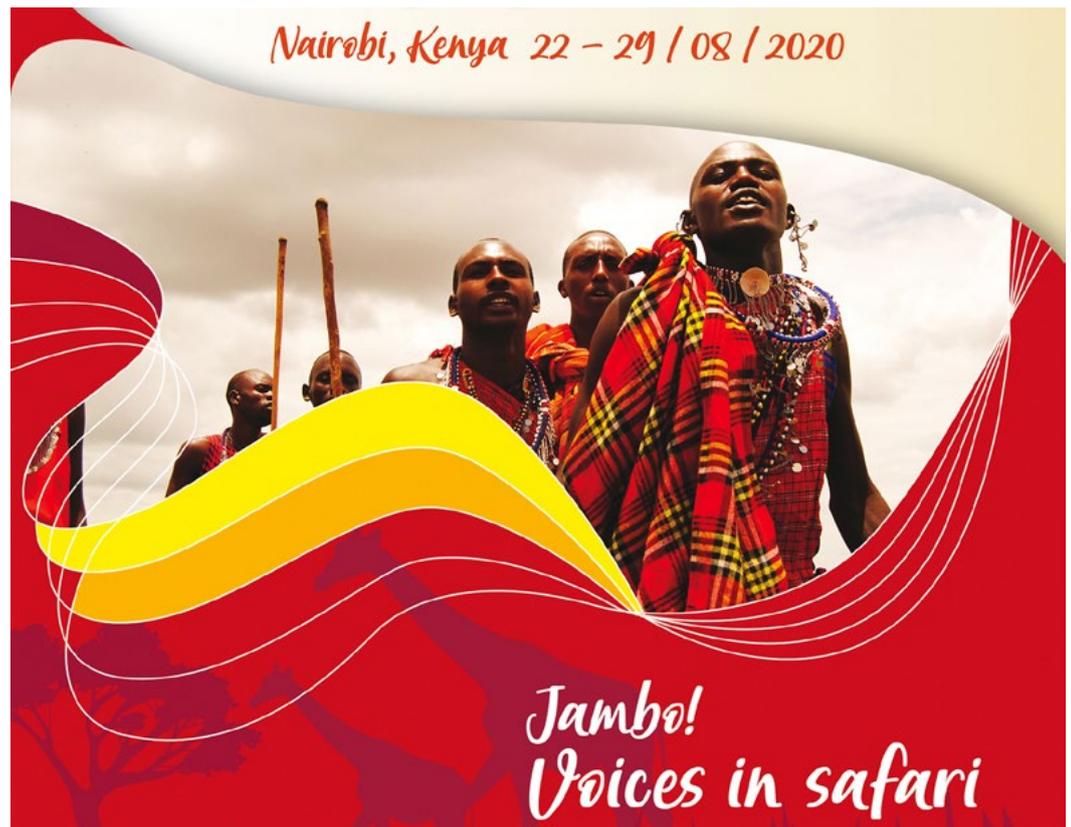
FIRST AFRICA CANTAT FESTIVAL, NAIROBI, KENYA, 22-29 AUGUST, 2020

During this inaugural Africa Cantat, three-hour workshops will be presented by guest conductors. The repertoire of each workshop will be performed during the final festival concert.

The Africa Cantat programme will take you on an exciting musical safari through various cultural areas, repertoires and choral practices around the world under the direction of the following conductors:

- Andre Thomas (USA): *Understanding and performing the Negro Spirituals*
- Jennifer Tham (Singapore): *Connecting continents – a musical journey*
- Sergio Sansão (Brazil): *Brazil-Africa, a musical bridge*
- Ambroise Kua Nzambi Toko (DR Congo): *Enjoy a musical boat ride into the waters of equatorial Africa*
- Jan Schumacher (Germany): *Romantic sounds: A journey into the soul of Romantic choral music from Europe*
- Lynn Williams (Australia): *Sounds of Australia*
- Jean Benoit Bakhoum (Senegal): *A musical gateway with the rhythms of French -speaking African countries*
- Jean-Marie Puissant (France): *Famous opera choruses, like a fresh dew*
- Sylvester Otieno (Kenya): *Muziki Wetu: the typical Kenyan choral experience*

For more information, visit the Africa Cantat [website](#) or contact the festival directly via [email](#). Come to Nairobi and enjoy the rich diversity of choral music from different regions in Africa and other countries worldwide! Jambo Kenya!



2020 WORLD YOUTH CHOIR AUDITIONS

A reminder that there is still time for you or your choristers/students to audition for the 2020 World Youth Choir session to be held in Europe next summer. See World Youth Choir [website](#) for details about how to audition.

Deadline: December 15, 2019 is the deadline for submitting audition materials to the international jury. If you are auditioning by Direct Application, the first step is to [request permission](#) to

A unique week of meeting singers and choirs around two exceptional workshops:

- *King David* by Arthur Honegger (1921) - Oratorio for narrator, soloists, chorus and orchestra conducted by Valérie Fayet (FR)
- *Vespers* of Sergei Rachmaninov (1915) - Excerpts, conducted by Marie-Claude Remy (BE)

Participating choirs will have the opportunity to perform their own repertoire at one or two evening concerts.

Optional accommodations in comfortable residences are available close to the rehearsal locations.

See [website](#) for more details.



EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION – EUROPA CANTAT (ECA-EC)

New / Extended deadline to apply for the European Youth Choir

In December 2020, young singers between ages 18 and 30 will have the unique opportunity to sing on stage with **Daniel Barenboim** and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra! ECA-EC is auditioning a European Youth Choir for the closing concert of the Beethoven Anniversary Year 2020 in Bonn, Germany. In addition, the choir will also perform an a cappella concert, conducted by Simon Halsey. Don't miss out on this special project and apply until January 31, 2020. Please find more information and application procedures [here](#).



Daniel Barenboim

AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)

Registration Open!

Children's Choir Conductor Retreat - Jan. 18-19, 2020, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Early Bird registration (\$125) ends Dec. 1. On that day, the price rises to \$150.

Save the Dates:

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, Wisconsin)
- Eastern Region - Mar. 4-7 (Rochester, New York)
- Southwestern Region - Mar. 4-7 (Little Rock, Arkansas)
- Western Region - Mar. 4-7 (Salt Lake City, Utah)
- Northwestern Region - Mar. 10-14 (Spokane, Washington)
- Southern Region - Mar. 10-14 (Mobile, Alabama)

2nd National Symposium on Research in Choral Singing - May 1-2 (Atlanta, Georgia)

- Call for Proposals. Deadline: Nov. 30

Summer Choral Composers Forum - Jun. 22-29, 2020 (Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania).

NextDirection Choral Leadership Conference - Jul. 6-10, 2020 (Eau Claire, Wisconsin).

- NextDirection Virginia - July 28-31, 2020 (Virginia Beach, Virginia)

ACDA National Conference - Mar. 17-20, 2021 (Dallas, Texas)

NEWS FROM IFCM MEMBERS

13. INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CHAMBER CHOIR MEETING ON USEDOM (BALTIC SEA)

Since its' first edition in 1996 the International Youth Chamber Choir Meeting has become one of Europe's first destinations for a youth choir festival. In July 2020 you can join the 13th edition! About 250 young people will study an exciting new repertoire with renowned international choral conductors, explore the island and enjoy the sandy beaches. The choirs will perform together in concerts, with the final concert in the impressive St. Petri church in Wolgast as the highlight of the meeting.

Deadline for applications: 15 December 2019

Contact: Arbeitskreis Musik in der Jugend, Germany

Contact for event: international@amj-musik.de



Website of the event: <http://www.usedom.amj-musik.de/en/>

ZIMRIYA 2020 – THE SACRED & PROFANE ZIMRIYA FESTIVAL

21-25 June 2020

Knights' Halls of old Acre, Israel



The Zimriya, celebrating 68 years, will hold one of most important musical & cultural events in 2020, in the subterranean Crusaders Knights' Halls and open areas, in the spectacular historic town of Acre.

Workshops of Liturgical music, led by renowned conductors, as well as public concerts and 'Choir to Choir' performances, will be held day and night throughout the festival; 'Open Stage Performances' of choirs and singing groups and ensembles will take place in the pathways of old Acre.

Website: www.zimriya.org

Email: office@harpzamir.co.il

NEWS FROM CARUS-VERLAG

New CARUS magazine 2/2019

Twice a year the CARUS Magazine keeps you informed with interesting topics around choral music today. Hot off the press is the new CARUS Magazine 2/2019 with lots of articles about choral music.

You're in for a surprise! [>> Read online](#)

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 DECEMBER 2019 AND JANUARY 2020

1-4 Dec: Vocal Competition Voices of Costa Brava, Lloret de Mar, Spain -

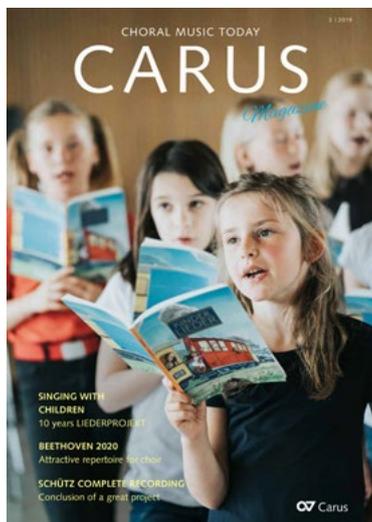
www.fiestalonia.net

1 Dec: Allmänna Sängen & Anders Wall Composition Award 2019, Uppsala, Sweden -

<https://www.allmannasangen.se/asawca>

5-9, 12-16 & 19-23 Dec: International Advent Singing Festival Vienna 2019, Austria -

<https://www.musicultur.com/en/our-choral-trips.html>



DECEMBER 2019

*Volunteers connecting
our choral world*



IFCMeNEWS

5-8 Dec: International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music, Bratislava, Slovak Republic - www.choral-music.sk

6-8 Dec: 10th Krakow Advent and Christmas Choir Festival, Poland - www.christmasfestival.pl

15 Dec: 1st International Choral Composition Competition Carmina Nova, Malaga, Spain - <https://www.coralcarminanova.com>

28 Dec 2019-2 Jan 2020: Corsham Winter School, United Kingdom - www.lacock.org

16-20 Jan: Sing'n'Pray Kobe, Japan - <https://www.interkultur.com/>

31 Jan: Singapore International Choral Composition Competition - www.rafflessingers.org/sicc