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in other languages [HERE](#)

Twists and turns are a part of life and setbacks often happen, however, strong people always choose to face rainstorms and go through rough ways. Facing the terrible outbreaks of Coronavirus, all the kind-hearted and brave people all over the world reach each other with singing, encouraging each other with hopes, and warming each other with love. Therefore, Mrs. Emily Kuo Vong, President of the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM), created and launched [this meaningful video](#), and the International Cultural Center of Monte Real in Portugal joined hands with IFCM to call on all the friends from the whole choral community across the world to pass their best wishes to China.

On behalf of the whole choral world, many famous conductors from different countries sent their warmest greetings and best wishes to Chinese people in different languages. Prof. Tian Xiaobao and Ms. Hu Manxue contributed to the video as well as the Shenzhen Lily Girls Choir sang a beautiful song for the video. We appreciate all the support to Chinese people, and we are singing a common song from the bottom of our hearts to inspire people in Wuhan to keep strong, to wish China to get better soon.

Whether we know each other or not, our hearts will forever stay in solidarity. No matter where you are, we all have the same dream, filling the world with love.

[Watch the video here](#)



WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC 2020

Announcing *The Idea of North*

The WSCM2020 team is delighted to announce that Australian ARIA Award-winning vocal quintet, [The Idea of North](#), is joining the Symposium programme!

An ensemble renowned for their well-crafted sound, inimitable style, and sense of fun, *The Idea of North* is Australia's most highly-awarded and best-loved contemporary a cappella group. Their music crosses many musical genres, including jazz, folk, gospel, pop, classical, and comedy.

With two ARIA awards under their belt, a significant local and international fan base, and a wonderful back-catalogue of over 10 albums, it would seem that their unique style has won hearts all over the world.

One ticket to *The Idea of North's* concert will be included in Full-Symposium registrations and Half-Symposium registrations (second half only).

"A cappella is sometimes thought of as being minimalist, but when you can sing and entertain

MARCH 2020

Volunteers connecting
our choral world



IFCMeNEWS

like The Idea of North, a band would just get in the way." – James Morrison
"Stunningly precise, angelic, and mesmerising woven melodies with beautiful arrangements"
★★★★★ RIP IT UP



BUSY WSCM2020 CHOIRS

These are vibrant times in the choral industry. Here's a peek at what some of the stunning WSCM2020 choirs travelling to Auckland in July have been up to recently:

- [Houston Chamber Choir](#) just carried away their first GRAMMY Award!



Robert Simpson, Conductor of the Houston Chamber Choir, with the GRAMMY Award

- [VOCES8](#) has been in the studio preparing for the upcoming release of their anticipated *After Silence* project.
- [Gondwana Choirs](#) have just finished their Festival of Summer Voices, bringing together young singers from right around Australia at all six of their Gondwana National Choirs ensembles.
- [Kammerchor Stuttgart](#) releases a new recording of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* just in time for the #Beethoven250 celebrations this year.
- [The National Youth Choir of Great Britain](#) has just announced a new work by Thea Musgrave for their 2020 summer season. This commission is inspired by a poem on awa (rivers) by NZ-born poet Ursula Bethell – look out for it on their WSCM programme.
- [The New Zealand Youth Choir](#) spent their summer cruising the Pacific Islands, singing and visiting the birthplaces of several members of the choir.
- Just this week, [Pop-Up Detmold](#) released their latest single 'Devil May Care' to Spotify.
- [Zürcher Sing-Akademie](#) has made it onto the long list for the 'Preis der Deutschen Schallplatten Kritik' with their CD *Leonore*. Viel Glück!

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER

It's time to take action, persuade a couple of friends to join you, and register for the life- and career-changing experience that is the World Symposium on Choral Music.

Join the rest of the choral world in New Zealand this July!

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Aerial view of Waiheke Island

WSCM2020 TRADE EXPO

The Symposium's Trade Expo is an exceptional opportunity to showcase your products and services to a large but targeted audience. Offering opportunities to reach new markets and network at a festival full of international leaders, decision-makers, and purchasers, WSCM2020 is an event not to be missed.

The Symposium team is working hard to ensure exhibiting will be an easy process, with the standard set-up to include a trade booth, table and chairs, as well as power and the all-important Wi-Fi. Exhibitors will be listed in the prestigious Symposium book, on the WSCM2020 website, and in the Symposium event app.

The Trade Expo will be open for the full eight days of WSCM2020, from Saturday 11 to Saturday 18 July 2020. Booth spaces are limited, so don't hesitate.

[Register now to secure your place](#)

CHOIR FEATURES

Introducing VOCES8 (UK)

British ensemble [VOCES8](#) will join the WSCM programme with two headline performances, one in each half of the Symposium (Sunday 12 and Tuesday 14 July 2020). WSCM2020 will be the ensemble's Auckland debut.

VOCES8 is renowned for its a cappella concerts and collaborations with leading orchestras, conductors, and soloists. With a catalogue of acclaimed recordings that have reached the top of the classical charts, VOCES8 maintains an ongoing performance programme while continuing to release new music.

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

[Read more about the choir](#)



Get to know Stockholms Musikgymnasiums Kammarkör (SWEDEN)

[Stockholms Musikgymnasiums Kammarkör](#), a Swedish high school chamber choir led by Helene Stureborg, has toured across Scandinavia and Europe earning various awards and placings, such as the European Grand Prix in Maribor (2018) and the Grand Prix in Bulgaria (2017).



They are looking forward to presenting programmes that include several works commissioned especially for WSCM2020 and its theme 'People and the Land | He tangata, He whenua'.

[Read more about the choir](#)

Hello from Xara Choral Theatre (CANADA)

The WSCM2020 team looks forward to welcoming [Xara Choral Theatre](#) to New Zealand.

[Watch](#) a special message from Christina Murray, the ensemble's Artistic Director and WSCM2020 presenter. (Please note: the NZ winter definitely won't be anywhere near as cold as this!). [Read more about the choir](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON NEW ZEALAND

If you love wine-tasting, you needn't look any further than Waiheke Island, a beautiful and popular tourist spot just a 40-minute ferry ride from Auckland's city centre.

This stunning island is home not only to many boutique vineyards, but also to gorgeous sandy beaches and walking trails amongst native forest.

[Learn more](#)



MAKE SURE YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS IN GOOD STANDING IN 2020**ONLINE RENEWAL IS EASY AND SECURE**

And get a discount on the WSCM2020 registration fee!

IFCM IS LOOKING FOR TRANSLATORS

The [International Choral Bulletin](#) (ICB), the professional, scholarly journal/magazine edited by the [International Federation for Choral Music](#) (IFCM) is looking for volunteer translators from English to French, German to French and Spanish to French. This is a good opportunity for young translators to gain experience. Knowledge in choral music field is appreciated, but it is neither necessary nor required. Contact the ICB Editing Manager, [Andrea Angelini](#), or apply [online](#).

WORLD PREMIERE OF FIRST PRIZE COMPOSITION IN THE IFCM THIRD INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR CHORAL COMPOSITION

The first prize composition in the IFCM Third International Competition for Choral Composition (2017), *Nur* by Spanish composer Juan Manuel Conejo, was premiered in Ankara, Turkey, on 25 January 2020 by the Turkish State Choir under the direction of Josep Vila i Casañas. The performance was introduced by IFCM Vice President Gábor Móczár and IFCM Board Member Burak Onur Erdem. Renowned conductor Josep Vila i Casañas was the guest conductor for the Turkish State Choir in a concert on Iberian repertoire and a masterclass on choral conducting. The concert was presented to a full house in the Presidential Symphony Hall during which the choir also performed the Turkish premiere of Josep Vila's *Gloria*. The masterclass, an important milestone in Turkish choral development during the past decade, was organised by Burak Onur Erdem, conductor of the Turkish State Choir. Masterclass participants included 44 conductors from 16 cities in Turkey and 3 European countries (Estonia, Austria, and Scotland). Further information on www.ifcm.net.



Josep Vila i Casañas conducting the Turkish State Choir

CONDUCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS: FIRST SESSION 2020 IN BENIN

A second training session for choral conductors was organized in Cotonou, Benin, from 25 January to 02 February, as part of IFCM's *Conductors Without Borders* program. Eighteen trainees from the newly-created Federation *Harmonie Cantat* in Benin participated in the session and worked on conducting gestures with the aim to conduct the choir-in-residence at the end of the session. Twelve choirs from the southern region of Benin were able to participate in this training session. Topics such as preparing the score and the rehearsal, listening to the voices and finding ways to respond to what the conductors hears, and working with vocal culture concerns were addressed individually. The trainees were greatly motivated and expressed their desire to go deeper into this educational program. The French Institute of Benin has become one of the partners of these training courses. The next training session is scheduled for October - November 2020.

[Read the report in French](#). This report will be available in English in the April [ICB](#).

**WORLD CHORAL DAY 2019****Don't miss the photos and videos**

In 2019, [World Choral Day](#) was celebrated on the second Sunday of December. In addition to recognizing choral concerts on 8 December 2019, choirs were given the opportunity to register any choral events which took place during the entire month of December, creating a stronger and more visible presence of the project globally. In total, 344 choral events in 67 countries were registered. This is the highest representation of countries in the history of the project. In order to maintain a focus on this IFCM initiative, photos and videos from World Choral Day 2019 concerts continue to be featured on the [World Choral Day 2019 Facebook page](#). Don't miss these amazing materials!

WORLD YOUTH CHOIR 2020**Singer Selection: Meet the World Youth Choir 2020**

The international jury meeting for the World Youth Choir (WYC) session 2020 took place in Bonn, Germany, 28-31 January 2020, hosted by the session organiser, the [Bundesjugendorchester](#). During these days the jury selected the best singers for this specific session from over 200 candidates. After many hours of listening to the numerous recordings and evaluating the

applications, the jury chose 89 singers from 41 countries to be part of the World Youth Choir 2020 session.

The selection was made by an international jury composed of the Artistic Director for the WYC 2020 session, Jörn Hinnerk Andresen, and a jury representative from each of the three World Youth Choir Foundation patron organisations: Daniel Mestre from the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat, Cristian Grases from the International Federation for Choral Music, and Géraldine Toutain from Jeunesses Musicales International.

The jury process took into account the artistic and musical quality of each candidate as demonstrated through the submitted audition files: voice range, sight reading abilities, vocal technical skills, ability to prepare a piece, and voice performance throughout. Furthermore, the jury also took into consideration the complementarity of the voices in order to create a cohesive group within each section and for the whole choir and, whenever possible, to feature the diversity of countries represented in the World Youth Choir.

The selection process was often challenging for the jury, and the singers selected now have a deep responsibility as a member of the WYC 2020 session. Many others could also have been part of the choir; not being selected does not diminish the skills of any applicant. The jury members encourage all singers to continue vocal training in order to improve their musical abilities and performance and, for those who have not reached the age limit, to audition again next year.

Congratulations to the [selected singers](#)!

Thank you to all the WYC 2020 candidates and recruiters!



ASIA PACIFIC YOUTH CHOIR 2020

Call for Singers - APYC 2020 in Kuala Lumpur

The audition has started for APYC 2020 in Kuala Lumpur. We are looking for the talented young singers aged 18 - 28 years from the Asia Pacific region. For further details, please go to <https://jcanet.or.jp/ap-youth/>. Application deadline: 8 May 2020.



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

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!



NEWS FROM IFCM FOUNDING MEMBERS

NEWS FROM THE JAPAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION

Educational choral music programme for young musicians of Japan

The 9th Japan Choral Association Youth Choir (JCAYC), a 4-day educational programme will be held in Nagasaki, 24-28 March, 2020, with guest conductor Nigel Short from the UK, former member of The *Tallis Scholars* and *The King's Singers* and conductor of the award-winning choir, *Tenebrae*.

- Venues: Nagasaki University, Sogakudo (music camp); Kassui High School Chapel, Nagasaki (concert)
- National organizers: Japan Choral Association (JCA) / The Asahi Shimbun
- Local organizer: Nagasaki Choral Association (NCA)
- Additional partner: British Council

For more details, visit the JCA [website](#)!

EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION - EUROPA CANTAT (ECA-EC)

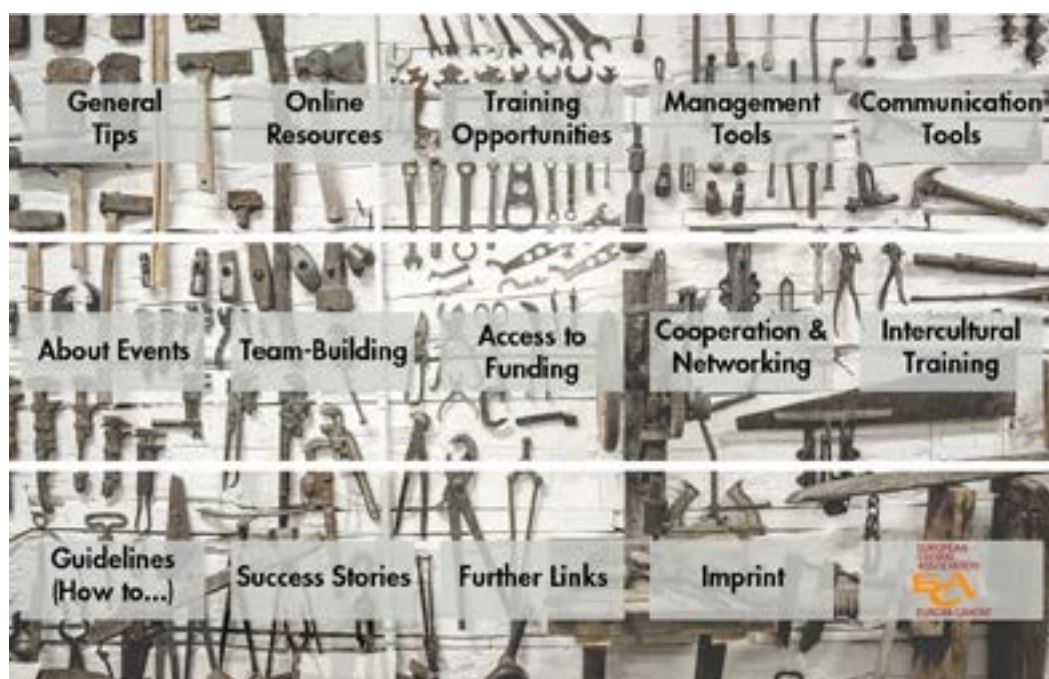
Guidelines and handbooks to serve as an inspiration for Choral Organisations' work

The European Choral Association – Europa Cantat has developed, with the help of numerous partners throughout Europe, a series of guidelines and handbooks in the frame of different EU-funded projects.

The guidelines will be updated regularly and include themes such as:

- How to use collective singing as a tool for integration
- Different training activities for music professionals
- How to organise a low-budget choral festival
- Materials for cultural leaders on how to integrate the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their work
- and much more.

Find the guidelines and handbooks [here](#).



AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)

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

Summer Choral Composers Forum - June 22-29, 2020 (Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania). Applications for composer participation are available [HERE](#).

NextDirection Choral Leadership Conference - July 6-10, 2020 (Eau Claire, Wisconsin). Registration is open, with a deadline of March 30, 2020.

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

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

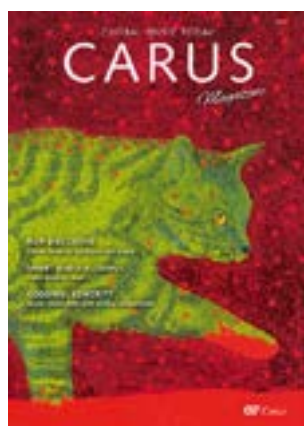
- Auditions for Performing Choirs at the 2021 ACDA National Conference open on February 1, 2020, with a deadline of April 15, 2020. Guidelines are available [here](#).
- Proposals for Interest Sessions at the 2021 ACDA National Conference are being accepted beginning February 1, 2020, with a deadline of March 31, 2020. Information and requirements are available [here](#).

NEWS FROM IFCM MEMBERS

OBITUARY: LAMBERT VINKEN, CO-FOUNDER OF THE EUROPEAN MUSIC FESTIVAL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN NEERPELT, BELGIUM



On Wednesday night, February 12, Doctor **Lambert Vinken** passed away after a short period of sickness. He would have been 99 years old this year. Together with priest Jan Coninx, he founded the *European Music Festival for Young People* in Neerpelt, Belgium, in 1953. Under his leadership, the festival quickly went from a small local event to one of the biggest festivals in its kind, bringing together thousands of young people from the five continents. Dr. Vinken's message to "Make beautiful music and meet each other in peace" will continue to resonate across the world.



NEWS FROM CARUS-VERLAG

New CARUS Magazine 1/2020

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 1/2020 with lots of articles about choral music. You're in for a surprise! Read [online](#).

CONGRATULATIONS TO AMBROISE KUA-NZAMBI TOKO WHO RECEIVED THE TITLE OF HONORARY DOCTOR awarded by the Triune Biblical University in Kinshasa, DR Congo on 29 February 2020.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR CHORAL WORLD IN MARCH AND APRIL 2020

11-15 Mar: Roma Music Festival 2020, Italy - www.mrf-musicfestivals.com

12-16 Mar: Paris International Choir Festival, France - www.musiccontact.com

12-15 Mar: 26th International Choir Festival of Paris, France - www.musicandfriends.lu

13-15 Mar: 9th International Gdansk Choir Festival, Poland - www.gdanskfestival.pl



- 13-16 Mar: Discover Puerto Rico and its Choral Music, Ponce, Puerto Rico - www.music-contact.com
- 19-23 Mar: Dublin International Choral Festival, Ireland - www.music-contact.com
- 19-23 Mar: 13th Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition, Fukushima, Japan - www.vocalensemble.jp/en/
- 19-23 Mar: Festival of Peace and Brotherhood, Rome, Italy - www.music-contact.com
- 25-29 Mar: Young Prague Festival, Prague, Czech Republic - www.music-contact.com
- 26-29 Mar: ON STAGE with Interkultur in Verona, Italy - <https://www.interkultur.com/>
- 27-29 Mar: 23rd Rainbow International Festival of Children's and Young Choirs, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation - www.petersburgfestival.com
- 1-5 Apr: Istra Music Festival 2020, Pore, Croatia - <https://www.mrf-musicfestivals.com/>
- 4-8 Apr: Vox Lucensis, International Choral Competition, Lucca, Italy - <https://www.interkultur.com/>
- 5-9 Apr: 16th Concorso Corale Internazionale, Riva del Garda, Italy - www.meeting-music.com
- 6-9 Apr: Barcelona Workshop "Easter Week and Religious Choral Music", Spain - www.corearte.es
- 10-17 April: Komitas International Festival, Yerevan, Armenia - <https://www.facebook.com/komitas.komitasfest.5>
- 15-19 Apr: Voices & Wine, Alba, Italy - <https://www.interkultur.com/>
- 15-18 Apr: Verona International Choral Competition, Verona, Italy - <http://www.music-contact.com/>
- 16-18 & 22-25 Apr: 18th Festival di Primavera (Spring Festival), Montecatini Terme, Tuscany, Italy - www.feniarco.it
- 16-19 Apr: 6th International Children's & Youth Chorus Festival 'StimmenKlangRaum', Weimar, Germany - www.schola-cantorum-weimar.de
- 18-20 Apr: 3rd Michelangelo International Music Festival, Florence, Italy - www.florencechoral.com
- 23-26 Apr: Slovakia Cantat, Bratislava, Slovak Republic - www.choral-music.sk
- 23-26 Apr: 10th International Messiah Choir Festival, Salzburg, Austria - <https://messiah-chorfestival-salzburg.jimdo.com/>
- 29 Apr-3 May: 66th Cork International Choral Festival, Ireland - www.corkchoral.ie
- 29 Apr-3 May: Costa Barcelona Music Festival, Spain - www.mrf-musicfestivals.com
- 29 Apr-3 May: 15th International Choir Competition & Festival, Bad Ischl, Austria - <https://www.interkultur.com/>
- 30 Apr: European Award for Choral Composers 2020, Europe - www.eca-ec.org or www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org
- 30 Apr-4 May: 68th European Music Festival for Young People, Neerpelt, Belgium - www.emj.be
- 30 Apr-4 May: International Festival Verona Garda Estate Verona, Brescia, Mantua, Vicenza, Italy - www.festivalveronagardaestate.eu