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NEWS FROM IFCM

WORLD CHORAL DAY 2020 - CELEBRATING 30TH ANNIVERSARY

We are all thir(s)ty for singing!

In 2020 one of IFCM's most significant projects, **World Choral Day**, will celebrate its **30th anniversary**. In addition to the special commemoration, this year's edition will be even more distinctive due to the international coronavirus pandemic. Around the world, Covid-19 has had an enormous impact on traditional in-person choral concerts and even singing together in many countries. We believe that, instead of cancelling another choral project, World Choral Day 2020 provides an extraordinary opportunity for the choral world to demonstrate its unity and solidarity in celebrating the joy of collective singing. Choral ensembles throughout the world are encouraged to join this global initiative to keep alive the 30-year tradition of World Choral Day.

As previously communicated in our "Save the Date" message, this year the entire month of December will be dedicated to World Choral Day. We are keenly aware of the current worldwide situation and know that, for many, it is challenging to find ways to perform 'normal' choral activities due to regulations designed to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. Therefore, we are adding multiple options for joining the 2020 celebration to ensure that everyone can find the right possibility for their ensemble(s), even if opportunities for singing together are limited.

**How can you join World Choral Day in 2020?**

- 1. Traditional concert.** If it is possible to hold traditional concerts in your country, please register your planned event on the website. After your registration has been processed, we will create an event subpage for your concert and contact you directly about uploading content to the page.
- 2. Virtual concert.** If it is not possible to hold traditional concerts in your country, it is still possible to join World Choral Day with a fully- or partially-recorded concert in which the proclamation is read. You might even consider a live broadcast in a modified format, i.e., a performance with no audience, recorded in an empty concert hall or rehearsal space.
- 3. Virtual choir video.** If it is not possible to meet physically and sing together, you can create

a virtual choir video in which the World Choral Day logo is added and the proclamation is read or inserted.

4. Video from a previous performance. If options 1, 2, or 3 are not feasible, you can participate in World Choral Day 2020 by sending a recording from a previous performance (from 1 January 2019 onwards). In order to participate with a previously-recorded video, you will need to edit the video and insert the World Choral Day logo and proclamation.

With each option, please make sure to [register](#) your event and/or your plan.

Join us in the thir(s)tiest year for singing!

WORLD YOUTH CHOIR VIDEOS

The [World Youth Choir](#) (WYC) continues to update its video collection of WYC performances throughout the past two decades. In addition to the videos on the WYC website, more WYC performances can be accessed on the [WYC YouTube channel](#). These performances, representing programming choices by leading international conductors for a high-level choral ensemble, are a valuable resource for international repertoire. Most recently added is a performance of the [2008 World Youth Choir](#), conducted by Dr. Hakwon Yoon and Dr. Steve Zegree. This performance in Guangzhou, China, was one of the first concerts of the 2008 China tour which included a performance in the framework of the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.

IFCM MEMBERS: REMEMBER THE DATE OF THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY: DECEMBER 3, 2020. Time will soon be communicated.

NEWS FROM IFCM FOUNDING MEMBERS

EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION - EUROPA CANTAT (ECA-EC)

In the Footsteps of Ludwig van Beethoven

2-4 October 2020 | Singing together despite COVID-19!

To kick off choral life again and to explore how international choral events can still be possible in times of travel restrictions, ECA-EC will host *In the Footsteps of Ludwig van Beethoven*, their first ever hybrid choral event. Organised in the frame of the Beethoven Anniversary Year, it will offer to a limited number of live participants the opportunity to study Beethoven's choral music with **Jan Schumacher in Bonn**, Germany; rehearsals will also be streamed online to offer a wider range of participants from all four corners of the world to join. To complement



Panda van Proosdij (left) and Jan Schumacher (right)

the rehearsal, **Panda van Proosdij** will offer a workshop *Voice & Physique*; again, participation will be possible live and online. The event will take place Friday evening, Saturday all-day, and Sunday morning (Central European Summer Time).

Jan Schumacher is a sought-after conductor and editor of the *Choral Collection Beethoven*, published at Carus last year. Discover with Jan that there is so much more to Beethoven for choirs than just *Freude schöner Götterfunken!* Panda van Proosdij, an expert in 'choireography', will teach you about creating a good physical awareness, a healthy posture, and the use of suitable movements for singers which support both musically and vocally.

[Further information and free registration](#)

AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)



After many years of exemplary service, **Dr. Tim Sharp** is retiring as ACDA's executive director. Though he will continue on in service to IFCM and embark on some new initiatives, Tim will step out of staff leadership and move back into his role as a Life Member of the association. As of 14 September 2020, Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt is serving as ACDA's interim executive director. Professor emerita at the University of Toronto, Hilary has a long history of service in ACDA, having been elected North Carolina ACDA president, ACDA Central Region president, and national president. In addition to a number of other ACDA leadership positions, she is a prolific author and has received many distinguished service awards, as well as being the inaugural recipient of the Faculty Teaching Excellence Award from the University of

Toronto Faculty of Music in 2013. Hilary will serve in the interim role until new leadership has been identified.

Save the Date: [ACDA National Conference - "Diversity in Music"](#). 17-19 March 2021 (Dallas, Texas). The conference will be virtual. The steering committee is currently working out details.

[Resources for Choral Professionals During the Pandemic](#). ACDA has created a page of information, ideas, and tools especially for choral conductors and educators. Most are free and the page is updated regularly.

ACDA created guidance for choral singing and study during the COVID-19 pandemic, The [COVID-19 Response Committee Report](#) (June 15, 2020).

ACDA member Dr. Rebecca Lord has developed a living database of artists willing to make online guest appearances for choirs, vocal/choral music classes, and much more. There are separate lists in the directory for conductors, composers, vocalists, instrumentalists, and music technology professionals. Included are biographical information, areas of expertise, willingness to make presentations and/or appear as interview guests, types of groups they will visit, contact information, and fee information (optional). It is an amazing list of diverse professionals offering to appear for choir classes, events, community and church choirs - about any choral situation. [Visit the directory](#).

NEWS FROM IFCM MEMBERS

IFCM WELCOMES THE ARBEITSKREIS MUSIK IN DER JUGEND (AMJ)

The *Arbeitskreis Musik in der Jugend* (AMJ), a German national music organization for the youth, just rejoined IFCM. Together with the French association, *A Coeur Joie France*, they were the driving forces towards international cooperation in amateur music after WWII. These two associations were the key founders of the European Choral Association — Europa Cantat. It's a great honor for IFCM to welcome AMJ again in our international network.

AMJ PRESENTS ITS 20TH EUROTREFF, A FESTIVAL FOR YOUTH CHOIRS

Wolfenbuettel, Germany, 8-12 September 2021

More than 700 young singers from all over Europe will come together in Wolfenbuettel, Germany, to create wonderful and unique memories through music. Under the guidance of international professional conductors, they will learn about choral literature. During this five-day forum, they will also learn from each other, discover their differences and similarities, and make music for each other and with each other.

Atelier leaders are József Nemes (Hungary), Christiane Fischer (Austria) and Basilio Astulez (Spain). Mixed youth choirs will work with Tristan Meister (Germany) and Merzi Rajala (Finland). Girls' choirs will work with Carlo Pavese (Italy) and Helle Høyer Vedel (Denmark).

Never been to a EUROTREFF? Take a look at this [EUROTREFF 2021 trailer](#) or visit the [AMJ Facebook page](#) for more pictures and videos.

Detailed information on the program, participation fees and ateliers, as well as the [application form](#) can be found on the [AMJ website](#).

Deadline for application is December 15, 2020.





NEWS FROM THE CHORAL FEDERATION A COEUR JOIE WALLONIE-BRUXELLES

After a successful online General Assembly on 29 August 2020, the Board of Directors of [A Coeur Joie Wallonie-Bruxelles](#) is delighted to present its new President, Orianne Renault, who succeeds to Noël Minet. Orianne has been Vice-President of A Coeur Joie Wallonie-Bruxelles for the past two years and has been responsible for its children's division for many years. The Board of Directors also elected Vice-President Isabelle Dussart, Secretary General Thérèse Eloy, and Board Member Geneviève van Noyen.



NEW CONDUCTORS APPOINTED AT BEVOCAL, THE NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR OF BELGIUM

Benoît Giaux and Jori Klomp were appointed conductors of [BEvocal](#), the National Youth Choir of Belgium, for the next three years. Their strong vision on the future of the choir and their belief in the value of the choir for the Belgian choral community were favorable to their nomination. Congratulations to both of them!



Benoît Giaux (left) and Jori Klomp (right)

TIMEDATE MUSIC - A CONCERT IN 24 HOURS AROUND THE WORLD

TimeDate Music is looking for choirs to perform Karl Jenkins' The Peacemakers on **International Peace Day - Wednesday, 21 September 2022** at 20h00 in your own time zone.

If the composition is performed at the same time in different time zones, the message of The Peacemakers would be expressed throughout a 24-hour period around the world. In short, this is the idea of TimeDate Music!

We would be delighted for you or your choir to participate in our worldwide project.

Please find out more on our [website](#) or [contact](#) us!



WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER IN THE CHORAL WORLD

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.