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NEWS FROM IFCM

IFCM COMMITTEES: LOTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THREE MONTHS

IFCM is excited to bring you up to speed on the work that its committees, presented in the [February IFCMeNEWS](#), have been doing in the past weeks. Many thanks to all the members of these committees for their enthusiasm and accomplishments! Unless otherwise indicated, committee members are IFCM board members or staff.

IFCM WSCM2023 Committees

While the World Symposium on Choral Music (WSCM) 2023 is organized and produced by the [Qatar National Choral Association](#) (QNCA), there are specific roles and responsibilities for two joint committees, Artistic and Administrative, each with equal representation from IFCM and QNCA.

The Artistic Committee, co-chaired by Jan Schumacher (Germany) and Giovanni Pasini (QNCA, Qatar) is responsible for all decisions regarding the artistic programme of the symposium, i.e., develop the main theme of the symposium, select the choirs and lecturers, construct the concert schedule, develop the fringe programme, plan the exhibition, and envision special concerts and activities in the frame of the symposium. Committee members include Cristian Grases (IFCM representative, USA), Nasser Sahim Nasseb (QNCA, Qatar), Beverly Shangkuan-Cheng (IFCM representative, Philippines), Alena Pyne (QNCA, Qatar), and Dana Alfardan (Honorary Member, Qatar).

The Administrative Committee, co-chaired by Ki Adams (Canada) and Jennifer Taynen (QNCA, Qatar) is responsible for all decisions regarding the production of the symposium, i.e., all administrative and financial areas. This task includes oversight for symposium components such as budget, schedule, marketing, registration/ticketing, human resources, technical support, and hospitality. Committee members include Gábor Móczár (Hungary), Aljazi Al Henzab (QNCA, Qatar), Yoshihiro Egawa (Japan), Anwar Al Nimri (QNCA, Qatar), and Khalid Salim (Honourary Member, Qatar).



West Bay skyline, Doha, Qatar

IFCM Conductors Without Borders Committee

Conductors Without Borders (CWB) was launched in 2007 to encourage the formation of choral organizations in countries and regions where none exist and to integrate these organizations into IFCM's network. Thus far, CWB programs have been developed in Latin America and in Africa.

The new CWB committee has decided to restructure the program and to extend it to other parts of the world where conductors who, for various reasons, lack access to professional guidance and mentorship towards developing insightful and effective leadership.

Following the committee's inaugural online meeting, responsibilities have been distributed as follows:

- Africa: Yveline Damas (Gabon) and Thierry Thiébaut (Chair, France)
- Asia-Pacific: Jan Schumacher (Germany) and Yoshihiro Egawa (Japan)
- Arab countries: Burak Onur Erdem (Turkey), Victoria Liedbergius (Norway), and Roula Abou Baker (Lebanon)
- Latin America: María Guinand (Venezuela) and Ana Patricia Carbajal (Mexico)

In addition to on-site sessions, video training will be organized in all regions for basic conducting techniques, a cost-effective and pedagogically-successful approach already in use by CWB in Latin America.



CWB in Argentina in 2019

IFCM World Choral Day Committee

World Choral Day (WCD) is one of the most powerful projects of IFCM, representing the commitment of the global singing community to peace, solidarity, and understanding. The committee works to bring the WCD project to a higher level of international recognition, refine the annual regulations, and develop new and creative communications methods. The committee is composed of Gábor Móczár (Chair, Hungary), María Guinand



(Venezuela), Saeko Hasegawa (Japan), and Burak Onur Erdem (Turkey), assisted by Emily Kuo Vong (Portugal), Iva Radulovi (Serbia), Isabelle Métrope (Germany), and João Silva (Portugal).

The success of the WCD 2020 has been captured in a summary video which illustrates the diverse modes of choir participation, i.e., traditional video recording, virtual choir, previously-recorded video, or virtual concert. The number of participating choirs in 2020 demonstrated that many ensembles remained active to some degree during the pandemic. Moving forward, the committee is working on regulations for the 2021 session, taking into consideration the two drastically different previous years. Using WCD archival material, the WCD committee plans to produce a promotional video connecting this project with the United Nations. WCD 2021 will also be expanded to individual singers, contributing to an increased global performance of Alberto Grau's Cantando, the anthem of WCD since 2019. The second Sunday of December will remain the specific day during which choral concerts will be broadcast globally through IFCM's communication channels, around the clock, to celebrate World Choral Day 2021.



IFCM Choral Education Programs Committee

The Choral Education Programs Committee is using this time of virtual and online work to plan its future master classes, workshops, and other educational activities for choral music education with a view to the time when we are able to travel and work face-to-face. The committee's goal is to prepare both online and face-to-face programs, particularly for underserved and developing regions. IFCM's choral education programs will concentrate

specifically on Middle Asia, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and other developing regions around the world that have come to IFCM for collaboration and assistance. IFCM's greatest resource is its human connection with the great choral practitioners around the world, and the Choral Education Program Committee plans to use this resource for the benefit of those looking to build their own choral programs.

Committee members include Tim Sharp (Chair, USA), Jo-Michael Scheibe (USA), Gábor Móczár (Hungary), Ana Patricia Carbajal (Mexico), Irvinne Redor (conductor, Philippines), Naomi Faran (conductor, Israel), Kaie Tanner (conductor, Estonia).

IFCM Composition Competition Committee

The committee for IFCM Composition Competition, consisting of Maria Guinand (Venezuela), Jan Schumacher (Germany), and Burak Onur Erdem (Chair, Turkey), has begun its mandate to evaluate this IFCM project. The main agenda of the group is to reconsider the competition according to the needs of the choral world. The committee has worked on model competitions, current practices in the world, possible prizes, and new formats. With a lot of inspiration and motivation, a new edition of the competition is being designed.

IFCM Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Countries' Youth Choir Committee

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Countries' Youth Choir (SCOCYC) is a special international youth choir which aims to connect several EurAsian countries. The SCOCYC Committee is working on two fronts: 1) designing digital presentations to promote SCOCYC and its achievements around the world and 2) designing a 2021 online session with the original 2019 musicians in order to bridge pandemic times until live sessions may continue.

The Committee is composed of Gábor Móczár (Chair, Hungary), Saeko Hasegawa (Japan), Ki Adams (Canada), Burak Onur Erdem (Turkey) and André de Quadros (SCOCYC conductor, USA), assisted by Emily Kuo Vong (Portugal), Iva Radulović (Serbia) João Silva (Portugal), Maria Goundorina (SCOCYC conductor, Russia/Norway), and Yu Hang Tan (SCOCYC Session Manager, Malaysia).

According to the original idea in 2019, an SCOCYC session was to have been planned annually in order for IFCM to build a strong relationship with the [Shanghai Cooperation Organization](#) (SCO). It is also IFCM's intention to build strong cultural relationships with the 18 SCO countries through the SCOCYC. The 2020 session was scheduled to occur in St. Petersburg, Russia, but had to be postponed due to the pandemic.



World Youth Choir Committee**Many voices, diverse cultures, musical excellence, one message**

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, two [World Youth Choir](#) (WYC) sessions have been cancelled: the 2020 WYC session with the German National Youth Orchestra and the 2021 WYC performance at the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) biennial [national conference](#) in Dallas, Texas. Fortunately, the ACDA conference pivoted to an online format, and the WYC was able to have a presence during the conference. The WYC alumni virtual performance of the choir's signature work, [An Irish Blessing](#) (Irish folksong, arr. James E. Moore), was presented at the beginning of the conference's last concert, the President's Concert, which featured invited international choirs. WYC also participated in the conference's virtual Exhibit Hall where conference delegates were directed to the WYC website and promotional materials for hosting a WYC session.

Given the uncertain global situation for the remainder of 2021, the WYC Foundation Board has decided not to plan a regular session in 2021. Several options are currently being discussed for the years 2022 and 2023, including a session in Qatar with the [Arab Choral Network](#). In September 2020, the WYC Foundation was delighted to participate in an Online Reception organised by the European Choral Association as part of the EP:IC project. Anyone interested in hosting a session of the World Youth Choir or supporting the choir in one way or another can write to manager@WorldYouthChoir.org for further information.



WYC 2018 on the Great Wall of China

The World Youth Choir Foundation is pleased to announce its board members and artistic advisors for 2021.

World Youth Choir Foundation Board of Directors**[International Federation for Choral Music](#) (IFCM)**

- Ki Adams (Canada), President
- Emily Kuo (Portugal), Board Member
- Iva Radulović (Portugal), ex officio as Operations Manager of IFCM

[European Choral Association - Europa Cantat](#) (ECA-EC)

- Iva Victoria Liedbergius (Norway), Artistic Vice-President
- Martí Ferrer (Catalonia, Spain), Board Member
- Sonja Greiner (Germany), ex officio as Secretary General of ECA-EC

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Jeunesses Musicales International (JMI)

- Stéphane Grosclaude (France), Treasurer
- Tonci Bilic (Croatia), Board Member
- Blasko Smilevski (Belgium), ex officio as Secretary General of JMI

World Youth Choir Foundation Artistic Advisors:

- IFCM: Cristian Grases (USA)
- ECA-EC: Daniel Mestre (Catalonia, Spain)
- JMI: Géraldine Toutain (France)

Asia Pacific Youth Choir Committee

Although the [Asia Pacific Youth Choir](#) (APYC) 2020 session has been postponed to November 2021, all 39 selected singers are invited to participate in the next APYC session in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Singers are from China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Taiwan.

Contact: y.egawa.music@gmail.com



One of the first sessions of the Asia Pacific Youth Choir

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

The Planning Committee for the 2023 World Symposium on Choral Music (WSCM) is delighted to announce the patronage by the State of Qatar's [Ministry of Culture and Sports](#) for the 2023 WSCM. The WSCM is to be held in Doha, Qatar, 30 December 2023 to 5 January 2024.

In a statement addressed to the WSCM Planning Committee at their 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

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<http://ifcm.net/>

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**International Choral Bulletin Survey**

The [International Choral Bulletin](#) was created exactly 40 years ago. Over these years, it became a longer publication, changed to colour print, went online and is now a multilingual information tool about choir music around the world. It's high time to ask you how YOU wish your International Choral Bulletin to develop in the coming years! We created a survey in all 4 official IFCM languages. Please take 5 minutes of your time to answer these [questions](#). Your ICB Team thanks you for your time!

1981-2021:

40 years of International Choral Bulletin**Survey in English****NEWS FROM IFCM FOUNDING MEMBERS****EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION - EUROPA CANTAT (ECA-EC)****Only a few days left to register for EUROCHOIR 2021**

This year's EuroChoir session is very special as it happens in the year of the Europa Cantat Festival 2021. Prior to participating in the festival, the choir will rehearse and have a concert tour in Ireland!

Singers, this is your chance to:

- Spend ten days of your summer in Limerick, a major city set in Munster province in the south of Ireland;
- Rehearse and prepare in Limerick together with the amazing Yuval Weinberg and Bernie Sherlock;
- Perform in two wonderful locations: St. Marys Cathedral, (Limerick) and Christchurch Cathedral (Dublin);
- End your experience by travelling to Ljubljana, Slovenia, for the [Europa Cantat Festival 2021](#);
- Meet (and perform for) over a thousand singers from all over the world.

Find out more and begin your application [here](#). Registration closes 12 April 2021.



11 - 24 July 2021

Ireland & Slovenia

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This year's EuroChoir session is made possible by [Sing Ireland](#), in collaboration with [JSKD](#) and [European Choral Association - Europa Cantat](#), supported by the EP:IC project and co-founded by the [Creative Europe Programme](#) of the European Union.

MORE THAN 2,500 REGISTRATIONS AT THE EUROPA CANTAT FESTIVAL

The number of registrations exceeded all our expectations as more than 2,500 participants from 27 countries registered for the festival. We are honoured and happy! However, we recognise our responsibility and, therefore, are putting all our efforts into presenting the festival safely.

In the upcoming month, the Music Commission will review all registrations and communicate decisions regarding ateliers, which will be based on the choices indicated by participants in their registration forms and the organisational capabilities of the festival. Participants will be notified about the decision most probably by early April. In the meantime, the organising team will keep an eye on all the guidelines for Covid-19 safety measures and will do its best to ensure safe and appropriate conditions for every single component of the program.

We are currently in contact with all relevant institutions and are working diligently to obtain their approval, by the end of April, for carrying out the desired scope of the festival. We suggest to all the participants to wait with planning the trip a little longer and first check all the possibilities of travel and insurance to cover the risk of flight and hotel cancellation.

Any additional information about the festival can be found at: <https://europacantat.jskd.si/>. See you in July in Ljubljana! #singwithlove

Europa
Cantat
Festival
#singwithlove

EUROPA
CANTAT
FESTIVAL
2021
LJUBLJANA
SLOVENIA
16–25 JULY

Don't miss this [interview](#) of ECA-EC Secretary General, Sonja Greiner, during her recent visit in Ljubljana.

CHORAL PHOTO PROMENADE IN THE CENTRE OF LJUBLJANA

Photographers (amateur or professional), singers, choral music enthusiasts, passers-by, or anyone keen on photography – ATTENTION! Have your cameras or mobiles ready, search through your personal archives, and go with the flow of your photographic instincts. Europa Cantat Festival 2021 has a very special opportunity for you.



The Jakopič Promenade in Ljubljana's Tivoli Park will host an exhibition of the choral world from 1 July to 1 August 2021. The [photo contest](#) is international. It is open for anyone with an existing photo which you would like to show to the world as well as those who feel inspired by the contest to create a new visually refined choral photo. It is no secret that choral activities lead to special events, experiences, and situations - rehearsals, performances, venues, tours, celebrations, backstages, etc. Europa Cantat Festival 2021 believes that the singing experience deserves its own photographic exhibition! The photo contest will connect the international choral community with the exhibition in the Jakopič Promenade in Ljubljana's main Tivoli Park.

You can choose from four categories:

- Past/retro/vintage – travelling back in time. What did the beginnings, hairstyles, or concert clothing look like?
- On the stage – singing on the stage.
- Backstage – where all the magic happens, right?
- Promo – promotional photographs of choirs that go beyond the stage into the environment and other areas.

You may send up to 4 photographs for each category.

Click [here](#) to find out more about the contest, terms and conditions, and application.

Be bold and enjoy the photographic experience! Let your photograph capture the singing experience in all its dimensions.

The deadline for applying and submitting the photographs is Monday, **19 April 2021**.



AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)

[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's regional conferences have been scheduled for 2022!](#) Calls for performing choirs and interest sessions are now published.

- Eastern Region (Boston, Massachusetts), 9-12 February 2022
- Midwestern Region (Chicago, Illinois), 16-19 February 2022
- Southern Region (Raleigh, NC), 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 NEW MEMBERS

In the National Organisation category:

- Chanson de Montagne, Shenzhen, China
- Binhai New District Association of Musicians and Dancers, Tianjin, China

In the Choir category:

- Fayha Choir (Barkev Taslakian, conductor), Tripoli, Lebanon
<https://www.fayhachoir.org>
- Mosaica Singers (Nedy Muna, Music Director & General Manager), Amman, Jordan
<https://www.mosaicasingers.com>

NEW INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH STUDY FOR MEMBERS OF CHOIRS, CHORUSES, AND SINGING GROUPS

Introducing a new study which explores participation in choirs and singing groups

A new study exploring participation in collective singing groups is being coordinated by Kerry Boyle and Lynn Revell at Canterbury Christ Church University (UK). Choirs and singing groups around the world are invited to share an online survey with their members in order that the experience of participants in a wide range of cultures and contexts can be studied.

The research project investigates why people sing in choirs and what the experience of singing has been during the Covid-19 pandemic. If choirs have not had rehearsals during this period, singers will have the opportunity to identify the aspects of singing together that they have missed. If choirs have held online rehearsals during the pandemic, the researchers would like to know what this experience was like.

Responses will help the researchers develop an understanding of the most important aspects of singing in choirs and groups for those involved. This knowledge can then be used to enhance existing approaches to singing in groups as well as providing a sense of the range of activities available.

To participate in the study, choir members will need to [complete an online survey](#) which also features an invitation for individual case study volunteers. The survey should take no more than 12 minutes to complete, and all responses will be anonymous. Conductors are encouraged to share this [survey](#) link with their choir members. Deadline: August 2021.

If you would like more information about the study, please contact [Kerry Boyle](#).

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL AND MAY 2021 IN OUR 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.