



## August 2024 IFCMeNEWS — Choral Season Souvenirs

### China International Chorus Festival, Beijing, China

The **17<sup>th</sup> China International Choral Festival** (CICF) was held in Beijing, China, 15-19 July 2024. IFCM President, Emily Kuo Vong, attended the opening and closing concerts, award ceremony, and other events. CICF is one of the biggest festivals in the world, with 306 choirs and over 15,000 singers from 31 countries around the globe. The five-day festival was meticulously planned and presented six major thematic components, including performance activities, evaluation displays, exhibition exchanges, educational training, seminar exchanges, and choral philanthropy. In total, there were 13 events featuring an impressive 212 performances and exchange activities.

On behalf of IFCM, Emily extends gratitude to CICF for this fruitful partnership. She also thanks CICF's organizers, volunteers, staff, and technicians for their contributions to the choral art and the development of a global choral arts community.



### Qiandongnan International Folk Song Festival and World Voices Conference, 20-24 July 2024

The 2024 **Qiandongnan International Folk Song Festival and World Voices Conference** opened in Zhaoxing Dong Village on 21 July 2024. Situated in the Guizhou Province, Zhaoxing is one of the largest Dong minority villages in China. Dong singers joined the invited international choirs for the opening ceremony followed by a communal meal on one of the village's beautiful large terraces, concluding a day of sharing, discovery, and music-making. The invited choirs had the great opportunity to immerse themselves in the Dong and Miao culture while visiting the beautiful Zhenyuan Ancient Town, sailing along the gorgeous Wuyang River, sampling local



cuisine, meeting the Miao Minority villagers in Qianhu Miao Village, and tasting Miao family food. They also engaged in collaborative songwriting and learning new repertoire. IFCM is thankful for this collaboration with the China Qiandongnan International Folk Song Festival and the Guizhou Ethnic Song Culture Media. Videos of this festival are available [here](#).



### First YOUNG IFCM Online Cafe (21 July 2024): a Success!

#### Watch it again!

The recent online café, moderated by Pelin Küçükerdoğan (YOUNG IFCM Chair, Türkiye) and Gilles Lamere (IFCM YOUNG, Cameroon), welcomed Anne Copiaco (Philippines), Kertu Süld (Estonia), Juan Villalba (Venezuela), Maclain Hardin-Kurza (USA), and Sam Nicholson (New Zealand).

Promotional graphic for the YOUNG IFCM International Online Café. The graphic features a laptop keyboard with a pair of headphones resting on it. Text on the left reads "YOUNG IFCM International Online Café". On the right, it says "Youth Involvement in Choral Music Organizations". Below the text are circular portraits of the participants: Anne Charlotte P. Copiaco (Philippines), Maclain Hardin-Kurza (USA), Sam Nicholson (New Zealand), Kertu Süld (Estonia), Juan Carlos Villalba Fermin (Venezuela), and Gilles Lamere (Cameroon, Moderator). At the bottom, it says "FOLLOW US @IFCMOFFICIAL" with social media icons, and "21 July 2024, 4PM CEST, via Zoom. Everyone can join!" with the website "www.ifcm.net" and hashtag "#IFCMconnects".

The participants were given an opportunity to present their respective organizations. The session continued with a round of questions that addressed youth involvement in choral organizations, the benefits it can bring, and how to address the needs of young choral managers, conductors, composers, and singers.

At the conclusion of the event, the attendees were provided with valuable guidance on how to become more actively involved in choral organizations.

A recording of the YOUNG IFCM Online cafe is available [here](#).

### **World Youth Choir Alumni Session at HarbourVOICES! International Festival of Collective Singing Traditions**

The [World Youth Choir](#) is back home after an incredible Alumni Session 2024 in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, hosted by [HarbourVOICES! International Festival of Collective Singing Traditions](#).

The choir, featuring 32 talented singers from 24 countries (Argentina, Canada, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Hong Kong SAR, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Norway, Philippines, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Taiwan, United States of America, and Venezuela), performed under the artistic direction of Cecilia Rydinger (Sweden). Cecilia reflects on the session:

*One of the most fantastic experiences and collaborations throughout my entire life as a choral conductor. Us all sharing great music making and strong expressions, together with lots of joy and laughter, during this amazing festival, with its theme of inclusiveness and humanity in the foreground. Thank you so much Mr Ki Adams, President of the WYC Foundation, IFCM Board Member, and one of the Artistic Directors for the festival, for bringing us there. Unforgettable!*

The choir showcased celebrated classical choral works and explored rich musical traditions from Scandinavian and Canadian Indigenous cultures. The singers were honored to meet and learn from Andrew Balfour, Hussein Janmohamed, and André de Quadros, who shared powerful stories of overcoming exclusion and hardship. A highlight of this session was collaborating with the Indigenous children of Ullugiâgatsuk Youth Choir (Labrador) on Andrew Balfour's "Four Directions" piece. The festival's headliner, Jacob Collier, led a fantastic 3-hour workshop on his piece "World, O World," culminating in an unforgettable performance at the Gala Concert where the 1400 singers were conducted by Jacob himself! What an inspiring and transformative experience!



### **Asia Pacific Youth Choir 2024 in Daegu, South Korea**

The [Asia Pacific Youth Choir](#) took place 14)20 July 2024 in Daegu, South Korea. It was led by two highly experienced conductors: Jacob Youngmok Chang, President of the Korea International Choral Association and Former President of Daegu Art University, and Mark Anthony Carpio, a renowned choral conductor, countertenor, and the choirmaster of the Philippine Madrigal Singers from the Philippines.



The APYC organizers were thrilled to bring together 32 young talented singers from all over Asia-Pacific region. They came from China (2), Hong Kong SAR (2), India (1), Indonesia (5), Japan (1), Malaysia (6), New Zealand (2), Philippines (4), Singapore (1), Taiwan (2), Thailand (4) and South Korea (2) .

The singers rehearsed for three days at Yeungnam University College, living at the university's Global House. For some songs, performances were accompanied by piano, oboe and chamber orchestra.

The APYC performed at the Daegu Concert House, a world-class professional concert venue and classical music establishment situated in Daegu, a UNESCO Creative City of Music, and at Dalseogu Senior Welfare Center.

The organizers would like to express their deepest gratitude to Jacob Youngmok Chang, Mark Anthony Carpio and all who made this session possible.

Download the program [here](#).

**Watch the APYC performing "Come to Me"**, comp. Ivo Antognini, cond. Mark Anthony Carpio.



**Kati Yetu! The African Youth Choir singers met at their Summer Camp, Island of Gorée, Dakar, Senegal, 22-28 July 2024**

*Kati Yetu* means 'between us' in Swahili. During seven days, 22-28 July 2024, 23 singers from seven countries (Benin, Cameroon, DR Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Senegal) met and sang under the direction of Jean Benoit Bakhoum (Senegal), the new African Youth Choir conductor (2024-2025) who is succeeding to Ken Wakia (Kenya) and Pierre Kouame (Ivory Coast), 2019-2023 conductors.



The repertoire included ten new, unpublished pieces. The singers were asked to completely master the repertoire prior to their arrival at the camp. During the camp, the singers devoted their time to perfecting their interpretation and choreography. Visit the African Youth Choir [Facebook page](#) and meet the AYC 2024 singers.

[Read more](#)

### **European Choral Association (ECA) Brochure of Events 2025 is out**

**Check the events happening next year and mark your calendar accordingly!**

The new ECA Brochure of Events presents a careful selection of the activities and events of the European Choir Association and under its label for 2025.

All the events listed in the [ECA brochure 2025](#) are open to choirs and singers, vocal leaders/ conductors, creators/composers, educators/teachers and/or other choral lovers from Europe and beyond.

[Read more](#)



### **Leading Voices 2025, Tallin, Estonia, 6-10 July 2025**

**Sign up for the newsletter and mark your calendar**

On 6-10 July 2025, Tallinn will host [Leading Voices](#), an event of the [European Choral Association](#) organised in cooperation with the [Estonian Choral Association](#)





and the [Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre](#).

**Sign up** now for the newsletter to receive event updates and important information.

LeadingVoices is a five-day event designed to inspire and educate choral conductors, composers, arrangers, vocal coaches, music educators, professional singers, and managers of all levels and generations. It offers participants the possibility to actively explore, experience, and discuss the future of choral music through labs, lectures, workshops, lessons, and live concerts with inspiring choirs from around the world.

The event will open with the Estonian Song Celebration, featuring more than 20.000 people singing together on the traditional shell stage.

### **Don't miss the next Choirs for Ecocide Law online webinar**

**Register and join online on September 3, 2024, at 18.30 CEST**

Do you wish to combine choral music and environmental impact?

Then you need to check the [Choirs for Ecocide Law project](#), an artistic choral project, whose main purpose is to spread awareness about the need to make large-scale environmental destruction (ecocide) an international crime.

Choirs for Ecocide Law provides a 60-minute concert program, **"Let us change the rules!"**, ready to be rehearsed and performed by your choir – for free. The scores package includes music made by composers from different cultures, along with guidelines for an interactive rehearsal process, and with a script for bringing the concert storyline to stage.

**What to expect from this online webinar on September 3, 18.30 CEST:**

- More info about the project
- Q&A session
- View of the 30-minute documentary of the project - watch the trailer [here](#)!
- Time for discussion

**Register [here](#)** to secure your spot and learn more about this incredible project!

*The [Choirs for Ecocide Law](#) is a project promoted by the European Choral Association as part of the [IGNITE](#) project, since it is an example of how choirs can use their performances to raise awareness for environmental sustainability.*



### **World's first conducting app created by Carus Verlag: Now available in English**

A clear conducting technique, the ability to lead lively rehearsals and a sound knowledge of vocal training are all essential attributes for any successful choral conductor. [Carus-Verlag](#) offers the ideal toolkit for all aspiring choral conductors. [Conductor's Coach, The App](#) is the first tool for aspiring choir conductors to practice, hone and professionalize their technique.



**The App** teaches the basics of a good conducting technique through almost 70 tutorials. The described techniques can be practiced by viewing the training videos of experienced conductor and choral conducting professor Jan Schumacher.

Test the free trial version for 24 hours to familiarize yourself with all the topics and tools included in the Conductor's Coach!

Check it [here](#) (in its German version)

### **Musica International: next workshops**

**Musica International** is announcing its **next workshop** that will take place **21-26 October 2024** at the Institute of Phonetics of the Strasbourg University, France. Conductors, musicologists, publishers and music documentalists are invited to participate. These sessions are a privileged opportunity to share one's particular knowledge of choral music, input one's own compositions or publications, improve existing data, record pronunciations, all in a friendly and stimulating setting with other enthusiasts.

Musica International is looking for volunteers to take care of the organization of Musica sessions outside France (Canada, USA, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, The Netherlands, Italy, Romania, Philippines...), and thus participate in the promotion of their choral heritage in Musica.

Contact us at [office@musicanet.org](mailto:office@musicanet.org)



### **Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals (FCEC) announces its 60<sup>th</sup> International Choral Music Festival**

**FCEC's International Choral Music Festival (7-13 July 2025)** offers an international singing week, six days of workshops and concerts in the heart of Barcelona surrounded by music and cultures from around the world.



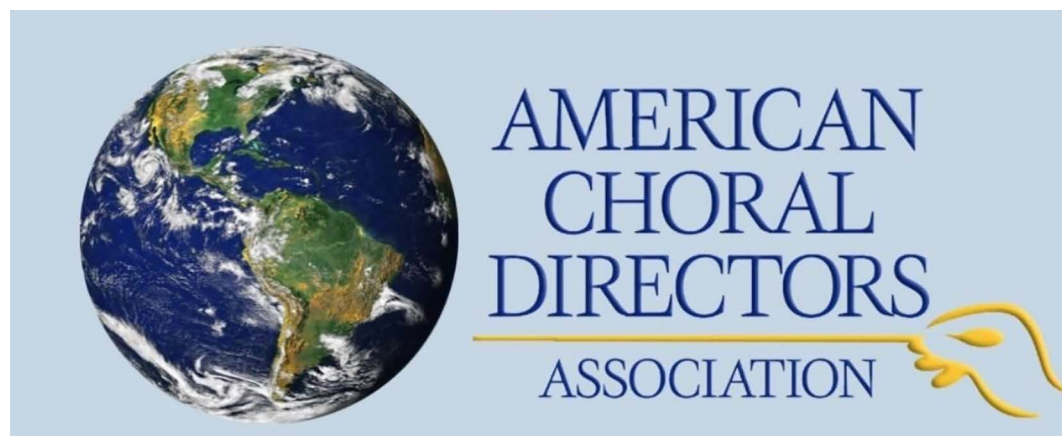
Participating choirs are expected to give two performances in addition to the final concert. The final concert will take place in the famous modernist hall Palau de la Música Catalana. Afternoon workshops will be conducted by Frieder Bernius (Germany), Bernie Sherlock (Ireland), Ricard Bordas (Catalonia). Applications are now open until **November 15, 2024**.

### **American Choral Directors Association: International Conductors Exchange Program With the Philippine Choral Directors Association in 2025**

The **International Conductors Exchange Program** (ICEP) provides opportunities for the rising generation of choral leaders to represent the United States as ambassadors to the world in the exchange of music, ideas, and cultures. Established in 2010 and coordinated by ACDA's International Activities Committee, the program has connected choral conductors in the United States with counterparts in Cuba, China, Sweden, South Korea, Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Uruguay, Kenya, South Africa, and Germany.

ACDA & the **Philippine Choral Directors Association** (PCDA) are pleased to announce that, in 2025, the International Conductors Exchange Program will be in partnership with conductors and choirs in the Philippines. In 2024, six American and six Filipino conductors will be selected to participate in a bilateral, mutual exchange to take place in 2025. Conductors will be paired based on backgrounds and interests and will visit each other's choral communities, sharing techniques, and learning best practices.

Residencies in the United States will be centered around the **2025 ACDA National Conference** (18-21 March 2025 in Dallas, Texas, USA).



### **Bandung Choral Society announces its 14th Bali International Choir Festival (BICF)**

The **14<sup>th</sup> Bali International Choir Festival** 29 July-2 August 2025 provides a range of services and resources for choirs and solo singers, including clinics and workshops, evaluation performances, friendship concerts, and competitions in several categories.

The BICF is part of the **Asia Choral Grand Prix**. Founded in 2019, the Asia Choral Grand Prix is an annual competition between the Grand Champions of four Asian choral events: the **Andrea O. Veneracion International Choral Festival** (Philippines), the **Singapore International Choral Festival**, the **Bali International Choir Festival** (Indonesia) and the **Malaysian Choral Eisteddfod**.





### **Le Chant sur la Lowé (Gabon) paid tribute to Black music icons**

*Les Grandes Icones de la Musique Noire* is a show by the vocal group [Le Chant Sur La Lowé](#) at the Institut Français du Gabon in Libreville. There are so many stars in the music world... Some have left us, others are still with us. It's impossible to list them all, and it is equally ambitious to try to perform like them. However, Le Chant Sur La Lowé decided to honor Black music musicians in a special way with a few of their most iconic songs in two shows on 19 & 22 July 19 2024.

[Read more](#)



### **Meeting Music offers you a friendly and familiar place in concerts and competitions**

Meet other singers from different cities and show off your skills in categories such as sacred and secular music, children's choirs, mixed and equal-voice youth choirs, women's and mixed choirs, gospel/spiritual and more.



One highlight of Meeting Music's events is the Opening Concert. This is when local host and choirs together with selected participating choirs give an upbeat to each one's personal journey. **Meeting Music**, based in Germany, and part of **InChoral** (Member of the Choral Festival Network) has more than 35 years' experience in organizing international Choir Competitions and Festivals and is gathering thousands of singers each year.

Find your dates and destination on <https://www.meeting-music.com> or contact: [info@meeting-music.com](mailto:info@meeting-music.com).

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.