



## September 2024 IFCMeNEWS – *Unison*, did you say *Unison*?

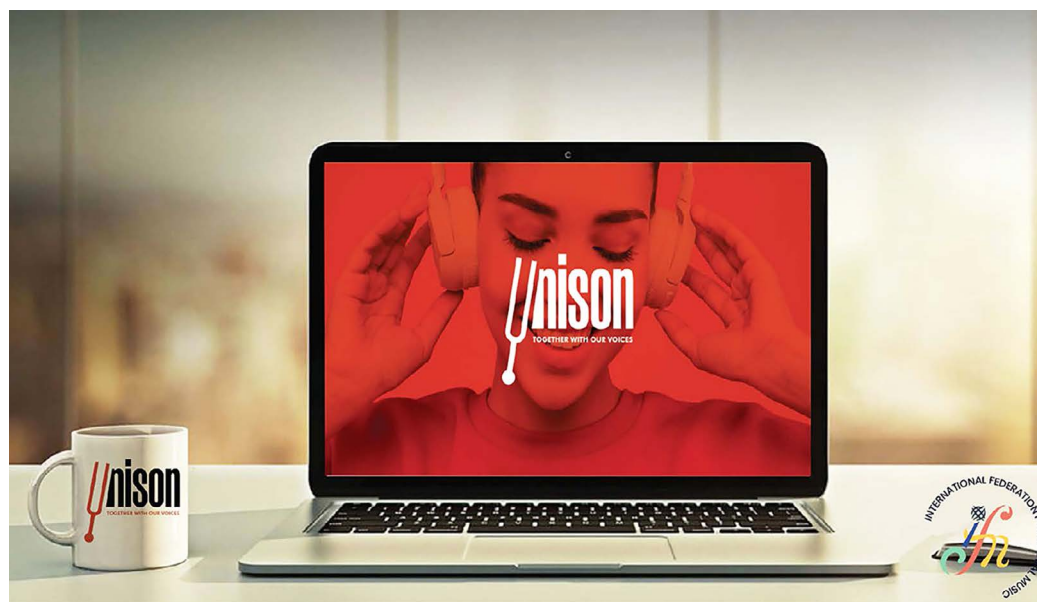
### New! YOUNG IFCM Podcasts

In 2023, the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) established YOUNG IFCM, an IFCM Youth Committee consisting of six young choral musicians from Türkiye, USA, Philippines, Cameroon, Chile and New Zealand.

One of their projects is the creation of a podcast series entirely run by YOUNG IFCM and produced by IFCM.

*Unison* is a new podcast series dedicated to celebrating choral music and showcasing the diverse experiences, insights and talents of choral musicians internationally. For these globally focused podcasts, YOUNG IFCM aims to bring together voices from around the world to share unique choral traditions, experiences and advice.

YOUNG IFCM has something really special coming up! Stay tuned to discover the names of the YOUNG IFCM podcast guests.



Unison logo designed by Gilles Lamere, Cameroon, for YOUNG IFCM Podcast

### IFCM Online Cafes, the new season

#### We're back online!

The upcoming season of [IFCM Online Cafés](#) will begin on 21 October 2024 with a Café addressing the subject of concert design. In November, IFCM will focus its attention on the subject of choral composition and the creation of music. This month's activities will include two events: an Online Café on 9 November and a webinar on 23 November.

The webinar is offered as part of the Choral TIES project coordinated by the [European Choral Association](#), co-funded by the [European Union Creative Europe Programme](#), and organised in cooperation with IFCM.

On 18 January 2025, IFCM Online Cafés will open the year with an exploration of choral events around the world. This Café will feature event organizers and choral directors who will share their experiences and present their perspectives on this exciting element of international choral activity.



**IFCM welcomes two new members in the category “Local Organization”**

### **The Montana International Choral Festival**

The [Montana International Choral Festival](https://www.choralfestival.org) celebrates its 38<sup>th</sup> year as the United States premier non-competitive choral festival on **17-20 July 2025**. This unique summer festival brings world-renowned international choirs to perform for thousands of choral music-lovers gathered in picturesque Missoula, Montana. Join them for 4 days of unparalleled music and meaningful cross-cultural moments in a welcoming contemporary Western town.

This year, [Anton Armstrong](#) will be guest conductor, leading diverse performances by ten outstanding choirs from North America, South America, Europe, and Africa. The festival includes a free Opening Night Concert downtown on the river, an open-to-the-public masterclass, the legendary Grand Finale, and so much more.

For information: [www.choralfestival.org](https://www.choralfestival.org) or email [info@choralfestival.org](mailto:info@choralfestival.org)



Korora Choir, Canada

### **The Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University**

The [Peabody Conservatory of The Johns Hopkins University](https://www.peabody.edu) is a private music and dance school in Baltimore, Maryland. It was founded in 1857 and is the oldest conservatory in the United States. They now offer an Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting.

Studying and performing repertoire from across centuries, students develop the diverse set of



skills necessary for the performance of historical and contemporary music, including frequent collaboration with living composers and creators. Each student is guaranteed exceptional podium time, including weekly seminars with a conductors' choir and hands-on assistance/co-leadership of Peabody's vocal ensembles in rehearsal and performance. In addition to developing skills on the podium, students will also coach one-on-a-part vocal chamber ensembles of undergraduate- and graduate-level voice majors.

Learn more and start your application [here](#).



### **World Youth Choir Tour is underway**

On August 24, 2024, and after only five days of rehearsal, the World Youth Choir (WYC) kicked off its concert tour with a stunning a cappella performance at the Stadtkirche Weikersheim. In this session, which started with 10 days of rehearsals, hosted by [Jeunesses Musicales Deutschland](#) in Weikersheim, the WYC not only prepared an a cappella programme, but mostly joined the [Bundesjugendorchester](#) and, under the direction of Tan Dun (China/USA) and Jörn Andresen (Germany/Austria), rehearsed and performed Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony and Tan Dun's *Choral Concerto: Nine*, a musical dialogue with Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony, divided into three movements.

The program was performed in the Tauber Philharmonie Weikersheim, Kloster Eberbach Eltville am Rhein, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and the Opera House Bonn. More update and pictures on the [WYC website](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).



WYC & Bundesjugendorchester © Bundesjugendorchester

**European Choral Association announces the final call for vocal leaders and conductors to join the StudyTour to Georgia**

**14-20 September 2024, Tbilisi, Georgia**

A few spots are still available for this unique experience. Don't miss your last-minute chance to explore Georgia's rich singing tradition and vibrant culture!

By joining the StudyTour, you will have the chance to immerse yourself in Georgia's enchanting collective singing traditions, experience renowned Georgian hospitality, and connect with fellow vocal leaders and conductors.

Secure your place now and be part of this unforgettable journey!

**[Register here](#) before 6 September 2024.**

**[More details here.](#)**



Tutardhela Youth Choir © Giorgi Induashvili

*This activity is organised in the framework of the [Choral TIES project](#) co-funded by the European Union.*



**Co-funded by the  
European Union**

**European Choral Association International Singing Week Ghent**

The [International Singing Week Ghent](#) will take place in the heart of the beautiful historical





city of Ghent, **12-18 July 2025** and will offer ateliers, open singing, choir-to-choir concerts and five choir ateliers:

- Happy Hearts — Fun songs for all children, with Elisenda Carasco (Spain)
- Atelier for youth equal voices, with Elise Bradley (New Zealand)
- Atelier for youth, with Mathias Charton (France)
- Fire and Ice, with Birgitte Næslund Madsen (Denmark)
- Atelier mixed voices, with Damijan Močnik (Slovenia)
- Start to Conduct, with Tom Johnson (Belgium)

Choirs and singers, children, youth, adults, families and young conductors, everyone can register from 15 September.



Open singing with Tom Johnson, Belgium

### News from Schola Cantorum Venezuela

On 7 July 2024, Schola Cantorum of Venezuela joined Schola Juvenil of Venezuela to offer a concert under the direction of a young conductor, Juan Carlos Villalba, who was one of the guests of the recent YOUNG IFCM online café. Juan conducted this concert as part of his





qualification for the UNEARTE bachelor's degree in music (Universidad Nacional Experimental de las Artes, Caracas, Venezuela).

### **Schola Cantorum of Venezuela was present at the 2024 Edinburgh International Festival**

Schola Cantorum of Venezuela performed Osvaldo Golijov's St. Mark's Passion together with the National Youth Choir of Scotland at the inaugural concert under the direction of the Portuguese conductor Joanna Carneiro.

The Schola's second concert featured a variety of a cappella choral music, ranging from traditional Christian roots music to Latin American popular music. For this program, Schola Cantorum of Venezuela was conducted by María Guinand and Luimar Arismendi, and the musical work was supported by the choreographic proposal of Armando Díaz and Félix Guánchez.

### **Musica International next workshop**

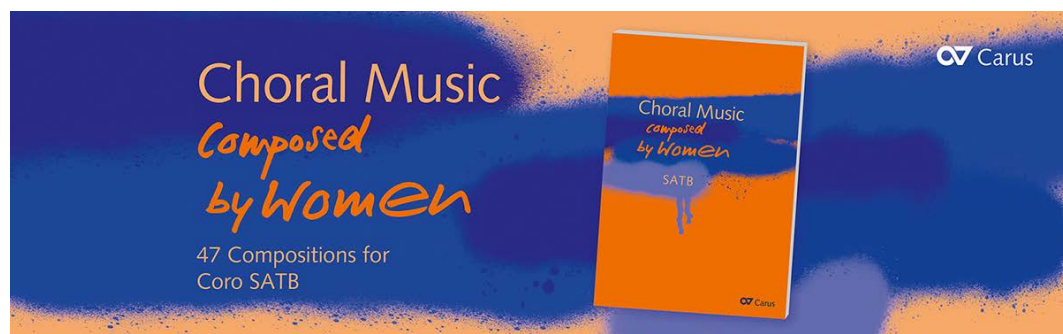
**Musica International** is announcing its **next workshop** that will take place on **21-26 October 2024** at the Institute of Phonetics of the Strasbourg University, France. Conductors, musicologists, publishers and music documentalists are invited to participate. These sessions are a privileged opportunity 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)



### **Carus-Verlag: Choral Music Composed by Women**

A real novelty: **Choral Music Composed by Women** features a total of 47 works for mixed choir. Numerous hidden gems for mixed choir are ready and waiting to be performed in concerts and church services. This choral collection spotlights female composers from Europe, North and South America and Israel, ranging from the Renaissance period to young composers of the present day. A fascinating repertoire from five centuries of music-making that features many unfamiliar names!



- Most pieces of easy to moderate difficulty; only a few divisi passages for male voices
- Featuring commissioned works and pieces published for the first time
- Most texts in English or German
- From madrigals to simple songs for community singing
- Separate editions available in print and digital form

### **18th Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition 2025 co-organized by Japan Choral Association**

**20-23 March 2025, Fukushima City, Japan**

The **Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition**, co-organized with the **Japan Choral Association**, is calling for groups to participate. This competition is the largest choral competition for small vocal ensembles (2-16 singers) in Japan. Every year, more than 120 top choirs are invited to Fukushima, known as the “Kingdom of Choirs” in Japan. Let our voices ring out together!

Deadline for preliminary auditions: **30 September 2024**

Learn more and register [HERE](#).



### **American Choral Directors Association**

The **American Choral Directors Association** gave a Facebook shout-out to the Grammy Award-winning youth gospel choir **Soul Children of Chicago** and conductor Walt Whitman for their performance of a stirring gospel rendition of the U.S. National Anthem at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, which received a standing ovation.

[Watch it on YouTube!](#)

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.