



January 2025 IFCMeNEWS Happy New Year!

Message from Emily Kuo Vong, IFCM President

Dear Friends,

As we welcome the New Year 2025, I am delighted to take a moment on behalf of the International Federation of Choral Music (IFCM) to extend our warmest wishes to each of you. May this year bring you and your loved ones good health, joy, and fulfillment in all aspects of your lives!

As President of IFCM, I am deeply grateful for the dedication, passion, and support you have given to our Federation over the past year. Your contribution has been the foundation of everything we have achieved together. I thank every member for your unwavering trust and belief in our mission, for your enthusiastic participation in our events, and for your continued attention to our development. To the Executive Committee and Board members, I deeply appreciate your commitment, your effort, and your active involvement, which continue to drive IFCM forward.

In 2024, despite the challenges, IFCM also celebrated remarkable achievements together. We successfully co-hosted the 17th China International Chorus Festival and the Qiandongnan (China) International Folk Song Festival, enhancing IFCM's global influence, leading multicultural exchanges, and showcasing the beauty of choral music on the international stage. We have also supported the growth of young musicians, conductors, and choir managers through our Young IFCM projects, nurturing the next generation of talent and leadership in the choral world. We acknowledge that the current times have presented us with difficulties that have tested our resolve and resilience. But through it all, the spirit of choral music - the harmony, connection, and beauty it brings - remains a source of inspiration and hope for IFCM.

As we move into the New Year, let us continue to believe in the power of IFCM's mission. Together we face any difficulties and create brighter days ahead. Let us use our heavenly voices not only to sing, but also to uplift, inspire, and build a stronger choral community.

Thank you for being an integral part of this journey. Here's to a New Year filled with love, renewed energy, collective achievement, and the everlasting joy of music.

With deep gratitude and optimism,

Emily Kuo Vong, IFCM President



Renew your membership and support to IFCM in 2025

The time to [renew your IFCM membership](#) is coming up, and I encourage you both to renew your membership and also to invite choral colleagues to join.

IFCM is a fantastic organization connecting people from around the world with a shared interest in and love for choral music. We are always eager to expand our cultural, professional, and musical horizons. By inviting more choral enthusiasts to join our membership, we welcome different and unique perspectives into our lives and into our music.

I hope you will continue to be a part of this global support for choral music and help to broaden our reach by renewing and inviting others to become a member of IFCM.

Cameron LaBarr, IFCM board member and member of Fundraising and Membership Committee



YOUNG, Youth International Cultural Management Programme 2025

In the frame of the 45th International Congress of Pueri Cantores (16-20 July 2025), Munich, Germany

Application process is open from 1 December 2024 to 31 January 2025

After the great success of the two previous [YOUNG programmes](#) (at the 2022 World Choral EXPO in Lisbon and at the 2023 World Symposium on Choral Music in Istanbul), we are pleased to announce the call for the third YOUNG programme!

- Are you between 18 and 35 years old?
- Do you want to be part of the organising team of the 45th International Congress of Pueri Cantores (16-20 July 2025)?

The [European Choral Association](#), with the support of [Choral TIES](#) and in collaboration with the [International Federation for Choral Music](#), is launching a call for young international cultural managers to be part of the Pueri Cantores 2025 team and to broaden their experience and skills while working closely with the organising team.

Conditions of participation

- The whole program will be in English.
- There is no participation fee.
- Selected participants will have some availability for online meetings with the local team in the months leading up to the event.
- Food and accommodation will be provided during the stay (14-21 July 2025).
- Selected participants will benefit from two workshops designed to grow and exchange knowledge related to international cultural management.
- Selected participants will cover their own return travel to Munich, Germany.
- There will be the possibility to attend concerts, rehearsals, and some sessions depending on the participant's responsibilities in the organizing team and schedule.

Schedule

- Arrival day: 14 July 2025.
- Workshops and on-the-job experiences with the Pueri Cantores team: 15 July 2025.
- 45th International Congress of Pueri Cantores: 16-20 July 2025.
- Evaluation of the training session: 21 July 2025.
- Departure: 21 July 2025

Application form

- [Apply here](#)
- Submit your application **before 31 January 2025**.

Selection

Successful applicants will be notified by the end of February 2025. Selected participants will be asked to send a copy of their flight/train/bus ticket to secure their space in the program.

More info on the festival at <https://pueri-cantores.de/congress2025/>

Conditions of participation and more [here](#).



YOUNG 2025
YOUTH INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Accepting applications for young international cultural managers to be part of the Pueri Cantores 2025 team and to broaden their experience and skills while working closely with the organising team of an international choral festival.

Open to Ages: 18-35

DEADLINE: 31 JANUARY 2025

FOEDERATIO INTERNATIONALIS PUERI CANTORES

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CHORAL MUSIC

EA
EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION

Choral TIES

Co-funded by the European Union

Call for Choirs to Apply for Conductors Beyond Borders Peer-to-Peer Exchange Programme

The Conductors Beyond Borders Peer-to-Peer Exchange Programme is a component of the Choral TIES project coordinated by the [European Choral Association](#), co-funded by the [European Union](#), and organised in cooperation with IFCM. This programme provides limited financial support in the form of a grant to cover international travel expenses.

There are three possible options for participation:

- A European conductor may be invited by a choir from a different continent to work on a specific programme for a specific period.
- A conductor from the European Union may be invited by a choir outside the European Union to work on a specific programme for a specific period.
- A conductor from the European Union may invite a conductor from outside the European Union (in Europe or from another continent) to work on a specific programme for a specific period.

This programme is designed to facilitate the internationalization of careers.

Before applying, please read the [complete guidelines here](#).
Apply on https://bit.ly/Peer-to-Peer_CBB_Programme_Apply



ECA EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION

CONDUCTORS BEYOND BORDERS PEER-TO-PEER CONDUCTORS TRAINING

A financial support programme contributing to the travel expenses of:

- a conductor from the EU invited to work in a European country outside the EU
- a European conductor invited to work with a choir from a different continent
- a European conductor inviting a colleague from another continent to work with their choir(s)

A programme contributing to the internationalisation of careers.
https://bit.ly/Peer-to-Peer_CBB_Programme_Apply

In cooperation with

Choral TIES Co-funded by the European Union

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YOUNG IFCM Committee meets in Istanbul

Sam Nicholson, Oceania representative on the YOUNG IFCM Committee, recently travelled to Türkiye for the committee's first in-person meeting in Istanbul. [Read](#) Sam's reflections on the committee's work and the many highlights of his trip in an article that he recently wrote for [eBreve](#), the monthly newsletter of the [New Zealand Choral Federation](#).
[Read more](#)



World Choral Day 2024

How did you choose to celebrate [World Choral Day / Dia Mundial del Canto Coral](#) this year? Many of you chose to celebrate it with a concert dedicated to this year's theme *Voices Uniting the Planet*.

Whether your concert or virtual performance included one of the recommended pieces (*The Arrow and the Song* by Paolo Orlandi, *Hope* by Merzi Rajala, *Ask Not* by Peder Karlsson), the recitation of the [Proclamation](#) for World Choral Day, or your concert was simply an excellent opportunity to celebrate peace and environmental sustainability, IFCM thanks you for your participation!

If you want IFCM to share your World Choral Day 2024 video on its [YouTube channel](#), please use this form to submit it: https://bit.ly/WCD2024_Video.



IFCM Online Cafés: Season 2025

It has been so inspiring to meet many of you this year at the monthly [online cafés](#) organised by IFCM. Thank you for your participation! We would love to know how we did, what you would like to see/discuss next, and who you would like us to welcome as guests.

Please [complete this survey](#) at your earliest convenience.



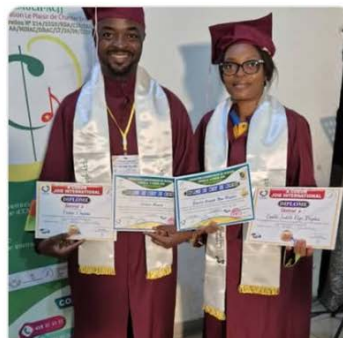
Conductors Beyond Borders in Cameroon

In 2021, the first session in Cameroon of the IFCM Project Conductors Without Borders (recently renamed Conductors Beyond Borders) was organised in Douala, thanks to the collaboration of À Cœur Joie International, FECAMUCH-ACJ (Choral Federation À Cœur Joie of Cameroon), and IFCM. It was the first session of a three-year programme, based on the rate of one week per semester.

Three years later, 9-15 December 2024, the 6th and last Conductors Beyond Borders Cameroon session was organized in Douala. This final session, led by Thierry Thiébaud (President of À Cœur Joie International, former Vice-President of IFCM), concluded with a concert attended by 300 people. The event marked the graduation of approximately thirty choir conductors, six of whom have become instructors and will subsequently train other conductors nationwide.

Read the complete report [here](#) (in French)

More on [Conductors Beyond Borders](#) around the world.



Musica International's Monthly FAVOURITE PIECE Could Be YOURS!

If you were going to a desert island, what is the one choral piece you would take with you?

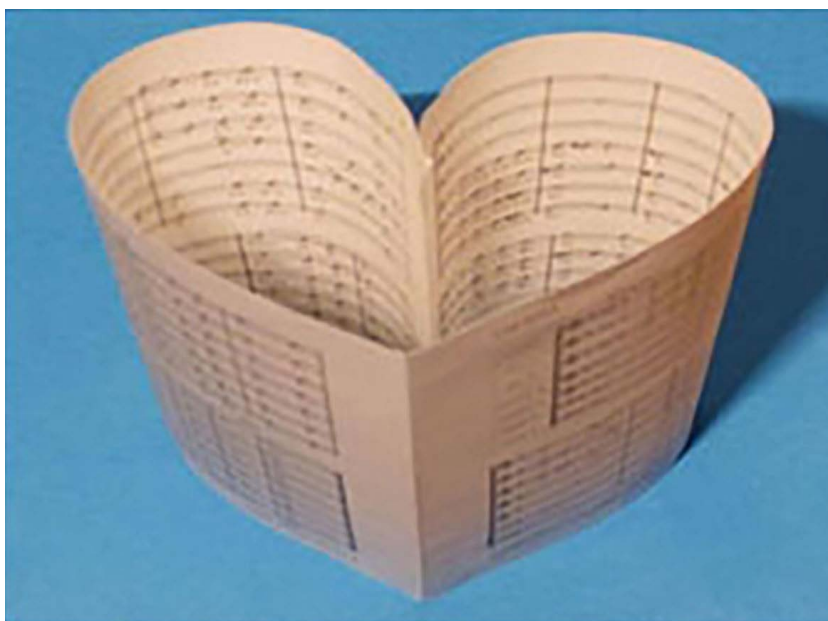
This is the whole idea of Musica International's monthly Favourite Piece! It would preferably be a piece that is not (yet) well known, but that deserves to be. View the [archive list](#) of all Musica International's monthly favourite pieces since 1998!

What is YOUR current Favourite Piece?

Submit it to librarian@musicanet.org. We will check to confirm that it is referenced in the Musica choral repertoire database (more than 200,000 titles up to this day). If it is not, we will contact you, if necessary, in order to provide full referencing for the work.

You can also add the name of your favourite piece as a comment in the [Facebook post](#) dedicated to this call.

If you are a composer, please feel free to mention your own compositions.



World Youth Choir Session 2025

The [World Youth Choir \(WYC\) 2025](#) application process officially ended yesterday, and we are thrilled to announce that we received 240 applications from 51 different countries.

The WYC Foundation thanks the recruiters and supervisors around the world who made this possible, and every singer who devoted their time to apply. Your passion for collective singing is truly inspiring.

What's next?

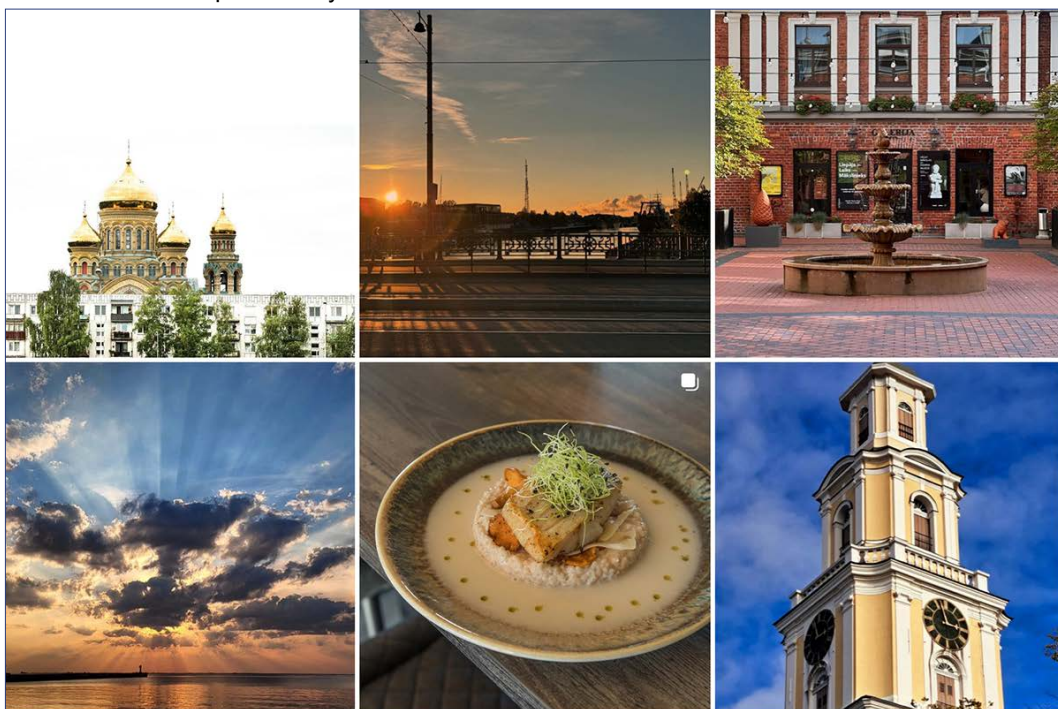
The international jury will meet soon to begin the exciting task of selecting next year's choir. Stay tuned [here](#) for updates.



European Choral Association: EUROPA CANTAT Festival Is Back!

Liepāja to host the next edition in August 2027

The European Choral Association (ECA) is delighted to officially announce the 22nd [EUROPA CANTAT Festival](#), ECA's major event designed for singers, choirs, and all choral lovers across Europe and beyond.



The festival will take place in Liepāja, Latvia, in August 2027 and will be organised in close cooperation with the [Latvian Song Celebrations Society and Foundation Liepāja 2027](#).

ECA is looking forward to joining forces with local partners to organise the EUROPA CANTAT 2027 in [Liepāja](#), as part of the city's designation as European Capital of Culture 2027. At the heart of this cultural scene is the architectural gem, the [Great Amber Concert Hall](#), known for its exceptional acoustics that capture the finest nuances of sound, making it a haven for music lovers. The hall is also home to the Liepāja Symphony Orchestra, the oldest symphony orchestra in the Baltics. Additionally, Liepāja proudly hosts the oldest professional theatre in the region, along with many other dynamic cultural venues that enrich its artistic landscape. Located on Latvia's southwest coast near the Lithuanian border, the city can be easily reached via Riga and Palanga airports, or even by boat.

[Read](#) the Press Release.

Cork International Choral Festival, more options!

Become a Friend of the Festival

Join the [Cork International Choral Festival](#) by [becoming a Friend](#). The package includes a range of benefits guaranteed to bring you a jam-packed festival experience.

Friends of the Festival play a central role in supporting the Cork International Choral Festival to bring this unique and much-loved showcase of world-class choral music to Cork. Becoming a Friend of the Festival ensures that each supporter benefits from great savings on their festival experience, while also providing vital support for the continued success of the festival. The 2025 Friends of the Festival pre-sale period ended on 31 October 2024, but the offer is still available until the week of the festival.

Secure your tickets on the [online box office](#).



2025 International Choral Conducting Course at the Cork International Choral Festival

The International Choral Conducting Course is a four-day intensive, hands-on course in which participants will have the opportunity to develop their conducting skills under the leadership of expert international guest tutors, Shane Lynch (USA) and Anna Fűri (Hungary), and with the participation of the acclaimed Chamber Choir Ireland for the final ensemble workshop. The course will equip participants with both theoretical and practical methods of conducting their choirs. As part of the 70th Cork International Choral Festival, the course is designed for anyone with experience in leading choirs of all kinds and is interested in taking their skills to a new level while networking with other conductors.

[Registration](#) before 7 February 2025.



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.