

A close-up photograph of a man with a beard and dark hair, wearing a white shirt, blowing into a large, white, cone-shaped megaphone. The background is dark and out of focus.

June 2025 IFCMeNEWS

A new, affordable membership fee for students and those under 25!

New IFCM membership category for students and young people under the age of 25

The YOUNG IFCM Committee proposed the creation of a new student membership category to the IFCM Committee responsible for membership. The proposal was examined carefully, and an appropriate amount for this new category was discussed and approved by the IFCM board. IFCM hopes that this new fee will increase membership accessibility for the younger generation. The Membership Committee suggested an amount equal to a third of the current individual membership fee: \$25 for HDI1, \$20 for HDI2 and \$12 for HDI3 or 23 Euros for HDI1, 18 Euros for HDI2 and 11 Euros for HDI3. The IFCM Board approved these amounts.

To be eligible, new members in this category will have to [submit](#) proof of enrolment at a school (communication in English, if possible) or a photo of an ID document proving that they are under the age of 25.



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Visit www.ifcm.net now!

The 'Student and Under-25 Membership Fee' will be introduced in June 2025. Members in this category will enjoy the same [benefits](#) as those paying the standard individual membership fee. However, they will not be eligible to vote until this new category is approved by the next IFCM General Assembly (see [IFCM Bylaws](#), point 2.1).

Did you miss the CHORAL TIES WEBINAR ON CONDUCTING YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S CHOIRS?

The video recording is on YouTube

The Choral TIES Webinar "*Conducting Youth and Children's choirs — Encouraging the creation of youth and children's choirs, giving practical inputs and tools to choral their conductors and leaders*", a collaboration between IFCM and ECA, took place on Zoom on 22 May 2025.

281 people from 59 countries registered for this Webinar featuring three well-known conductors from three continents and different singing traditions who shared their experiences and insights on conducting youth and children's choirs: [Basilio Astulez](#) (Basque Country/Spain), [Zimfira Poloz](#) (Canada), and [Ken Wakia](#) (Kenya).

Did you miss it? You can watch it [here](#) now. Feel free to share this link with friends or colleagues to get them inspired, too!

This Webinar was 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.

Thank you to everyone who joined IFCM and ECA for this informative Webinar. IFCM also extends its gratitude to Choral TIES, ECA, IFCM Committee for Other Activities (María Guinand, chair), guest presenters, Ki Adams (moderator), and Pelin Küçükerdoğan (tech host) for making this event a success.

More on the Choral TIES Webinars on <http://bit.ly/ECAECwebinars>



Unison Episode 6 welcomed Lim Ai Hooi from Singapore

Lim Ai Hooi is a recognised and respected conductor/educator in Singapore's choral community. Ai Hooi graduated in 1989 from the Royal College of Music (London), majoring in piano and voice. Over the past 30 years, Ai Hooi has led her school choirs to achieve top honours at numerous renowned international competitions. In 2009, she founded ONE Chamber Choir which has received prizes at competitions in Philippines, Wales, Hungary, Germany, and South Africa, including achieving Champion of the World Choir Games in 2018.

Despite these successes, competition is not the fundamental part of her educational philosophy. Ai Hooi's philosophy for choral music and teaching stems from her view that a fulfilling musical journey is one that is filled with sincerity, love, and excellence. She uses the creation of music as a platform to share and infuse her values and beliefs within her singers, inspiring them to use

the beauty of music to craft experiences that touch the hearts of the audience.

Ai Hooi also co-founded Sourcewerkz to expand her mission to teach, touch, and transform the larger choral community and its audience. Choral festivals and workshops presented by Sourcewerkz have reached out to many choristers around the world, proving that music is indeed, without borders.

Listen to Unison with Lim Ai Hooi on [Spotify](#) or on [YouTube](#).



Musica International:

Musica International May FAVORITE PIECE

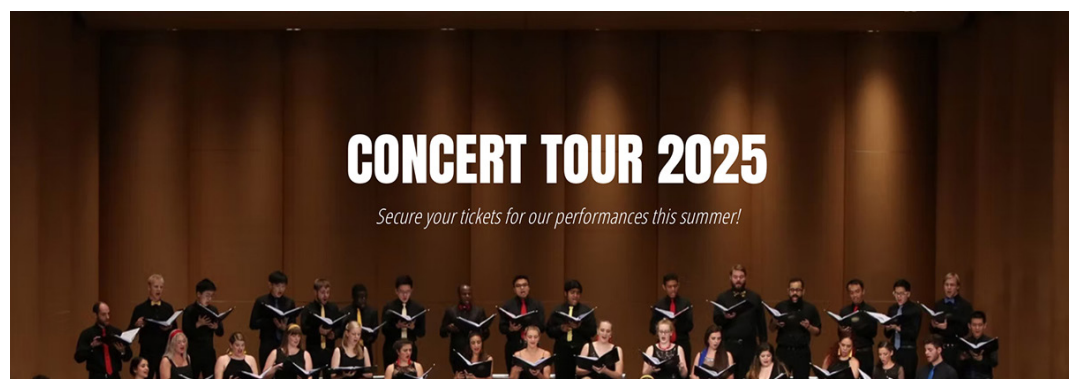
Ave Maria, written by Ivo Antognini (Switzerland) and published by Alliance Music Publications, is an expressive, touching, and luminous piece.

Find all the details about this piece [here](#) on [Musica International](#), the global choral repertoire database.



World Youth Choir 2025

The 2025 [World Youth Choir](#) is heading to Catalonia and France this summer! Conducted by Daniel Reuss (The Netherlands), 64 singers from 37 countries will present a programme



featuring European composers together with traditional folk repertoire and a world première by a Catalan composer — and World Youth Choir alumna — Anna Campmany Duch.

If you are in the neighbourhood, take in as many concerts as possible:

- 19 July 2025, 20.00. Barcelona, Sagrada Família (international mass)
- 21 July 2025, 12.00. Montserrat, Montserrat Abbey (cameo performance)
- 23 July 2025 (time tbc). Terrassa (location tbc)
- 24 July 2025, 20.00. Barcelona, Palau de la Música Catalana
- 25 July 2025, 21.00. Lleida, Seu Vella de Lleida
- 26 July 2025, 21.00. Girona, Catedral de Girona
- 27 July 2025, 18.00. Tortosa, Catedral de Tortosa
- 30 July 2025, 20.30. Vaison-la-Romaine (France), Théâtre Antique (Opening Concert of Choralies)

Information on tickets is available [here](#).

European Choral Association (ECA)

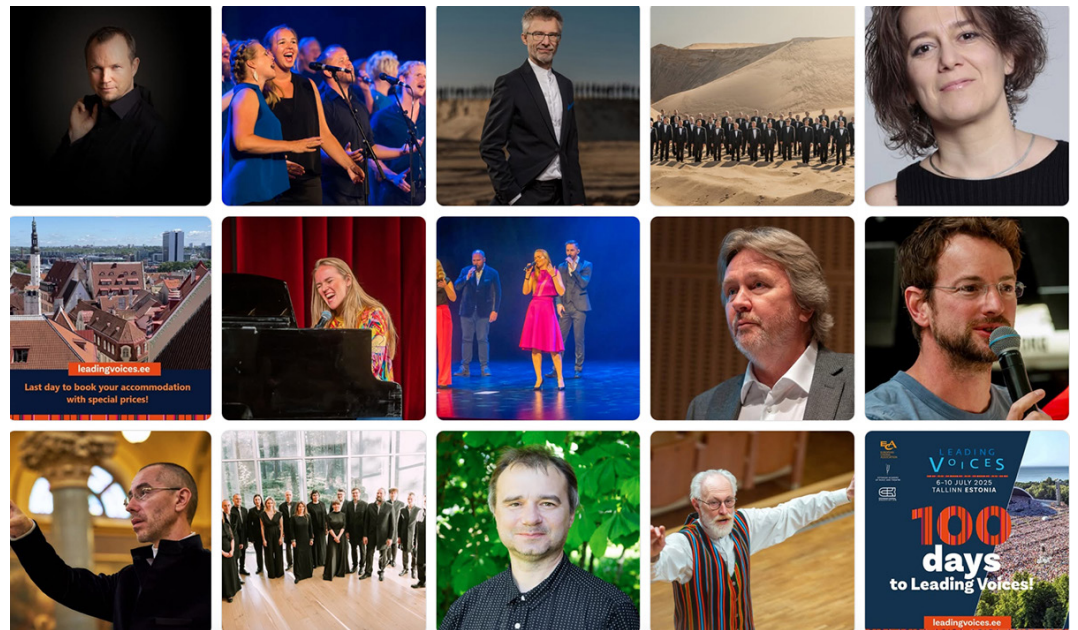
Check out the full programme and speaker list for Leading Voices

The daily schedule for [Leading Voices 2025](#) is LIVE!

Get a sneak peek at what your days could look like in Tallinn, 6-9 July 2025. Inspiring sessions with top-notch speakers and unforgettable concerts await!

See the full programme [here](#)

Not registered yet? [Join us](#) now!



International Choral Study Tour in Lebanon, 12-18 September 2025

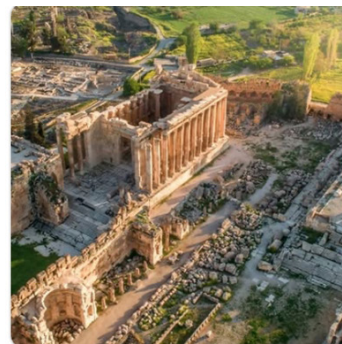
What happens when so many diverse cultures come together to celebrate the love for collective singing?

The international study tour in Lebanon will be a Mediterranean fusion of music, cuisine, and traditions. The [European Choral Association](#), in collaboration with the [Fayha National Choir](#), is excited to announce this year's Choral Study Tour in Lebanon as part of the [Choral Ties](#) project, co-funded by the European Union.

All musicians and collective singing lovers are invited to come and discover Lebanon's choral scene, nature, and local cuisine. The tour aims to present the vibrant genre of Arabic choral music in its different styles and forms. The program will include visits to several choirs across Lebanon as well as the opportunity to attend concerts and engage in lectures, workshops, and roundtable debates. Participants will also have the opportunity to travel to and stay in various parts of the country, experiencing a unique blend of Lebanon's different climates and cultures.







The Choral Study Tour in Lebanon will proudly host conductor **Jan Schumacher** (Germany) as a guest.

You can find the full program and registration [here](#).



American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) announces the dates and locations of its regional conferences

- **North-Western Region Conference** “Sing for a Change”, Takoma, Washington, 4-7 March 2026
- **Mid-Western Region Conference** “Reflections of Us”, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 25-28 February 2026
- **Southern Region Conference** “Prism of Voices”, Memphis, Tennessee, 4-7 March 2026
- **Southwestern Region Conference** “New Horizons”, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 4-7 March 2026
- **Eastern Region Conference** “Envision”, Providence, Rhode Island, 25-28 February 2026
- **Western Region Conference** “A Tapestry of Voices”, San Jose, California, 4-7 March 2026

 Envision ACDA EAST FEBRUARY 25-28, 2026 PROVIDENCE, RI Eastern February 25 – 28, 2026 Providence, RI	 REFLECTIONS OF US MILWAUKEE, WI FEBRUARY 25-28, 2026 Midwestern February 25 – 28, 2026 Milwaukee, WI	 SING for a Change Northwestern March 4 – 7, 2026 Tacoma, WA
 Prism of Voices Southern March 4 – 7, 2026 Memphis, TN	 NEW HORIZONS SWACDA IN ALBUQUERQUE, NM MARCH 4-7, 2026 Southwestern March 4 – 7, 2026 Albuquerque, NM	 A TAPESTRY OF VOICES ACDA WESTERN Western March 4 – 7, 2026 San Jose, CA

Internationaler Volkskulturkreis invites you to the 7th World Youth Arts Festival

The **7th World Youth Arts Festival** is taking place in Vienna, Austria, 17-19 July 2025. Join choral groups from Europe, China, and around the globe for this three-day programme. The festival includes an opening ceremony, friendship competitions, and concerts featuring international ensembles at Das MuTh, the Vienna Boys' Choir's concert hall. The artistic programme will include masterclasses for youth choirs and a Symposium on the Development of Music Education for Young People. The event will close with a gala concert and an awards ceremony at the Golden Hall in Vienna.

The festival aims to inspire musical talent in young people and promote international understanding through cultural encounters between people of different nationalities and ages. [Register](#) before 16 June 2025.



New Zealand Choral Federation (NZCF) is 40!

Forty extraordinary years of connection, community, and collegiality. [SingFests](#), [The Big Sing](#), [The Kids Sing](#), [conferences](#), workshops, and so many more events have been held around the country, including up a mountain for the first [Sing Aotearoa](#) festivals! **Congratulations on your 40th anniversary, NZCF!**



International Music Council Music Rights Award Applications are now open

The International Music Council (IMC) Music Rights Award is given biennially to a programme or a project that supports, in an exemplary way, the Five Music Rights formulated and disseminated by IMC:

The right for all children and adults:

- to express themselves musically in all freedom,
- to learn musical languages and skills, and
- to have access to musical involvement through participation, listening, creation, and information.

The right for musical artists:

- to develop their artistry and communicate through all media, with proper facilities at their disposal and
- to obtain just recognition and fair remuneration for their work

[Apply here](#)

This award is intended:

- to offer strong recognition and reward to projects and programmes that give exemplary support to the Five Music Rights,
- to provide the opportunity to promote the Five Music Rights and IMC's commitment to them, and
- by presenting and describing these exemplary programmes and projects, to encourage IMC members and other organisations to give active support to the Five Music Rights.

Benefits for award recipient:

- The award and its recipient will be widely promoted by IMC on its website and social media channels.
- The award will be presented at a major music event, and a representative of the awarded project or programme will be invited to the ceremony (pending confirmation from our sponsors).



Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals presents the 45th International Choral Singing Festival "Catalunya Centre"

Organised by Capella de Música Burés and Polifònica de Puig-Reig, the International Choral Singing Festival "Catalunya Centre" is not a competitive event. It will take place 11-14 September



2025 in two towns located in the geographical centre of Catalonia: Puig-Reig and Castellbell i El Vilar. Each choir must perform an individual concert lasting approximately 90 minutes at both festival locations. As well, each choir must participate in the closing concerts, sharing the event with the other participating groups.

Register before **20 June 2025**.

More info on <https://www.festivalcantcoralcentre.cat/>

Summa Cum Laude Festival 2026 in Vienna & Summa Cum Laude on Tour 2026 in South Africa

SCL Festival 2026, taking place in Vienna from 3–8 July 2026, will showcase the exceptional talent of young composers, from Mozart to today's rising stars. Participants will experience outstanding performances by youth choirs, orchestras, and ensembles in iconic venues such as the Golden Hall of the Musikverein and the Wiener Konzerthaus. Alternatively, you can join SCL on Tour in South Africa from 6–11 August 2026, where music, adventure and cultural exchange come together. You will take part in thrilling performances, go on a safari to see the Big 5 and enjoy traditional African drumming. Don't miss these unforgettable musical experiences across two continents!



We invite you to visit the [Calendar of Choral Activities](#) published by the European Choral Association — Europa Cantat and the American Choral Directors Association ACDA's Network [ChoralNet](#) to check on the choral events planned in the coming months.