



## September 2025 IFCMeNEWS

Connect, Share, Learn:

### YOUNG IFCM's New Project & Next IFCM Online Cafe

**IFCM Online Café, 27 September 2025, 2PM CEST, *Beware of Vowels and Consonants!*  
Science and Practice of Choral Intelligibility**

How many times have we heard that a choir sounds great, but it is just impossible to distinguish what they sing? Anastasia Kananovich, a third-year PhD student at the University of Strasbourg, puts this question at the heart of her research on the intelligibility of choirs. During the next Online Café, Anastasia will offer an overview of main scientific findings on the intelligibility of sung texts and possible applications to choral practice. She will also update us on her own work, sharing some results of the survey she has conducted among members of the international choral community (more than 350 responses from choristers, conductors, vocal and language coaches, and choral composers from all over the world) and presenting the ongoing experimental phase of her research and its perspectives.

Register [here](https://bit.ly/IFCMOnlineCafeSeptember2025)

**IFCM Online Café**  
**27 September 2025, 2PM CEST**

**Beware of Vowels and Consonants!**  
*Science and Practice of Choral Intelligibility*

**Guest:**  
  
**Anastasia Kananovich**  
France

**Moderator:**  
  
**Ki Adams**  
Canada

<https://bit.ly/IFCMOnlineCafeSeptember2025> Register

**Anastasia Kananovich** is a PhD student at the University of Strasbourg, where she is preparing a doctoral thesis in phonetics and didactics on the intelligibility of choirs. A graduate in Foreign Language Didactics and teacher of the Italian language certified by Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Anastasia has been singing in choirs for around 20 years. She is currently a chorister with the prestigious Strasbourg Philharmonic Choir (conducted by Catherine Bolzinger), which performs with professional orchestras under the baton of internationally renowned conductors. Anastasia has worked with choristers on Russian and Italian pronunciation on several occasions. She also conducted the Council of Europe Choir in Strasbourg for three years.

Anastasia has presented her research at scientific conferences and choral events in France and abroad, in particular at the PEVOC (Pan European Voice Conference), the International Research Conference of the Australian National Choral Association, and the Membership Weekend of the European Choral Association. Several of these presentations have led to the publication of articles.

### **YOUNG IFCM Launching Young Conductors' Virtual Mentorship Programme**

This new [initiative](#) from the IFCM YOUNG Committee is designed to connect developing choral conductors with experienced choral directors around the world. Our goal is to foster meaningful, cross-cultural connections that inspire the next generation of conductors, exchange knowledge and ideas, and strengthen the global choral community.

### **Call for Mentors and Mentees: Young Conductors' Virtual Mentorship Programme**

Applications are now open for the inaugural [IFCM Young Conductors' Virtual Mentorship Programme](#).

Please read the [application guidelines](#) before completing the relevant [form](#) to indicate your interest. Applications close on **21 September 2025**. Selections and pairings will be confirmed by mid-October. The programme will begin in late October 2025.



**IFCM Young Conductors' Virtual Mentorship Programme**

**Apply now!**

**Mentors:** Experienced choral conductor?  
Give back to the next generation of conductors!

*Share your expertise, inspire young talent, and connect with passionate conductors worldwide*

**Applications close: 21 September 2025**  
**Programme: October 2025 – April 2026**

More info: [www.ifcm.net](http://www.ifcm.net)

The poster features the IFCM logo in the top right corner. The main title is in a large, elegant font. Below it, the 'Apply now!' text is in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'Mentors' section includes a musical note icon and a call to action. A quote in italics encourages sharing expertise. The application deadline and programme dates are listed in a bold font. The bottom left corner provides the website for more information. The right side of the poster shows a person at a desk with a laptop displaying a video call, with a hand holding a pencil over a sheet of music.

### **World Symposium on Choral Music, 23-28 August 2026, Macau, China**

#### ***Reimagining the Future***

**Choirs and Vocal Ensembles, and Presenters: Apply Now!**



**World Symposium on Choral Music, Macau, China**  
**23-28 August 2026**  
***Reimagining the Future***

**Apply before 15 October 2025**

**Call for Choirs & Vocal ensembles**

Read the Guidelines  
<https://www.ifcm.net/>

**Call for Presenters**

Read the Guidelines  
<https://www.ifcm.net/>

The poster has a green and white color scheme. The top section contains the event title and dates in bold. Below this, the application deadline is clearly stated. The poster is divided into two main sections: 'Call for Choirs & Vocal ensembles' and 'Call for Presenters'. Each section includes a QR code, the IFCM logo, and a link to the guidelines. The bottom left features a photo of a choir, and the bottom right features a photo of a presenter.

### How to Apply:

**Read or download** the submission instructions for Choirs. **Submit** your choir or vocal ensemble application.

**Read or download** the submission instructions for Presenters. **Submit** your presentation application.

**Deadline: 15 October 2025.**

If you encounter any difficulties with the form, contact [wscm2026@ifcm.net](mailto:wscm2026@ifcm.net).

### Meet the WSCM 2026 Administrative Committee Members

#### Local Representatives

- Miguel de Senna Fernandes (Macau), President of the Macau Choral Art Association
- Yuki Jiang (Hong Kong, Shanghai, China), Liaison Officer
- Kelvin H. Lau (Hong Kong), Founder and Artistic Director of The Hong Kong Virtuoso Chorus and the Hong Kong Inter-School Choral Festival
- Synthia Paiva Chan Sze-Nga (ex-officio, Macau)

#### IFCM Representatives

- Roula Abou Baker (Lebanon), IFCM Vice-President
- Yoshihiro Egawa (Japan), IFCM Vice-President
- Dominique Lecheval (France), IFCM Treasurer
- Kaie Tanner (Estonia), IFCM Board Member

### Meet the WSCM 2026 Artistic Committee Members

#### Local Representatives

- Kathy Fok (Hong Kong), Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Hong Kong Children's Choir
- Wang Jin (China), Artistic Director and Conductor
- Ai Hooi Lim (Singapore), Artistic Director of ONE Choral Company
- Liu Mingyan (Macau), Director of the Macau Youth Choir

#### IFCM Representatives

- Burak Onur Erdem (Türkiye), IFCM Vice-President
- Cameron LaBarr (USA), IFCM Board Member
- Jan Schumacher (Germany), IFCM Vice-President

**World Choral Day, 14 December 2025:**

**Singing for Peace, Connection, and Our Common Home**



### Musica International — New Piece Added to the Library

A new choral work has been added to [Musica International](#), the multimedia, multilingual, and collaborative database of choral repertoire.

***The Tide Rises, The Tide Falls*** (2009) was commissioned by Nancy Menk and the South Bend Chamber Singers (Indiana, USA) by Finnish composer Jaakko Mäntyjärvi. The text, written by American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882), uses the rhythm of the tides as a metaphor for the endless passage of time and nature's indifference to human life.

[Enjoy a performance](#) by Junges Consortium Berlin at the International Chamber Choir Competition 2019 in Marktoberdorf, Germany © MODfestivals



### News from the European Choral Association (ECA)

#### Add your project to the SWAN Database: Share your inclusive singing initiatives

The [SWAN](#) project (Singing With Additional Needs) draws on best practices from different European countries to include people with additional needs in collective singing. Co-funded by the European Union, one of SWAN's key goals is to collect and share exemplary approaches in inclusive collective singing for individuals with additional needs.

If you are leading a project or an initiative focused on inclusive singing, we would love to hear from you! [Fill out](#) our short questionnaire and help us make this valuable knowledge accessible to others in the international collective singing community.



**SWAN**  
SINGING WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

**questionnaire**  
on inclusive collective singing practices

fill it out at [swanproject.eu](https://swanproject.eu)

 Co-funded by the European Union 

#### The ECA Brochure 2026 is out

Get ready for another year full of music, learning, and unforgettable encounters! In this new [brochure](#), you will find the full selection of the activities and events of the European Choral Association for 2026:

- Walter Strauss Masterclass by [Devlet Çoksesli Korusu](#) – Türkiye
- Festival di Primavera by [Feniarco - La voce dei cori](#) – Italy
- [Europa Cantat Junior](#) – Spain
- [European Youth Choir](#) – France
- [World Youth Choir](#) – TBC
- [Sing Ireland](#) – Ireland
- RelaxSing Costa Barcelona – Spain
- Fosco Corti Competition by [Feniarco - La voce dei cori](#) – Italy
- [International Federation for Choral Music \(IFCM\)](#) – Macau

... and much more!

### **Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals (FCEC) Announces the 61st International Choral Music Festival**

From **6–12 July 2026**, the [Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals \(FCEC\)](#) invites choirs from around the globe to Barcelona for its 61st International Choral Music Festival—a week of singing, cultural exchange, and unforgettable performances.

The festival offers six days of workshops and concerts in the vibrant heart of Barcelona, bringing together music and cultures from all over the world. Participating choirs will present two concerts each, culminating in the final concert at the iconic Palau de la Música Catalana, one of the city's most celebrated Art Nouveau/modernist landmarks.

Afternoon workshops, open to both choirs and individual singers, will be led by Núria Cunillera (Catalonia, Spain), Pablo Assante (Argentina), and Fidel G. Calalang (The Philippines).

**Applications are open until 15 November 2025.**



### **Carus Verlag Presents Beethoven 2027 – Pure Choral Joy!**

Ludwig van Beethoven stands as one of the most influential composers in music history. In 2027, the world will commemorate the 200th anniversary of his death. Through the Beethoven vocal



Project, [Carus](#) has made Beethoven's rich choral repertoire accessible to choirs worldwide: including the *Missa solemnis*, which Beethoven himself regarded as one of his greatest achievements, alongside the magnificent *Mass in C major*. The [Choral Collection Beethoven](#) features 41 secular and sacred choral works – comprising both Beethoven's original compositions and arrangements of his instrumental works created over the past created since his death, suitable for choirs of all sizes and abilities.

### **19th Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition 2026 Co-organized with Japan Choral Association**

**19-22 March 2026, Fukushima City, Japan**

The [Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition](#), co-organized with the **Japan Choral Association (JCA)**, is now calling for participants. Recognized as the largest choral competition in Japan dedicated to small vocal ensembles (2–16 singers), it brings together more than 120 top vocal ensembles each year in Fukushima—celebrated nationwide as the “Kingdom of Choirs.” Join JCA in this unique celebration of ensemble singing and let voices from around the world ring out together!

Deadline for preliminary auditions: **30 September 2025**

Learn more and register [HERE](#).



### **The European Music Festival for Young People, Neerpelt, Belgium, celebrates its 75th Anniversary in 2027**

Join the [European Music Festival for Young People \(EMJ\)](#) in Neerpelt, Belgium, **4-10 May 2027**, for an unforgettable musical adventure. During these six days, the city will come alive with song, friendship, and international exchange. Over 150 children's and youth choirs and instrumental ensembles from Europe, Asia, South America, North America, Oceania, and Africa will share their passion, perform for a renowned jury, and receive valuable, constructive feedback. Along



with the jury concerts, participants will enjoy inspiring workshops, improvised performances, and heartwarming moments of connection. The EMJ is not just a festival; it's a celebration of young talent, cultural unity, and boundless musical energy. Visit [www.emj.be/emj75](http://www.emj.be/emj75) to find out more about EMJ 2027 and take your place on this unique international stage.

### InChoral International Choral Festival Network — New Season of Festivals and Competitions

**Meeting Music**, based in Germany and part of the **InChoral International Choral Festival Network**, is pleased to announce its new season of international choral festivals and competitions.

With more than 35 years of experience organizing world-class choral events, Meeting Music welcomes thousands of singers each year to share in the joy of music. Their festivals create a warm and friendly atmosphere where choirs can meet, connect, and celebrate together through concerts and competitions.

Choirs can participate in a wide variety of categories, including sacred and secular music, children's choirs, youth choirs (mixed and equal voices), female/male/mixed choirs, gospel/spiritual music, and more. In addition to competitions, singers are invited to enjoy an array of festival activities designed to inspire and connect.

Find your favorite dates and destination and join **Meeting Music** in celebrating the universal joy of singing!

Contact: [info@meeting-music.com](mailto:info@meeting-music.com)



### Tenso Network Europe and Turkish State Choir Present the Re:CONNECT Conference Ankara, Türkiye, 10-12 October 2025

The European Network for Professional Chamber Choirs (Tenso Network Europe) is concluding its EU-supported **Tenso CONNECT** project with the **Re:CONNECT Conference in Ankara, Türkiye**. Hosted in partnership with the **Turkish State Choir**, the conference will bring together conductors, artists, and choral enthusiasts from across Europe for an inspiring programme of talks, concerts, and workshops. You can access the details of the conference [here](#).



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.