

Happy New Year!

Thank you for your support in 2025, See you in Macau, China, in 2026!

January 2026 IFCMeNEWS

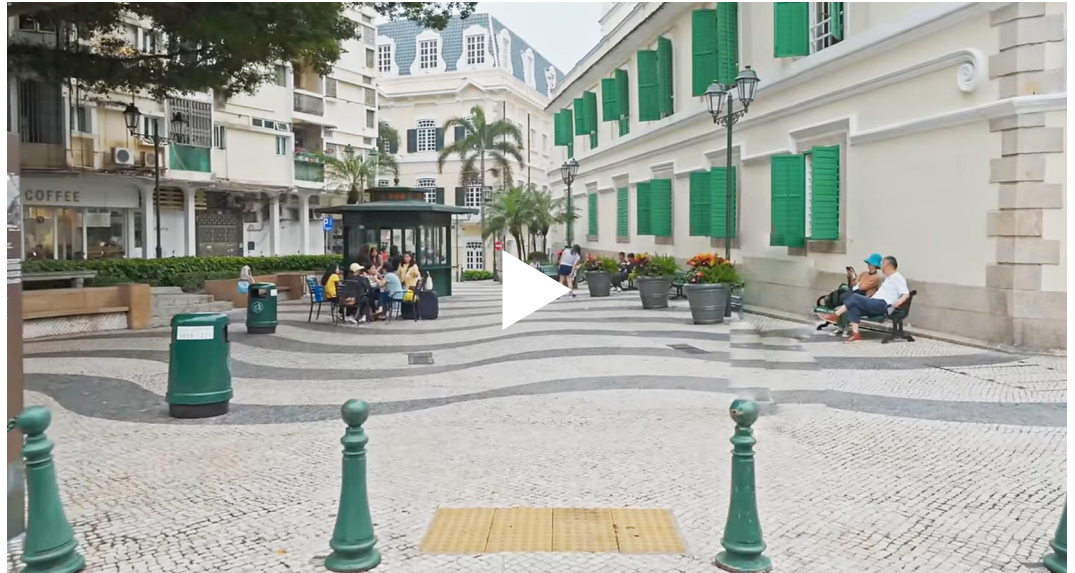
World Symposium on Choral Music, 23-28 August 2026, Macau, China, Reimagining the Future — Let's Meet the WSCM 2026 Presenters

Participation has been confirmed by 40 selected presenters, who will deliver 35 lectures and workshops: David Buley (Canada), Francis Cathlina (USA), Kai-Young Chan (Hong Kong China), Saunder Choi (USA), Marleen De Boo and Jeroen Keymeulen (Belgium), Robert Delgado (The Philippines), Seán Doherty (Ireland), Ildikó Ferencziné Ács (Hungary), Tine Fris-Ronsfeld and Kristoffer Fynbo Thorning (Denmark), Sonja Greiner for the European Choral Association



(Germany), Joshua Habermann (USA), Masahiro Inukai (Japan), Peder Karlsson (Sweden), Kirsi Kaunismäki-Suhonen and Merzi Rajala (Finland) for the Choirs for Ecocide Law, Ieva Krivickaitė (Lithuania), Ambroise Kua-Nzambi Toko (DR Congo), Mali Liu (Taiwan) and Joy Tavas Nilo (The Philippines), Tanner Munson (USA), Brian C. Murray (USA), Bengt Ollén (Sweden), Timothy Pallett (South Africa), Vladimir Pereira Silva (Brazil), Jonas Rasmussen (Denmark), Marques Jerrell Ruff (USA), Santiago Ruiz (Argentina), Vahram Sarkissian (Armenia), Kym Scott (USA), Beverly Shangkuan-Cheng (The Philippines), Karmina Šilec (Slovenia), Toomas Siitan (Estonia), Ryan Sullivan (USA), Yu Hang Tan (Malaysia), Masahiro Taniguchi and Taku Sato (Japan), Kenneth Tay (Singapore) and Jeremy Wiggins (USA).

More on the content of their presentations in a later IFCMeNEWS. Stay tuned!



Introducing Three WSCM 2026 Choirs...

Adelaide Chamber Singers (Australia)

Adelaide Chamber Singers (ACS) is widely recognised as Australia's premier chamber choir, embodying the art of choral chamber singing for 40 years. Founded in 1985 by Carl Crossin, now led by Artistic Director Christie Anderson, ACS comprises Adelaide's finest ensemble singers. ACS' repertoire spans a wide range of styles and aesthetics, primarily rooted in the Western classical tradition, but increasingly shaped by Australia's multicultural context. They actively seek to include works that represent and amplify voices from diverse cultural, racial, and national backgrounds—both through the composers they work with and the stories they choose to tell. ACS is dedicated to artistic excellence, collaboration and storytelling that redefines the role of choral music.



Ansan City Choir (South Korea)

The world-renowned Ansan City Choir of South Korea is a professional ensemble of 47 members with a distinguished history spanning more than 30 years since its founding. Renowned for its exceptional artistry, the choir delivers deeply moving performances that further showcase the artistic excellence of the Republic of Korea.

Under the leadership of its new conductor and composer, Dr. Jihoon Park, the choir has introduced an innovative choral style that has made a powerful impact on both the Korean and international choral scenes. Spanning repertoire from Renaissance choral works to 21st-century contemporary music, the Ansan City Choir is celebrated for its rich, refined sound and its mastery of diverse choral genres. In addition, the choir continues to take bold, creative steps by exploring interdisciplinary collaborations that blend choral music with other art forms.



Hamilton Children's Choir (Canada)

Now in its 51st season, Hamilton Children's Choir (HCC) continues to inspire through passion, creativity, and community. Under the artistic leadership of Melanie Tellez, HCC has expanded both its reach and its imagination, redefining what a children's choir can be. The choir is recognized nationally and internationally for its expressive sound, dynamic movement, and innovative programming.



HCC is also deeply committed to artistic collaboration. Its projects have brought together musicians, poets, choreographers, and visual artists, including Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, Hamilton Youth Orchestra, Hamilton You Poets, along with many national and international composers, artists, choirs and conductors.

Where in Macau China?

The events of the 2026 World Symposium on Choral Music will take place at iconic locations such as the Macau Tower, Macau Cultural Centre, Macau Cathedral, and Rose the Chapel of Our Lady all situated in the Macau peninsula, home to the historic Old Macau, a UNESCO World Heritage site, known for its rich cultural heritage, including churches and temples.



Thank You to All of You Who Celebrated the World Choral Day on 14 December 2025!

The International Federation for Choral Music would like to express its deepest gratitude to all the choirs, conductors, and singers around the world who took part in the [World Choral Day](#) celebration. The response has been truly overwhelming and deeply moving.

We have been trying to repost as many social media posts as possible but we are still missing a lot of them, so if you have any video recaps, recordings or pictures of your own celebration of the World Choral Day 2025, please send them to office@ifcm.net and we will be happy to collect them and add them to the [WCD Playlist](#) on IFCM YouTube channel.

Thank you for making World Choral Day such a powerful expression of unity through singing!

<https://www.facebook.com/worldchoralday/>



Conductor Beyond Borders in Cameroon, 24-29 November 2025

The Saint Jean Bosco School, located within the grounds of Saints Pierre et Paul Cathedral in Douala, Cameroon, hosted the first Vocal Culture Training Session organized by the [Cameroonian Federation of Choral Music A Coeur Joie \(FECAMUCH-ACJ\)](#). This session was led by Thierry Thiebaut, President of A Coeur Joie International and former IFCM Vice-President.

Around thirty trainees from several choirs in Douala attended the afternoon sessions, half of whom were choir directors. The sessions focused on vocal technique, solo singing, and ensemble performance.

As time and participant numbers limited in-depth work with individual soloists, all participants agreed to organize a follow-up session next year with these factors in mind. The second Vocal Culture session is scheduled for March 23–29, 2026.

During his stay in Douala, Thierry also attended a morning Mass featuring a local children's choir conducted by former CBB trainee, now conductor, David Ewoungouo. Watch their invigorating performance [here](#).



Dr. Jordi Roch Passed Away: Obituary by the International Music Council

The International Music Council is profoundly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Jordi Roch i Bosch, a tireless advocate for music as a universal force for connection and understanding.

Dr. Roch served as President of the International Music Council from 1993 to 1997, bringing to this role decades of experience in building bridges between young musicians and audiences



across the world. His leadership helped advance the IMC's mission to promote music as an essential component of cultural life and human development.

Throughout his remarkable life, Dr. Roch was a builder of institutions and a champion of artistic excellence. He was instrumental in the founding of the Barcelona International Music Festival in 1963 and served as President of *Jeunesses Musicales International* from 1983 to 1992, later being named JMI Honorary President. His leadership within *Juventudes Musicales de España* helped shape Spain's musical landscape for generations.

Perhaps most beloved was his role as founder and guiding spirit of the *Schubertiada de Vilabertran*, a festival that became a cherished ritual for lovers of song and chamber music. There, in a small village in Alt Empordà each August, Dr. Roch created a sanctuary where emerging artists and established performers alike could share the intimate beauty of the lied tradition. His keen eye for talent helped launch international careers, and his passion for music inspired all who attended.

A practicing physician who never separated his medical calling from his cultural mission, Dr. Roch understood that music heals, connects, and transforms. He remained an active presence at concerts into his tenth decade, his enthusiasm and curiosity undiminished.

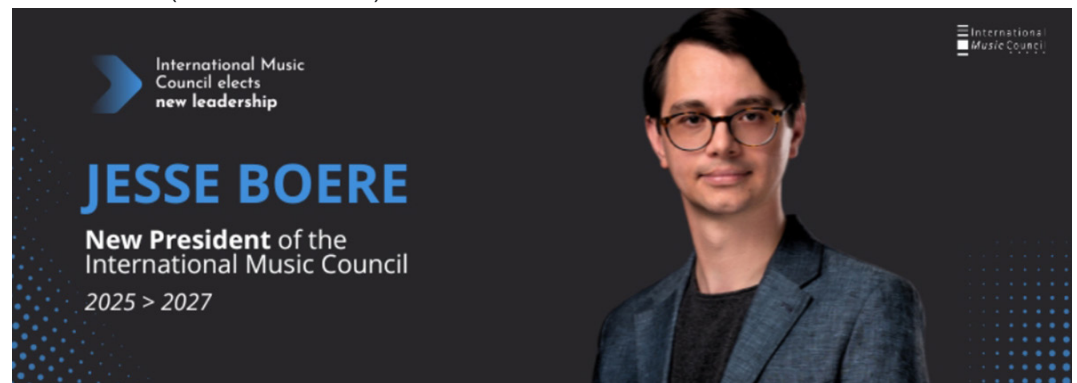
The International Music Council extends its deepest condolences to Dr. Roch's family, friends, and the communities of *Juventudes Musicales de España* and the *Schubertiada*. His legacy lives on in every festival that brings people together, every young artist given a platform, and every moment when music transcends boundaries, precisely the world he worked his entire life to create.

Dr. Jordi Roch was also instrumental in the opening of the first IFCM office in Altea, Spain in 1999.

International Music Council Elects New Leadership

From 24 November to 15 December 2025, members of the [International Music Council](#) gathered online for the organisation's 41st General Assembly, elected a new leadership and adopted an ambitious work plan for the next two years. IMC will continue strengthen its three pillars: as a value-driven advocacy body, as a network of networks and as a project organisation. It will scale up its actions enabling a world where everyone can enjoy access to music, where they can learn, experience, create, perform, and express themselves through music, and in which artists of every kind are recognized and fairly remunerated.

Jesse Boere (Netherlands/UAE) was elected President.



The IMC General Assembly also elected a new Executive Board composed of Ruben Binam (Cameroon), Alessandra Fernandez Alves Da Costa (Brazil), Keld Hosbond (Denmark), Benon Kigozi (Uganda), Emily Kuo Vong (China-USA-Portugal), Bo-Wah Leung (China / Hong Kong), Obeida Madi (Jordan), Mirco Patarini (Italy), Bertalan Temesi (Hungary).

Congratulations to IFCM President **Emily Kuo Vong** on her election to the Board of the International Music Council. Her appointment strengthens the link between IFCM and IMC and highlights the important role of the choral community within the wider music sector. Her experience and commitment to music will be a valuable asset to the IMC Board.

European Forum on Music (EFM) 2026: Call for Session Proposals

The [European Forum on Music](#) (EFM) 2026 will take place from 9 to 12 June 2026 in Timisoara, Romania. This year's EFM focuses on Music, Health and Wellbeing and explores how music supports physical and mental health, strengthens resilience, and contributes to wellbeing across

society, including for music professionals themselves.

The deadline for session proposals is **6 February 2026**. Selected proposals will be notified before the end of March. Presenters and speakers of selected proposals will be offered free EFM registration as well as two nights of hotel accommodation. Please submit your contribution via this [Google Form](#).

European Choral Association (ECA)

Rewatch the last Choral TIES webinar *Designing International Events: From Preparation to Evaluation*

How do you bring an international choral event to life, from the first idea to the final evaluation?

This webinar (18 November 2025) explored the full journey of designing, preparing, organising and assessing successful choral gatherings, with insights from three experienced organisers representing a diversity of approaches and contexts. **Tamara Adamov Petijevic** (Serbia), **Silvija Prockyte** (Lithuania) and **Côme Ferrand-Cooper** (France) shared their perspectives from both established and emerging festivals across different European regions. The discussion was moderated by Sonja Greiner, Secretary General of the European Choral Association.

Webinar organised by the European Choral Association in the framework of the [Choral TIES project](#) co-funded by the EU.

The poster is divided into two main sections. The top section is orange and contains the ECA logo, the title 'DESIGNING INTERNATIONAL CHORAL EVENTS FROM PREPARATION TO EVALUATION', the date and time 'Tuesday 18 November 2025 | 3 pm CET | Online', and three circular portraits of the speakers: Silvija Prockytė, Côme Ferrand Cooper, and Tamara Adamov Petijevic. The bottom section is white and contains the text 'an initiative of Choral TIES' and the European Union flag with 'Co-funded by the European Union'. To the right of the text is a photograph of a choir performing on a stage with a large, abstract, glowing sculpture in the background.

Explore the Full *Choral Ties* Video Playlist on Youtube!

Webinars & Seminars

[*Designing International Choral Events: From Preparation to Evaluation*](#) (see above).

[*Building an International Community of Choral Conductors Through Repertoire*](#) led by conductor Antoaneta Radočaj-Jerković, moderated by Valentina Dačnik and Petar Hendija.

[*Conducting Youth and Children's Choirs*](#) with Basilio Astulez, Zimfira Poloz, Ken Wakia, in cooperation with IFCM.

[*Conductor's Coach: The World's Very First Choral Conducting App*](#) with Jan Schumacher and Kathrin Schweizer (See below).

[*Creating Choral Music: Talking about the Requirements of Choral Repertoire*](#) with Marie Herrington, Jaakko Mäntyjärvi, Eva Ugalde, in cooperation with IFCM.

[*Choirs After Covid – Recover, Rebuild, Renew*](#) at the Haapsalu Summer Course, led by Daphne Wassink.

[*Choose your Repertoire Wisely*](#) with Burak Onur Erdem, Pierre-Luc Pfrimmer, Alba Roorda Martinez and Joana Costa.

Leading Voices Recorded Sessions

[*AI in Daily Life: How to Make Better Myself?*](#) by Tomas Staniulis.

[*Communication Strategies in the Choral Field*](#) by Karin Courtney.

The World's First Choral Conducting App: Conductor's Coach by Ester Petri and Jan Schumacher.

Shaping the Future: Rethinking Higher Music Education moderated by Hans Helsen with David Puderbaugh, Kristi Kiilu, Seán Doherty, Jan Schumacher.

What the choral and vocal world has to offer moderated by Sonja Greiner, with Kathrin Renggli, Nina Ruckhaber, Valerie Bruynseels, Jean Sturm, Ana Patricia Carbajal, Pelin Küçükerdoğan, Susanna Kantelinen.

New Forms of Youth Collective Singing by Claudia Franzen.

You can find all webinars and sessions on the dedicated playlist on YouTube [here](#).

IFCM RECOMMENDS...

Message from Vicki Bos, a PhD candidate at the School of Psychology, University of Queensland, Australia

My team and I are conducting international research into the professional practices of group singing leaders, with a particular focus on the health and wellbeing of their singers. We're hoping to better understand the specific **non-music-related challenges** faced by group singing leaders, and to determine whether they are interested in receiving training in areas such as health and wellbeing, diversity and inclusion, and leadership. Our eventual aim is to design professional development workshops or programs for group singing leaders in these areas.

The survey which shouldn't more than is accessible on <https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/sing>

Thank you for your participation!



CONCERTS-AUSTRIA Presents Two Versions of the Summa Cum Laude Festival Summa Cum Laude Youth Music Festival 2026 in Vienna

The **Summa Cum Laude (SCL) Youth Music Festival**, held every July in Vienna brings together young musicians from all continents to perform and learn together. Concerts take place in the city's most prestigious halls, including the Golden Hall of the Musikverein and the Great Hall of the Konzerthaus, while workshops and lectures are hosted at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (MDW). Open to choirs, bands, and orchestras, the 2026 edition, themed "*We are children just the same – child composers over the centuries*", celebrates intercultural exchange and musical excellence.

Summa Cum Laude on Tour South Africa 2026

Building on the success of the Summa Cum Laude Festival in Vienna, **SCLonTour** brings its global youth music experience to new horizons. The first edition will be held 6-11 August 2026 in Sun City, South Africa, featuring performances, competitions, and workshops with international professionals. Highlights include the Inkululeko Ngomculu Parade, a traditional African

drumming circle, and an exclusive safari game drive in Pilanesberg National Park. Ensembles may also extend their stay to perform in Cape Town's historic City Hall. SCLonTour unites young musicians worldwide through music, friendship, and intercultural exchange on extraordinary stages across the globe.

SCL



ON TOUR

SOUTH AFRICA

SUN CITY

AUGUST 6-11, 2026

CHINA

SHANGHAI

AUGUST 2027



OPENING CEREMONY

WORKSHOPS & LECTURE

ADDITIONAL CONCERTS

COMPETITION OR CELEBRATION PERFORMANCE

CLOSING CEREMONY

WWW.SCLONTOUR.ORG

15th European Youth Choir Festival Basel – CALL FOR CHOIRS!

Basel, Switzerland | 4-9 May 2027

Registration open from 1 December 2025 – 31 January 2026

The [EJCF Basel](#) is one of the most important non-competitive platforms for highly qualified children's and youth choirs in the world. Every two years in May (around the Feast of the Ascension), eleven outstanding choirs from European countries, one guest choir from a non-European country, and six selected choirs from Switzerland thrill an audience of over 36,000 concert-goers in more than 50 events. Apart from the high-quality music, the festival focuses on the young people's interaction among themselves as well as with the locals. All singers are hosted in guest families. The festival covers all costs of the invited choirs. Have a look at our [short video presentation](#) and read the exciting [report of Cristina](#) from Romania.



Two Weeks Left to Apply to the 16th Cantemus International Choral Festival, Nyíregyháza, Hungary, 16-21 August 2026

The **Cantemus Festival** offers choirs a unique opportunity to showcase their talents while creating unforgettable memories. Participants will enjoy a rich program of cultural experiences, concerts and performances, folk evenings, dance houses, competitions, and awards.

Read the application requirements [here](#).

Apply before 15 January 2026.

The festival also offers the opportunity to refine your choral conducting skills through a masterclass led by Dénes Szabó, world-renowned, Kossuth Prize-winning conductor, together with the **Cantemus Children's Choir and the Pro Musica Girls' Choir**.

Read about the participation conditions [here](#).

Apply before 1 May 2026.



News from the Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals (FCEC)

The 46th 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 3-6 September 2026 in two towns located in the geographical centre of Catalonia: Puig-Reig and Castellbell i El Vilar.



Participating choirs will perform a 90-minute concert in both locations of the festival. They will also participate in the closing concerts with other participating groups.

Registration: send a recent video or link with a representative performance of your group to capellademusicabures@gmail.com and polifonica@polifonica.cat.

Summer Course on Choral Conducting, Barcelona, Spain, 8-11 July 2025

The [Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corales](#) (FCEC) offers a 4-day course on choral conducting for working groups in three levels: Initial, Intermediate, and Advanced. Each group will work with a pilot choir. Aspects of conducting technique (conducting practices, auditory perception, vocal training, and common singing) and complementary activities (conference and analysis) will be included. The closing concert of the course will take place on 11 July 2025.

Guest conductors are: Mireia Barrera, Pere Lluís Biosca, Elisenda Carrasco, Jordi Lluch.

[Register](#) before **31 May 2026**.

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.