



February 2026 IFCMeNEWS

Help Shape the Future of IFCM: Call for Elections of the IFCM President, Board and Internal Auditors

Based on IFCM's [Bylaws](#) and [Internal Membership Policies Document](#), our membership will elect a new president and board of directors in 2026. The elections will be held ONLINE, starting mid-June and ending on 1 August 2026. Members of IFCM in good standing, having paid their 2026 membership fee by the end of April, will be able to elect the president and up to 15 board members as well as the internal financial auditors. The current president cannot stand for elections again, and several board members have decided not to be candidates this year. If you want to help shape the future of IFCM, and you are an individual member or you are nominated by a member choir or a member organisation, you can be a candidate. The deadline for applications is **15 April 2026**. For further information, please check out the [2026 IFCM Elections and General Assembly](#).

Join the IFCM Voting Committee

If you want to be part of the IFCM voting committee that will be monitoring the results of the online voting, if you are an IFCM member in good standing, and if you are not intending to be a candidate yourself, please send a message to office@ifcm.net. You will then be invited to an online meeting following the online elections mid-August 2026.

Save the Date: IFCM General Assembly in Macau on August 23

As usual, the General Assembly of IFCM will be held in connection with the World Symposium on Choral Music, on **23 August 2026** in the afternoon in Macau, China. The official invitation to all IFCM members will be sent in May 2026.



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

Whether you're joining WSCM for the first time or returning as a longtime participant, the WSCM 2026 is for you.

Where else can you connect, all in one vibrant place, with conductors, composers, ensembles, researchers, and festival professionals from around the world? WSCM is where groundbreaking choral ideas are shared, artistic visions come to life, and conversations with inspiring leaders turn into future projects. Don't be surprised if a casual chat over coffee becomes your next collaboration.

The programme is packed with concerts, presentations, keynote speeches, reading sessions, composer meet-and-greets, and masterclasses. These will take place in various venues in the heart of Macau's historic old city.



Getting there

Macau is easily accessible by ferry from Hong Kong, making it a convenient destination for travelers from all around the world. There are also flights available to Macau International Airport. You can travel to Hong-Kong and Macau without a visa from many countries around the world. For more information on Visa and Entry Permit Exemptions, please visit the website of the [Macao Immigration Services](#). More information on how to prepare your trip [here](#).

A Quick Look at the Registration Fees

Enjoy special discounts! IFCM Members receive a reduced rate, and students are eligible for a 50% discount. IFCM Members are required to provide their member number when registering (found on your 2026 member card), while students should present a valid student ID or official proof from their school.

The registration fees are set according to three country groups used by IFCM for its membership fees. These [lists of countries](#) were established with reference to each country's Gross Domestic Product and Gross National Income as measured by the United Nations.

Participants Categories	Group	Early Bird until 31 March	Late/On-site
IFCM member	1	US\$345	440.00
	2	US\$280	380.00
	3	US\$230	310.00
Non-member	1	US\$520	610.00
	2	US\$460	550.00
	3	US\$400	480.00
Students get a 50% discount	1		
	IFCM Member	US\$172.5	US\$200
	Non-member	US\$260	US\$305
	2		
	IFCM Member	US\$140	US\$190
	Non-member	US\$230	US\$275
	3		
	IFCM Member	US\$115	US\$155
	Non-member	US\$200	US\$240

World Voices Programme, a Special Addition to the WSCM 2026

The World Voices Programme will feature 15 invited presenters from China, who are experts and scholars in choral conducting and composition. The World Voices Programme will offer a rich and diverse range of content and topics. More information will be published later on the WSCM 2026 website. Stay tuned!

Introducing Three WSCM 2026 Choirs...

Postyr, Denmark

Since 2009, the award-winning electronic vocal group Postyr has developed groundbreaking vocal music for five singers and computers. New compositions and songs using the world's oldest instrument - the human voice - and new digital software express the feeling of today and shape the sound of tomorrow.

Postyr creates a musical universe they call E-Cappella - a new kind of electronic pop music centered around the vocals. Using effects and computers, the soft voices are turned into inciting beats that are mixed with choir sounds and strong vocals. Postyr are frontrunners in this new genre which has become popular among the world's millions of choir singers. Their latest EP "Footprints" recently won a CARA-award in the category "Best European EP 2022".

In the concert «HumaNature», the vocal group Postyr challenges the borderland between humans, nature, and machines. On stage, they have 10 incredible boxes that they record on and interact with live on stage. On one side, the boxes are just plain white, but on the other side there are singing electronic flowers, flashing ferns, and a telephone receiver with a direct connection to Nature.

With deep roots in the Danish choral tradition, the five singers (soprano, alto, tenor, baritone, and bass) tour the world with their award-winning songs and groundbreaking sound, ranging from purely acoustic vocals to wild productions where voices are looped and produced live on stage.

Over the past 15 years, Postyr has sung over 800 concerts and traveled around most of the world with their microphones and songs. They have sung in small schools, churches, vocal festivals across Europe and in the States, concert halls in Scandinavia and Mainland China, and Taichung Jazz Festival to name a few. They have sung for Sony in Manhattan and for local fishermen in Greenland. They love to sing together and express themselves with their voices.

Voices have enormous sound and expression potential and coupled with electronics and creative minds, a unique instrument and universe is created in Postyr. "If we master the voice as a musical form of expression, we can touch on some of the aspects of human life that are too complex to describe in words." Postyr's original pop songs revolve around being a soft human being in an angular world and about finding the humanity in ourselves in the encounter with technology.



The Mad Singers, Hong Kong SAR, China

Founded in 2021, The Mad Singers is a chamber choir of 30 young singers based in Hong Kong SAR, China. The ensemble is dedicated to cultivating the next generation of choral talent and broadening artistic horizons through participation in leading international festivals and competitions.

Since its inception, The Mad Singers have distinguished themselves on the world stage, earning accolades across Asia and Europe. They were Grand Prix finalists at the 73rd International Polyphonic Competition Guido d'Arezzo, where they won First Place in the Secular Category and were named "The Most Promising Emerging Choir." In 2024, they secured First Place in the Chamber Choir Category and received special awards for interpretation and conductor performance at the International Choir Competition "Prof. Georgi Dimitrov" in Varna, Bulgaria. The choir was also honored with the "Choir of the World Award" at the World Youth & Children's Choir Festival 2024 and claimed the title of "Grand Prix Champion" at the 2023 Taipei International Choral Competition. Their pursuit of excellence has led to invitations to prestigious platforms such as the World Choral Championships and competitions within the European Grand Prix for Choral Singing network. In addition, the ensemble has worked with renowned conductors including Luigi Marzola, Peter Dijkstra, Ragnar Rasmussen, and Urša Lah. Beyond their achievements, The Mad Singers have evolved from a passion project among friends into a cohesive ensemble defined by trust, camaraderie, and artistry. Their performances combine technical precision with expressive depth, bringing audience music that is both authentic and inspiring.



Singapore Choral Artists, Singapore

Singapore Choral Artists (SCA) was established in early 2022, composed of 24 professionally trained vocalists dedicated to performing high-quality choral masterpieces from both Singapore and international repertoires. Since its inception, the choir has given annual high-profile gala concerts in Singapore. It frequently participates in various prestigious events, collaborating with professional organizations like the Chinese Cultural Hub, the Singapore Musicians' Association's annual concert, the Singapore Choral Festival, the Singapore International Choral Cantat Competition where it won the grand championship, the Chinese Cultural Centre's HuaCai Choral Festival, the Singapore Hokkien Lam Ann Cultural Festival, the Singapore Manufacturers Association's 90th Anniversary Celebration, and the most prestigious President Charity Challenge Concert.

Two years ago, the choir was invited to Xi'an, China, for a choral concert showcase and a masterclass as demonstration choir at the Xi'an Conservatory of Music. Last year, upon invitation from the Shanxi Provincial Cultural Bureau, the choir performed as the closing ceremony of the Silk Road Arts Festival and signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Culture for future choral exchange and development programs.

This year, the choir was invited to represent Singapore at the high-level Changwon International Choral Festival and Seoul Sacred Music Festival in South Korea.

Under the baton of Singapore's premier conductor Nelson Kwei, SCA has established itself to become the apex of Singapore choral standard. It is now fully functioning as a semi-professional chamber choir that champions the most local composers' works.



Peer-to-Peer Conductors Beyond Borders: All Sessions Completed

The Conductors Beyond Borders (CBB) Peer-to-Peer Exchange Programme is 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 all the participating partners! Here's a peek into some of the January exchanges made possible through the CBB Peer-to-Peer Exchange Programme.

15-19 January 2026: A European conductor from outside the EU (Kjetil Åmann, Norway) invited to Gramsh, Albania, to work with a blind conductor.



Some of the young singers from the music school in Gramsh, together with Marsona Taçe and her brother Blendi

Kjetil Åmann (Norway) has been working to develop ways of making sheet music more available for visually impaired singers. In January, he was invited to Gramsh, a small town in Albania, to learn how a blind conductor, Marsona Taçe, working for the local municipal music school, handles the challenges she meets in her daily work. This was a two-way exchange of knowledge. For Kjetil, getting insight in Albanian iso-polyphony was valuable, while Marsona received insight in Kjetil's techniques for generating sheet music in braille and the use of screen readers.

19-28 January 2026: An EU conductor (Gerrit Maas, The Netherlands) invited to Brandon, Canada, to work with the Brandon University School of Music

Gerrit Maas was a guest of Andrée Dagenais, Professor and Director of Choral Studies at Brandon University (BU). During the programme, Gerrit conducted the two university choirs—the BU Chorale and the BU Concert Choir—and worked with the School of Music's conducting students.



As the programme is designed to foster mutual learning and exchange, the collaboration will hopefully continue in return with Andrée travelling to the Netherlands. There, she will work with the Koninklijke Christelijke Oratorium Vereniging (KCOV) Excelsior in Amsterdam, an amateur choir of approximately 100 singers; the LSKO Collegium Musicum, the choir of Leiden University; and the Domstad Jeugdorkest, a youth orchestra for high school students aged 14 to 18.

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

The [European Forum on Music \(EFM\) 2026](#) will take place 9-12 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), Check Out Their Events 2026

Get ready for another year full of music, learning, and unforgettable encounters! In ECA's new 2026 [brochure](#), you will find the full selection of the activities and events of the European Choral Association for 2026 - cooperation events of ECA, events under ECA label, and international events supported by ECA:

Walter Strauss Masterclass by [Devlet Çoksesli Korosu](#) – Türkiye

Festival di Primavera by [Feniarco - La voce dei cori](#) – Italy

[Europa Cantat Junior](#) – Spain

[European Youth Choir](#) – France

[World Youth Choir](#) – Macau, China

[Sing Ireland](#) – Ireland

RelaxSing Costa Barcelona – Spain

Fosco Corti Competition by [Feniarco - La voce dei cori](#) – Italy

World Symposium on Choral Music – Macau, China

... and much more!



Grieg International Choir Festival and NINA Solo Competition – for Young Voices

The [Grieg International Choir Festival](#) and NINA Solo Competition – for YoungVoices will take place in Bergen/Norway, **24-27 September 2026**.

Application deadline: **10 May 2026**



Choirs from around the world are welcome to join the festival and celebrate the art of singing. The programme offers competitions, friendship concerts, and diverse festival events, while young singers can showcase their talent in the NINA Solo Competition for young voices. More information and application on <https://griegfestival.no>
[Magic Moments & Memories from 2024](#)

**Welcome to the 75th European Music Festival for Young People
Neerpelt (Belgium), 4 – 10 May 2027**

The [European Music Festival for Young People](#) invites you to experience an unforgettable musical adventure at its event 2027 in Neerpelt, Belgium. For six vibrant days, the city comes alive with song, friendship, and international exchange. Over 150 children and youth choirs and instrumental ensembles from across Europe, Asia, South- and North-America, Oceania, and Africa will share their passion, perform for a renowned jury, and receive valuable, constructive feedback. Next to the jury concerts, you can enjoy inspiring workshops, spontaneous performances, and heartwarming moments of connection. EMJ is more than a festival – it's a celebration of young talent, cultural unity, and boundless musical energy. Visit www.emj.be/emj75 to find more information about EMJ 2027 and shine on this unique international stage!

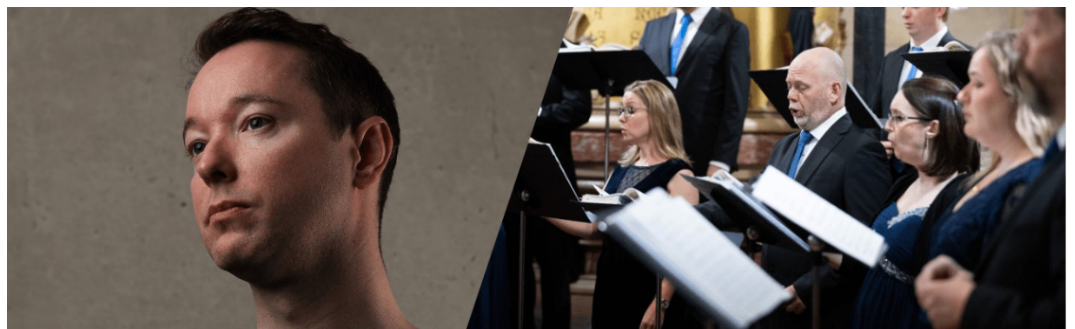


Cork International Choral Festival

Choral Composition Course, 28-30 April 2026

The [Cork International Choral Festival](#) is launching the first [Choral Composition Course](#) as part of the 2026 Festival (29 April-3 May 2026). It will be a three-day intensive course where participants will develop their skills in choral composition under the guidance of award-winning Irish composer [Seán Doherty](#), including a workshop with [Chamber Choir Ireland](#), and their conductor, Gabriel Crouch.

Registration closing date: **6 February 2025.**



[International Choral Conducting Course, 28 April-1 May 2026](#)



Join the [Cork International Choral Festival](#) for a four-day intensive, hands-on course where participants will develop their conducting skills under the leadership of expert international guest tutors, [Jennifer Moir](#) and [Jani Sívén](#), and with the participation of the acclaimed [Chamber Choir Ireland](#) for their final ensemble workshop.

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 closing date: **6 February 2026**

16th Cantemus International Choral Festival, Nyíregyháza, Hungary, 16-21 August 2026

The [Cantemus Festival](#) 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.



Summer Course on Choral Conducting, Barcelona, Spain, 7-10 July 2026

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 Lluich.

[Register](#) before **15 May 2026**.



Jeunesses Musicales International Launching a Call for Applications

Applications are now open for the JM Jazz World Orchestra (JMJO) 2026!

The [JMJO](#) is both an artistic and educational project that, since 2006, has brought together outstanding young jazz musicians from over 50 countries, offering them a unique experience

centred around artistic excellence, collective creation, cultural exchange, and professional development.

Are you a jazz musician aged 18–26 and ready to take your music to the world stage? Join an international ensemble of outstanding young artists for an unforgettable journey — from inspiring rehearsals in Grožnjan, Croatia, to a European concert tour across leading festivals and venues.

This is more than an orchestra. It's about growth, collaboration, cultural exchange, and making music that knows no borders.

[Apply](#) before 2 March 2026 (23:59 CET).



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.