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## NEWS FROM IFCM

**WORLD CHORAL DAY – FOURWAYS TO JOIN THE CELEBRATION IN 2020!**

Do you know that, in this 30th anniversary year of the World Choral Day (WCD), there are four ways to participate due to the special pandemic circumstances? Whether you are planning a traditional in-person concert, a virtual concert, or a virtual choir project, you can easily take part in this year's celebration. You can even participate with one of your previous recordings as long as you insert the WCD logo and proclamation in your video. Following the format in 2019, the 30th anniversary World Choral Day celebration will happen throughout the entire month of December 2020. This will provide a longer period of time during which choirs can participate, regardless of the option they choose. Please make sure to read all further details on the project's [website](#).

Subscribe your event and/or plan [here](#).

**Join us in the thir(s)tiest year for singing!**



WCD 2019 in Armenia

**NEWS FROM THE WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC IN DOHA, QATAR**

**The Qatar choral team developing an Arabic transliteration system for non-Arab choral singers seeks additional collaborators.**

*The Qatar Concert Choir is developing a system for adapting IPA Arabic (standardized and dialect) to vocal music, with the goal of making Arabic pronunciation more accurate and accessible to non-Arabic speaking singers. They are currently collaborating with a number of choral leaders and linguists in the region but are seeking to connect with others who have experience in this area and would like to contribute to the project.*

The Qatar Concert Choir (QCC) has found itself in the unusual position of having a predominantly non-Arab speaking membership preparing a significant programme of Arabic choral music. Early on, it became apparent that the IPA and other established

transliteration systems for Arabic do not lend themselves well to singing. Most choral arrangers have modified the IPA or have developed their own unique system for representing and adapting Arabic speech to singing. The result is that there are almost as many systems for transliteration as there are arrangers and composers of Arabic choral works. For QCC's predominantly non-Arabic membership, this inconsistency of representation poses significant challenges to accuracy and efficiency.

To address this challenge, QCC recruited a team of native Arabic speakers from different regions and a professor of linguistics from among its membership. This group has worked together to develop a hybridized system of transliteration. Using the IPA as a base and incorporating elements from systems already used by various Arab choirs and arrangers in the region, they have created a pronunciation key that reads left to right, fits Western musical notation, shows clearly sustained or modified sounds and placement of diphthongs, uses single symbols for each sound, and can be applied to multiple Arabic dialects. They are currently in the process of rewriting all QCC's current repertoire using this system, substantially streamlining accuracy and acquisition for non-native singers. Leadership at QCC would be very grateful to [connect with others](#) who have spent time working on this subject or who have developed their own system for representing Arabic text in choral scores.



## NEWS FROM THE CHINA INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL 2020

The 15th China International Chorus Festival pivoted to an online festival in 2020 amid the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the move seems to have actually helped to increase its popularity. The opening ceremony, which was streamed online on 5 October 2020, received more than 120 million views, the highest number in the history of the festival. More than 20 top choruses from China and abroad participated in 2020 festival, including the Vienna Boys Choir, Estonian Voices, and the Beijing Philharmonic Choir.

The hosts of the opening ceremony were physically present at two different locations but, through the power of the internet, were able to host together despite the vast distance between them. Jin Chengzhi, founder of the renowned Rainbow Chamber Singers, was in Shanghai, while Eva May, Beijing-based TV host, was in Vienna. The most moving component of the opening ceremony was a performance by the Beijing Hospital Choir, which expressed appreciation and respect for all the medical personnel who are working on the front lines of the fight against Covid-19. Several international choirs performed classic Chinese songs: the Vienna Boys Choir performed “I love you, China” and a South Korean choir sang “The moon represents my heart” in Chinese. The opening ceremony ended with a performance of “We are the world”, acknowledging and celebrating the power of the choral art.

[CICF website](#)



CICF 2018

## WORLD YOUTH CHOIR ONLINE RECEPTION

On 16 September 2020, the [European Choral Association - Europa Cantat](#) (ECA-EC) hosted an Online Reception for potential recruiters and supporters of the [World Youth Choir](#) (WYC), in cooperation with the World Youth Choir Foundation Board and session manager Inês Moreira. The reception was part of the multi-annual cooperation project [EP:IC](#) (Emerging Professional: Internationalisation of music Careers) coordinated by the ECA-EC and co-funded by the [European Union Creative Europe programme](#). EP:IC



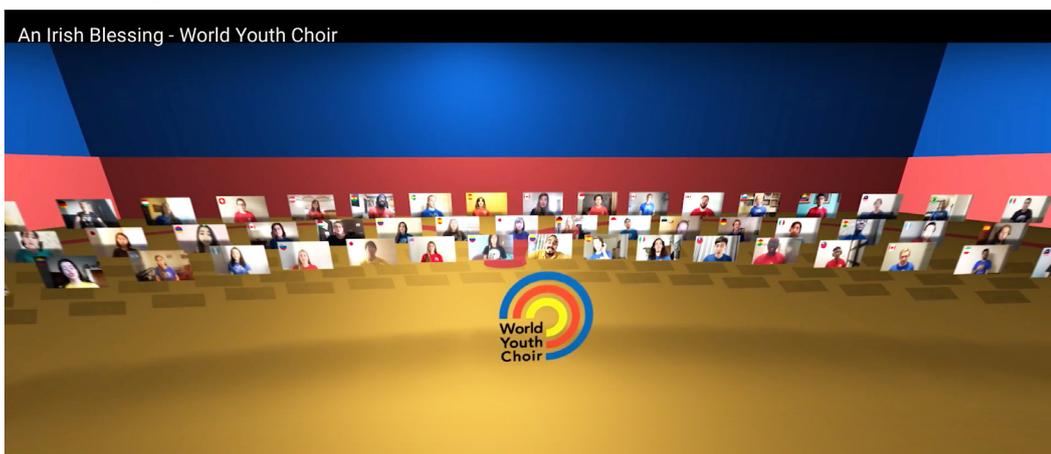
## Co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union

provides emerging musicians with invaluable skills and professional experience that complement their formal training and can help boost their careers at the international level. Understanding that collective music making is a powerful tool to bring people and nations together, the EP:IC project aims to assess and verify the value and impact of auditioned youth music ensembles in the professionalisation and internationalisation of careers. It intends also to improve the training of emerging professionals and to foster the creation of new ensembles across Europe.

The goal of the WYC Online Reception was to present the World Youth Choir as a project which contributes in many ways to the professionalisation and internationalisation of careers of talented young singers. There is strong evidence that many World Youth Choir singers end up becoming well-known professional singers in different parts of the world thanks to their early experience in this special ensemble. Additionally, the reception provided an opportunity to promote the World Youth Choir with potential supporters, promoters, and session organizers.

Guests at the reception were able to watch a presentation of the World Youth Choir and its activities, meet the people behind the project, and hear moving testimonials of WYC alumni who had originally been invited as soloists to the 2020 special project with the National Youth Orchestra of Germany in the frame of the Beethoven Anniversary year BTHVN (which unfortunately had to be cancelled). The soloists shared with the guests the incredible impact their participation in World Youth Choir sessions had on their professional careers and their connections to other professionals internationally. Since a live performance was not possible, the guests enjoyed a virtual choir video with WYC alumni singing *An Irish Blessing*, a song which has played a significant role in all [past WYC sessions](#). Guests were presented with a [link](#) to access additional videos and informational material about the choir. At the end, some of the guests gathered with Board members and the session manager to have more private conversations in smaller groups and ask more specific questions. A lot of inspiring ideas came out of these group discussions, and the WYC Foundation Board will follow up on these suggestions.

If you would like to support the World Youth Choir in any way or if you would like to know more about what it means to host a session of the WYC, please write to [manager@worldyouthchoir.org](mailto:manager@worldyouthchoir.org) to ask for a link to the recorded session of the WYC Online Reception.



## NEWS FROM IFCM FOUNDING MEMBERS

### NEWS FROM À CŒUR JOIE INTERNATIONAL

The choral association A Coeur Joie International has now its website:

[www.aceurjoieinternational.org](http://www.aceurjoieinternational.org)

Contact: [info@aceurjoieinternational.org](mailto:info@aceurjoieinternational.org)



### EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION - EUROPA CANTAT (ECA-EC)

#### Results of the European Award for Choral Composers

The [European Choral Association - Europa Cantat](#) called upon their member organisations all over Europe to submit recently-composed pieces of choral music to be entered in an international competition. A jury comprised of internationally-renowned conductors and composers Josep Vila i Casañas (Spain), Seán Doherty (Ireland), Karin Rehnqvist (Sweden), Tadeja Vulc (Slovenia), and Eriks Ešņvalds (Latvia) selected the following pieces for awards:

- Category A (works a cappella): *Amor, io fallo* by Belgian composer **Jan Van der Roost**
- Category A, Special Mention: *Sanctus amor* by Belgian composer **Hans Helsen**
- Category B (works with accompaniment): *Autumn soils* by Belgian composer **Maarten Van Ingelgem**
- Category B, Special Mention: *How sweet the moonlight* by Belgian composer Vigdis Hansa Elst

Each awarded work will be performed in the frame of the [EUROPA CANTAT Festival](#) in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in 2021. Read the full press release [here](#).

### AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)

#### [ACDA National Conference](#) - "Diversity in Music": 17-19 March 2021 (Dallas, Texas).

The conference will be virtual. The steering committee is currently working out details. Registration opens in November. We are especially excited to announce the inauguration of a **Student Leadership Academy**, a thread of conference activities designed especially for choral students. Watch for more!

[Resources for Choral Professionals During the Pandemic](#). ACDA has created a page of information, ideas, and tools especially for choral conductors and educators. Most are free, and the page is updated regularly.

Included on the resource page is a **living database of artists willing to make online guest appearances for choirs and music classes**, which ACDA member Dr. Rebecca Lord has developed. There are separate lists in the directory for conductors, composers, vocalists, instrumentalists, and music technology professionals. It is an amazing offering of diverse



professionals willing to appear virtually for choir classes, events, community and church choirs - about any choral situation. [Visit the directory](#).

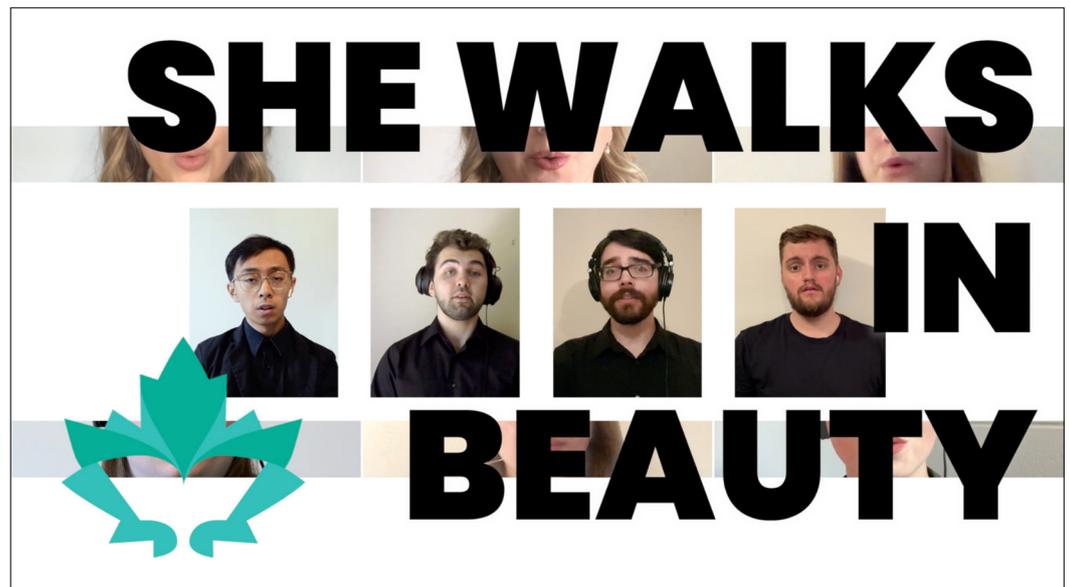
ACDA has created guidance for choral singing and study during the COVID-19 pandemic, [The COVID-19 Response Committee Report](#) (15 June 2020)



## NEWS FROM IFCM MEMBERS

### NEWS FROM CHORAL CANADA

[Choral Canada](#) is proud to share two videos from its first ever **National Youth Virtual Choir of Canada** project, conducted by Dr. Jean-Sébastien Vallée and Apprentice Conductor Thomas Burton. The [first video](#) is the 2020 National Youth Choir of Canada performing



“She walks in beauty” by Kevin Pirker, the winner of Choral Canada’s 2020 National Competition for Choral Writing. The [second video](#) is the National Youth Choir of Canada Alumni performing “All of us” from the oratorio *Considering Matthew Shepard* by Craig Hella Johnson. Enjoy seeing some beautiful landscapes from across Canada and hearing some incredible singing from some of Canada’s top choral artists.



**AMJ PRESENTS ITS 20TH EUROTREFF, A FESTIVAL FOR YOUTH CHOIRS**

**Wolfenbuettel, Germany, 8-12 September 2021**

Detailed information on the program, participation fees and ateliers, as well as the [application form](#) can be found on the [AMJ website](#).

**Deadline for application is 15 December 15 2020.**



**WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER IN OUR CHORAL WORLD**

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.