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2020 CALL FOR IFCM BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The International Federation for Choral Music [calls for candidates](#) to fill positions on the IFCM Board of Directors and at the Presidency for terms beginning in August 2020. All candidate applications must be sent through these links before 1 March 2020:

- [IFCM Board Elections 2020](#)
- [IFCM Presidency Elections 2020](#)

More details on the elections [online](#), in the [IFCM Bylaws](#) and [IFCM Internal Policy Document](#) or [in these extracts](#).

WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC 2020

It's World Symposium Year!

Happy 2020! What are you waiting for? It's time to take action! Persuade a couple of friends to join you and the rest of the choral world in beautiful Auckland, New Zealand, for the 12th World Symposium on Choral Music.

[Register now](#)



Announcing Haydn's *The Creation*

The WSCM2020 team are pleased to announce that the final concert of WSCM2020, on Saturday 18 July 2020, will be a monumental performance of Haydn's great oratorio, *The Creation*, performed by a special New Zealand Symposium Choir and the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra (APO).

Haydn's original and colourful masterpiece is not only full of wonderful choruses but resonates with the WSCM2020 theme, "People and the Land / He tangata, He whenua".

Here's a taster (or reminder!) of Haydn's great [work](#).

WSCM2020 Trade Expo

There's still time to register for a WSCM2020 trade booth.

WSCM2020's Trade Expo will be a key meeting place of the Symposium, which has already

attracted registrations from 44 countries across the globe!

The Trade Expo – which will be open for the eight days of WSCM2020, from Saturday 11 to Saturday 18 July 2020 – is an ideal opportunity to showcase your music-related products and services in an environment filled with international choral music industry leaders, purchasers, influencers and decision-makers.

Don't miss out. [Book your booth today.](#)

Introducing Shenzhen Lily Choir

This outstanding Chinese girls' choir has received many accolades and more than 30 prizes from international competitions, as well as giving performances in more than 20 countries. WSCM2020 will be their first visit to New Zealand, and they are excited to exchange music with excellent choirs from all over the world.

[Shenzhen Lily Choir](#) is not just the singers (aged 11-17 years) you will see on stage, but also the hundreds of young women who have passed through the choir in the last 22 years. Many alumnae have become professional singers and musicians while others have turned the discipline and teamwork learned through their participation in this flagship choir into success in other careers. 恭喜发财!

[Read](#) more about Shenzhen Lily Choir.



Get to Know Portland State Chamber Choir

[Portland State Chamber Choir](#) loves breaking new ground. They were the first American choir to win the Grand Prix at the Seghizzi International Contest for Choral Singing in 2013 and then repeated the feat at the Bali International Choral Festival in 2017. Their 2014 album, *Into Unknown Worlds*, is described as a modern compendium of choral music from around the globe and took a coveted spot in *Stereophile's* '2015 Records to Die For' list.

[Read](#) more Portland State Chamber Choir.



Learn about Pop-Up Detmold

With [Pop-Up Detmold](#) you can expect high-level arrangements sung in a natural and open-minded style. Enjoy their trademark search for fun and freedom in discovering the specific character of their individual voices while still sounding as homogenous as possible.

This award-winning choir can't wait to come to the other side of the world to learn more about choir singing in other countries.

[Read](#) more about Pop-Up Detmold.



Spotlight on NZ

Auckland was the first global city in the world to welcome in 2020. They did it in magnificent style. Take a [look](#)!

First to See the Sun

One of the beauties of Auckland is that a beach is always within easy reach. Even from Auckland's central business district, it's a short trip to Mission Bay where you can breathe the salt air and feel the white sand between your toes all year round. Alternatively, take a short ferry ride over to Devonport, another gorgeous city suburb on the sheltered coastline.

[Read](#) more about beaches close to the city.



Piha Beach

IFCM CHORAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION 2019

The fourth edition of the IFCM Choral Composition Competition has reached its conclusion. Organised by the International Federation for Choral (IFCM), the aims of the competition are to promote the creation and wide distribution of new and innovative choral repertoire and to recognize contemporary choral composers and their creative work. The 2019 jury, consisting of Alberto Grau (Venezuela/Spain, President), Ēriks Ešenvalds (Latvia, member), and Sergey Pleshak (Russia, member), reviewed and rated 182 works submitted by composers from five continents. The winner of the first prize is *Jubilate Deo* by the Italian composer **Simone Campanini**. Second place goes to the American composer **Jonathan David's** *Te Lucis ante Terminum*, and *A Voice is Heard in Rama* by American composer **David Walter** is awarded third place. The three winning composers will receive a monetary prize, a diploma, and a plaque. The first-place composition will be performed by one of the presenting choirs at the 2020 World Symposium on Choral Music (WSCM) in Auckland, New Zealand. The three winning compositions will be featured in the *International Choral Bulletin* (ICB) together with interviews with the composers. Further information on www.ifcm.net.

WORLD CHORAL DAY 2019

The World Choral Day project was boosted in 2018 when the new website and registration system were launched along with more consistent, intense communication. Building on the success and experience of the World Choral Day 2018, the World Choral Day 2019 flourished with nearly 350 events and concerts participating in the celebration including a record number of countries represented.

In 2019, we celebrated World Choral Day on the second Sunday of December. Additionally, any choral events occurring during the entire month of December were encouraged to participate, creating a stronger and more visible presence for the project globally. All together, there were 344 registered events in 67 countries. Countries in which there has never been a World Choral Day event included Jordan, Lebanon, and Vietnam. <http://worldchoralday.org/>



Brussels International Singers and Brussels International Junior Singers held their World Choral Day concert on December 7, 2019, at the Brussels Royal Music Conservatoire, Belgium

WORLD YOUTH CHOIR 2020

Concert tour: Mark your Calendar

This year, the World Youth Choir is having a special session in the frame of the festivities of the Beethoven Anniversary Year, joining the National Youth Orchestra of Germany – Bundesjugendorchester (BJO) - for a programme of Beethoven's *9th Symphony* and a commissioned work by Tan Dun entitled *Nine*.

The rehearsal session will be hosted in Bonn, Germany, from 30 July to 07 August, where the choir and orchestra will have time to work on the repertoire both separately and as a combined ensemble.

Following the rehearsal session, the World Youth Choir and National Youth Orchestra of Germany will go on an exciting international tour of concerts, featuring the world première of Tan Dun's piece *Nine*:

- 08 Aug: Bonn, Germany, Conductor: Tan Dun
- 09 Aug: Berlin, Germany, Conductor: Tan Dun
- 10 Aug: Einbeck, Germany, Conductor: Jörn Hinnerk Andresen
- 11 Aug: Lübeck, Germany, Conductor: Tan Dun
- 13 Aug: Amsterdam, the Netherlands, Conductor: Tan Dun
- 14 Aug: Wiesbaden, Germany, Conductor: Jörn Hinnerk Andresen
- 15 Aug: Weikersheim, Germany, Conductor: Jörn Hinnerk Andresen
- 16 Aug: Kassel, Germany, Conductor: Jörn Hinnerk Andresen
- 18 Aug: Sterzing/Vipiteno, Italy, Conductor: Jörn Hinnerk Andresen
- 19 Aug: Vienna, Austria, Conductor: Jörn Hinnerk Andresen

For more information on the 2020 World Youth Choir Session and Tour, please visit the World Youth Choir [website](#).

ASIA PACIFIC YOUTH CHOIR 2020

The Asia Pacific Youth Choir is original in its concept, bringing together talented young singers (aged 18 - 28 years) from the Asia Pacific region. This year it is going to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 4 - 12 November 2020. Recruitment and auditions begin in February 2020. For more information, see Asia Pacific Youth Choir [website](#).



FIRST AFRICA CANTAT FESTIVAL, NAIROBI, KENYA, 22-29 AUGUST, 2020

During this inaugural Africa Cantat, three-hour workshops will be presented by guest conductors. The repertoire of each workshop will be performed during the final festival concert. The Africa Cantat programme will take you on an exciting musical safari through various cultural areas, repertoires and choral practices around the world under the direction of the following conductors:

- Andre Thomas (USA): *Understanding and performing the Negro Spirituals*
- Jennifer Tham (Singapore): *Connecting continents – a musical journey*
- Sergio Sansão (Brazil): *Brazil-Africa, a musical bridge*
- Ambroise Kua Nzambi Toko (DR Congo): *Enjoy a musical boat ride into the waters of equatorial Africa*
- Jan Schumacher (Germany): *Romantic sounds: A journey into the soul of Romantic choral music from Europe*
- Lynn Williams (Australia): *Sounds of Australia*
- Jean Benoit Bakhoun (Senegal): *A musical gateway with the rhythms of French -speaking African countries*
- Jean-Marie Puissant (France): *Famous opera choruses, like a fresh dew*
- Sylvester Otieno (Kenya): *Muziki Wetu: the typical Kenyan choral experience*
- For more information, visit the Africa Cantat [website](#) or contact the festival directly via [email](#).
- Come to Nairobi and enjoy the rich diversity of choral music from different regions in Africa and other countries worldwide! Jambo Kenya!

NEWS FROM IFCM FOUNDING MEMBERS

NEWS FROM THE JAPAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION

Educational choral music programme for young musicians of Japan



The heart of the Japan Choral Association Youth Choir (JCAYC) is a 4-day music camp, an educational programme featuring top choral musicians of the world (singers, directors, composers, and educators) as faculty and fostering the development of young singers chosen through auditions from all parts of Japan. For four days each March, these richly-talented music camp participants receive instruction on high-level craft from the faculty as well benefit from a wealth of choral experiences. These young singers experience an international exchange through music, thereby deepening international mutual understandings. The outcomes of this learning experience are presented in a concert after the music camp. As the JCAYC is the premier youth choir in Japan, the concert attracts large audiences every year.

In 2020, the 9th JCAYC will be held in Nagasaki, a significant city in Japanese history since the 16th century. Once you visit Nagasaki, you will find the city interesting with world heritage churches, an exotic cityscape, a 10 million dollar night view, etc. From its tragic atomic bomb history in WWII, the city prays for permanent peace in the world.

The 2020 JCAYC guest conductor is Nigel Short from the UK. He was a member (counter-tenor) of renowned ensembles, The Tallis Scholars and The King's Singers and is now the conductor of the award-winning choir, Tenebrae.

You can be a participant with this world-famous conductor and 40 young devoted singers at Nagasaki!

The outline of the 9th JCA Youth Choir is as follows:

- Conductor: Nigel Short (UK)
- Dates: 24-28 March 2020
- Venues: Nagasaki University, Sogakudo (music camp); Kassui High School Chapel, Nagasaki (concert)
- National organizers: Japan Choral Association (JCA) / The Asahi Shimbun
- Local organizer: Nagasaki Choral Association (NCA)
- Additional partner: British Council

For more details, visit the JCA [website](#)!

EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION - EUROPA CANTAT (ECA-EC)

Youth choirs, what are your plans for May 29-30, 2020?

How about being part of the [European Youth Event](#)!

[Register](#) until 29 February 2020.



The [European Youth Event](#) (EYE) is organised every two years in Strasbourg, France, by the [European Parliament](#) for young people (aged 16-30) to meet in order to share and shape their ideas for the future of [#Europe](#).

The Youth Committee of the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat contributes to the EYE programme by offering an open singing session, *Let's Sing!*, they say, showcasing collective singing as a tool for community building. The session will be open to all EYE attendees, with no experience needed.

In order to be able to participate at the event, you are required to register as part of a group of minimum 10 people. For the purpose of enabling smaller groups or individuals to participate, a [Facebook group](#) has been created for young people to contact each other. Participation itself is free of charge, but participants must cover their own travel and accommodation.

AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)

[ACDA Regional Conferences](#) - March 2020

- Central & North Central Regions - March 4-7, 2020 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Eastern Region - March 4-7, 2020 in Rochester, New York
- Southwestern Region - March 4-7, 2020 in Little Rock, Arkansas
- Western Region - Mar. 4-7, 2020 in Salt Lake City, Utah
- Northwestern Region - March 10-14, 2020 in Spokane, Washington
- Southern Region - March 10-14, 2020 in Mobile, Alabama

ACDA Regional Exhibit Registrations open! Book for one or more conferences in one transaction.

[2nd National Symposium on Research in Choral Singing](#) - May 1-2 (Atlanta, Georgia)

[Summer Choral Composers Forum](#) - June 22-29, 2020 (Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania). Applications for composer participation are available [HERE](#).

[NextDirection Choral Leadership Conference](#) - July 6-10, 2020 (Eau Claire, Wisconsin). Registration is open, with a deadline of March 30, 2020.

- **[NextDirection Virginia](#)** - July 28-31, 2020 (Virginia Beach, Virginia)

[ACDA National Conference](#) - March 17-20, 2021 (Dallas, Texas)

- Auditions for Performing Choirs at the 2021 ACDA National Conference open on February 1, 2020, with a deadline of April 15, 2020. Guidelines are available [here](#).
- Proposals for Interest Sessions at the 2021 ACDA National Conference are being accepted beginning February 1, 2020, with a deadline of March 31, 2020. Information and requirements are available [here](#).

NEWS FROM IFCM MEMBERS

BRIGHTON INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS

3-7 September 2020





Brighton, England, will host its first-ever international choral festival and invites choirs worldwide to join us for a spectacular celebration of singing, with masterclasses, concerts, and choral competition. Sing your heart out by the sea in amazing venues from majestic churches and the glorious gardens of the Royal Pavilion to the famous Brighton Dome concert hall!

[Registration and contact details](#)

4TH CHORAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION, YEREVAN, ARMENIA

20 February 2020

The aim of the 4th Choral Composition Competition (Yerevan, Armenia) is to promote creation of new choral repertoire for children's choirs. This year the competition is dedicated to the 150th anniversary of Komitas Vardapet. PDF versions of competitive scores should be sent to alsccc@hotmail.com by 20 February 2020. Contact: Little Singers of Armenia

Email: alsccc@hotmail.com

Website: <https://www.alsccc.am/>

WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR CHORAL WORLD IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2020

16-22 Feb: Singing in Castara, Trinidad and Tobago - www.lacock.org

20 Feb: 4th Choral Composition Competition, Yerevan, Armenia - <https://www.alsccc.am/>

21 Feb: One Earth Choir 2020, global project - www.OneEarthChoir.net

28 Feb-9 Mar: Komitas International Festival, Yerevan, Armenia -

<https://www.facebook.com/komitas.komitasfest.5>

11-15 Mar: Roma Music Festival 2020, Italy - www.mrf-musicfestivals.com

12-16 Mar: Paris International Choir Festival, France - www.musiccontact.com

12-15 Mar: 26th International Choir Festival of Paris, France - www.musicandfriends.lu

13-15 Mar: 9th International Gdansk Choir Festival, Poland - www.gdanskfestival.pl

13-16 Mar: Discover Puerto Rico and its Choral Music, Ponce, Puerto Rico -

www.music-contact.com

19-23 Mar: Dublin International Choral Festival, Ireland - www.music-contact.com

19-23 Mar: 13th Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition, Fukushima, Japan -

www.vocalensemble.jp/en/

19-23 Mar: Festival of Peace and Brotherhood, Rome, Italy - www.music-contact.com

25-29 Mar: Young Prague Festival, Prague, Czech Republic - www.music-contact.com

26-29 Mar: ON STAGE with Interkultur in Verona, Italy - <https://www.interkultur.com/>

27-29 Mar: 23rd Rainbow International Festival of Children's and Young Choirs, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation - www.petersburgfestival.com