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NEWS FROM IFCM

CALL FOR VIDEOS, TIPS, IDEAS, WEBINARS FOR IFCM YOUTUBE PLAYLIST

The world is different now but, through all the changes, music has accompanied us step by step. People are singing by the windows to their neighbours, and artists are playing concerts on social media. For the choral community, life has been even more challenging as choral activities are not safe right now. New challenges bring new solutions; nowadays, there are many channels for us to stay connected with each other and our audiences. IFCM believes that it is more important than ever to #staystrong and #sticktogether.

We invite you to join us and share with us your choral videos, tips, ideas, webinars, rehearsals, and performances to be shared with all the choral community. We are building a Youtube Playlist that will gather all these contents and would be very happy to have you in it!

To share the video, you just have to [email](#) it to us. We will give you feedback and upload it.

Remember, to be updated and never miss out on new amazing projects, follow us on our social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#).



The graphic features the IFCM logo in the top left corner. The main text reads "CALL FOR VIDEOS, TIPS, IDEAS, WEBINARS FOR IFCM YOUTUBE PLAYLIST". Below this is a video player interface showing a woman singing into a microphone. At the bottom, it says "Join us and share with us your choral videos #staystrong #sticktogether."

NEWS FROM WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC 2023

The first meeting of the World Symposium on Choral Music (WSCM) 2023 Organizing Committee was held on January 3, 2021. Composed of six International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) representatives, six representatives from the [Qatar National Choral Association](#) (QNCA), and two honorary members, the team is set to work on the monumental and exciting task of bringing the WSCM to the Middle East region for the first time. To that end, the QNCA representatives are from Qatar and the Arab region. Qatar, with its ancient traditions of hospitality and contemporary global outlook, offers a unique and welcoming setting for voices from around the world to mix, mingle, and share their unique choral traditions and knowledge.

The WSCM2023 team is supported by two committees, Artistic and Administrative. The Artistic Committee is co-chaired by Giovanni Pasini (QNCA) and Jan Schumacher (IFCM Vice-President). It includes an additional four members: Cristian Grases (IFCM representative), Nasser Sahim Nasseb ([Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra](#)), Alena Pyne ([Sing Qatar](#)), and Beverly Shangkuan-Cheng (IFCM representative). In addition to this team, the Artistic Committee has nominated [Dana Alfardan](#), a Qatari composer and songwriter, as an Honorary Member. The committee is in the process of establishing a regional artistic advisory board to assist in the design of the Middle Eastern portion of the program. Together, these individuals will ensure that the very best of the world and the region is represented on the stages and at the podiums of the 2023 WSCM.



Qatar Youth Choir, Cond. Alena Pyne

The Administrative Committee is co-chaired by Ki Adams (IFCM-Vice President) and Jennifer Taynen (QNCA). Members of the committee are Yoshihiro Egawa (IFCM Vice-President), Gábor Móczár (IFCM representative), Aljazi Al Henzab ([Qatar Foundation](#)), and Anwar Al Nimri ([Arab Choral Network](#)). The Administrative Committee is delighted that Khalid Salim, Head of the [Qatari Ministry of Culture and Sports' Music Affairs Center](#), has accepted the title of Honorary Member in their team. The Ministry of Culture and Sports' active participation in the planning of this event offers very welcome resources and assistance in all aspects of this project. With Qatar's state-of-the-art facilities, global connectivity as the hub for Qatar Airways, and infrastructure legacy of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, participants in the 2023 WSCM can look forward to a seamlessly organized event that is easy to navigate and accessible to all.

Both Artistic and Administrative Committees have quickly settled down to work. Everyone is excited by the opportunities presented in this new location and looks forward to creating a WSCM like none held before. Watch for an announcement of the theme and the application timeline for choirs and lecturers in the coming months.



NEWS FROM AFRICA CANTAT FESTIVAL

The Africa Cantat International Committee met on 13 February 2021 to evaluate the current situation of the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on the organization of the [Africa Cantat festival](#), planned for the summer of 2021 after the 2020 edition had to be replaced by an online event.

After taking into account the information regarding the Covid-19 situation in Africa and the rest of the world and in order to ensure the safety of participants, it is more realistic not to envisage a physical festival before 2022. The international committee together with the organizing team in Kenya will keep you updated with more information on the website and social media of the festival.

In the meantime, the international committee will consider the possibility of hosting considers to host another small online event in 2021, to make sure that the potential participants and the new network created in 2020 will not be lost.

Please visit the [Africa Cantat Facebook page](#) to stay tuned.



NEWS FROM IFCM FOUNDING MEMBERS

NEWS FROM JAPAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION

Mothers shine in JCA virtual Mothers Chorus Project

The Mothers Chorus Festival has been one of the most popular competitions held annually by Japan Choral Association (JCA). As the event was cancelled for 2020, JCA planned the first-ever virtual Mothers Chorus Project to keep the singing spirit alive. The

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result was a choir of 1,518 singers from all over Japan and the world! The [video](#) was released on 24 December 2020 and now it is available with English subtitles! Don't miss the opportunity to hear [JCA President and Vice-President](#) speak about the project and share comments from singers.

These were keys for making the project successful:

- Sheet music of the song **Sing!** was sent to singers for free with generous support by Kewpie Corporation.
- An instructional [video](#) and leaflet on how to record and post the videos was prepared.
- Sing-along guide videos for individual sections (soprano, mezzo-soprano, and alto) were made available.
- To encourage participation, video messages were created by choral musicians including the composer, conductor, pianist, and JCA executives.
- A video [recitation](#) by Shuntaro Tanikawa, the poet of *Sing!* was produced.
- The call for singers was made through various media: website of JCA and local associations, Social Networking Service (SNS), and Asahi Shimbun (major Japanese newspaper and a JCA sponsor).

Virtual Mothers Chorus was different from other virtual choir projects in that there were thousands of enthusiastic singers already looking forward to the live competition scheduled for summer 2020. From the opening moments of the video, you can see from the singers' shining expressions how much they were waiting for a moment to sing along with others. After being released, the video went viral within the choral community and was viewed 20,000 times in the first week.



EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION - EUROPA CANTAT (ECA-EC)

EUROPA CANTAT: the registration is now closed

The number of registrations exceeded all our expectations as more than 2,500 participants from 27 countries registered for the festival. We are honoured and happy!

However, we recognise our responsibility and therefore put all our efforts in carrying out this festival safely.

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In the upcoming month, the Music Commission will review all registrations and communicate the decision, which will be based on the three choices participants indicated in the registration form and the organisational capabilities of the festival. Participants will be notified about the decision most probably by the end of March.

In the meantime, our organising team will keep an eye on all the guidelines for measures and do their best to ensure safe and appropriate conditions for every single part of the program.

We are currently in contact with all relevant institutions and work hard to obtain their approval for carrying out the desired scope of the festival by the end of April.

We suggest to all the participants to wait with planning the trip a little longer and first check all the possibilities of travel and insurance to cover the risk of flight and hotel cancellation.

Any additional information about the festival can be found at: <https://europacantat.jskd.si/>

See you in July in Ljubljana! #singwithlove



Grants for conductors' events

Up to 2000 € for organisations looking to increase the international audience of your events.



Grants for conductor's events

Are you planning to make your events more accessible to an international audience? This one's for you! Through the [Training Leading Voices](#) project, the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat is offering grants to support the internationalisation of events for conductors or vocal leaders.

You can apply for up to 2.000 € to support your projects, e.g., to invite international speakers or to facilitate translation or other technical requirements.

Find more information under [Bursaries](#) and apply for a grant until the 31 March 2021.

The grants are part of the project [Training Leading Voices](#), coordinated by [ZIMIHC](#) and co-funded by the [Creative Europe Programme](#) of the European Union.

Applications for the EuroChoir 2021 are open

Calling all young singers between 18 and 30 years of age. [Registrations](#) for the EuroChoir 2021 are officially open!

This is your chance to:

- Spend ten days of your summer in Limerick, a major city set in Munster province in the south of Ireland;
- Rehearse and prepare in Limerick, Ireland, together with the amazing Yuval Weinberg and Bernie Sherlock;
- Perform in two wonderful locations: St. Mary's Cathedral (Limerick) and Christchurch Cathedral (Dublin);
- End your experience by travelling to Ljubljana, Slovenia, for the [Europa Cantat Festival](#)
- Meet, and perform for, over a thousand singers from all over the world.

Find out more and begin your application [here](#). Registration closes 12 April 2021!

This year's EuroChoir session is made possible by [Sing Ireland](#), in collaboration with [JSKD](#) and [European Choral Association - Europa Cantat](#), supported by the EP:IC project and co-founded by the [Creative Europe Programme](#) of the European Union.

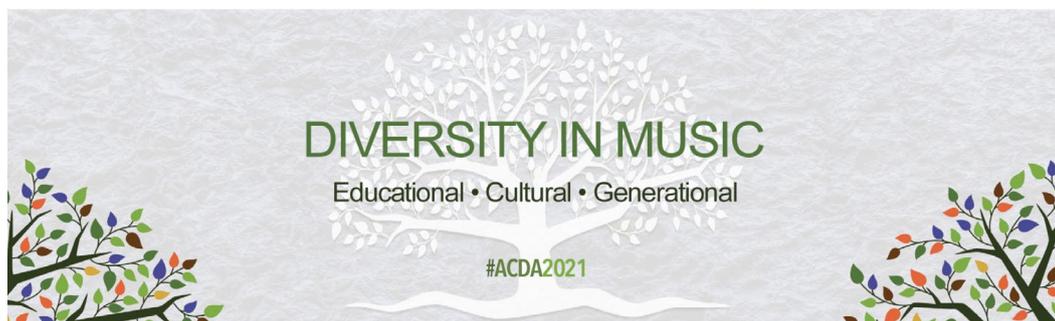


EUROCHOIR 2021
11 - 24 July 2021
Ireland & Slovenia

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AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)

You can still register! [ACDA National Conference - "Diversity in Music"](#) – 18-20 March 2021. This year's national conference is virtual, making it easier than ever before to "attend." If you can't or don't want to participate in real time, register and you can access recordings and materials through December 2021. For more, visit the conference [webpage](#).



DIVERSITY IN MUSIC
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#ACDA2021

[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.

ACDA's regional conferences have been scheduled for 2022!

- Eastern Region (Boston, Massachusetts), 9-12 February 2022
- Midwestern Region (Chicago, Illinois), 16-19 February 2022



- Southern Region (Raleigh, NC), 23-26 February 2022
- Southwestern Region (Little Rock, Arkansas), 28 February – 3 March 2022
- Western Region (Long Beach, California), 2-5 March 2022
- Northwestern Region (Spokane, Washington), 9-12 March 2022

NEWS FROM IFCM MEMBERS

NEWS FROM FENIARCO

11th European Academy for Choral Conductors, Fano, Italy

29 August - 5 September 2021

The European Academy for Choral Conductors is a biennial professional masterclass opened to active participants (10 maximum) as well as auditors from all over Europe, organised by [Feniarco](#) in partnership with [European Choral Association - Europa Cantat](#) and in collaboration with [Arcom](#) and [Coro Polifonico Malatestiano](#).

All 10 participants will work for the first three days of the Academy. Then, five advanced-level conductors, selected by the lecturer, will refine their conducting skills as they prepare the final concert. The other five conductors will attend the lessons as auditors. The lecturer for the Academy 2021 is Frieder Bernius (Germany).

[Apply](#) before 31 May 2021.



11th European Academy for choral conductors

lecturer **FRIEDER BERNIUS**

FANO / ITALY

29th August / 5th September 2021

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN MUSIC FESTIVAL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Neerpelt, Belgium, 1 May 2021: Online!

Due to the current situation and travel advisories, it will not be possible to invite thousands of youngsters in Neerpelt for the 69th edition of the European Music Festival for Young People in May 2021... However, the festival will take place ONLINE! The EMJ wants to

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offer everyone - vocal and instrumentals groups - the opportunity to participate in this unique online event.

Be prepared for a day full of jury concerts, shows, joy and fraternization.

For more information visit our [website](#).



MUSIC COMPETITION LAUNCHED TO RAISE AWARENESS OF CHILD LABOUR

The global [Music Against Child Labour Initiative](#) (MACLI) was launched in 2013 by the [International Labour Organization](#) (ILO), [Jeunesses Musicales International](#) (JMI), [International Federation of Musicians](#) (FIM), the Simon Bolivar Music Foundation "El Sistema", and a host of international music figures.

The Music Against Child Labour Initiative, which brings together musicians to raise awareness of child labour, has launched a **song competition** on 3 February 2021 to mark the UN International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CHORAL MUSIC monthly electronic newsletter

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Musicians can submit their competition entries to one of three categories: a global category for all artists; a grassroots category for music projects involving children affected by child labour; and a CLEAR Cotton project category for national competitions run in Burkina Faso, Mali, Pakistan, and Peru, where the ILO works with partners to combat child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile, and garment value chains. Winners will be awarded a cash prize, a professional music-video recording of their song, and the opportunity for their song to be part of the global World Day Against Child Labour event in June 2021. The competition deadline is **12 April 2021**.

For more information and application information, see the MACLI [webpage](#) or [Facebook page](#).

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH AND APRIL 2021 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.