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NEWS FROM IFCM

WORLD CHORAL EXPO 2022

Lisbon, Portugal, 3-7 September 2022

For the second time since its creation in 2015, the IFCM [World Choral Expo](#) (WCE) will be organized in the beautiful city of Lisbon, Portugal. While a regional committee has been created to focus on the local community, the IFCM WCE 2022 committee has planned an exciting international program with ensembles from five continents.

- Performances by 12 invited choirs and vocal ensembles including two professional ensembles
- [Colourful Voices](#) program with children's choirs
- [EXchange!](#) program (papers and presentations) in collaboration with [The Singing Network](#)
- Cultural Exchange program for choirs (in addition to the invited choirs and ensembles) – registration available to international choirs of all styles and ages. Registration includes opportunities for performances (choirs singing for and with each other), coaching with guest conductors, and workshops and seminars with international choral specialists.
- Workshops and seminars for all choirs and ensembles
- Conducting masterclasses
- Gala concerts
- Annual IFCM General Assembly
- And last but not least, the celebration of IFCM's 40th Anniversary, including a special exhibition dedicated to IFCM in the Palacete of dos Condes de Monte Real and the launch of a 40th anniversary publication.

Among the invited choirs are Cantemus Youth Choir, conductor Denis Ceausov (Moldova); Collective Singers, conductor Ponti Dikua (Namibia); Incantare Coro Femenino, conductor Natalia Vadillo (Argentina); Maze, conductor Merel Martens (Netherlands); Mosaica Singers, conductor Nedy Muna (Jordan); Portland State Choir, conductor Ethan Sperry (USA); Shallaway Youth Choir, conductor Kellie Walsh (Canada); and many more to come.

Stay tuned as we will reveal more about this wonderful program.

<http://worldchoralexpo.com>



Kokopelli Youth Choir, cond. Scott Leithead (Canada) WCE 2019

WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC, DOHA, QATAR**Post-Cards from the WSCM 2023/24 in Qatar: The Museum of Islamic Art**

The WSCM 2023/24 in Qatar offers an exciting look into the world of Middle Eastern and Arab choral music. But music is just one of the many cultural discoveries awaiting WSCM 2023/24 participants. Whether food, performances, art collections, museums, historical sites, or ocean and desert excursions, there is a wealth of attractions for visitors in and around the city of Doha. In the buildup to 2023, the e-NEWS will be featuring some of these local highlights, as well as cultural news stories and snap shots from the region.

One of the most iconic buildings on the Doha waterfront, the Museum of Islamic Art was designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect I.M. Pei. Pei came out of retirement for this last project and spent months touring the Middle East and researching Islamic and Arab architecture before creating this masterpiece. Officially opened in 2008, today his creation stands as a powerful symbol of contemporary Islamic styling and integration, while housing one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of art pieces from the Islamic world.

The Museum of Islamic Art's collection includes textiles, carpets, glasswork, manuscripts, jewelry, ceramics, metalworks, and more, covering 1,400 years of Islamic material culture from three continents. While all the pieces in the collection are in themselves works of art, many were also intended for everyday use. Whether as serving dishes or lamps, floor coverings or wall tiling, the creation of beauty in even the simplest tools speaks to a universal human need for expression through art: expression that transcends time and place and is still speaking to us today.



In addition to the collection, the Museum of Islamic Art houses a learning center and library, offers tours and workshops, and hosts special exhibitions. Of particular interest for WSCM and Fringe Festival participants, the Museum has a 200-seat auditorium, as well as indoor and outdoor performance spaces that regularly host free public chamber music concerts.

The Museum of Islamic Art represents a space for cultural collaboration, preservation, and innovation. Bringing together art, performance, and people, it is a cultural highlight in Qatar and a "must see" item on the itinerary of all visitors.

For more details about this Doha Landmark, visit <https://www.mia.org.qa/en/>

Start making plans to spend New Year's Eve 2023 in Doha, Qatar, and attend the World Symposium on Choral Music (30 December 2023 - 5 January 2024). It will be a choral event NOT to be missed! Visit <https://www.wscm2023.com/> to sign-up for updates.

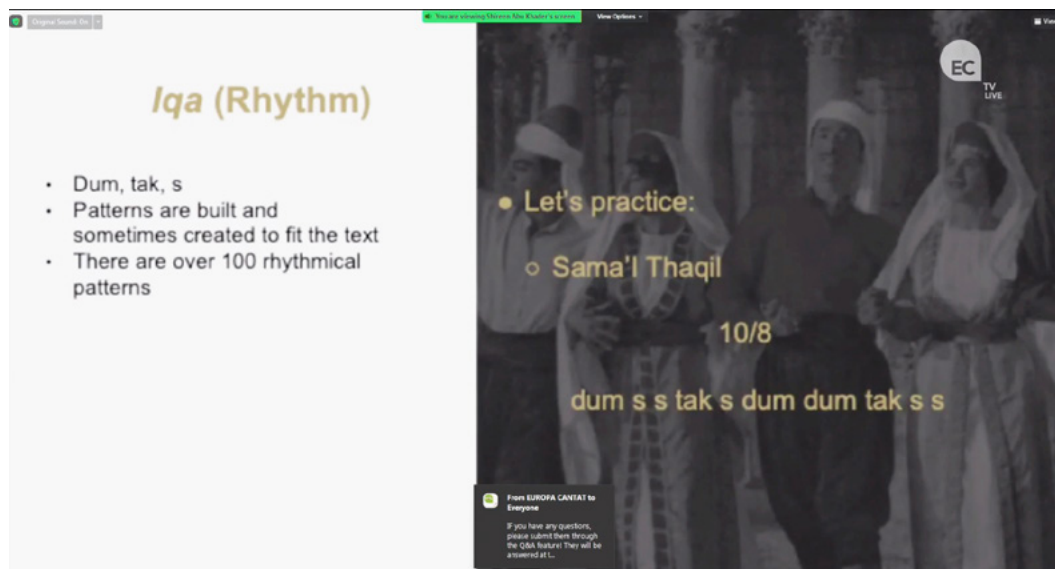
[Watch this new promotional video](#)



IFCM INVITED TO PRESENT A EUROPA CANTAT READING SESSION

In the frame of the Europa Cantat festival that was organized in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from July 16 to 25, IFCM had the privilege to present an online educational session: **Approaching choral music of the Levant**, conducted by Shireen Abu-Khader (Jordan/Canada). There is a vast wealth of beautiful choral repertoire from Arab countries, but many choral directors feel daunted when approaching it. Through this session and the next World Symposium on Choral Music in Doha, Qatar, in 2023/24, IFCM hopes to assist the international choral community in discovering the fantastic world of Arab choral music.

The session introduced Arabic pronunciation, vocal style, and the emotional and cultural context through an exploration of three Arabic vocal pieces. Shireen presented examples of the many different genres, rhythms, scales, and musical styles within Arab vocal music that are appropriate for multiple voicings and levels of choral ensembles. As well, she provided historical and musical contexts for the works, giving participants a chance to delve deeply inside this music. You can still view this session [HERE](#).



IFCM CHORAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION 2022

IFCM has organized four international choral composition competitions since this project was created in 2010. The aim of these competitions is to promote the creation and distribution of new, innovative, and accessible choral repertoire.

IFCM announces its Fifth [International Competition for Choral Composition](#) to promote new works in choral music and to encourage innovation in choral writing which fits the needs of a 21st-century choir. We are looking for compositions that combine originality, imagination, and creativity within the context of contemporary global themes.

[Rules and Regulations](#)

Deadline for applications is **15 January 2022**.

THE INTERNATIONAL CHORAL BULLETIN IS LAUNCHING A PHOTO CONTEST IN THE FRAME OF ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

We have all been stuck at home, but the [International Choral Bulletin](#) (ICB) has been busy circling the globe! Where do you read yours? In the mountains of Hungary, on the banks of the St. Lawrence, by the cliffs of Ireland, or in the Cordillera? Under a tree or in front of a cosy fire with a cat on your lap?

Send us your most beautiful, unusual, exotic photo of yourself reading the ICB in a setting typical of your region, surrounded by your favourite scenery, or with the oldest copy in your collection.

The most original photo will be given a prominent place in our October 2021 anniversary edition! Send your photo to icb.editor@ifcm.net by **25 August 2021**.



**ICB
40th Anniversary
photo contest**

We've all been stuck at home ... but the ICB has been busy circling the globe! Where do you read yours?

Send us your most beautiful, unusual, exotic photo of yourself reading the ICB!

The most original photo will be given a prominent place in our October 2021 anniversary edition!

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AFRICA CANTAT

Keeping the great spirit of last year's Africa Cantat online edition

The Africa Cantat organizing committee is happy to announce three online events scheduled from August 2021 to August 2022. This series of choral events will begin on 28 August 2021



with a second round of the successful inaugural, live Zoom networking event. From 10:00 am to 1:00 pm EAT (East African Time), the steering committee of the festival will provide a platform for everyone to connect and exchange again, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 situation in our choral world for more than one year now.

Save the date and stay tuned for more [Africa Cantat Festival](#) events to come!

OBITUARY: MAYA SHAVIT (ISRAEL) IFCM BOARD MEMBER 2005-2011



Our choral community mourns one of its most exceptional leaders: Maya Shavit (Israel) passed away at the age of 85.

Maya Shavit founded the Efroni Girls' Choir in 1981, a choir of girls (ages 9-18) coming from all areas of Emek Hefer and representing a wide section of the Israeli population. She remained the music director until 2013. Under her leadership, the choir reached international acclaim through concert tours in Europe, Scandinavia, Canada, the USA, and Japan.

Maya was one of the most active members on the Israeli choral scene. For decades, she focused on children's choirs throughout the country and abroad, giving the young people the experience of musical collaboration and true acceptance. Maya initiated Jewish-Arab choral activities that were community-building and educational, aiming at building bridges between the cultures. She received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ministry of Education of Israel.

During the years 2005-2011, Maya was a board member of IFCM where she made a huge and positive contribution to our choral community. In 2005, a World Youth Choir session was organized by Zimriya, the World Assembly of Choirs in Israel; Hallel, the Israeli Choral Organization; and Jeunesses Musicales Israel. Maya was involved in planning IFCM's third Multicultural and Ethnic Conference focusing on Jerusalem as a center for three of the great Abrahamic religions, traditions, and cultures: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. This was to have taken place in 2006 but was cancelled due to the political situation at the time. Maya would later write in a report: "...The variety of choral voices coming from the many Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions were an unbelievable mosaic, and the cooperation I received from the



The Efroni Choir, two Songs from the Yemenite tradition



different people involved was touching and promising. It was to be what the whole idea of 'Voices of...' was meant to be..."

In 2008, Maya organized a meeting of the IFCM Executive Committee in Jerusalem and arranged for the members to meet with several cultural administrations, Zimriya, Hallel, and Mila.

In 2012, Maya was one of the experts at the IFCM World Choral Summit in Beijing, China, and presented 'Building Bridges' jointly with André de Quadros and Thierry Thiébaud.

Maya will remain a model of inspiration, courage, strength, and humanism for many years ahead and a dear friend forever.



IFCM GA 2005, Maya, Anne Marie van der Walt, Maria Guinand, Lupwishi Mbuyamba

NEWS FROM IFCM FOUNDING MEMBERS

EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION - EUROPA CANTAT (ECA-EC)

BEYOND #BenefitsOfSinging



That's the world we still long to live in - a world where everybody experiences the benefits of collective singing. The #BenefitsOfSinging campaign has officially ended its first phase at the



end of July, and now it's time to move forward into BEYOND [#BenefitsOfSinging](#). Explore the [#BenefitsOfSinging](#) campaign toolkit and use all its elements to support your work, your goals, and your activities.

The European Choral Association wishes to keep the campaign as a base for further advocacy work for the importance of choral singing for individuals and the society all together.

Therefore, the following resources are still available for you to discover:

- Graphics in multiple languages
- Curated research to support your work
- An FAQ document on advocacy work... and much more!

Let's keep making some noise together and talk loudly about the [#BenefitsOfSinging](#)!

THE SHIFT INCLUSION INTERVIEW SERIES presents conversations with experts on different aspects of what it means to be inclusive as a cultural network or organisation.

The European Choral Association's conversation in the SHIFT inclusion interview series is with Maria Vlachou (Executive Director, Acesso Cultura) on inclusive recruitment, boards, membership, and events. Maria is interviewed by the European Choral Association's Project Manager, Sophie Dowden.

A transcript of the interview is available [here](#).

Find out more about Maria Vlachou and Acesso Cultura:

- [Acesso Cultura](#)
- [Acesso Cultura Capacity Building](#)
- [Musing on Culture](#) (blog)



INTRODUCING THE SHIFT INCLUSION INTERVIEW SERIES

IN CONVERSATION WITH MARIA VLACHOU

AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)

The price just dropped for accessing recordings of [ACDA's virtual national conference](#) "Diversity in Music." The recordings will allow conference registrants to view all sessions and recordings through December 2021.

Plans for [ACDA's 2022 regional conferences](#) are moving ahead quickly!

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

The search for the next ACDA Executive Director is moving into final stages. We plan to be able to make the announcement this month!

NEWS FROM IFCM MEMBERS

NEWS FROM CHORAL CANADA

Join us for Canada's choral conference and festival **PODIUM 2022**: *Reimagine, Rebuild, Reconnect*, hosted by **Choral Canada** and **Choirs Ontario**. Those who can meet in-person will gather in Toronto, Ontario, 19-23 May 2022; For the first time, we will present PODIUM in a hybrid format, expanding options for participation by including virtual attendees. With the challenges and opportunities presented by the pandemic and the strengthening of collective calls for equity and justice, we have a powerful opportunity to reimagine the possibilities of our choral community. Join us for incredible concerts by Canadian and international choirs, conference sessions and workshops presented by inspiring clinicians and educators, plus many opportunities to network both in person and online. By sharing performances and ideas and creating space for curiosity, listening, reflection, and dialogue, **PODIUM 2022** aims to inspire all who thrill at the sound of voices joined together in song. Learn more and follow for registration details at <http://www.podium2022.ca/>



REMEMBERING DARINKA MATIĆ MAROVIĆ (SERBIA)

Darinka Matić Marović (06.02.1937-15.07.2020) was a lady of world fame and respect. An artist, conductor, professor, and first women Dean of University of Art in Belgrade, Darinka was determined, sharp, focused, emotional, strong in performance, and gentle at heart. She remained the center of cultural life and set high standards for new generations of artists. Darinka was a woman of music. On the very mention of her name, people immediately



connect three music institutions: Academic Choir Collegium Musicum, Academic Choir Obilic, and Faculty of Music Arts in Belgrade. Darinka's outstanding work was rewarded throughout her life, and she was the winner of many awards and high achievements in the region and in the world.

In honor of Darinka Matić Marović, **KotorArt**, a festival in Montenegro, established a special reward named after her. The prize will be given every two years to the most prominent artists for works or achievements that represent an outstanding contribution to the development of musical art in the Ex-Yugoslavia area and for female artists originating from this area. An international jury consisting of renowned music artists determines the award recipient. This year, Darinka is certainly smiling and approving of the decision - the winner is Dragana V. Jovanović, Doctor of Arts, Professor at the Faculty of Music in Belgrade and conductor of the Collegium Musicum Choir.



Dragana V. Jovanović receiving the Prize

WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2021 IN OUR CHORAL WORLD

- 29 July-1 Aug: 1st Classical Music Summer Festival, Vienna, Austria — <http://www.concerts-austria.com/summer-festival-vienna>
- 4-8 Aug: Roma Music Festival 2021, Italy - <http://www.mrf-musicfestivals.com>
- 18-22 Aug: International Festival of Choirs and Orchestras in Paris, France - <http://www.mrf-musicfestivals.com>
- 25-29 Aug: 11th International Festival of Choirs and Orchestras, Prague, Czech Republic - <http://www.mrf-musicfestivals.com>
- 26-30 Aug: Sing Along Concert on Tour Milan, Italy - <https://www.interkultur.com/>
- 29Aug-5Sep: 11th European Academy for Choral Conductors, Fano, Italy - <http://www.feniarco.it>

AUGUST 2021

*Volunteers connecting
our choral world*



IFCMeNEWS

5-10 Sep: Trogir Music Week, Croatia — <http://www.lacock.org>

19-25 Sep: Lucca Consort Week, Tuscany, Italy — <http://www.lacock.org>

30 Sep: 36th Choral Composition Contest, Segorbe, Spain — <https://www.jjmmsegorbe.org>

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.