



## NEWS FROM IFCM

### **VOLUNTEER FOR CONDUCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS**

**Conductors Without Borders** (CWB) is a core project of IFCM that aims to build bridges between choral communities around the world by providing access to quality choral music instruction to those who may not have easy access to such opportunities. As a volunteer choral teacher, you will help realize this goal by sharing your knowledge, skills, and experience in choral music and conducting.

If you believe that you have what it takes to help us reach this critical goal and that your passion for choral music education is what sets you apart, you are a great fit for this important international project.

The training sessions for Conductors Without Borders can be delivered either virtually or live on location. These presentation options provide the flexibility to work from wherever you are and at a time that is convenient to you. As a volunteer, you will have the potential to make a positive impact in the musical lives of choral conductors who may not have access to quality choral music instruction.

If you are interested in volunteering as a choral teacher for Conductors Without Borders, please complete [this form](#), and IFCM staff will provide more information about what is required to participate. This project offers a unique opportunity for you to spread the joy and benefits of choral music education to a diverse and global audience.



### **FIRST MEETING OF YOUNG IFCM**

The first online meeting of the **YOUNG IFCM Youth Committee** was an exciting and productive gathering of young choral music enthusiasts and professionals. The meeting took place on 7 August 2023 in an online format to accommodate the global nature of the committee members and ensure everyone's participation. The primary objectives of the meeting were to introduce the committee members to each other, discuss the committee's mission and goals, and outline the plan for upcoming projects and activities. The committee discussed and clarified their shared mission and goals, focusing on empowering and engaging youth in choral music activities and





advocating for their inclusion and representation. The members collaboratively brainstormed and discussed potential projects and activities to be undertaken by the committee. In order to facilitate effective implementation of the projects, during the next meeting members will make decisions about roles and responsibilities based on their interests, strengths, and expertise.

This inaugural meeting generated several positive outcomes, including:

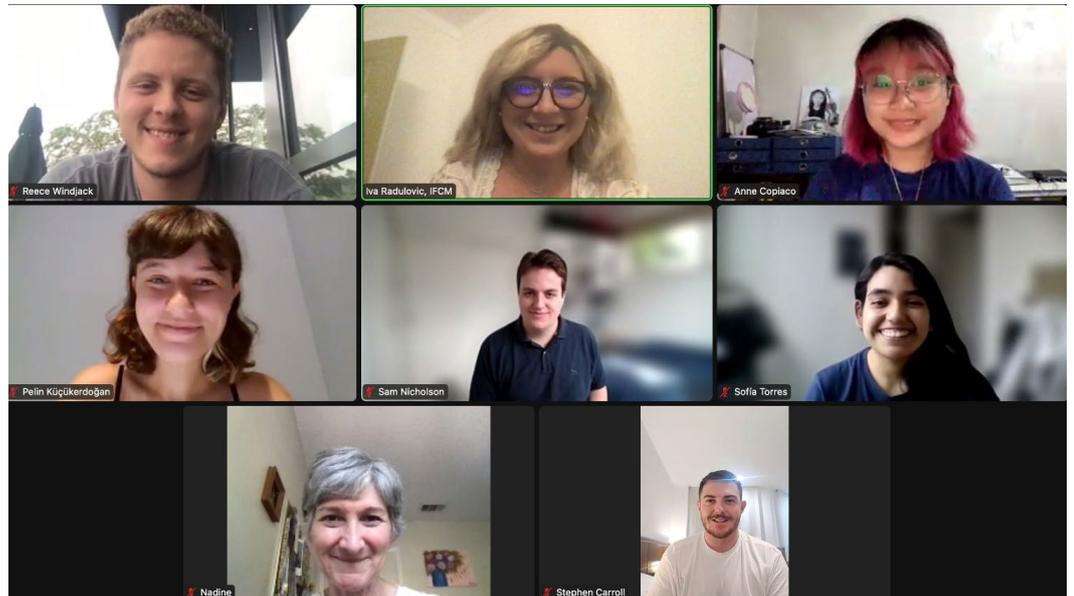
- Enhanced camaraderie and connection among committee members
- Clarity on the committee's mission and goals
- Established timelines and action plans for immediate and long-term projects

Overall, the meeting was a fruitful gathering, setting the stage for impactful initiatives in the promotion and engagement of youth in choral music. The committee members are enthusiastically looking forward to their upcoming endeavours and making a difference in the choral music community.

In order to have all eight IFCM regions of the world (recognized by IFCM Bylaws and Membership Policy document) represented in the Youth Committee, we are still looking for up to two young people, ages 18 to 28, who reside in either of two regions: Sub-Saharan and Middle East. Qualified applicants for the 2023-2026 term are those who were born between 18 June 1994 and 17 June 2005.

Please send the following documents to [secretarygeneral@ifcm.net](mailto:secretarygeneral@ifcm.net) by **15 September 2023**:

- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Motivation letter
- Two letters of recommendation



## **JURY MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHORAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION 2023/2024**

IFCM has launched its [Sixth International Choral Composition Competition 2023/2024](#) to promote new works in choral music and to encourage innovation in choral writing that 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.

We are happy to announce the five jury members who will evaluate the submitted works and select the winners according to the competition's [Rules and Regulations](#). After a successful collaboration with commission composers for WSCM 2023 in Istanbul, the IFCM Board invited



five composers who provided commissioned works for the Symposium to be the 2023/2024 jury members. We are thrilled to work again with:

- Tracy Wong (Canada/Malaysia)
- Michael Ostryga (Germany)
- Eric Banks (USA)
- Ana Maria Raga (Venezuela)
- Özkan Manav (Türkiye)

The results of the competition will be announced by the end of November 2023.

## 6th INTERNATIONAL CHORAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION 2023/2024

## JURY MEMBERS

**ERIC BANKS**  
United States of America

**ANA MARÍA RAGA**  
Venezuela

**ÖZKAN MANAV**  
Türkiye

**TRACY WONG**  
Malaysia / Canada

**MICHAEL OSTRZYGA**  
Germany

*categories*  
Mixed & Equal Voices | World Choral Day Song

Submit until **30 September 2023**  
For more information: [www.ifcm.net](http://www.ifcm.net)

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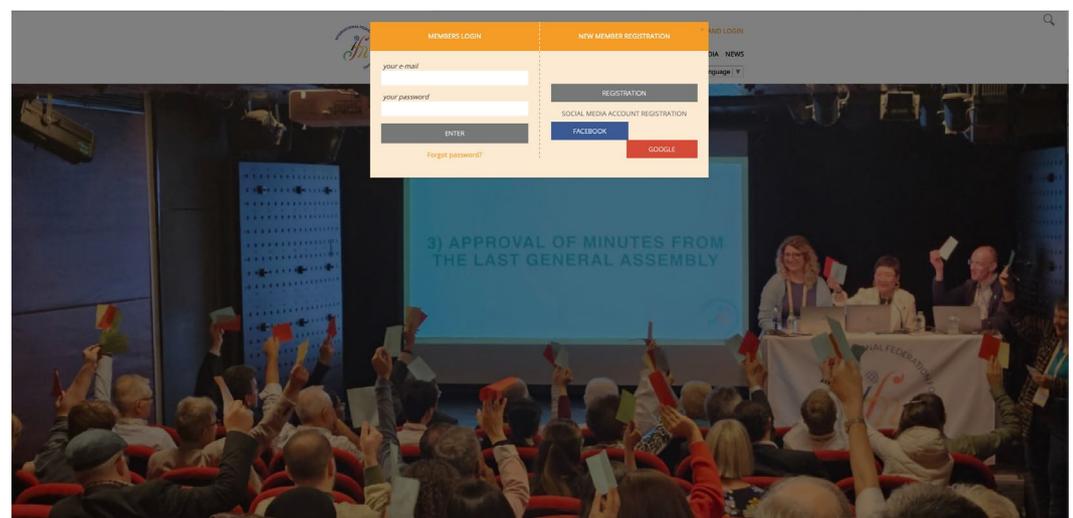
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[www.ifcm.net](http://www.ifcm.net)  
#IFCMconnects

### STILL TIME TO RENEW YOUR IFCM MEMBERSHIP

Whether you have already renewed your IFCM membership this year or haven't done it yet, you are invited to (re)discover the benefits of what your membership offers. You will find the complete list of benefits and advantages [here](#). The list has been updated recently, so you might find much more value than expected for your IFCM membership.

To renew, login on the [IFCM website](#) with your email address and password and click on "I'm already an IFCM member and want to renew". Did you forget your password? No worries. Just



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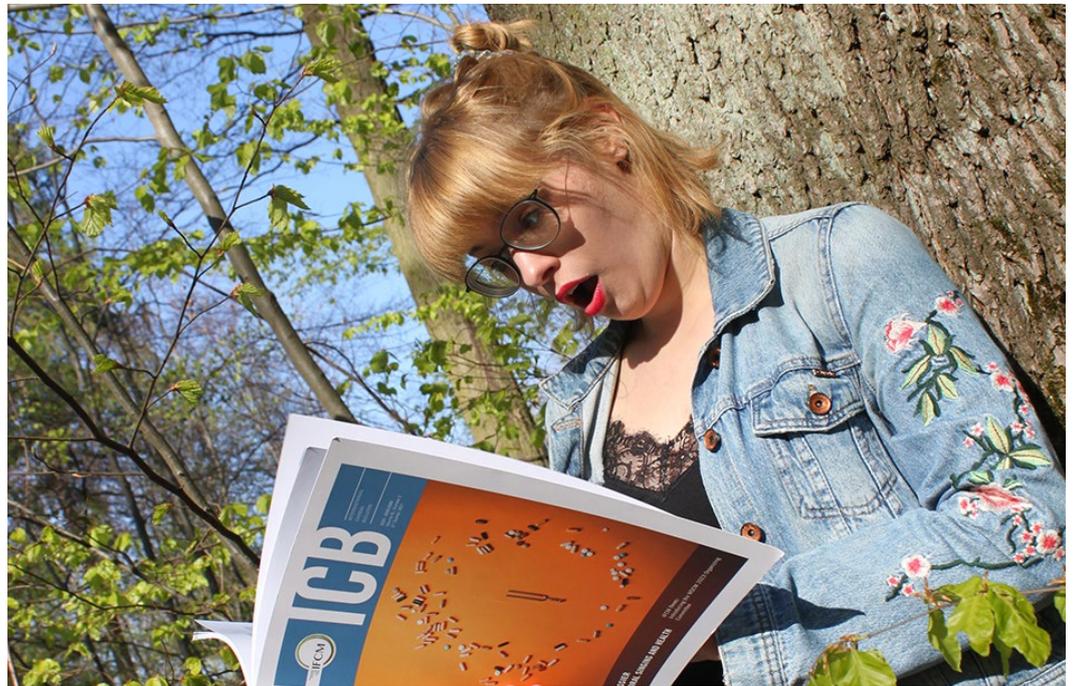
click on "Forgot password?" and follow the instructions from there! For fee payments in US\$ only, you can also use this [link](#). We are grateful to have your loyalty and support to further develop the IFCM projects around the world.

## WHAT'S IN THE NEXT *INTERNATIONAL CHORAL MAGAZINE* (OCTOBER 2023)

What's going on in the international choral world? Big festivals are in a time of change. Some are discussing the future and others are enjoying their current success, e.g., Africa Cantat in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Composer birthdays are always great programming considerations, and in 2023 we are celebrating Györgi Ligeti's 100th birthday. To mark the occasion, several international conductors and singers (Frieder Bernius, Grant Gershon, Sarah Newman) reflect on their relationship with Ligeti's music.

The October issue of ICM (to be accessible or downloadable from [here](#)) will also take you to Venice, Italy, and Belgium (for Europa Cantat Junior) and will introduce readers to the new ICM Editorial Board! Stay tuned!



## MUSICA INTERNATIONAL

### Let's get emotional!

During the World Symposium on Choral Music 2023 in Istanbul, Jean Sturm, Executive Director of Musica International ([www.musicanet.org](http://www.musicanet.org)), presented "Building a concert program using online choral resources: the Musica project". Interesting questions came up, such as "Can I search for sad pieces in Musica?" On Facebook, a choir conductor was looking for "a piece that would convey anxiety/worries". Another conductor needed a happy song to end a middle-school choir concert.

Is there a place where you can search for choral scores using only the emotion the work might convey? YES! A structured database as detailed as Musica International is ideal for searching scores which fit such a purpose.

Go to [www.musicanet.org](http://www.musicanet.org), enter a word identifying an emotion (*anxious, happy, sad*, etc.) in the field <Words or title or Keywords or Genre/Style/Form>. You will get dozens of results

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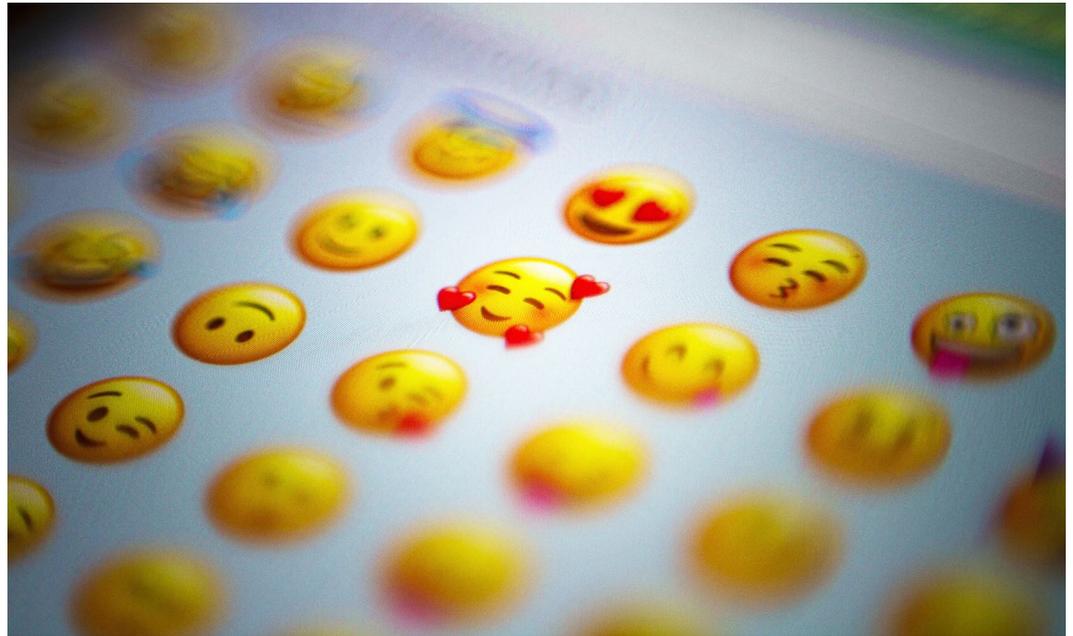
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for *anxious* and even hundreds for *happy* and *sad*. Search for *fear* and you get more than 800 results: for *anger*, more than 200 results, and for *weep*, more than 900 results. You can then ask for additional criteria such as voicing, difficulty for singers, language, duration, and more. Remember that all IFCM members get **Unrestricted Privileged Access to the Musica International** database!



## NEWS FROM IFCM FOUNDING MEMBERS

### NEWS FROM THE JAPAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION (JCA)

#### The 17<sup>th</sup> Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition 2024 21-24 March 2024, Fukushima City, Japan

The Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition, co-organized by the **Japan Choral Association**, is calling for participating groups. This competition is the biggest choral contest in Japan for small vocal ensemble groups (2-16 singers). Each year, more than 120 top-level choirs are invited to Fukushima, known as the 'Kingdom of Choirs' in Japan. Let our singing voices ring out together! Deadline to submit for Preliminary Screening: **31 October 2023**. Learn more and register [here](#).



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## EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION (ECA)

**Webinar offered by the European Choral Association on Choirs for Ecocide Law**  
Visit the [project's website](#) and join the webinar online on 20 September at 5 pm CEST

**Ecocide** is the mass damage and destruction of ecosystems which lead to a loss of biodiversity. With the help of **Ecocide Law**, such action would be recognized as an international crime. **Merzi Rajala**, **Kirsi Kaunismäki-Suhonen**, and **Peder Karlsson** created the project **Choirs for Ecocide Law** for choirs that want to raise awareness for the need of such a law. The project's resources include a curated concert program ready to be rehearsed and performed for free. Register here, check the scores and the additional materials, and start planning your concert. **Contact** the team of *Choirs for Ecocide Law*.

The webinar is organised in the framework of the **IGNITE** project co funded by the EU.



## Registration is open for ECA **Membership Weekend 2023** **Vilnius, Lithuania, 17-19 November 2023**

For two days, ECA members will have a unique chance to interact, learn, sing, and meet with each other while contributing to the future of the association!

Join the event to enjoy:

- Our Membership Day with a hybrid project presentation session and six discussion rounds from which to choose
- Networking time: time to meet your friends and make new contacts
- Our formal General Assembly for members and indirect members
- Workshop on how to make your events more accessible / inclusive and more environmentally friendly
- Lithuanian Folk Music concerts with Lithuanian choirs
- Opportunities to discover the charm of the old town of Vilnius

**Register here** before **September 30, 2023**.

The European Choral Association Membership Weekend is also open to non-members. Please check the website [here](#) for further details.

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The event is organised in collaboration with the Lithuanian National Cultural Centre & the Lithuanian Choral Association in the framework of the **IGNITE** project co funded by the EU.



#### AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)

##### Children's & Community Youth Choir Conductors' Retreat

**Heart Soul Song, 13-14 January 2024, Nashville, Tennessee, USA**

As we emerge from three years of Covid, we are all in need of healing ourselves as well as finding ways to help our choristers heal. Nashville is at the heart of America's music. For this retreat, ACDA found a hosting venue that will truly help the participants heal their soul and reconnect them as a community through songs.

There is the possibility of a pre-conference seminar on 12 January 2023 focusing on choral administration.

Stay tuned [here](#) or on [Facebook](#)



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## Symposium for Research in Choral Singing

25-26 April 2024, Chicago, Illinois, USA (in person and remote)

ACDA is pleased to announce the fourth **International Symposium on Research in Choral Singing**, a forum for the dissemination of research and scholarly activity. The 2024 hybrid Symposium is intended to be held in person for ACDA members from North America and remote synchronously (no membership required) for members outside the USA. The international Symposium will combine diverse presentational formats and break-out sessions with opportunities for in-depth conversation, inquiry, and consideration of future research directions of all types. Penn State University will host the conference in conjunction with Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain) and De Montfort University (England).



Info on the ACDA Regional Conferences 2024 [here](#).

## NEWS FROM IFCM MEMBERS

### IFCM WELCOMES A NEW MEMBER IN THE CATEGORY "NATIONAL ORGANISATION" ADICORA, the Association of Choir Conductors of the Argentine Republic

The **Association of Choir Conductors of the Argentine Republic** (ADICORA) was founded in 2003 and is composed of directors from across the country. It is organized into branches and



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delegations located in the Argentine provinces, with a federal and democratic vision built upon commitment, respect, and professionalism.

Since its inception, spaces for training and reflection have been created to foster the growth and evolution of choral activity, promoting excellence at a national level and advocating for the creation and dissemination of repertoire by Argentine composers and arrangers.

ADICORA assists in establishing choirs and strengthening directors' roles in both public and private sectors, solidifying our legacy of choral enrichment.

Contact:

International Communications Secretary: [adicora.internacional@gmail.com](mailto:adicora.internacional@gmail.com)

Artistic Secretary: [artistica.adicoranacional@gmail.com](mailto:artistica.adicoranacional@gmail.com)

### **CORK INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL, IRELAND**

**29 April - 2 May 2024**

Founded in 1954, the **Cork International Choral Festival** is one of Europe's premier international choral festivals. Overall, the Festival attracts some 5,000 participants and 50,000 people who bring Cork to life with song over the five days. The festival is noted for its diverse program, high competitive standards, excellent organisation, and the friendliness of its welcome. International choirs are encouraged to submit applications for either the **Fleischmann International Trophy Competition** (closing date: 31 October 2023) or the **Non-Competitive International strand** (closing date: 30 November 2023). For further information and registration forms, please visit [www.corkchoral.ie](http://www.corkchoral.ie).



### **INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL MILTENBERG, GERMANY**

The **International Choir Competition Miltenberg** announces that the next competition will take place **18-21 July 2024** in the district of Miltenberg, Bavaria, Germany. Five selected choirs



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will participate in the competition. The full announcement as well as the application form are available [online](#) in English and German. Choirs from all over the world are invited to apply to participate in this competition.

**Application deadline: 1 December 2023.**

Contact: [kultur@ira-mil.de](mailto:kultur@ira-mil.de).

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.