

TO ALL VOLUNTEERS
CONNECTING OUR CHORAL WORLD

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

WISHING EVERYONE
PEACE, JOY, AND PROSPERITY!



December 2024 IFCMeNEWS Celebrating World Choral Day, 8 December 2024

World Choral Day 2024

IFCM is calling on millions of singers worldwide to join us and use their voices for peace through collective singing. We are confident that singing together is one of the most powerful tools we can use to contribute to achieving peace, which is currently a pressing global need.

The theme of the World Choral Day 2024 is **Voices Uniting the Planet**.

IFCM and **Choirs for Ecocide Law** (CFEL) are working together to make World Choir Day 2024 a celebration of peace and environmental sustainability.



Participate in the World Choral Day 2024 and submit your videos:

- In-person performances
- Recorded song performances
- Virtual performances
- Recite the [Proclamation for World Choral Day](#)

All these performances can include one or all of the following pieces:

- [The Arrow and the Song](#) (World Choral Day winning piece of the IFCM Composition Competition 2023-2024)
- *Hope* by Merzi Rajala (part of the Choirs for Ecocide Laws repertoire)
- *Ask Not* by Peder Karlsson (part of the Choirs for Ecocide Laws repertoire)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CHORAL MUSIC monthly electronic newsletter

<https://www.ifcm.net>

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Other ways to participate in the World Choral Day 2024:

- Watch the [MeWe - Choirs for Ecocide Law documentary film](#) together with your choir, colleagues, or friends.
- Organize a CFEL webinar to learn more about the background of the project and why the Ecocide Law is needed. Let us know and we will connect you with the CFEL Team.
- Join IFCM at one of two webinars on World Choral Day (8 December 2024) in collaboration with Choirs for Ecocide Law. For those situated in the Eastern hemisphere, register [here](#). For those situated in the Western hemisphere, register [here](#).

You may download WCD resources here: <https://bit.ly/WorldChoralDay2024>

YOUNG, Youth International Cultural Management Program 2025

In the frame of the 45th International Congress of Pueri Cantores, (16-20 July 2025), Munich, Germany

Application process is open from 1 December 2024 to 31 January 2025

After the great success of the two previous [YOUNG programmes](#) (at the 2022 World Choral EXPO in Lisbon and at the 2023 World Symposium on Choral Music in İstanbul, photo here below), we are pleased to announce the call for the third YOUNG programme!

- Are you between 18 and 35 years old?
- Do you want to be part of the organising team of the [45th International Congress of Pueri Cantores](#) (16-20 July 2025)?

The [European Choral Association](#), with the support of [Choral TIES](#) and in collaboration with the [International Federation for Choral Music](#), is launching a call for young international cultural managers to be part of the Pueri Cantores 2025 team and to broaden their experience and skills while working closely with the organising team.

Conditions of participation:

- The whole program will be in English.
- There is no participation fee.
- Selected participants will have some availability for online meetings with the local team in the months leading up to the event.
- Selected participants will benefit from two workshops designed to grow and exchange knowledge related to international cultural management.
- Selected participants will cover their own return travel to Munich, Germany.
- There will be the possibility to attend concerts, rehearsals, and some sessions depending on the participant's responsibilities in the organizing team and schedule.

Schedule

- Arrival day: 14 July 2025.
- Workshops and on-the-job experiences with the Pueri Cantores team: 15 July 2025.
- 45th International Congress of Pueri Cantores: 16-20 July 2025.
- Evaluation of the training session: 21 July 2025.
- Departure: 21 July 2025



YOUNG Program 2023, WSCM, İstanbul, Türkiye

Application form

- [Apply here](#)
- Submit your application **before 31 January 2025**.

Selection

Successful applicants will be notified by the end of February 2025. Selected participants will be asked to send a copy of their flight/train/bus ticket to secure their space in the program.

More info on the festival at <https://www.muenchen25.de/en>



International Children and Youth Choir Festival of Pueri Cantores

Munich, Germany, 16-20 July 2025

Approximately 5,000 young people from all over the world are expected to attend the **Pueri Cantores International Choir Festival** in Munich on 16-20 July 2025. Under the motto: *Cantate Domino - polyphonic for peace - #comeandsing*, the program includes a festival of nations on Munich's Marienplatz, mother-tongue services in the inner-city churches, prayers for peace, and concerts in churches, concert venues, and social institutions throughout the archdiocese. The festival is organized by a specially founded association and supported by the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising. Cardinal Reinhard Marx, Archbishop of Munich and Freising, and Ilse Aigner, President of the Bavarian State Parliament, are the patrons of the festival.



[Registration now open until 31 January 2024.](#)

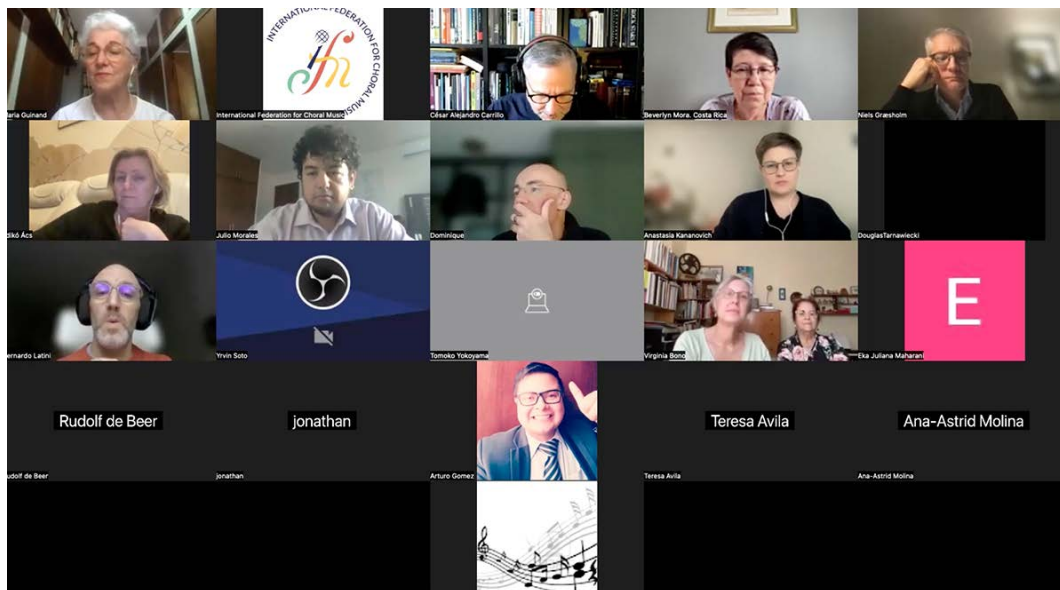
Pueri Cantores, a choral association of Catholic boys, girls, children, and youth choirs, is committed to the cultivation of choral music and the organization of church services in 40+ countries. It promotes exchanges, encounters, and partnerships between choirs as well as peace work. The Pueri Cantores International Choir Festivals make a valuable contribution to cultural exchange: children and youth come together from all over the world to sing with their own unique voices in a global community. In addition to a spiritual component, the focus of Pueri Cantores festivals is on the encounter and presentation of cultures. Children and young people become ambassadors for their respective cultures.

Pueri Cantores is pleased to host the 3rd YOUNG, Youth International Cultural Management Program during its Festival 2025 (see above). The Pueri Cantores festival team looks forward to meeting the selected young volunteers, sharing experiences, and working closely together on the organisation of 45th International Congress of Pueri Cantores.

Watch the last online café

On 9 November 2024, the IFCM online café focused on the art of choral composition. Three well-known Latin American composers shared their ideas on how to create choral music for ensembles today, using their own compositions as illustrations: César Alejandro Carrillo (Venezuela), Julio César Morales Pineda (Mexico), and Mónica Pacheco (Argentina).

If you missed the café, you can watch it [here](#).



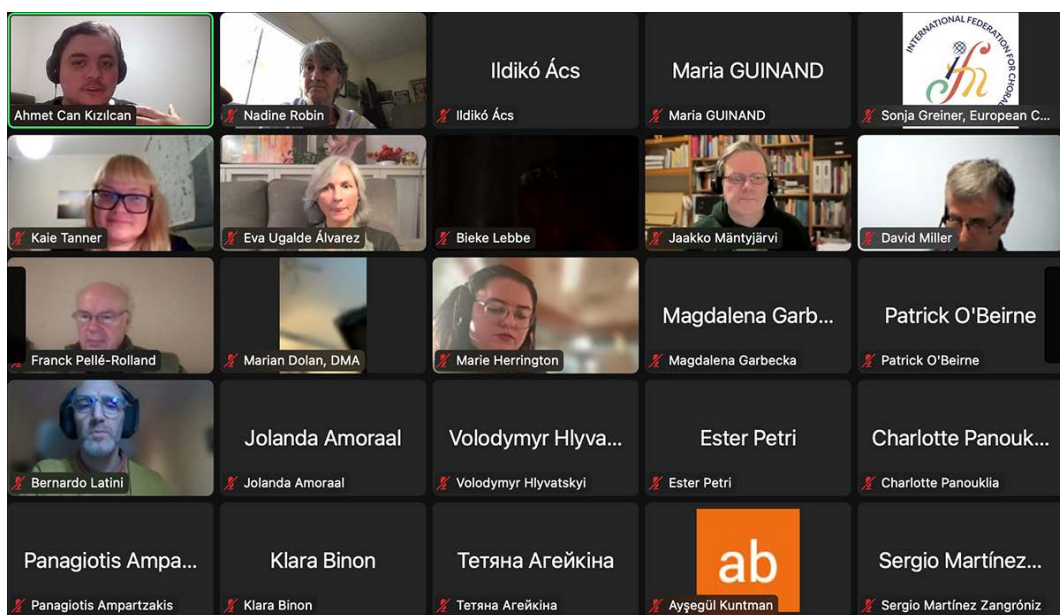
Watch the Webinar “Creating Choral Music — Talking about the requirements of choral repertoire” which took place on Zoom on 23 November 2024

Eighty-nine people from 39 countries registered to this webinar hosting three well-known composers from different parts of the world: Marie Herrington (USA), Jaakko Mäntyjärvi (Finland) and Eva Ugalde (Basque Country, Spain).

Did you miss it? You can now watch it [here](#). Feel free to share this link with friends or colleagues!

This Webinar was part of the [Choral TIES project](#) coordinated by the [European Choral Association](#) and co-funded by the [European Union Creative Europe programme](#) and organised in cooperation with IFCM.

IFCM extends its gratitude to the Choral TIES, ECA and to the three guests for making this event a success.



IFCM Online Cafés: Tell us what you think

It has been so inspiring to meet many of you this year at the monthly online cafés organised by IFCM. Thank you for your participation! We would love to know how we did, what you would like to see/discuss next, and who you would like us to welcome as guests. Please [complete this survey](#) at your earliest convenience.



IFCM welcomes a new choir member:

The Choir of World Culture (Chor der Weltkultur Bühne)

The [Choir of World Culture](#) is a unique singing ensemble dedicated to uniting literature and music in a harmonious way. Their aim is to capture the deep-rooted thoughts and emotions of mystics, folk singers, and poets from Anatolia and make them accessible to a wide audience. In their programs, the ensemble analyzes and interprets the fascinating similarities between Western and Eastern music and literature. Through these cross-cultural connections, they create a rich soundscape that reflects both the roots of their own cultural traditions and the timeless themes of human experience.

Performances by the Choir of World Culture are not only musical performances; they are also an invitation to delve into the depths of cultural identity and celebrate universal human emotions. By weaving together different cultural elements, their performances promote dialog between cultures and contribute to understanding and peace. The choir's focus on combining music and literature transcends boundaries between cultures and demonstrates the power of choral singing as a medium for creative exchange and cultural dialogue. IFCM welcomes the Choir of World Culture to our community to join others in spreading the vision for a harmonious combination of words and music.



Conductors Beyond Borders with Schola Cantorum de Venezuela in Mérida and San Cristóbal, Venezuela

¡Cantemos! con La Schola, 20-24 November 2024

Following their first program *¡Cantemos!* on the Margarita Island, the [Schola Cantorum de Venezuela](#), conducted by Maria Guinand and Luimar Arismendi, brought their program to yet another part of Venezuela. This time to Mérida and San Cristóbal. *¡Cantemos!* Is designed to encourage the participation and development of more choral groups through meetings, workshops, seminars and concerts. The program included:

- Workshops on body expression, vocal techniques, and choral repertoire
- Choral conducting basic technique, eurhythmics, and rehearsal strategies
- Gala concerts and concerts with regional choirs



Audition now for the World Youth Choir Session 2025

Catalonia, Spain, 13 July – 1 August 2025, with Daniel Reuss, conductor

All eligible singers (ages between 18 and 26 on July 1, 2025) who have never participated in the [World Youth Choir](#) (along with eligible singers from sessions prior to 2017) should apply in their home country through a national audition process. National auditions with a national jury will be organized by national recruiting institutions/organisations (music organisations, choral organisations, universities, music schools, conductors, music teachers, etc.).



WYC a cappella concert in Nagold, Germany

See the [list of WYC recruiters](#) for the contact(s) in your country. If your country is not listed, you can apply through a [direct application](#) to the WYC international jury. Don't miss the opportunity to experience this extraordinary international choral experience.

General application deadline: **22 December 2024**. Note: National juries will have earlier deadlines.

This 2025 session of the World Youth Choir is organized by the [Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals](#) (FCEC). With a rehearsal period in Catalonia, the concert tour will be in Spain (Barcelona, Madrid, Alcalá de Henares) and France with a performance at Choralies in Vaison-la-Romaine.

World Youth Choir 2024

On 6 September 2024, the [World Youth Choir](#) (WYC) held a very special a cappella concert in Nagold, Germany. This was the last a cappella performance of the 2024 World Youth Choir, filled with all the emotions you can imagine. The WYC singers were warmly welcomed by the local organisers, who even prepared a dinner for everyone! Thank you very much for your hospitality in Nagold!

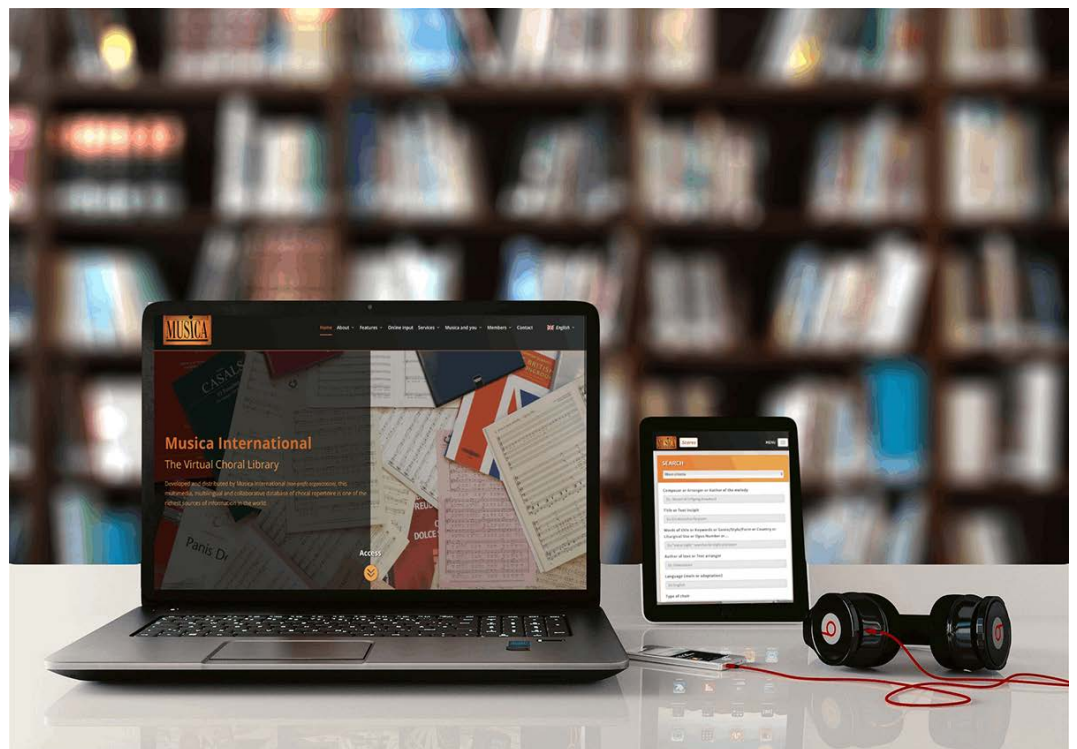
[SWR Kultur](#) recorded the concert, which is now available [online](#).

Musica International loves World Choral Day!

FREE access to the international online choral music database [musicanet.org](#) as a privileged user will be granted on 8 December 2024 for 24 hours during World Choral Day.

Search for the scores you don't know and/or those you have always wanted to work on. Learn more about Merzi Rajala and Peder Karlsson, two composers of the Choirs for Ecocide Law with which 2024 WCD is collaborating, and see other pieces described in Musica.

If you want to support the project, join us as a volunteer to add scores, composer, biographies, etc.; tell your choral federation about the online resource; use the full privileged access provided by choral associations like IFCM, ACDA, ECA, and [other members](#) on their respective websites. Contact us at office@musicanet.org



European Choral Association Membership Weekend and new Board of Directors

From 14-17 November, over 130 members of the [European Choral Association](#) (ECA) gathered in Leuven, Belgium, for the ECA Membership Weekend organized by Koor&Stem. Participants considered some of the big issues facing the choral sector, looked at what has been

done so far, and shared ideas on the future of collective singing.

On 15 November, ECA ran a hybrid Project Presentation Session to gain insights on how its members are making a difference in their individual choral communities. The session included 11 inspiring projects, showcasing a range of innovative and thought-provoking topics. You can watch the recording [here](#).

On 16 November, the new Board of Directors for the term 2024-2027 was chosen during ECA's General Assembly.

New ECA Board of Directors 2024-2027



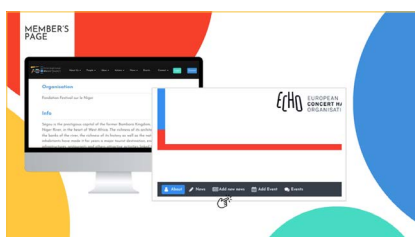
- Dermot O'Callaghan (Ireland) – President
- Silvija Pročkytė (Lithuania) – 1st Vice-President
- Martine Spanjers (The Netherlands) – Treasurer
- Raul Talmar (Estonia) – 2nd Artistic Vice-President
- Joži Vovk (Slovenia) – 3rd Vice-President
- Kjetil Aamann (Norway)
- Joana Costa (Portugal/Belgium)
- Yigit Deniz (Türkiye)
- Xavier Devillers (Belgium)
- Côme Ferrand Cooper (France)
- Marco Fornasier (Italy)
- Susanna Kantelinen (Finland) – Representative of the [Friends of the European Choral Association](#)

The European Choral Association looks forward to working with this talented and diverse team in a common effort to strengthen and support the collective singing sector in Europe and beyond! Read the press release [here](#).

International Music Council has a new website!

The [International Music Council](#) (IMC) is pleased to announce the launch of a new website. With this new website, ICM hopes to offer a more dynamic and fresher image of the organisation, its values, its activities, and its community.

IMC's greatest strength is its unrivalled network of members, and so they have made a special effort to provide members with a space to promote their respective organisations. Recognising its members' need for a dedicated space, IMC has created a page for each of its members, ready to be customised and developed, where all members can publish articles, news, and promote events.



Berkshire Choral International (BCI) opens 2025 Apprentice applications

Applications are open for Berkshire Choral International's two free educational programs for undergraduate and graduate level music students.

- BCI's Frank Nemhauser Apprentice Program is a free program designed for career-track singers and choral conductors enrolled in undergraduate or advanced degree programs. Apprentice opportunities in Summer 2025 include:
 - Amherst, Massachusetts (Haydn, Brahms, and Runestad with Conductor Rob Istad, Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies at California State University);
 - Washington DC (Sing *Considering Matthew Shepard* at the Washington National Cathedral with Conductor Jeffrey Benson, Director of Choral Activities at San José State University);
 - Berlin, Germany (Mozart's *Requiem* and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* with Jenny Wong, San Francisco Symphony Chorus Director and the Associate Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Master Chorale).
- Each week-long program is an intensive choral experience providing apprentices with the opportunity to study and rehearse major choral-orchestral works with eminent conductors, faculty, and vocal soloists.
- BCI's Vocal Scholar Program is a free educational opportunity focusing on undergraduate or advanced degree music students who sing tenor or bass voice parts. Applicants do not need to be voice majors but should be enrolled in a music degree program and possess solid vocal technique and reading skills.

BCI is committed to creating and maintaining a diverse and inclusive experience for choral singers. African-American, Latinx, Asian/Pacific Islander, Indigenous, and LGBTQ+ identified students are strongly encouraged to apply.

Application requirements [here](#).

Apply **by 1 February 2025** for either program.

The collage consists of several promotional cards for BCI's 2025 apprentice programs. Each card features a conductor's photo, program title, dates, location, and a BCI theme. The themes include CONNECTION, INSPIRATION, INCLUSION, BELONGING, and OPTIMISM. A large blue card on the right says "Find YOUR CHORAL ADVENTURE Summer 2025".

- New Love Songs at Tanglewood**: May 21-25, 2025, Ozawa Hall at Tanglewood, Lenox, MA. Conductor: ANTHONY TRECEK-KING.
- Celebrating Alice Parker**: June 12-15, 2025, Bard College at Simon's Rock, Great Barrington, MA. Conductor: CAMERON LABARR.
- Into the Light: Haydn, Brahms, & Runestad**: June 22-29, 2025, UMass Amherst, Amherst, MA. Conductor: ROB ISTAD.
- Considering Matthew Shepard**: July 5-12, 2025, Washington National Cathedral, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Conductor: JEFFREY BENSON.
- Mozart & Bernstein in Berlin**: July 27-August 3, 2025, Haus des Rundfunks, Berlin, Germany. Conductor: JENNY WONG.

Music at the End of the World Foundation, Ushuaia, Argentina

5th End of the World Choir Festival "Transcendence", 13-16 June 2025.

Registration deadline: 15 March 2025.

The [End of the World Choir Festival](#) is a four-day event featuring concerts, workshops, lectures, and discussion forums under a specific theme that makes each edition unique. It takes

place in Ushuaia, Argentina, both in-person and online, with professional live streaming that connects the world to a high-quality artistic and touristic experience.

<https://www.youtube.com/@FestivaldeCorosdelFindelMundo>



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.