

## October 2025 IFCMeNEWS Only 15 Days to Submit your Application (WSCM 2026)

**World Symposium on Choral Music, 23-28 August 2026, Macau, China, *Reimagining the Future***

**Choirs and Presenters: Bring Your Voice(s) to the World's Choral Stage**

**Only 15 days** before the application deadline. Apply now to be part of the 2026 World Symposium on Choral Music in Macau! Join the most inspiring choirs from around the globe, share your voice(s), and represent your country at the world's leading choral event.

**Submit your application today!**

[Read or download](#) the submission instructions for Choirs. [Submit](#) your choir or vocal ensemble application.



[Read or download](#) the submission instructions for Presenters. [Submit](#) your presentation application.



**Deadline: 15 October 2025.**

## Did You Miss the IFCM Online Café *Beware of Vowels and Consonants!*?

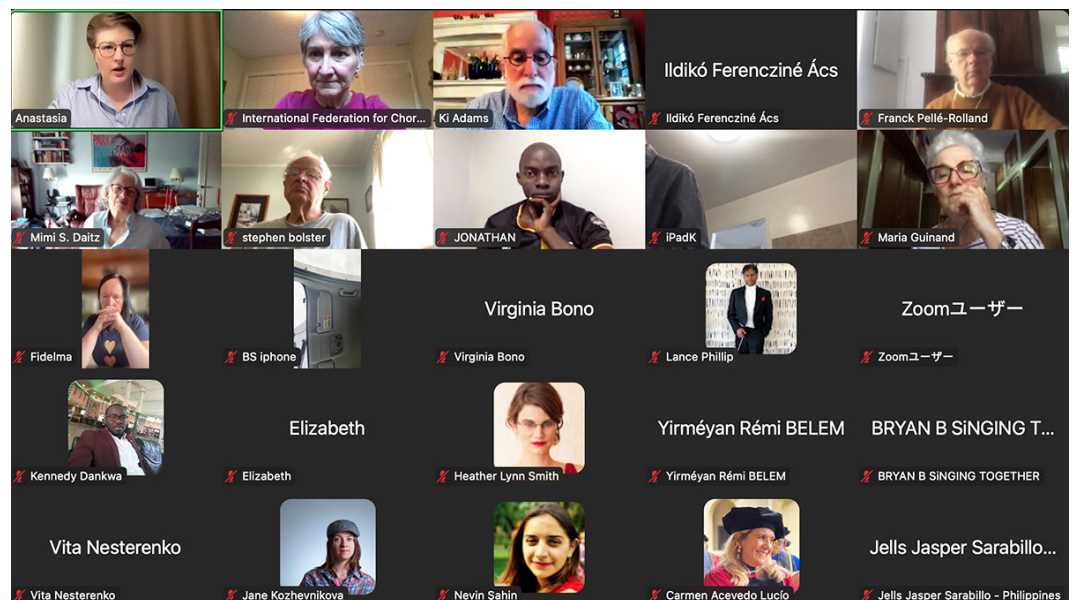
### Science and Practice of Choral Intelligibility

What makes choral music unique is that it's rarely just sound - it's generally language sung into life. Choirs don't only create musical landscapes through the use of melody, rhythm, harmony, and form; they tell stories, share faith, and give voice to the deepest human experiences. As the saying, often attributed to St. Augustine, reminds us, "One who sings prays twice." Word and song together magnify meaning, devotion, and beauty.

But here's the catch: if no one understands the words, if the words aren't clear, it's like tuning into your favorite radio station through a storm of static—you catch the melody, but the message slips away. It's like telling a joke but mumbling the punchline - you lose the spark that makes it land. Diction isn't just a detail... Clear diction ensures that meaning is carried as powerfully as the music itself, allowing the listener to hear not just beautiful sound, but living words. It's the bridge between sound and sense, between music and message.

In this Online Café, we'll hear from someone who knows exactly how that bridge is built. Our guest is Anastasia Kananovich, originally from Russia and now residing in France, where she is a doctoral student at the University of Strasbourg. Anastasia is perfectly qualified to explain to us why we should "Beware of Vowels and Consonants"!

[Watch it here.](#)



## IFCM Online Café

### 27 September 2025, 2PM CEST

## Beware of Vowels and Consonants!

### Science and Practice of Choral Intelligibility

**Guest:**



Anastasia Kananovich  
France

**Moderator:**



Ki Adams  
Canada

<https://bit.ly/IFCMOnlineCafeSeptember2025> Register





## **World Choral Day, 14 December 2025: Singing for Peace, Connection, and Our Common Home**

This **World Choral Day 2025**, IFCM invites conductors, singers, and choirs worldwide to join in building an international collage of photos and stories. Together, let's show how choral singing touches lives, strengthens communities, and unites our planet. Share your unforgettable moments when singing together truly made a difference.

### **How to participate in World Choral Day 2025:**

- Share one photo that captures a powerful choral moment for you on Facebook and/or Instagram.
- In your caption (max 100 words), tell the story of how/why this choral experience was meaningful for you, your choir, or your community.
- Tag three singers, conductors, or choirs and challenge them to keep the chain going.
- Use #WorldChoralDay2025 and tag IFCM to link all contributions.

Together, we will create a global mosaic of collective singing (one photo and one story at a time), showing how voices joined in harmony have the potential to unite us all - one voice on one planet.

**1**

**Share one photo that captures a powerful choral moment for you on Facebook and/or Instagram**



**2**

**In your caption (max 100 words), tell the story of how/why this choral experience was meaningful for you, your choir, or your community**

**3**

**Tag three singers, conductors, or choirs and challenge them to keep the chain going**

**14 December 2025**



*Singing for Peace,  
Connection,  
and Our Common Home*

**4**

**Use #WorldChoralDay2025 and tag IFCM to link all contributions**



### **World Youth Choir (WYC) New Recording**

In August 2025, the World Youth Choir had the privilege of performing in the stunning Seu Vella de Lleida as part of the WYC tour in Catalonia/Spain and France. The breathtaking venue, acoustics, and the warmth of the audience made this concert a truly unforgettable experience. We are delighted to share this special memory with you — the full recording of the concert is now available [here](#).



The World Youth Choir continues to bring together talented young singers from across the globe, celebrating diversity through music and creating moments that last a lifetime. Watch the [WYC website](#) for announcements of future sessions and opportunities for young singers.

### European Choral Association (ECA)

#### A Few Months Left to Apply for the Conductors Beyond Borders Peer-to-Peer Exchange Programme

The Conductors Beyond Borders Peer-to-Peer Exchange Programme is a component of the [Choral TIES](#) project coordinated by the [European Choral Association](#), co-funded by the [European Union](#), and organised in cooperation with IFCM. This programme provides limited financial support in the form of a grant to cover international travel expenses.

[Read more](#)

**ECA** EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION

## CONDUCTORS BEYOND BORDERS PEER-TO-PEER CONDUCTORS TRAINING

A financial support programme contributing to the travel expenses of:

- a conductor from the EU invited to work in a European country outside the EU
- a European conductor invited to work with a choir from a different continent
- a European conductor inviting a colleague from another continent to work with their choir(s)

A programme contributing to the internationalisation of careers.

[https://bit.ly/Peer-to-Peer\\_CBB\\_Programme\\_Apply](https://bit.ly/Peer-to-Peer_CBB_Programme_Apply)

Choral TIES

Co-funded by the European Union

in cooperation with

© Gabrielius Jaunėškis for European Choral Association

This programme is designed to facilitate the internationalization of careers. Before applying, please read the [complete guidelines here](#). [Apply here](#).

### Come and Experience the Japan Choral Association (JCA) National Choral Competition!

The [Japan Choral Association](#) will host its 78<sup>th</sup> National Choral Competition in October and November 2025. The finest amateur choirs, selected from over 1,300 ensembles through rigorous preliminary and semifinal rounds, will gather in Japan to compete on the international stage. Don't miss the chance to experience the beauty and power of the Japanese choral sound!

- **25-26 October 2025 in Toyama:** Categories: Junior High School & High School Choirs
- **22-23 November 2025 in Saga:** Categories: University/Youth Choirs, Chamber Choirs, Equal Voice Choirs, and Mixed Voice Choirs

For tickets and more information, please [contact](#) the Japan Choral Association office.



#### **Tenso Network Europe and Turkish State Choir Present the Re:CONNECT Conference Ankara, Türkiye, 10-12 October 2025**

The European Network for Professional Chamber Choirs (Tenso Network Europe) is concluding its EU-supported **Tenso CONNECT** project with the **Re:CONNECT Conference in Ankara, Türkiye**. Hosted in partnership with the [Turkish State Choir](#), the conference will bring together conductors, artists, and choral enthusiasts from across Europe for an inspiring programme of talks, concerts, and workshops. You can access the details of the conference [here](#).



#### **The International Federation of Pueri Cantores Presents its New President and Board**

The [International Federation of Pueri Cantores \(IFPC\)](#) marked its 75th anniversary in Paris with a tour of Notre Dame, a reception, and a gala concert featuring the Petits Chanteurs de la Croix de Bois and the French National Pueri Cantores Choir. Delegates from across Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Lebanon attended the General Assembly, both in-person and virtually. Elections brought a new leadership team: Elisabeth von Waldstein (Sweden), President; José Martinez Gonzalez (Spain) and Marco Aurelio Lischt (Brazil), Vice Presidents; Alberto Veggiotti (Italy), Secretary; and Daniele Perri (Italy), Treasurer. Matthias Balzer (Germany) became General Manager. Outgoing President Jean Henric was honoured and named Honorary President. IFCM congratulates the International Federation of Pueri Cantores on the occasion.

of its 75th jubilee, and thanks all those who have served the Pueri Cantores mission, from its founders to its present leadership for their vision and dedication.

**(Re)visit the 45th International Congress of Pueri Cantores**



**Get ready for the 71st Cork International Choral Festival, Ireland, 29 April-3 May 2026**

Don't miss the application deadline for the **2026 Fleischmann International Trophy Competition: 31 October 2025**. The application deadline for the **International Non-Competitive Participation** is **30 November 2025**.



The [2026 International Choral Conducting Course](#), Cork, Ireland, **28 April–1 May 2026**, returns next year. This four-day intensive course offers hands-on training to help you develop your conducting skills. You will learn from international guest tutors, Jennifer Moir and Jani Sívén, and perform with the acclaimed Chamber Choir Ireland in your final ensemble workshop. Register before 6 February 2026.

#### [2026 Internship Opportunity](#)

The Cork International Choral Festival is looking for enthusiastic, self-motivated candidates who are keen to establish a career in the festivals and music events industry!

This is a great opportunity to be fully involved from the outset with the production of a well-established and exciting festival and advance your existing creative skills by working with the Festival Team on a range of projects across media and platforms.

Application closing date: **30 November 2025**.

#### **Berkshire Choral Summer 2026 Season**

Berkshire Choral is the elevated music camp experience for adults. Pick a program you like and you'll sing amazing repertoire with world-class conductors, sharpen your skills, and bond with new friends who love to sing as much as you do.

2026 conductors include Andre Thomas, Beth Willer, Anthony Trecek-King, Iris Levine, Deke Sharon, and Patrick Dupre Quigley.

From Tanglewood to Denver to Tallinn, [find your next choral adventure](#).

[Watch our season preview video](#)



#### **The European Music Festival for Young People, Neerpelt, Belgium, celebrates its 75th Anniversary in 2027**

Join the [European Music Festival for Young People](#) (EMJ) in Neerpelt, Belgium, **4-10 May 2027**, for an unforgettable musical adventure. During these six days, the city will come alive with song, friendship, and international exchange. Over 150 children's and youth choirs and instrumental ensembles from Europe, Asia, South America, North America, Oceania, and



Africa will share their musical passion, perform for a renowned jury, and receive valuable, constructive feedback. Along with the jury concerts, participants will enjoy inspiring workshops, improvised performances, and heartwarming moments of connection. The EMJ is not just a festival; it's a celebration of young talent, cultural unity, and boundless musical energy. Visit [www.emj.be/emj75](http://www.emj.be/emj75) to find out more about EMJ 2027 and take your place on this unique international stage.

### **Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals (FCEC) Announces the 61st International Choral Music Festival**

From **6–12 July 2026**, the [Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals \(FCEC\)](#) invites choirs from around the globe to Barcelona for its 61st International Choral Music Festival—a week of singing, cultural exchange, and unforgettable performances.

The festival offers six days of workshops and concerts in the vibrant heart of Barcelona, bringing together music and cultures from all over the world. Participating choirs will present two concerts each, culminating in the final concert at the iconic Palau de la Música Catalana, one of the city's most celebrated Art Nouveau/modernist landmarks.

Afternoon workshops, open to both choirs and individual singers, will be led by Núria Cunillera (Catalonia, Spain), Pablo Assante (Argentina), and Fidel G. Calalang (The Philippines).

**Applications are open until 15 November 2025.**



We invite you to visit the [Calendar of Choral Activities](#) published by the European Choral Association — Europa Cantat and the American Choral Directors Association ACDA's Network [ChoralNet](#) to check on the choral events planned in the coming months.