



## March 2025 IFCMeNEWS Update on the WSCM 2026

### Update on the World Symposium on Choral Music 2026

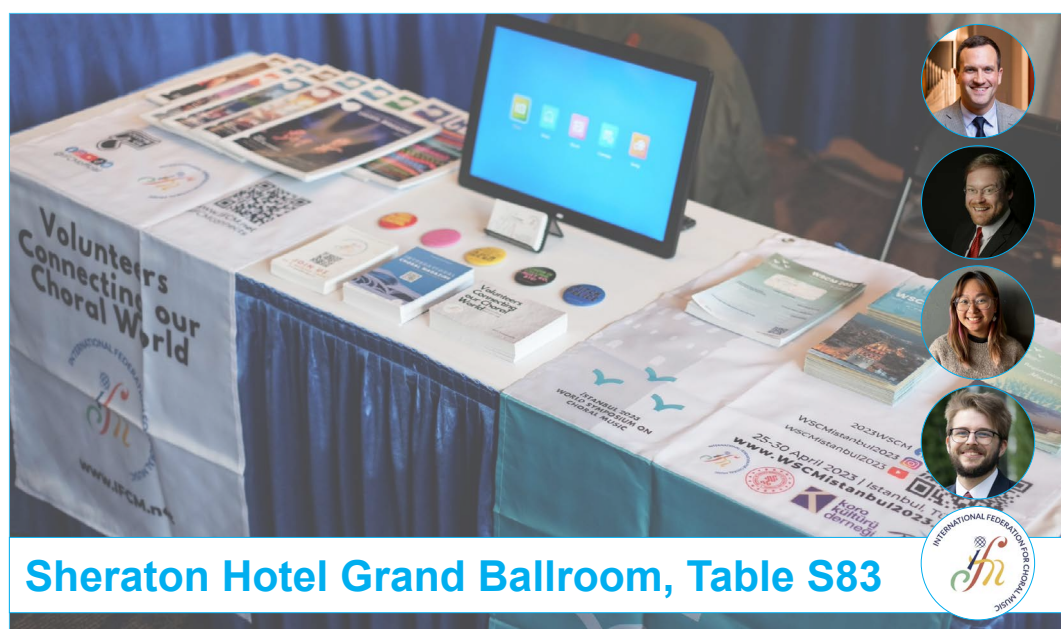
After many years of successful cooperation with the [China Arts and Entertainment Group \(CAEG\)](#), IFCM is planning to organize the **2026 World Symposium on Choral Music**, the world's most prestigious, non-competitive choral event, in **Macau SAR (China)** in 2026.

Macau is well connected for travel by choirs and delegates with easy access from every corner of the globe. This amazing city is an autonomous region on the south coast of China, across the Pearl River Delta from Hong Kong. A Portuguese territory until 1999, Macau showcases a blend of cultural influences. This rich diversity would provide the perfect site for WSCM 2026 with a true celebration of exchange and collaboration!

The international choral community, through IFCM, is extremely thankful to CAEG and wishes them every success and support in their preparations for this unique event in 2026.

### Meet IFCM at the ACDA Convention, 20-21 March 2025

Meet Cameron LaBarr, Jan Schumacher, Anne Copiaco, Tim Pallett at Sheraton Hotel Grand Ballroom, Table S83.



Sheraton Hotel Grand Ballroom, Table S83

### Sponsorship

2026  
AZRIELI  
MUSIC  
PRIZES

**ATTENTION: COMPOSERS**



### competitions and choral events with your choirs

Benefit from the experience of long-standing participants and prize-winners at choral festivals and competitions.

Conductors who wish to take part in choral gatherings such as festivals, competitions, conferences, or symposia often ask themselves the following questions:

*How do I choose which event to attend? How far in advance do I need to plan for the project to be possible? What are the criteria for choosing my repertoire? How do I deal with organisational and budgetary issues?*

Following the success of the January Online Café on the same topic, we have invited a different slate of guest conductors from different parts of the world to share their expertise.

Guests for the March Online Café, **Carmen Acevedo** (Puerto Rico), **Jurģis Cābulis** (Latvia), and **Lim Ai Hooi** (Singapore), will explore this topic and give valuable insights from their experiences.

Register on <https://bit.ly/IFCMOnlineCafeMarch2025> [Register](#)

**IFCM Online Café, 22 March 2025, 2PM CET**

**Participating in festivals, competitions and choral events with your choirs**

*Benefit from the experience of long-standing participants and prize-winners at choral festivals and competitions*

**Guests:**

- Carmen Acevedo Lucio**  
Puerto Rico
- Jurģis Cābulis**  
Latvia
- Lim Ai Hooi**  
Singapore

**Moderator:**

- Sofia Torres**  
Chile

[https://bit.ly/IFCMOnlineCafeMarch2025\\_Register](https://bit.ly/IFCMOnlineCafeMarch2025_Register)

### Unison - Episode 1 is now available on Spotify and YouTube!

The Young IFCM is proud to launch **UNISON**, a unique podcast that brings you face-to-face with some of the finest voices in choral music from around the world. Discover their inspiring experiences, sound advice, and passionate visions for the art of choral singing.

Whether you are a choir member, conductor, or just a music lover, UNISON will inspire you with its extraordinary voices and captivating stories.

Listen to the first episode featuring conductor and composer **Darius Lim** (Singapore), now on [Spotify](#) and [YouTube](#).

The choral music of Darius Lim has inspired thousands of singers across the world. His music

1. Darius Lim

UNISON  
TOGETHER WITH OUR VOICES

Share

Watch on [YouTube](#)

has been presented on some of the world's biggest international platforms. Darius's most popular work, *The Fire Dance of Luna*, which sold more than 65,000 copies, has garnered critical acclaim and has won top prizes by choirs in international and national competitions around the world. His treble voice work, *Puppet's Dream*, has also been presented the "Discovery of the Month" by legendary composer John Rutter.

With a strong belief in instilling lifelong appreciation for choral music and promoting Singaporean music, Darius has developed a reputation as an advocate of choral music whose own choirs and works inspire, engage, educate, and entertain audiences around the world.

### **YOUNG, Youth International Cultural Management Programme 2025**

The call for young managers to take part in the **YOUNG 2025** program at the **International Congress of Pueri Cantores Munich 2025** has had an excellent response. IFCM received 67 applications from 27 different countries: Armenia, Australia, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, DR Congo, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Türkiye, Uruguay, USA, and Venezuela.

The selection committee consists of:

IFCM representatives:

- Iva Radulović, previous IFCM Secretary General who started this IFCM programme in 2022
- Sofia MaríaTorres Valenzuela, YOUNG IFCM committee member from Chile, also a participant in the YOUNG 2023 in Türkiye
- Gilles Lamere, YOUNG IFCM committee member from Cameroon

Pueri Cantores International representatives:

- Judith Bergel, Managing Director Pueri Cantores Munich 2025
- Matthias Balzer, First Vice-President of the International Federation of Pueri Cantores

The selection committee met at the end of February. All candidates will be notified shortly with the results of the selection committee.

Selected participants will work in various departments of International Congress of Pueri Cantores Munich 2025, such as info-point, administrative coordination (email, phone), volunteer organisation, communication (Instagram, Facebook, photo reportage), site management, and VIP services.

*This programme is part of the [Choral TIES project](#) coordinated by the [European Choral Association](#) and co-funded by the [European Union](#) and organised in cooperation with IFCM in the frame of the [45th International Congress of Pueri Cantores](#).*



### **Call for Choirs to Apply for 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

There are three possible options for participation:

- A European conductor may be invited by a choir from a different continent to work on a specific programme for a specific period.
- A conductor from the European Union may be invited by a choir outside the European Union to work on a specific programme for a specific period.
- A conductor from outside the European Union (in Europe or from another continent) may be invited by a choir from the European Union to work on a specific programme for a specific period.

This programme is designed to facilitate the internationalization of careers.

Before applying, please read the [complete guidelines here](#).  
Apply on [https://bit.ly/Peer-to-Peer\\_CBB\\_Programme\\_Apply](https://bit.ly/Peer-to-Peer_CBB_Programme_Apply)



**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)

In cooperation with

Choral TIES Co-funded by the European Union

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CHORAL MUSIC CONDUCTORS EUROPE

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### **Musica International: Repertoire for Children's Choir**

In order to best catalogue choral music from around the world and provide access to all choral musical culture, **Musica International** not only offers descriptions of scores for mixed-voices and equal-voices adult choirs but also includes repertoire for children's choirs at all levels. A search for the criterion "children" in the "type of choir" field of the database on [www.musicanet.org](http://www.musicanet.org) returns 14,000 results, which can be combined with many other criteria to design your future program, e.g., adding a theme and a language.

We are looking to expand the repertoire for children's choirs. If you are involved with this repertoire, do some searches in Musica and contact us at [librarian@musicanet.org](mailto:librarian@musicanet.org) to help us enrich our database with children's choir pieces you know and appreciate that are not yet listed. We will then create their entries, as long as we have the necessary information. If not, we will get in touch with you or grant you permission to add them directly to the database.



Borusan Çocuk Korosu, Gülcan Acar @ WSCM2023 İstanbul, Türkiye

**WORLD YOUTH CHOIR 2025: Selected Singers**

The **World Youth Choir (WYC)** international jury meeting for the WYC 2025 session took place in Brussels, Belgium, 26-27 January 2025. The jury's task was to select the best singers for this particular session from 240 candidates. After many hours of listening to recordings from each singer and evaluating their applications, the jury chose 64 singers from 37 countries to be part of the World Youth Choir 2025 session. Seven additional countries are represented in the reserve list.

The World Youth Choir Foundation acknowledges all its partners, recruiters, alumni, and audition supervisors who helped audition over 240 singers for this year's edition of the program. The recruitment process could not have been carried out without their invaluable help. For this, the World Youth Choir Foundation, its patrons (IFCM, ECA, JMI), its board, and its artistic committee would like to publicly thank each and every one.

We also thank the international jury and 2025 conductor for undertaking the challenging task of listening to all the audition files and engaging in a fair and balanced selection of talented singers which will become the 2025 World Youth Choir!

**Discover the full list of singers [here](#).**



### **European Choral Association (ECA)**

#### **International Choral Study Tour in Lebanon, 12-18 September 2025**

*What happens when so many diverse cultures come together to celebrate the love for collective singing?*

The international study tour in Lebanon will be a Mediterranean fusion of music, cuisine, and traditions. The [European Choral Association](#), in collaboration with the Fayha National Choir, is excited to announce this year's Choral Study Tour in Lebanon as part of the [Choral Ties project](#), co-funded by the European Union.

All musicians and collective singing lovers are invited to come and discover Lebanon's choral

scene, nature, and local cuisine. The tour aims to present the vibrant genre of Arabic choral music in its different styles and forms. The program will include visits to several choirs across Lebanon as well as the opportunity to attend concerts and engage in lectures, workshops, and roundtable debates. Participants will also have the opportunity to travel to and stay in various parts of the country, experiencing a unique blend of Lebanon's different climates and cultures. The Choral Study Tour in Lebanon will proudly host conductor **Jan Schumacher** (Germany) as a guest. Registrations opening soon – stay tuned!

Contact information: [contact@fayhanationalchoir.com](mailto:contact@fayhanationalchoir.com)



STUDY TOUR TO  
**LEBANON**  
*For Choral Music Lovers*  
12 - 18 SEPTEMBER 2025

Local Organisers: FAUHA National Choir of Lebanon  
An event under the label of: ECA EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION  
in the frame of: Choral TIES  
Promoted in cooperation with: Co-funded by the European Union

### Add your project to the Swan Database: Share your inclusive singing initiatives

The **SWAN** project (Singing with Additional Needs) draws on best practices from different European countries to include people with additional needs in collective singing. Co-funded by the European Union, one of SWAN's key goals is to collect and share best practices in collective singing for individuals with additional needs.

If you are leading a project or an initiative focused on inclusive singing, we would love to hear from you! [Fill out our short questionnaire](#) and help us make this valuable knowledge accessible to others in the community.

### À Cœur Joie International and the African Confederation for Choral Music launch "One



**SWAN**  
SINGING WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS  
**questionnaire**  
on inclusive collective singing practices  
fill it out at [swanproject.eu](https://swanproject.eu)

Co-funded by the European Union  
ECA EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION

### School, One Choir” project

“One School, One Choir” is a new project recently launched in sub-Saharan Africa. Initiated by the choir *Chant sur la Lowé*, local organizer in Gabon and member of the [African Confederation for Choral Music](#), and in partnership with [À Cœur Joie International](#), “One School, One Choir” is supported by the Agence française du développement (AFD) as part of the Access to Culture project.

Prior to a week of events, headmasters and headmistresses of the partner schools, as well as all the activity leaders who will be leading the various groups throughout the year, were contacted by the Ministry of Education. On a voluntary basis (non-compulsory activity), interested children obtained written permission from their parents to take part in this activity.

A selection of songs was sent to the organizers who printed songbooks for the leaders.

[Read more about it](#) (in French)



**Une école,  
un chœur**

Un projet de l'Association  
« Groupe Vocal Le Chant sur la Lowé »

L'éducation musicale à l'école à travers les chœurs d'enfants

Présenté par :  
Le Chant Sur La Lowé

Partenaire :  
A Cœur Joie International

### New Zealand Choral Federation (NZCF): Choral Connect 2025

#### Conference for choral leaders in Wellington, New Zealand

[Choral Connect 2025](#) is the New Zealand Choral Federation's conference for leaders of all types of group singing. It will be held in Wellington, New Zealand, **25-27 September, 2025**. Come along for three inspiring days of masterclasses, presentations, concerts, and more!

Headlining this year's Choral Connect is **Pearl Shangkuan** (USA), ACDANational President-elect. Early bird registration closes on 30 June 2025. [Find more information and register here](#).



**New Zealand Choral Federation Conference**

Three inspiring days of practical training and development for choral leaders. Workshops, masterclasses, presentations, concerts and more!

**25-27 September 2025**  
**Wellington, New Zealand**

Artistic Director **Dr Karen Grylls**  
Key Presenter **Dr Pearl Shangkuan (USA)**

[nzcf.org.nz](http://nzcf.org.nz)

### International Federation Pueri Cantores develops a Vade Mecum for choir directors

As church choir directors have a very broad range of responsibilities, a variety of skills is necessary to both lead the choir community as well as the musical activities in a beneficial way and faith-inspired way. For this purpose, the [Fédération Internationale Pueri Cantores](#) (FIPC) Council of Administration, led by President Jean Henric, has developed a [Vade Mecum](#) to help and inspire all choir directors in their work and development. It was approved by the Presidents' meeting in January 2025 and is meant to serve as the basis of an educational process to be launched by the Pueri Cantores General Assembly in Paris in August 2025.



### Montana International Choral Festival, Missoula, Montana, USA, 17-20 July 2024

Anton Armstrong will be Guest Conductor of the 2025 [Montana International Choral Festival](#) held 17-20 July 2025 in Missoula, Montana, USA. Anton will be the keynote speaker at the Annual Conductor's Luncheon and will treat the audience to an open Master Class in Choral Conducting. Over the four days of the Festival, there will be over 25 performances by 14 world-renowned and diverse choral groups from five continents. All groups will join together in the Finale Massed Choir performance conducted by Anton. If you have never been in the presence of Anton's global genius, do not miss this opportunity. Festival tickets go on sale soon!

For more information: [info@choralfestival.org](mailto:info@choralfestival.org)





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.

