



July 2025 IFCMeNEWS

Where will you be on 23-28 August 2026?

IFCM Announces the Dates of the 2026 World Symposium on Choral Music (WSCM) in Macao

IFCM is thrilled to bring the World Symposium on Choral Music to **WSCM 2026, 23-28 August 2026**. It will be wonderful to immerse ourselves in the region's amazing and diverse cultures. Macao's omnipresent blend of cultural influences will provide the perfect setting for the WSCM 2026 celebration of exchange and collaboration.

Macao is an autonomous region on the south coast of China, across the Pearl River Delta from Hong Kong, and is well connected for travel by choirs and delegates with easy access from every corner of the globe.

IFCM is extremely grateful to the Macao Choral Arts Association and is looking forward to working with the local team to make this symposium a success!

Stay tuned for regular updates on the [IFCM website](https://www.ifcm.net), on the [IFCM Facebook page](#) and [Instagram](#).



Online Café, 26 July 2025, 2PM CEST: Creating Choral Music: Exploring the Art of Choral Composition

Join us for an inspiring online café *Creating Choral Music — Exploring the Art of Choral Composition*, where we will explore how composers create music for choirs today. This session will feature three renowned composers each of whom will bring a unique voice and perspective to the conversation.

Guests:

- **Rudolf de Beer** (Norway/South Africa) is a renowned conductor, organist, composer, and researcher of South African origin, currently based in Norway. Rudolf is known for his dynamic approach to choral music and has collaborated with a variety of ensembles and institutions around the world.
- **Zuzanna Koziej** (Poland) is a Polish composer and arranger. After graduating from the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, Zuzanna went on to study at the

Conservatorio Statale di Musica “Giuseppe Verdi” in Turin, Italy. She has had the opportunity to learn from renowned composers such as Bob Chilcott, Ko Matsushita, Ēriks Ešēvalds, and Paweł Łukaszewski.

- **Edgard Moya Godoy, (Denmark/Argentina)** is an Argentine composer whose music blends Latin American folk traditions with the language of contemporary classical music. Edgar is known for integrating the vocal style of baguala and the rhythmic complexity of tango into refined, modern textures, and his work explores gestural structures and the physicality of sound.

Moderated by IFCM Vice-President **María Guinand (Venezuela)**, our guest composers will share valuable insights into the artistic and practical aspects of choral composition by presenting two or three pieces of their own work. Whether you are an experienced composer, a choral director, or simply passionate about vocal music, this is a unique opportunity to learn directly from the individuals shaping the contemporary choral repertoire.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore with us what makes choral music resonate, both in written form and in performance.

https://bit.ly/IFCMOnlineCafeJuly2025_Register

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Creating Choral Music: Exploring the Art of Choral Composition

Join us for an inspiring Online Café as we explore how composers create music for choirs today.

Guests:



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Norway/South Africa



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Moderator:



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Venezuela

Register:

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Meeting of YEMPers and YOUNG IFCM Program

Meet & Greet and online training



Meet and Greet Meeting of the YOUNG 2025 and YEMPers

On **28 June 2025**, IFCM and the European Choral Association (ECA) organised a 'Meet & Greet and Online Training' event for young managers participating in two training programmes within the Choral TIES project, which is co-funded by the EU's Creative Europe programme. This meeting brought together:

- Participants in the **Young Event Management Programme (YEMP)** at Leading Voices in Tallinn, Estonia, an event organised by ECA in collaboration with the Estonian Choral Association and the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, and
- Participants of the **2025 YOUNG** (Youth International Cultural Management Programme) at the Pueri Cantores festival in Munich, Germany, organised by Pueri Cantores International in collaboration with a number of local partners.

The aim was for the young managers to meet, expand their networks, and learn more about the programmes and events. They also had the opportunity to hear about useful online resources from IFCM and ECA. They are now all very excited to meet each other at the two events and experience these special training programmes.

New IFCM Membership Category for Students and Young People under the Age of 25

The YOUNG IFCM Committee proposed the creation of a new student membership category to the IFCM Committee responsible for membership. The proposal was examined carefully, and an appropriate amount for this new category was discussed and approved by the IFCM board. IFCM hopes that this new fee will increase membership accessibility for the younger generation. The Membership Committee suggested an amount equal to a third of the current individual membership fee: 25 USD or 23 Euros for HDI1, 20 USD or 18 Euros for HDI2, and 12 USD or 11 Euros for HDI3.

<https://www.ifcm.net/membership/membership-fees>



**SPECIAL
STUDENT RATE**

**REDUCED MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR
STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 25**



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IFCM Honorary Member Lore Auerbach Awarded

On **19 June 2025**, Dr. h.c. Lore Auerbach, Honorary President of the Arbeitskreis Musik in der Jugend (AMJ) and Honorary Member and long-time volunteer of IFCM, received the Hans-Lenz Medal from the Federal Association of German Orchestra Associations (BDO) in recognition of her decades of service to amateur music. The Hans Lenz Medal recognises the importance of music and amateur musicianship in German society and honours the contributions of individuals or institutions to these fields. Previous recipients include Professor Hans Günther Bastian, Sir Simon Rattle, and José Antonio Abreu. Congratulations Lore!



From left to right: Benjamin Strasser, Dr. h.c.
Lore Auerbach, Gabriele Nogalski
© BMCO/Jan Felix Bergmann

Musica International: A New Score Was Just Added to the Musica Database

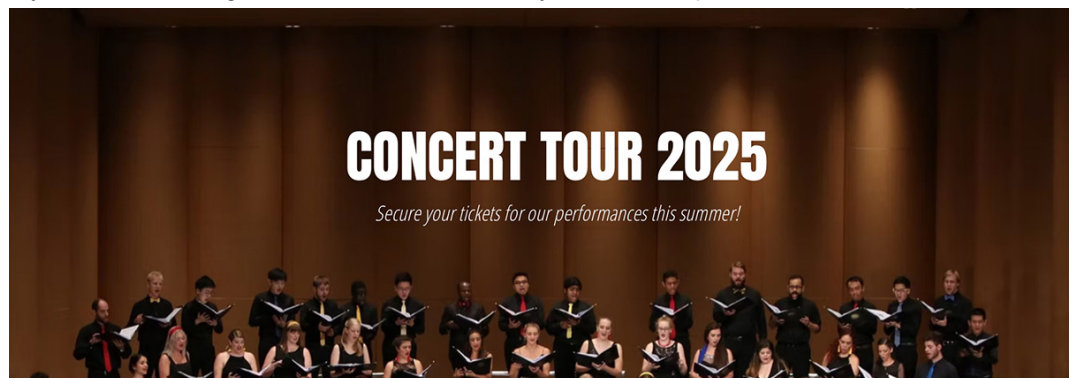
“Alea” by David Massong, published by Helbling Musikverlag KG, is a contemporary choral work in which singers use dice to randomly shape the music. Each roll creates a new variation, illustrating the game of chance. You can find all the details about this piece [here](#).

[Watch](#) the recording of the piece by the University Choir of the Ludwigsburg University of Education.



The 2025 World Youth Choir Is Heading to Catalonia and France this Summer!

Conducted by Daniel Reuss (The Netherlands), 64 singers from 37 countries will present a programme featuring European composers together with traditional folk repertoire and a world première by a Catalan composer — and World Youth Choir alumna — Anna Campmany Duch. If you are in the neighbourhood, take in as many concerts as possible:



- 19 July 2025, 20.00. Barcelona, Sagrada Família (international mass)
- 21 July 2025, 12.00. Montserrat, Montserrat Abbey (cameo performance)
- 23 July 2025 (time tbc). Terrassa (location tbc)
- 24 July 2025, 20.00. Barcelona, Palau de la Música Catalana
- 25 July 2025, 21.00. Lleida, Seu Vella de Lleida
- 26 July 2025, 21.00. Girona, Catedral de Girona
- 27 July 2025, 18.00. Tortosa, Catedral de Tortosa
- 30 July 2025, 20.30. Vaison-la-Romaine (France), Théâtre Antique (Opening Concert of Choralies)

Information on tickets is available [here](#).

The European Choral Association Invites You to Give your Feedback on the Last Choral TIES Webinar

How did you like the Webinar on *Conducting Youth and Children's Choirs* on 22 May 2025, with Basilio Astulez, Zimfira Poloz and Ken Wakia? If you missed it, [you can watch it here](#).

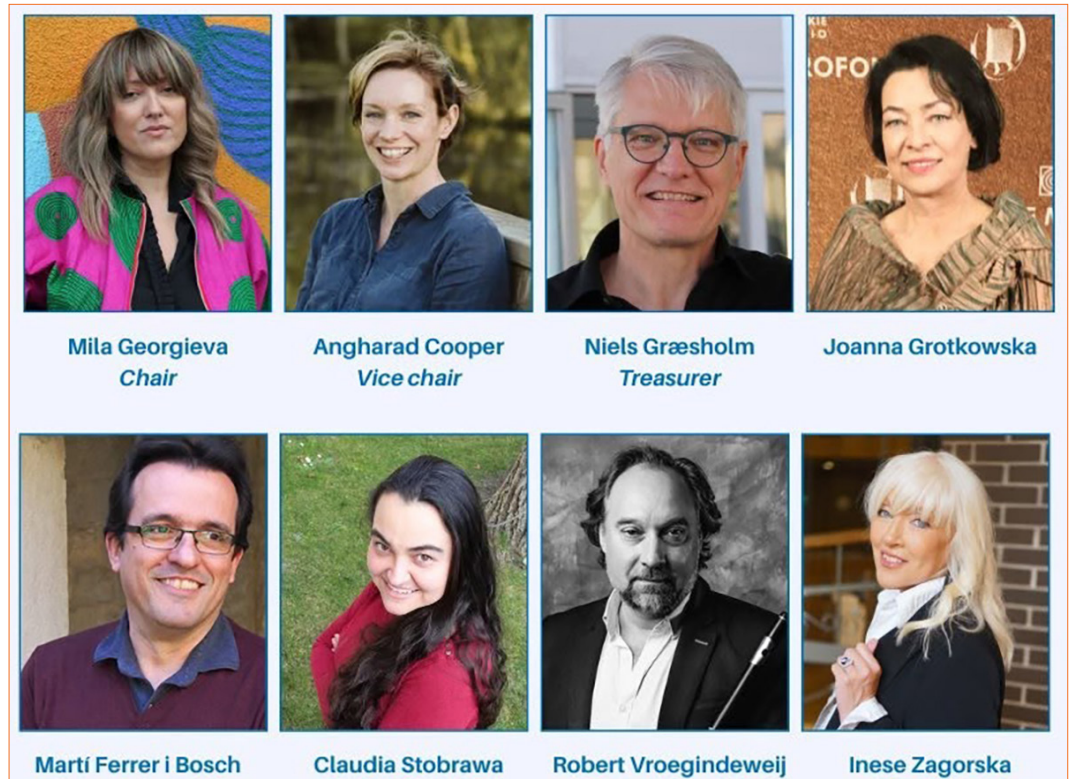
After you watch it, please give us your feedback by [answering 5 quick questions](#).

Some of you have already completed this questionnaire and have suggested very interesting topics for future webinars. You may be interested to know that these topics will be covered at the [Leading Voices](#) event in **Tallinn, Estonia, 6-10 July 2025**. It is still possible to register for the full event or to buy one-day-tickets for individual days. Some sessions will also be streamed and opened for hybrid participation. To find out more about this exciting professional development opportunity, follow the [European Choral Association](#) on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



New Board of the European Music Council Elected

During their Annual Meeting on 26 June 2025, members of the [European Music Council](#) elected a new board for the next two years.



New EMC Board:

- Chair: Mila Georgieva, nominated by the [Bulgarian Music Association](#)
- Vice Chair: Angharad Cooper, nominated by the [Center for Music Ecosystems](#)
- Treasurer: Niels Græsholm, nominated by the [International Federation for Choral Music](#)

(IFCM)

- Member: Joanna Grotkowska, nominated by the [Polish Music Council](#)
- Member: Martí Ferrer i Bosch, nominated by [Moviment Coral Català](#)
- Member: Claudia Stobrawa, nominated by [REMA European Early Music Network](#)
- Robert Vroegindeweij, nominated by the [European Music School Union](#)
- Inese Zagorska, nominated by the [Latvian Music Council](#)

Congratulations to EMC on their new board and to **IFCM** board member **Niels Græsholm** on being re-elected as Treasurer!

Japan Choral Association (JCA) Is Looking for Singers to Join the JCA Youth Choir 2026 Session

24-28 March 2026, Kurashiki Okayama, Japan

The 15th JCA Youth Choir, a signature programme of the [Japan Choral Association](#) (JCA) consisting of a four-day rehearsal and final concert, will be held in Kurashiki Okayama, Japan, in March 2026. The guest conductor for the 2026 session is Avip Priatna from Indonesia. JCA is recruiting singers 16-28 years old from the Asia-Pacific region. [Applications](#) are now open here!



The Choral Federation A Cœur Joie Wallonia-Brussels Announces *Namur en Chœurs* 2026

[*Namur en Chœurs*](#) is an open, welcoming, and multicultural festival — a joyful celebration for everyone who sings in a choir, whether professionally or as an amateur or someone who simply loves choral music.

The [Choral Federation À Cœur Joie Wallonia-Brussels](#) will present the 7th *Namur en Chœurs* **6-7 June 2026**, with a refreshed format. Of course, open stages and concerts will remain at the heart of the event. More details will be shared soon.



International Youth Chamber Choir Meeting, Usedom, Germany, 14-23 August 2026

The [International Youth Chamber Choir Meeting](#) is a unique choral experience in a truly special place, the beautiful island of Usedom, Germany, right by the sea.

Just steps away from the beach, nestled in nature, and on the German-Polish border, this vibrant summer gathering brings together young singers from across Europe to share music, friendship, and salty sea air in an inspiring atmosphere.

Ateliers:

- Başak Doğan (Turkey) – Mixed Youth Choir: Founder of Vokal Akademi and conductor of the award-winning choir 'Chromas', known for her creative style combining improvisation, cultural diversity, and 'vocal painting'.
- Basilio Astúlez (Spain) – Girls' Choir: Renowned choir director and educator, celebrated for his work with ensembles like 'Leioa Kantika Korala' and 'Vocalia Taldea' – in demand worldwide.
- Agnes Schnabl (Austria) – Mixed Youth Choir: Award-winning conductor and lecturer at the University of Music Vienna, passionately bridging folk and art music with top-level ensembles like the Austrian Youth Choir.

Programme:

- Around 20 hours of atelier rehearsals
- 12 concerts across the island
- Big final concert
- Surprise evening on Friday
- Choir-to-choir concerts, international hangouts & beach time

Who can apply?

- Youth choirs from across Europe (up to 40 singers, aged max. 26)

[Apply before 30 November 2025.](#)



American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Announces the Dates and Locations of its Regional Conferences

- [North-Western Region Conference](#), Takoma, Washington, 4-7 March 2026
- [Mid-Western Region Conference](#), Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 25-28 February 2026
- [Southern Region Conference](#), Memphis, Tennessee, 4-7 March 2026
- [Southwestern Region Conference](#), Albuquerque, New Mexico, 4-7 March 2026
- [Eastern Region Conference](#), Providence, Rhode Island, 25-28 February 2026
- [Western Region Conference](#), San Jose, California, 4-7 March 2026

Music is Life - Music is Blood - Music is Lifeblood (Ade Bantu) — Insights from the 2025 European Forum

On **11-12 June 2025**, over 100 music sector stakeholders came together in Brussels, Belgium, for the 13th edition of the [European Forum on Music](#) (EFM) with the theme “Celebrating Musical Diversity”.

EFM celebrated 20 years of the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and highlighted it as a key reference point for shaping policies that affect the music and wider cultural sector.

Musical diversity was at the centre of the exchanges throughout all panel discussions highlighting it in the context of EU policies, freedom of artistic expression, fair working conditions, and AI.



From Cappella Romana, Portland, Oregon, USA

For a limited time, the ensemble [Cappella Romana](#), joined by *In Medio*, invites you to [watch](#) their performance of *Passion & Resurrection* by Ivan Moody, conducted by Alexander Lingas. *Cappella Romana* and *In Medio* formed a choir of over 40 singers for this performance. English cantillation of Holy Week’s drama mixes with Orthodox hymns in Slavonic, Greek, and English, accompanied by a string quartet and bells.

These concerts were given in memory of Fr. Ivan Moody who also wrote his longest choral work, *The Akáthistos Hymn*, for Cappella Romana.



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.