November 2026 IFCMeNEWS

IFCM President's Message

Dear colleagues, dear friends, dear lovers of choral music,

A new chapter for IFCM is beginning. We will write this chapter together. For more than four decades, IFCM has connected choirs, conductors, and composers across the world. Our history is our legacy, built voice by voice by our members over the years: choirs, conductors, composers, and organisations who believed in something bigger than themselves. We carry a responsibility towards all of them, as we do towards the coming generations.

Now, it is time to tell new stories.

IFCM belongs to its members. In the coming months and years we want to listen closely to you. Every choral tradition is welcome and every region deserves to be heard. Collective singing lives in every corner of the world, yet many regions and traditions are still rarely present on the international stage. We want to reach out, learn from each other, and make room for every voice in our events and programmes.

It will not be long before you hear from us again.
Burak Onur Erdem, President

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New Board Members on Board!

IFCM is very pleased to welcome both its new and re-elected Board members, all of whom officially begin their 2026-2029 term in October. Their diverse perspectives, wide experience, and fresh ideas will undoubtedly strengthen the Federation as we strive to bring the world together through choral music. Under new leadership and a revised structure, the new Board will work closely with colleagues around the world to enhance our decision-making, spark innovation, and help create a sustainable future for the choral world.
We are excited about the energy, insight, and exciting initiatives they will bring to IFCM in the years ahead.

Could your City Host the World Symposium on Choral Music?

IFCM is seeking Expressions of Interest from organizations interested in hosting the World Symposium on Choral Music (WSCM) in 2029... or beyond! WSCM is the flagship event of IFCM and one of the world's most significant gatherings for choral singing. Every three years, leading choirs, conductors, composers, educators, researchers, singers, and industry professionals come together for an extraordinary celebration of music, culture, creativity, and connection.
Hosting WSCM is far more than hosting an event. It is an opportunity to bring the world to your community and your community to the world, showcase local choral traditions, forge international partnerships, inspire artistic collaboration, and create a lasting cultural legacy. Could your organization, city, or region be the next WSCM host?

Expressions of Interest are due 1 December 2026. Formal bids for WSCM 2029 will be invited in early 2027.

Read the full Host Opportunity and submission guidelines here.

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Help Shape the Next IFCM Youth Committee

Applications and nominations are open for the IFCM Youth Committee 2026–2029.

IFCM is looking for up to eight young people -- one from each of its geographical regions -- who are ready to bring their ideas, experiences, and perspectives into the work of the federation.

Applicants must be aged 18-28 on 31 October 2026. A choral background is preferred, but this criterion may take many forms: singer, conductor, composer, manager, organiser, teacher, student, volunteer, or another role within the choral community.

Youth Committee members will participate in IFCM committees and working groups, contribute to programmes and events, and develop initiatives that respond to the interests and needs of young people in choral music.

Young people may apply independently, whether or not they belong to an IFCM member organisation.

IFCM member organisations are also invited to nominate one eligible candidate.

We encourage all IFCM members to share this opportunity and consider who in their respective networks should be invited to take part.

Application deadline: **31 October 2026**

Apply through the online form: https://bit.ly/IFCMYOUTH_2026-2029

For questions, contact office@ifcm.net.

IFCM Welcomes a New Member in the Category "Local Organization"

Asociación Pro Paz Choral Fest, Costa Rica

Choral Fest Costa Rica for Peace is a non-profit, non-competitive international choral festival organized by Asociación Pro Paz Choral Fest. The festival brings children's, youth, university, school, community, church, and adult choirs from different countries together through music, cultural exchange, and meaningful human connection.

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The festival's program includes concerts, workshops with guest conductors, common songs, community encounters, and cultural experiences in Costa Rica. Here, music does not compete; it connects. Every participating choir is invited to share its own artistic and cultural identity while joining other voices in a collective message of peace.

From 23-27 June 2027, the festival will celebrate its 10th edition in Costa Rica, marking ten years of building friendships and bridges between communities through choral singing. The festival's guiding motto is: "Change the world one note at a time."

IFCM Welcomes a New Member in the Category "Choir"

Les Amis du Chœur Madrigal du Cameroun, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Les Amis du Chœur Madrigal du Cameroun ***(ACMC)*** is a Cameroonian non-profit organization dedicated to music education, choral practice, and the preservation of Cameroon's musical heritage. For over ten years, ACMC

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has developed training programs, school music workshops, traditional song collection and arrangements, as well as the Mboa Youth Choir, which brings together young singers and promotes high-quality choral practice and international exchange.
In July 2027, ACMC will launch *Mboa en Chœur*, the first international biennial choral festival in Yaoundé, bringing together choirs, conductors, and music educators from Cameroon, Africa, and beyond for workshops, concerts, exchanges, and shared singing.

Musica International Workshop, Strasbourg, France, 26–31 October 2026

In collaboration with the Institute of Phonetics of the University of Strasbourg, Musica International is delighted to welcome choir conductors, librarians, publishers, composers, and choral music professionals from around the world.
For six days, participants will come together in a friendly and collaborative atmosphere to discover, or rediscover, the Musica International Choral Repertoire Database, contribute to the enrichment of its remarkable collection, and explore new ways of making the most of this unique resource. Whether you are already familiar with Musica or are discovering it for the first time, this workshop is an opportunity to share knowledge, meet colleagues, explore choral repertoire, and help build the world's international choral music resource.

Discover Musica International

Looking for 17th-century German motets for 6 to 8 voices? Searching for a work for mixed choir and string orchestra, in English, under 10 minutes, preferably from the 18th century? Whatever your repertoire research needs, Musica International can help you find the music you are looking for.

How to join the workshop

There is no formal application process for attending a Musica workshop.
If you would like to take part, simply contact the Musica team at office@musicanet.org and send us a short summary of your choral experience and professional background.

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EUROPA CANTAT 2027 - registration opening soon

Every three years since 1961, the European Choral Association organises a unique festival in a different country: the EUROPA CANTAT festival.

The event gathers thousands participants coming from all over Europe and the world to share their passion for singing and discover one another's cultures by attending ateliers and workshops, perform in final concerts, listen to invited choirs, eat, sleep, and have fun together.

In 2027, the 22nd EUROPA CANTAT festival will be held in Liepāja, Latvia. More than 3,000 participants (singers, conductors, educators, and music enthusiasts from Europe and beyond) are expected to attend. The aim of the festival is to strengthen the choral movement by offering opportunities for collective music-making, learning, and intercultural collaboration. It will enrich the cultural life of Latvia and Europe while reinforcing Liepāja's role as an international hub for musical events.

Throughout the festival week in Liepāja, concerts and sing-along events, as well as opening and closing ceremonies and guest artist performances will be held. Participants will also have the wonderful opportunity to take part in more than 35 ateliers. Designed for singers and choirs of all experience levels, the programme ensures that everyone can find an atelier that best matches their interests and capabilities. Under the guidance of distinguished conductors, they will explore repertoire spanning a wide range of musical genres: from Renaissance, Classical, Romantic and contemporary choral music to opera and symphonic works, as well as pop, rock and jazz arrangements, including choreographed vocal performances.

Visit the website for the full atelier programme and to get all information: europacantat2027.com

Registration opens this October! Don't miss your chance to be part of the next edition of EUROPA CANTAT!

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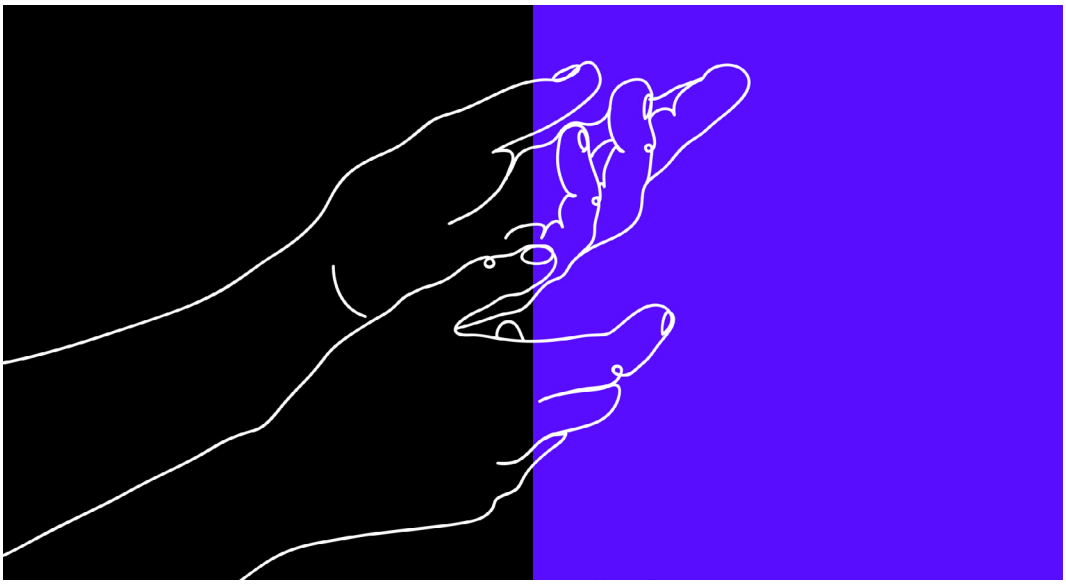
Daniel Reuss and the Turkish State Choir: The 11th Walter Strauss Masterclass

From 24 to 30 January 2027, conductors from around the world are invited to Ankara, Türkiye, to take part in the 11th Walter Strauss Masterclass, led by the internationally acclaimed Dutch conductor, Daniel Reuss. Five active participants will work closely with Daniel and the Turkish State Choir, a full-time professional ensemble, through intensive podium sessions and rehearsals which culminate in a final concert at the end of the week. Observer participants are also welcome to attend the sessions throughout the week. The masterclass, which is held in English, offers advanced conductors the opportunity to refine their technique, interpretation, and rehearsal skills through direct feedback and hands-on experience with a professional choir. Applications close on **15 November 2026**.

Eric Ericson Award 2027 – Applications are open!

Are you, or do you know, a choral conductor under the age of 36 ready to take the next step in their career? Apply for the Eric Ericson Award 2027! In addition to a generous cash prize, the winner will conduct eleven of the European Broadcasting Union's leading media choirs, including the BBC Singers, Chœur de Radio France, the Swedish Radio Choir, and the RIAS Chamber Choir Berlin. Learn more at ericericsonaward.se/en.



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Call for Choirs: 22nd EUROTREFF 2027 in Wolfenbüttel, Germany

Join the 22nd EUROTREFF 2027 from 8 to 12 September 2027 for an inspiring choral festival of music, friendship, and intercultural exchange! In Wolfenbüttel, Germany, approximately 600 young singers from across Europe will come together to discover new repertoire, meet young people from different countries, and make music together. Ateliers will be led by renowned conductors Josep Vila Jover (Spain), Elena Szuczies (Germany), Tori Longdon (UK), Marleen de Boo (Belgium), Maud Hamon-Loisance (France), and Laura Jēkabsone (Latvia). Children's, youth, and girls' choirs are invited to apply and become part of this unique musical and intercultural experience.

Apply by 31 October 2026!

More information: www.eurotreff-amj.de/en

International Choral q̓at̓ᵊaymɩxʷ (Kathaumixw), Powell River, Canada, 5-10 July 2027

Applications are open and excitement is building for the 2027 International Choral q̓at̓ᵊaymɩxʷ (Kathaumixw), a world-recognized biennial choir festival taking place **5-10 July 2027**, in Powell River, located in the stunning qathet region on British Columbia's Sunshine Coast, Canada.

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The 2027 festival will offer concerts, choral and vocal competitions, common song singing, conductors' seminars, and a rich program of social and cultural events that foster lasting international connections

Experience the spirit of the festival:

https://www.facebook.com/Kathaumixw/

Himig Kabataan Wins Gold at World Peace Choral Festival

Himig Kabataan Cultural Society (Surrey, British Columbia, Canada) has brought home a historic Gold Award from the 15th World Peace Choral Festival in Vienna, Austria. The Filipino-Canadian youth choir competed among international choirs and also received an award for Excellent Performance of Folk and National Music. Their repertoire included the Latin sacred piece *Locus Iste*, the French chanson *Il Est Bel et Bon*, and the Bicolano folk medley *Saro*, *Duwa*, *Tolo*. Founded in 2022 by 20-year-old Bea Correa, Himig Kabataan has grown from eight volunteers into a vibrant 24-voice youth ensemble. Their achievement celebrates Filipino heritage, Canadian multiculturalism, musical excellence, and the power of music to promote peace.

72nd Cork International Choral Festival, 28 April- 2 May 2027

Join the 72nd Cork International Choral Festival, one of Europe's leading choral events. Taking place from 28 April to 2 May 2027, the festival will be held on Ireland's beautiful south coast. Over the course of five unforgettable days, thousands of participants will bring Cork to life with an exciting programme of gala concerts, national and international competitions, educational events, and world-class performances. Registration is now open for international choirs: applications for the prestigious Fleischmann International Trophy Competition close on **31 October 2026**, while registration for non-competitive international participation closes on **30 November 2026**.

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Berkshire Choral Adventures for 2027

Berkshire Choral International (BCI), the summer choral experience for amateur adult singers, is hosting six bold and rewarding programs in Summer 2027 including Cape Town, South Africa with Anthony Trecek-King; Britten's *War Requiem* with Erin Freeman in New York City, Andrew Clark leading music from the American Songbook at Tanglewood, and more. Come find your choral adventure.

Watch our preview with Anthony Trecek-King

Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals Announces its 62nd International Choral Festival, Barcelona, 5-11 July 2027

The Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals (FCEC) announces that choir applications are open for the 62nd International Choral Festival of Barcelona, a 6-day event offering workshops and concerts in the heart of Barcelona,

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bringing together music and cultures from around the world.
All participating choirs will give two performances in Barcelona and its surroundings, as well as take part in the closing concert, where all participants will perform the repertoire studied during the workshops. Workshops leaders are Mireia Barrera (tribute to Pierre Cao), Ariel Alonso (music from Argentina) and Wang Jim (China and its many voices: *Songs from the grasslands to the tropical highlands)*. The closing concert will take place in the Palau de la Música Catalana.
Apply before **16 November 2026**.

16th International Krakow Choir Festival Cracovia Cantans 10-13 June 2027

MELODY invites choirs from around the world to the 16th edition of Cracovia Cantans in Krakow, Poland, **10–13 June 2027**!
Cracovia Cantans is one of Poland's leading international choral festivals, welcoming choirs from across the globe for four days of music, cultural exchange, and unforgettable performances.
Choirs can choose to:

- Perform in the non-competitive programme and share their music with audiences in Krakow, or
- Take part in the competition in one of nine categories, performing in front of an international jury panel.

Over the past editions, almost 500 choirs have performed in Krakow, creating wonderful musical experiences and connecting with fellow choirs from around the world. Bring your choir to Krakow and be part of this international celebration of choral music!
Registration deadline: **30 November 2026**

Carus' J. S. Bach: Complete Edition in 23 Volumes

What weighs an impressive 70 pounds, brims with content, and is guaranteed never to gather dust? Unlike typical gym weights, it presents not only a physical challenge but, most importantly, an intellectual and spiritual one!

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The complete edition of Bach's sacred vocal music weighs over 70 pounds and spans 23 volumes - that's 12,000 pages of printed music on Carus' finest quality paper.
Does that sound appealing? Carus's Bach box set is now available at the special price of just €299. This offer is valid until **15 November 2026**, after which the price will return to €349.
More information here.

1st Competition of Choral Compositions in Indigenous Languages

Ancient voices intertwine with contemporary music. Fomento al Canto Coral Mexicano (FCCM), INALI, and the Ministry of Culture proudly present the 1st Choral Composition Competition in Mexican Native Languages (Isthmus Zapotec).
This global call invites composers worldwide to create unpublished choral works. Language fluency is not required; a digital library of authorized texts and a virtual IPA phonetics workshop will be provided. **Submissions** are open from **15 August to 15 December 2026**. Entry fees are $250 MXN (Mexicans) / €20 (foreigners).
Three winners will join FCCM's catalogue, and the first place composition will be premiered at the 5th Mexico-Canada Encounter in Oaxaca.

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Jāzeps Vītols 7th International Choral Conductors Competition, 23-27 November 2026

The Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music is pleased to invite young choral conductors (up to the age of 30) from around the world to apply for the Jāzeps Vītols 7th International Choral Conductors Competition, which will take place in Riga, Latvia, from **23 to 27 November 2026**.

The competition offers a unique opportunity for young conductors to demonstrate their artistic and professional skills while working with some of Latvia's leading choirs: Latvian Radio Choir, State Choir LATVIJA, Riga Chamber Choir AVE SOL, Mixed Choir of the Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music, and Riga Cathedral Girls' Choir TIARA.

The application deadline is **9 September 2026**.

All competition regulations, repertoire, application requirements, and the application form are available here: https://vitolakonkurss.lv/ccc/

Dr. Ron Smart: a life devoted to choral music (Obituary from the Australian National Choral Association)

The Australian National Choral Association was very sad to hear of the passing of Dr Ron Smart, PSM OAM. ANCA sends its deepest condolences to Ron's wife, Janette, and to Ron's family, friends, colleagues, students, and the countless musicians whose lives he touched.

Dr Ron Smart was a significant and quietly influential figure in the development of choral music in Australia. Ron was the first President of ANCA and was later awarded Life Membership along with his wife, Janette. His work as a conductor, educator and adjudicator, together with his commitment to supporting young musicians, left a lasting mark on Australian musical life.

Ron's musical life began as a trombonist, including a period performing with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. His career subsequently extended well beyond performance into music education, administration and the development of major national and international initiatives.

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In the late 1980s, Ron organised the Pan Pacific Music Camps at Collaroy, bringing together young musicians from across Australia. These camps provided an important meeting place for emerging singers and musicians and ultimately helped give rise to the National Youth Choir of Australia, which continues today. Through initiatives such as these, Ron demonstrated a particular gift for bringing people together and creating pathways for the next generation.

Among his most significant achievements was his role in bringing the 1996 World Symposium on Choral Music to Sydney. This was a major event for Australian choral music, bringing the international choral community to Australia and leaving a lasting legacy. Many who attended still remember the Sydney symposium as a landmark occasion, and the International Federation for Choral Music has recognised Ron's enormous contribution to both the symposium and the Federation itself.

What emerges most clearly from the recollections of those who knew him is a picture of a man who built things that lasted. He brought people together, opened doors for young musicians, and strengthened connections between Australian choral music and the wider international community. Much of what he achieved was not about personal recognition, but about making something possible for others.

The National Youth Choir and the legacy of the 1994 World Symposium are among the most visible reminders of Ron's work, but his influence can also be found in the many musicians, educators and choral leaders who benefited from the opportunities he helped create. Ron Smart was awarded the Public Service Medal (PSM) in 1990 and the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2019.

Ron Smart deserves to be remembered not only for what he achieved himself, but for the possibilities he created for others. His was a life of quiet leadership, service and lasting contribution to Australia's choral community.

First Presentation of the WSCM 1996 in Sydney Australia by Ron Smart during an IFCM Board Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, in August 1994.

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