September 2026 IFCMeNEWS: IFCM Says Goodbye and Thank You, Macau!

WSCM 2026 MACAU China, 23-28 August 2026, Reimagining the Future

The World Symposium on Choral Music (WSCM) 2026 – "Reimagining the Future" – held in Macau, China has come to a successful conclusion. WSCM 2026 featured 12 invited choirs and eight 'World Voices' participating choirs, 58 invited presenters, a total of 700 participants and distinguished guests from 48 countries. Musically and culturally diverse concerts, keynote presentations, workshops and sessions, conducting masterclasses, and an Expo all showcased the richness of our choral world, challenging everyone to "Grow your network, grow your voice, grow your future." The artistic excellence and inspirational ideas of these world-class choirs and presenters, along with connections forged between the many choral musicians present, were all key contributors in our quest to reimagine that future.

IFCM expresses its sincere gratitude to the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR Government, the Federation of Cultural Sectors of Macau, the Macau Cultural development Fund and the Macau Choral Art Association.

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to the members of the WSCM2026 Artistic and Administrative Committees; President Emily Kuo Vong; the WSCM2026 Macau team and staff; the Macau Choral Art Association; the IFCM Board, Young Committee and staff; and all the dedicated individuals who took part in the event, as well as the host city and country.

We do hope WSCM2026 participants thoroughly enjoyed the Symposium, as well as the opportunity to reunite with old friends or make new ones. We look forward to seeing you again in 2029!

Watch the playlist of the World Symposium on Choral Music, Macau, China, **here**

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Announcement of IFCM Election Results

IFCM would like to express its **enormous appreciation to president Emily Kuo Vong** for her passion and dedication to choral music and to the IFCM community as board member from 2012 to 2014, as vice-president from 2014 to 2017 and as president of IFCM since 2017. After 15 years Emily has reached the maximum of possible mandates and she will become past president of IFCM in October 2026, where she will continue to have an important advisory function. In addition, the board of IFCM has granted Emily life-long honorary membership in recognition of all she has done for the association, so that she will be able to stay closely connected to the association. The board also wishes to congratulate Emily on her election as Executive Vice President of the International Music Council (IMC), NGO official partner of UNESCO.

President Emily Kuo Vong receiving honorary membership
© Montserrat Cadevall

The members of IFCM elected a new president and board and the results were announced at the General Assembly in Macau on 23 August. The newly elected board then elected the members of the executive committee.

The new board will start its mandate in October 2026, with president Emily Kuo Vong remaining in her position until then.

2026 IFCM General Assembly
© Roula Abou Baker

Election results:
President: Burak Onur Erdem (Türkiye)
Vice-Presidents: Ki Adams (Canada), Maria Guinand (Venezuela), Jan Schumacher (Germany), Kaie Tanner (Estonia), Tomoko Yokoyama (Japan), treasurer: Dominique Lecheval (France)

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Further board members: Ana Patricia Carbajal (Mexico), Niels Græsholm (Denmark), Cameron LaBarr (USA), Darius Lim (Singapore), Ambroise Kua Nzambi Toko (DR Congo), Daniel Mestre (Spain), Irvinne Redor (Philippines), John Rosser (New Zealand), Ken Wakia (Kenya)
We congratulate everybody and look forward to the start of the new board in October.

Call for the IFCM Youth Committee 2026–2029

The International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) is opening the **call for the IFCM Youth Committee**, for the 2026–2029 term. We are looking for up to eight young people, aged 18 to 28, one from each of the eight regions of the federation, to represent the youth in IFCM.
Member organisations may nominate candidates, and young people may apply on their own. The deadline is **31 October 2026**.

Who we are looking for
We are looking for up to eight members, one from each of the eight regions of the world recognised by the IFCM Bylaws and Membership Policy:
North America
Latin America and the Caribbean
Sub-Saharan Africa
Middle East and North Africa
Northern & Western Europe and Israel
Central-Eastern & South-Eastern Europe
Asia (Central, East and South)
Oceania (Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific)

You are eligible if you are aged 18 to 28 on 31 October 2026 — that is, born not earlier than **1 November 1997** and not later than **31 October 2008**.

The European Choral Association (ECA) at the WSCM 2026

If you were at the World Symposium on Choral Music of the **International Federation for Choral Music** (IFCM) in Macau, did you get a chance to attend the ECA session on resources, trips and tricks on how to be true to your values in your daily work.
The session was presented by ECA secretary general Sonja Greiner, and ECA board member Silvija Pročkytė.
This session introduced free resources developed by the European Choral Association to help choirs, festivals, and organisations build more inclusive and sustainable practices. Covering topics such as diversity, environmental sustainability, fair pay, and the future of collective singing, the session provided practical tools to strengthen community engagement and create a more equitable choral culture. Interested? Please contact ECA at **info@europeanchoralassociation.org**

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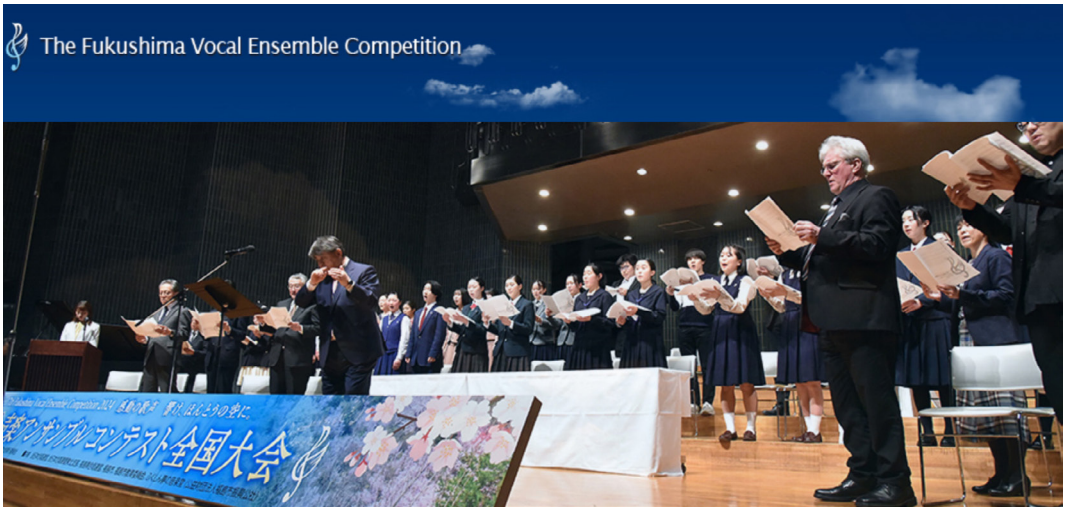
During the WSCM 2026, the European Choral Association also organized a well attended reception to promote the next Europa Cantat In Liepāja Latvia © ECA

Japan Choral Association (JCA) Announcing the 20th Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition

19-22 March 2027, Fukushima City, Japan

The **20th Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition 2027**, co-organized with Japan Choral Association (JCA), is now calling for participants. Recognized as the largest choral competition in Japan dedicated to small vocal ensembles (2–16 singers), it brings together more than 120 top vocal ensembles each year in Fukushima—celebrated nationwide as the "Kingdom of Choirs." Join JCA in this unique celebration of ensemble singing and let voices from around the world ring out together!

Deadline for preliminary auditions: 30 September 2026. Learn more and register **HERE**.



Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals Announcing its 62nd International Choral Festival

Barcelona, 5-11 July 2027

The **Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals** (FCEC) is announcing 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, bringing together music and cultures from around the world.

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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), 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**.

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!

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**.

The International Music Council Announcing the Music Cities Convention

29 September – 1 October 2026, StudioBell, Calgary, Canada

The International Music Council (IMC) is partnering with the **Music Cities Convention**, the world's leading gathering at the intersection of music, cities and sustainable development. The Convention will take place **29 September – 1 October 2026** at *StudioBell*, home of the Canadian National Music Centre in Calgary.

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Following a hugely successful UK edition in Hull this June, the Alberta convention will bring together 300+ policymakers, industry leaders and city builders for two days of open conference. The 2026 Alberta programme centres on workforce development, and how cities build, retain and invest in the music professionals and creative enterprises that power local economies. Through panels, fireside chats, hackathons, presentations and collective thinking sessions, delegates will explore the talent pipeline, job creation, education and training, business attraction and retention, Indigenous music economies, music tourism, health and wellbeing, and the future of music policy across AI, climate action and land use.

Thanks to our cooperation with Sound Diplomacy, IMC is pleased to offer a limited number of complimentary accreditations to IMC members wishing to attend.

If you are interested in joining us, please get in touch at **info@imc-cim.org** to request your accreditation.

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 August 15 to December 15, 2026. Entry fees are $250 MXN (Mexicans) / €20 (foreigners).

Three winners will join FCCM's catalogue, and the first place will premiere 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: the Latvian Radio Choir, the State Choir LATVIJA, the Riga Chamber Choir AVE SOL, the Mixed Choir of the Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music, and the 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/**

We invite you to visit the **Calendar of Choral Activities** published by the European Choral Association — Europa Cantat and the **IFCM Facebook Open Community Board** to check on the choral events planned in the coming months.

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