

DECEMBER 2023 IFCMeNEWS

WORLD CHORAL DAY 2023: SING TOGETHER, SING FOREVER, SING FOR PEACE

We encourage the participation of the millions of singers worldwide who have contributed previously to the World Choral Day and extend a warm invitation to those who are joining us for the first time. Share your voice through collective singing to show the world that singing together with love and compassion is one of the most powerful tools we can use to achieve peace!

[REGISTER YOUR EVENT HERE](#)



WORLD CHORAL DAY: ACCESS WITH FULL UNRESTRICTED PRIVILEGES TO THE CHORAL REPERTOIRE DATABASE MUSICA INTERNATIONAL ON 9-10 DECEMBER 2023

To celebrate World Choral Day on 10 December 2023, Musica International will open a fully unrestricted access to its database of more than 200,000 comprehensively described choral titles, without any need of login/password. For access, go to <https://www.musicanet.org>. Do you want to build a concert program on a given theme? No problem! Enter the theme into the field <Keywords or Words of Title or...> in the search form and receive a list of pieces fitting the theme with detailed descriptions. You can refine the search by selecting additional criteria such as voicing, language, genre, difficulty, etc.

If you are a member of IFCM, this feature is available throughout the year from the website www.ifcm.net/service. Just login with your IFCM member login name/password in the <Service> section.

IFCM ONLINE CAFES — INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL

Following the enthusiastic response to the Online Cafes organized in the past few months, IFCM is announcing a series of Online Cafes in the upcoming months! International Cafes will be for IFCM members only while National Cafes will be open to everyone (members and non-members). These sessions will be informative and enriched by your active participation. You will be able to learn about new repertoire for your choir, discover festivals/events/seminars in 2024,

and more. The Cafes will be led by well-known choral conductors, composers, and managers from around the world. Are you interested in joining IFCM's International Cafes, but are not a member? [Become a member today](#) and you will immediately receive an invitation to the Cafes in your inbox!

Schedule of the International Cafes:

- 26 November 2023: "IFCM on the Discovery of New Repertoire" was led by three composers whose works were premiered during WSCM 2023: Eric Banks (USA), Michael Ostrzyga (Germany), and Tracy Wong (Malaysia/Canada). The winners of the IFCM Composition Competition 2023-2024 were announced during this Online Cafe (see announcement below). A recording of this café will soon be available to all IFCM members.



IFCM on the Discovery of New Repertoire, on November 26

- 28 January 2024 - **Plan a Choral Year... with IFCM**
- March 2024 - **Conducting Techniques**
- April 2024 - **IFCM on the Discovery of New Repertoire, Part 2**
- June 2024 - **YOUNG**



CHORAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION: THE WINNERS ARE...

In March 2023, IFCM launched its Sixth International Choral Composition Competition to promote new works in choral music and to encourage innovation in choral writing that fits the needs of a 21st-century choir. The criteria emphasized compositions that combine originality, imagination, and creativity within the context of contemporary global themes.

With great pleasure, the winners are:

- **Paolo Orlandi**, Italy, with *The Arrow and the Song* (Winner in the World Choral Day category)
- **Marie Herrington**, USA, with *A Jelly Fish* (Winner in the Mixed and/or Equal Voices category)

Special recognitions:

- Peter Walters, UK, with *Light*
- Motshwane Pege, South Africa, with *And I Will Dwell with The Lord*

On behalf of IFCM and the jury members, we express our sincere congratulations to the winners and our deepest gratitude to all composers who submitted compositions.



EXCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCOVER CHINA AND SING IN BEIJING

Founded in 1992, the China International Chorus Festival (CICF) is one of the largest and most prestigious international chorus festival gathering in China and the Asia-Pacific region. Held every two years, the past 16 CICFs have been proved a great success with more than 120,000



participants over the past 30 years. The festival has reached an online audience of over one hundred million viewers, significantly reshaping the history of choral music in China.

The 17th CICF is scheduled to be held in Beijing 15-19 July 2024. It will feature a wide range of choral activities: opening and closing ceremonies, choral forums, choir evaluation, high-level concerts featuring both Chinese and international choirs, master classes (workshops), and public welfare activities.

IFCM is happy to collaborate with CICF 2024 and invites all choirs of any type, vocal ensembles, and vocal groups from around the world to join this amazing festival.

Participating choirs will receive the following with the registration fee of US\$500 per person:

- The possibility to participate in the international competition (12-minute program)
- 60-minute rehearsal
- 20-minute concert
- The possibility to sing one or two songs at special concerts
- All accommodation, meals, local transportation, and tickets for guided tourist excursions are provided by the organizers. International costs such as flight tickets, visas, and insurances are the responsibility of choir.

Please find a full description of program [here](#).

If you are interested in registering your choir for CICF, please write directly to office@ifcm.net or secretarygeneral@ifcm.net, and we will guide you through the next steps.



COMING SOON: JANUARY 2024 INTERNATIONAL CHORAL MAGAZINE

Have you wondered about the journey of a score from its being discovered in an abandoned cupboard to the shelves of the music shop? How world-class conductor Masaaki Suzuki looks back on 50 years of an international music career? How the evolution of a commissioned work looks like for the composer, conductor, and choir alike, and why we need composition competitions? You will find all this, and much more, in the January 2024 issue of the **International Choral Magazine**!

NEW COUNTRY GROUPS FOR MEMBERSHIP FEES - 1 JANUARY 2024

The IFCM membership fees vary according to three country groups. These lists of countries were established with reference to each country's Gross Domestic Product and Gross National Income as measured by the United Nations. A non-monetary development indicator was also used to determine the country groupings. The IFCM Board carefully reviewed these lists and a motion was passed to accept the three country groups, keenly aware that the past few years have been challenging for the choral world and its supporters.

Check your country's group [here](#).

2024 WORLD YOUTH CHOIR SESSION

WEIKERSHEIM, GERMANY, 18 AUGUST – 8 SEPTEMBER 2024

Are you or any of your choristers/students...

- Between 17 and 26 years old on 1 August 2024,
- Experienced singers with a background of basic or semi-professional choral music education,
- Able to speak English at an intermediate level,
- Seeking a different professional challenge, and
- Eager to learn in a multicultural environment?

Then you are ready to apply for the 2024 [World Youth Choir](#)!

The World Youth Choir will join the National Youth Orchestra of Germany (Bundesjugendorchester) to perform Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* and a commissioned work by Tan Dun entitled *Nine – Ode to Compassion*.

Dates and concert venues in Germany, the Netherlands, and Italy to be confirmed.

Artistic Team: Tan Dun (USA), composer of the commissioned work and Jörn Hinnerk Andresen (Germany). Soloists will be World Youth Choir alumni.

Deadline: 22 December 2023 is the deadline for submitting audition materials to the international

jury. Deadlines for national auditions may be earlier in order to meet the international jury deadline. Check with your [national recruiters](#).



The World Youth Choir Alumni in Budapest in 2023 © 4K Media Studio

CALL FOR YOUNG SINGERS IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION FOR APYC 2024!

The next session of the Asia Pacific Youth Choir (APYC) will be held in Daegu, South Korea, 14-20 July 2024. The session will be under the leadership of:

- Music Director: **Jacob Youngmok Chang** (Republic of Korea), President of Korea International Choral Association, Former President of Daegu Art University
- Guest Conductor: **Mark Anthony Carpio** (Philippines), choral conductor, countertenor, choirmaster of the Philippine Madrigal Singers

Conditions of participation:

- Applicants must be between 18 to 28 years of age on 14 July 2024.
- A good working knowledge of English is required as all events will be conducted in English.
- Accommodation, meals, and all material needs are provided by the host organization.
- Participants are responsible for their own financial resources for the following:
 - Travel from home country to host country (Daegu, South Korea), and back to home country
 - Visas and other official requirements
 - Pocket money for personal expenses

Find all the details on how to apply and who to contact in the countries represented in the Asia Pacific region [HERE](#).

Apply before 15 December 2023. Download the [application form](#) (Excel) or the [application form](#) (PDF) and the [prepared score for the audition](#).



APYC 2023, concert at the Blue Mansion, George Town Malaysia, cond. Tracy Wong

CONDUCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, 30 OCTOBER – 4 NOVEMBER 2023

Continuation of a Training Cycle for Young Choral Directors

The first [session](#) involved 20 choral directors and a project choir of 25 choristers from the newly-created National Youth Choir of DR Congo. The conductor-teacher, Joël Kasadi, is a

previous CWB participant who became an instructor and founded the National Youth Choir of DR Congo. Participants prepared ten scores from the world choral repertoire prior to the session, and all participants conducted during the final concert on 4 November 2023. Topics such as score preparation, learning methodology, rehearsal pedagogy, conducting gestures, and vocal technique were explored and practiced during the daily 3-hour course. Skills were developed as the conductors worked with the project choir for two hours each day. The session was very well organized by the Congolese Federation for Choral Music of the DR Congo. A second session is scheduled in May 2024.



THE AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION REGIONAL CONFERENCES 2024

Register now to the ACDA Regional Conferences (USA)

- **North-Western Region Conference**

"Our Voices United," Spokane, Washington, 24-27 January 2024

- **Mid-Western Region Conference**

"Reflect, Rejuvenate, Rejoice," Omaha, Nebraska, 7-10 February 2024

- **Southern Region Conference**

"Where Our Spirits Soar," Louisville, Kentucky, 21-24 February 2024

- **Southwestern Region Conference**

"Limitless," Denver, Colorado, 27 February-2 March 2024

- **Eastern Region Conference**

"Raise Our Voice," Providence, Rhode Island, 28 February-2 March 2024

- **Western Region Conference**

"Many Voices One Song," Pasadena, California, 6-9 March 2024



EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION: STAY UPDATED ON THE CHORAL LIFE IN EUROPE

The European Choral Association invites you to **subscribe to their monthly newsletter** so you will never miss out on what's going on in their part of the world.

**14TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CHAMBER CHOIR MEETING IN USEDOM, GERMANY:
APPLY BY 15 DECEMBER 2023**

Every two years in July, approximately 200 young people study exciting new repertoire with renowned international choral conductors, explore Usedom Island, and enjoy its sandy beaches. Choirs perform together in concerts, with the final concert in the impressive St. Petri church in Wolgast as the highlight of the event.

- **Dates:** 12-21 July 2024
- **Location:** Usedom, Usedom Island, Baltic Sea, Germany

Your choir's participation in the **14th International Youth Chamber Choir Meeting** is highly expected! Watch a [video](#) of the 2022 performances. [Use the application form](#) to apply.



**SUMMA CUM LAUDE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL, VIENNA, AUSTRIA,
5-10 JULY 2024**

The **Summa Cum Laude Festival Vienna** is a global youth music festival for choirs, bands, and orchestras. The festival takes place in Vienna's most important and most beautiful concert venues: the **Golden Hall of the Musikverein**, the **Grand Hall of the Konzerthaus**, and the **MuTh Concert Hall** of the renowned Vienna Boys' Choir. The event offers an international environment in which more than 2000 young musicians enjoy intercultural exchanges and build bridges that span continents. Professionals form the international juries for the competition and teach in the Academy program at the Vienna University of Music. Participants will enjoy



interactive workshops and educational lectures, additional concerts with local audiences, and pre- and post-concert tours in Europe.

NEW FROM CARUS-VERLAG

Swiss up your choir!

Mountains, cheese, chocolate – are those the first things that come to mind when you think of Switzerland? Of course, but there's so much more! With our choral collection, *Swiss Choral Music*, hot off the press, you can discover the diverse aspects of the recent choral music of Switzerland. And there's no need to worry about Romansh or the other national Swiss languages. The Swiss Youth Choir, conducted by Nicolas Fink, has recorded every single work. The edition also includes pronunciation guides.

[More information here.](#)



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