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INTERNATIONAL CHORAL MAGAZINE

3rd Quarter, 2022
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A collage of four photographs of various churches and buildings. The top-left photo shows a large, ornate building with a dark roof and a small tower. The top-right photo shows a large, light-colored building with a tall, ornate tower. The bottom-left photo shows a red building with a blue dome and a red roof. The bottom-right photo shows a yellow building with a red roof and a small tower. A large white circle with a yellow border is overlaid on the collage, containing the text '40 YEARS OF IFCM'.

40 YEARS
OF IFCM

SPECIAL EDITION

INTERNATIONAL CHORAL MAGAZINE

Cover

From left to right, top to bottom: ICCM Office, Namur, Belgium; Tagger Foundation Vigevano, Italy; IFCM Office in the Villa Gadea, Altea, Spain; IFCM office at the Palacete dos Condes de Monte Real

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



EMILY KUO VONG

President

Dear Friends,

This year is the 40th anniversary of IFCM. We are looking back on the history of our federation, reigniting my joyful memories here. In 2012, I became a Board member of IFCM. After that, I was elected as the Vice-President in 2014 and was handed the baton of President of IFCM in 2017. It was a huge honour that I was reappointed again in 2020.

From the start to the present day, we have all been witnesses to the growth and development of IFCM. Together with the joint efforts of the founding members, every president, as well as all the Board members, all of the IFCM's classical projects are consistently moving forward successfully, such as the World Symposium for Choral Music (WSCM) being held every three years. Moreover, the warm and strong support of IFCM members has resulted in creating many innovative projects, including Conductors without Borders, World Choral Day, Composition Competition, World Choral Expo, and Colorful Voices. We also joined the China International Chorus Festival and World Choral Education Conferences, the International Folk Song Choral Festival and Voices

Conferences, and the International Choral Week, and established two outstanding youth choirs, the Asian Pacific Youth Choir (APYC) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Countries Youth Choir (SCOCYC).

In 2019, we moved our Main Office to Lisbon, Portugal. Since then, we have created a more complete and improved personnel structure. Iva Radulović became our Secretary General, Nadine Robin is the Office Manager, Isabelle Métrope is the managing editor of our International Choral Magazine, and Irvinne Redor is our communication manager. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the whole world has been on pause since 2020 and many events were regrettably cancelled. However, IFCM never stopped working! We are proud that we organized many choral activities and events online. We held virtual choral music meetups, online masterclasses and workshops. Meanwhile, ExCom meetings, Board meetings, and even the General Assembly of the IFCM also had online versions.

I am so thrilled that choral lives can finally return. From 3rd to 7th September 2022, the World Choral Expo will be held in Portugal for the second time, during which people

from the global choral community will come to this picturesque country to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the IFCM and share this happy moment. To make the moment even more sparkling, we have launched a special sponsorship campaign for the young generation of the choral world, with a plan to sponsor 1,000 young conductors, composers, singers, musical teachers, and choir managers to each receive a free 2-year membership to the IFCM. This campaign is aimed at providing young people with a top-class stage at the IFCM to be involved, learn, and show their talents. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all the donors who are supporting and joining this campaign. With your generosity, the IFCM will continue to be a wonderful family of all the choral populations throughout the world. Dear friends, the voice of choral music is great, as it is a combination of life, strength, and solidarity! Let's sing together for the world, for peace, and for love!

Edited by Rebeka Angstmann, UK

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CREATING FUTURES IN CHORAL MUSIC

EMILY KUO VONG

IFCM President

In 2022, IFCM is celebrating its 40th anniversary. To mark the occasion, I am delighted to announce that we are launching a special sponsorship campaign to help the younger generation become part of the global IFCM family.

Our aim with this sponsorship is to support 1,000 new young members this year. No matter whether you're a conductor, singer, composer, choir manager, administrator or choral music enthusiast, IFCM invites you to experience being a member of our federation – it will be an extraordinary stage for everyone to express their talent and will provide invaluable opportunities to learn from world-renowned conductors and choral scholars!

This clever idea is the brainchild of our Vice-President Dr. Jan Schumacher, and I was immediately inspired by it. An electrifying image formed in my mind that a great number of young musicians from

every corner of the world will be brought into the IFCM fold through this charitable sponsorship. They will create new impetus for IFCM, and simultaneously they will lay the foundations for their career in a professional international organisation.

Therefore, as the IFCM President, I have taken the lead and gifted a two-year IFCM membership to 100 new young members. Following my initiative and example, one of my family members Dr. Samuel Lam is also proud to join the sponsorship campaign, gifting a two-year IFCM membership to another 100 young choral enthusiasts.

As a family member, I am very proud of Dr. Lam's contribution and achievement. He is not only a successful facial plastic and hair

restoration surgeon in Dallas, USA, but also a highly accomplished living "artist" who is keen on exploring and discovering the beauty in life and helping others to achieve their dreams.

After Dr. Lam expressed his willingness to gift these memberships, I was delighted to invite him to write an essay for our magazine to encourage others. Our hope is that more people will join this IFCM campaign and achieve our goal of supporting 1,000 new young members in 2022!

Edited by Chris Lutton, UK

Would you like to make an impact in the choral world?
Would you like to support young people in different parts of the world?
Would you like to be involved in shaping the future of choral music?

Let IFCM help you help the future of choral music!

IN CELEBRATION OF IFCM'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

CREATING FUTURES IN CHORAL MUSIC

Support Young Conductors, Composers, Singers, Managers, and Administrators

<https://bit.ly/CreatingFuturesIFCM>

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SAMUEL M. LAM, MD

I am blessed to have this opportunity to invest in the lives of others, and I would like to thank Emily Kuo for bringing me on board to assist in her noble, charitable endeavours. To give some background about myself, I have been a practicing facial plastic and hair transplant surgeon in Dallas, Texas, for the past 20 years. I have known Emily, who is part of my extended family, all my life. I have always been highly engaged with the arts in many respects, having served on the board for the Plano Symphony for many years. I look at my profession as an artistic discipline since I am in the business of skilfully making people look more attractive in a way that preserves their identity, and that appears absolutely natural and 'invisible' to others (www.lamfacialplastics.com, www.hairtx.com). Poorly done facelifts, rhinoplasties, hair transplants and fillers are a stigma that no one should bear. In my personal life, I spend many hours at museums looking at fine works of art. The arts are my passion. I paint every day in almost every medium including oil, acrylic, pastel, watercolour, coloured pencil, graphite, to name a few (www.drsmamlamart.com or @samlammd on Instagram). Of course, I also have a deep passion for music, especially since I have no musical talent myself, so my appreciation runs deep. I have a particular fondness for the voice and am drawn to choral music. I love opera but relish the polyphonic sounds of the Renaissance, the Lieder of Schubert, among many other types of vocal music. I truly wish I had that talent, but I am honoured that I will be able to play a small part in passing that gift on to deserving young individuals who can take advantage of this opportunity.

Emily asked that I endeavour to inspire people with this short introduction, so I will try to do that here. I will say that what drives me is passion, and I encourage you to find your passion if you have not already done so. As I mentioned, art is truly a deep and abiding passion for me. I see the entire world in line, colour, shape, and shadow. I have designed almost every aspect of my life including the architecture of my home and its interior furnishings/ decor, the illustrations in my textbooks, the logos and graphic design work for my business, and, of course, the artwork throughout my office and home. When I am engaged in art, I truly enter what the recently deceased psychologist Mihály Csíkszentmihályi called 'flow.' Flow is defined as the experience that artists, athletes, musicians or just about anyone enters when truly enjoying what they do. However, the challenge that someone has in flow is that it is never easy but always takes work to achieve a new level of mastery. If you have not found your flow state, keep looking and do not settle. Steve Jobs, a real inspiration for me, said it best: "You've got to find what you love. Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle." If you haven't watched his short commencement address at Stanford University, I encourage you to find it on YouTube and watch it. I hope that my small contribution will help young artists achieve their dreams, and I also hope you will never settle for your dreams.

Edited by Karin Rockstad, USA



Dr. SAM LAM is a facial plastic and hair restoration surgeon in Dallas, Texas. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Hair Restoration Surgery (ABHRS), American Board of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery (ABFPRS), and the American Board of Head & Neck Surgery (ABOTO). He was the 2021 President of the ABHRS and is an oral examiner for both the ABHRS and the ABFPRS. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the ABFPRS. He has published over 250 scientific articles and book chapters and has written and edited 10 medical textbooks including the hair transplant series, *Hair Transplant 360, Volumes 1-4*. His books have been translated into Spanish, Portuguese, Korean and Russian. He has been director of a hands-on course, *Hair Transplant 360*, for beginner to intermediate hair surgeons in St. Louis for 14 years that has been internationally well received. He has lectured nationally and internationally in North and South America, Europe, and Asia. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons (FACS), of the AAFPRS and of the International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery (ISHRS). He is actively involved with the ISHRS having served in multiple capacities including chair of committees and courses and as part of the scientific planning of the annual meeting on multiple occasions. He has served on the editorial board for the journal, *Facial Plastic Surgery & Aesthetic Medicine* and is an active reviewer of multiple journals. He owns and operates the 40,000 square-foot wellness building where he practices. In his spare time, he loves creating and viewing art. His favourite artists are Sol Lewitt, Edgar Degas, Agnes Martin and David Hockney.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CHORAL MUSIC

A LEGACY OF FORTY YEARS AND BEYOND



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CHORAL MUSIC, A LEGACY OF FORTY YEARS AND BEYOND

Cristian Grases

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

Coordination: Iva Radulović
Jan Schumacher, Ana Patricia Carbajal
Córdova, Seán Doherty, Herminia Mostaza,
Filipa Palhares, Albert Tay, Fumiyo Tozaki,
Michael Zugg, Ildikó Ferencziné Ács

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CHORAL MUSIC

A Legacy of Forty Years and Beyond

CRISTIAN GRASES

Former IFCM Vice-President

ABOUT THE MOTIVATION OF CREATING OUR FEDERATION, ROYCE SALTZMAN WROTE, "THE CONCEPT OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT WOULD FACILITATE COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE BETWEEN CHOIRS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WAS A CONCEPT THAT WAS TALKED ABOUT BY NUMEROUS CHORAL LEADERS OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME."

Several meetings happened in Lucerne (1979) [Europa Cantat Festival] and Paris (1980), and at the ACDA National Convention in New Orleans in 1981, Royce initiated a choral summit to which leaders from thirteen countries attended: Robert Solem from Canada; Ma Geshun from China; Waldo Aranguiz from Chile; Marcel Corneloup, Marcel Couraud and Claude Tagger from France; John Poole from Great Britain; Christoph Kühlewein, Water Weidmann, Herbert Sass and Paul Wehrle from Germany; Takashi Iijima and Kan Ishi from Japan; Oriol Martorell from Spain; Eskil Hemberg from Sweden; Willi Gohl from Switzerland; Vialimirov Sokolov from the (then) USSR; Alberto Grau from Venezuela; and a delegation from the United States constituted by James Bjorge, Gene Brooks, Walter Collins, Maurice Casey, Charles Hirt, Coleen Kirk, Russell Mathis, and Royce Saltzman. Royce remembers that, "the group addressed issues such as touring, education, the sharing of information and materials, but foremost, the possibility of establishing an international organization that would facilitate cooperation and exchange. The camaraderie among the group was electric, best described in a letter that Charles Hirt wrote to the publisher Don Hinshaw:

These days were afire with enthusiasm and feeling of destiny, with the realization of what a world singing together could accomplish, freed from politics and pettiness. I shall never forget the final moments of farewell, when, spontaneously from the back of the room, Walter Collins began to sing the round 'Dona Nobis Pacem', and how it soon filled the room with singing, and our eyes with emotion."

An interim committee chaired by Royce met in Loughborough England in 1982 to establish statutes, choose a name that would represent its global outreach, and determine Founding Organizations (American Choral Directors Association, Japan Choral Association, European Choral Association – Europa Cantat, A Cœur Joie International, Nordisk Korforum, and a newly created Latin American Choral Association) that would provide support and validity to this new 'alliance.' This was the beginning of our federation. Once again, Royce remembers that "Paul Wehrle (Germany) a visionary and long-time proponent of a world organization, was IFCM's first president from 1982-85. I succeeded Paul, serving as President for nine years, a portion of which was interim due to the death of then President, Claude Tagger (France)," who was



Europa Cantat 1979 in Lucerne, Switzerland, from left to right: Eugén Fabel, Christoph Kühlewein, François Bourel and Claude Tagger © Jutta Tagger

for many years Deputy Secretary General for Europe and helped connecting IFCM to many different cultural organizations and also created and developed the first World Choral Census. Other presidents included Eskil Hemberg (Sweden), María Guinand (Venezuela), Lupwishi Mbuyamba (Mozambique), Michael Anderson (USA), and current president Emily Kuo Vong (China, Macau). As expressed by Alberto Grau who served as one of the Vice-Presidents, “the Federation had the goal of giving a space to everybody, despite the great financial and developmental inequities amongst countries around the world.”

Walter Collins held the initial Secretary General position, until it was split into deputy positions by regions. Michael Anderson, at the time working as Walter’s assistant at the University of Colorado, eventually inherited the deputy secretary position and took it with him to the University of Illinois in Chicago. In Europe, Noël Minet was instrumental in establishing the IFCM office in Namur, Belgium, which served for many years as the center of operations and from which the newly coalesced Secretary General position operated. Jean Claude Wilkens served very successfully as IFCM’s Secretary General for many years. He was also very involved in the coordination of the World Youth Choir. Later on, other offices were established in Europe: the office in Altea, Spain, which functioned as the headquarters from 1999 to 2005; the Tagger Foundation in Vigevano, Italy (2002-2005); and the office in Caen, in Normandie, France, which functioned as the headquarters from 2005 to 2008.

Other important leaders who have had an active role in IFCM’s existence and legacy are Christian Ljunggren; Dolf Rabus; Jacques Vanherle who was instrumental in the creation of the regional office in Normandie; Jutta Tagger as the long-standing editor of the ICB; Thierry Thiébaud, whose efforts to develop the program Conductors Without Borders have offered training in many under-developed regions, especially in Africa; Sonja Greiner, who has been involved since the early years and continues to serve as the governance advisor since 2017, and Nadine Robin, who has been involved in the administration for well over two decades. Also, the list of renowned choral colleagues who have been a part of IFCM’s board of directors and advisors is long and, by itself, represents a profound testament of the relevance of this organization throughout its forty years of existence. The role of the board has been to oversee the mission and vision of the organization, to help maintain their respective regions informed, to work to increase the membership by regions, and be an active member of committees and sub-committees working on the many diverse projects under the umbrella of the Federation. IFCM owes a great debt to all these world leaders, members of the board, staff members, and supporters that volunteered countless hours and poured immense enthusiasm in ensuring IFCM’s goals and missions were realized. It is not possible to list them all in this short space, but their contributions are an intrinsic part of IFCM’s legacy in the world.



Europa Cantat 1982, Namur, Belgium, IFCM founding meetings: Walter Collins, Royce Saltzman, Colleen Kirk and Robert Solem © Michael J Anderson



Noël Minet, former President of ECA, A Coeur Joie International, Choral Federation Wallonie-Bruxelles A Coeur Joie Belgium, former IFCM Board member, and Dolf Rabus, former IFCM Treasurer

IFCM has made a number of important contributions throughout its existence. Initially there were four fundamental ventures that helped establish IFCM as an organization serving a global community. These initiatives have continued and remain vital components of our Federation. One program is the International Choral Bulletin (ICB), which was the main platform of communication to exchange information and keep everybody connected. It was a natural extension of the bulletins that Walter Collins had been publishing out of the University of Colorado, and that eventually Jutta Tagger edited for many years. Andrea Angelini took over the position of editor with great success for a number



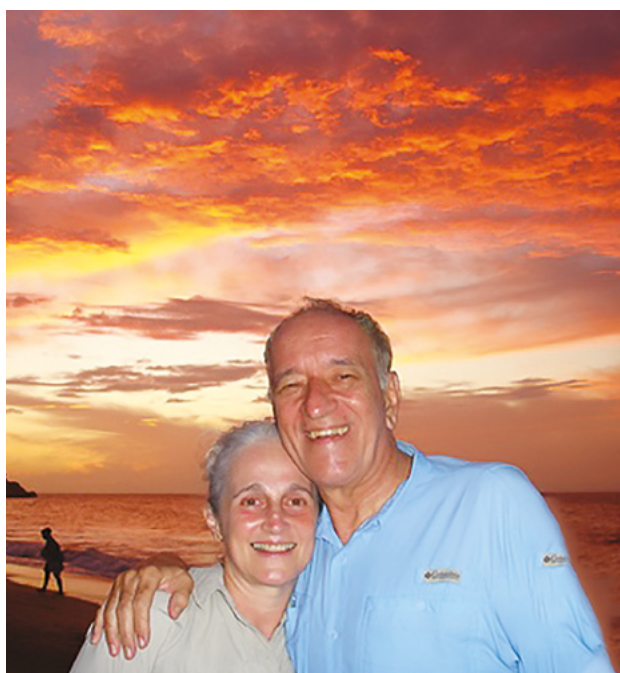
WSCM 1990, Stockholm, Sweden: Jutta and Claude Tagger with their son Jérôme © Michael J Anderson



WSCM 2002, Minneapolis, USA: three IFCM Presidents, from left to right: Eskil Hemberg, Paul Wehrle and Royce Saltzman © Jutta Tagger

of years, and now it is under the leadership of Isabelle Métrope with a new 40th anniversary name: International Choral Magazine. Alberto Grau and María Guinand remember the importance of having this publication translated into a number of languages. Alberto said that, "it was essential to present the information in other languages so that we could integrate colleagues that did not necessarily speak English." This gave the publication global relevance.

The second important endeavor is the World Symposium on Choral Music (WSCM), which was held first in Vienna (1987), then Stockholm/Helsinki/Tallinn (1990), followed by Vancouver (1993), Sydney (1996), Rotterdam (1999)



María Guinand, former President and current Board member of IFCM, and Alberto Grau, former Vice-President of IFCM, who proposed the idea of a World Choral Day



Emily Kuo Vong, current IFCM President and Michael J Anderson, former IFCM President at the WSCM 2017

Minneapolis (2002), Kyoto (2005), Copenhagen (2008), Puerto Madryn (2011), Seoul (2014), Barcelona (2017), and was planned for Auckland in 2020, but was cancelled due to the Covid pandemic. "This seven-day event of performances, workshops, and master classes speaks to the aims and objectives of the Federation, offering a global perspective at the highest level not found elsewhere," says Royce.



The third important project is the World Choral Day (WCD), which was an idea proposed by Alberto Grau in 1990 as an international choral event to extol the values of solidarity, peace and understanding. Thousands of ensembles continue to join the celebration year after year, singing around the second Sunday of December and reading the proclamation, which is now translated into twenty-six different languages.

Finally, and in collaboration with the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat (ECA-EC) and Jeunesses Musicales International (JMI), the fourth significant project is the World Youth Choir (WYC). This ensemble offers young singers from around the world the opportunity to engage in musical projects of the highest artistic level. In 1996, UNESCO awarded the WYC with the "Artist for Peace" title, recognizing its success as a

platform for intercultural dialogue through music. Other significant IFCM contributions and collaborations are the World Choral Census (a compendium of choral leaders and organizations throughout the world), MUSICA (a data-base of over 200,000 titles of choral repertoire), Commissions and Publications partnerships, Songbridge, The IFCM Composition Competition, Conductors Without Borders, regional conferences and festivals, amongst many others.

The relevance of an organization like this forty years ago was a strong motivator in keeping the world connected, showcasing the state of choral singing in other latitudes, and rekindling personal contacts and professional networks. This was recognized by UNESCO as early as 1983, when IFCM was admitted to the International Council of Music as the representative organization for choral music in the world. Nowadays, with social media, the Internet, YouTube, and cheap and immediate communication platforms, many of these initial needs are covered. Looking forward, IFCM continues to search for

ways to serve our global community so as to stay relevant. Efforts to connect with younger generations, to facilitate the growth and development of choral music education programs and encourage the establishment of choral federations throughout the world, to create smaller regional symposia, to develop online projects that can reach more colleagues, are some of the ideals that the current leaders are exploring in order to have a more inclusive and equitable organization that continues to serve the larger ideals of its founding visionaries. We believe that IFCM continues to be a valuable asset in our field as a global platform, and we look forward to the legacy of the next forty years.



Venezuelan native CRISTIAN GRASES joined the University of Southern California faculty in 2010 and is currently a professor of choral music, conductor of the USC Thornton Concert Choir, and Vice-Dean of the Classical Division. As a sought-out conductor, clinician, academic, and adjudicator, he has traveled to Europe, North and South America, Asia, and Australia; and has presented in numerous international conventions and symposia. Grases is an award-winning composer and has served as the IFCM Vice-President for Latin America until 2021, and chair of the Ethnic Music Repertoire and Resources Committee for the WACDA (2009-2018). Email: cgrases@gmail.com




Barcelona the Mediterranean WSCM
11th World Symposium on Choral Music
The Colors of Peace

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

JAN SCHUMACHER, ANA PATRICIA CARBAJAL CÓRDOVA, SEÁN DOHERTY, HERMINIA MOSTAZA, FILIPA PALHARES, FUMIYO TOZAKI, ALBERT TAY, MICHAEL ZAUGG, ILDIKÓ FERENCZINÉ ÁCS – COORDINATION: IVA RADULović

IN THE PAST FORTY YEARS, THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CHORAL MUSIC (IFCM) FACILITATED COMMUNICATION AND EXCHANGE BETWEEN CHORAL MUSICIANS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. ONE OF OUR MISSION AND GOALS WAS, THROUGH DIVERSE PROJECTS, TO ALLOW EVERY WORLD CITIZEN TO ACCESS CHORAL MUSIC AS AN ART FORM. HOWEVER, THE WORLD HAS CHANGED A LOT IN THE PAST FORTY YEARS, MOST PARTICULARLY SINCE 2020. SO THE QUESTION IS: HOW WILL THE IFCM CONTINUE TO SERVE THE CHORAL COMMUNITY IN THE FUTURE? HOW WILL WE CREATE FUTURES IN CHORAL MUSIC? THE ESSENCE OF OUR FEDERATION IS OUR MEMBERS – PEOPLE, CHOIRS, ORGANISATIONS THAT CREATE AND SHAPE THE CHORAL WORLD. THEREFORE WE ASKED OUR MEMBERS AND OUR BOARD MEMBERS, THE PEOPLE IMPORTANT TO THE IFCM, THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN WITH US FOR A LONG TIME, AND THE ONES WHO ARE NEW, SOME CRUCIAL QUESTIONS: WHERE DO YOU SEE OUR FEDERATION IN THE NEXT 40 YEARS? HOW DO YOU SEE OUR FEDERATION IN THE FUTURE? WHERE WILL WE STAND IN THE COMING YEARS? WHAT CAN WE DO AS A FEDERATION IN THE FUTURE TO HELP YOU DEVELOP AS AN INDIVIDUAL CHORAL PERSON?

The strength of IFCM has, in the past, been based on three major pillars:

- regular flagship events, like WSCM, WYC or Conductors without Borders
- various smaller events, initiatives and projects to support the choral world in different regions of the world or to contribute to specific themes and topics.
- A strong belief in the richness and diversity, knowledge and quality of our own members – umbrella and choir organisations, choirs, individual conductors, composers and managers.

If IFCM's future board and staff members keep on listening intently to the needs of their members and to the challenges of the choral community worldwide, there will be enough important work to do for all of us! Let's start!

Jan Schumacher (Germany), IFCM Vice-President



IFCM celebrates 40 years enriching choral music life in the world, creating spaces for meeting, growth and training for conductors and singers. This has been possible because of the generosity of many conductors, singers, musicians, and sponsors who have given their best to continue working for the choral art that brings us together. Let's keep opening borders and building bridges that help us live better in this troubled world that is everyone's home. Let's keep singing together to live better.

Ana Patricia Carbajal Córdova (Mexico), IFCM Board member





New
Voices —
Choral
music is
bound to
language

through the

text. Every song is

an artistic expression of the composer's mother tongue, its speech rhythms and pitch patterns, and the way we tell a story. As IFCM celebrates its 40th anniversary and continues its mission to foster the development of choral music world-wide, I am excited for what will be written by the next generation of composers in the myriad languages of the world – languages that may not have found expression in choral music before. I'm excited for choirs to share this new music through events, festivals, and competitions. The Irish poet Stephen J Smith wrote: 'We must create to know who we can be.' New composition from all countries is essential to articulate, express, and share who we are through the art of choral music.

Seán Doherty (Ireland),
composer, Dublin City
University, IFCM member

I first got to know IFCM in 2017 when I worked on the organization of the WSCM11 in Barcelona. That was a new world for me and I was just starting my working life. Now I'm in the FCEC (Catalan Federation of Choral Entities) and the work never ends. Now I can say how hard the work is for the choral world and how satisfying it can be. Honestly I think IFCM is doing a great job. They brought choral music to some countries with a non-existent choral life and now some of these countries have really good choirs. I hope that IFCM will, in another 40 years, still be in the same place, doing a great job to show the world what choral music can do for people. I see the Federation working alongside the big humanitarian organizations, bringing all the peoples around the world comfort, peace and hope through the choral music. I see the Federation standing alongside all the people who suffer. Alongside children, bringing them the joy of singing, alongside old people, bringing comfort to their souls. Maybe you can provide tools for developing choral life through offering "ateliers" adapted to the reality of the countries concerned, showing what they can do with different aspects of choral life (management, collaborations, sponsorship ...)

Herminia Mostaza, IFCM member



In a world that has the possibility to live in a more connected way every day, it seems that each individual is more and more disconnected. Associations like IFCM are of great importance, promoting a better, and more connected, society, through the example of choral practice, and taking it to all four corners of the world. In the next 40 years, in my opinion, the role of IFCM should be to promote healthy choral singing at younger ages, which will lead us to better singers and better audiences. To encourage the composition of new choral works. Promote masterclasses and workshops with professional musicians of high artistic level, so that we can learn and aspire to a higher level. Help developing countries to organize local choir associations and help them thrive. Hopefully in 40 years, IFCM will be present in all countries, contributing to a better world, singing together.

Filipa Palhares (Portugal), conductor, IFCM member



IFCM holds a very special place in my heart – I was one of the young musicians selected to be an active participant in the conductors' masterclass during IFCM's Kyoto World Choral Symposium. This event was, for me, a formative life-changing experience and it was absolutely inspiring to learn from high quality speakers, top-notch performances and partake in practical lectures. I look forward to IFCM's next 40 years in continuing to provide similar opportunities to nurture the next generation of choral leaders. THANK YOU IFCM and Happy 40th Anniversary!

Albert Tay (Singapore), conductor, composer, IFCM member



I would like to send my sincere congratulations to the International Federation for Choral Music on the occasion of your 40th anniversary. This is an exceptional milestone and the work you have done in this period is nothing less than incredible.

I have been a member of IFCM since 2005, when I took part in the 7th World Symposium in Kyoto, Japan. I worked for that big event as one of the translators and I had a great experience to see many wonderful choral conductors and choirs from all over the world. I was so impressed with their performance and lectures. Being a member of IFCM has given me a lot of benefits since then. First of all, I was able to receive a lot of information about choirs, choral conductors and music in the world through IFCM. It is, as it were, an entrance to worldwide choral activity.

I had another opportunity to join the 14th China International Chorus Festival as a member of the jury and holding a masterclass. Besides, I attended IFCM Choral Education Conference and listened to their speeches,



something which was really impressive and from which I learned a lot. Lately I have been running a radio program to introduce world choral music on NHK-FM and I've got a lot of information from IFCM.

I'm very grateful for your contribution to revitalize worldwide choral activities. I do hope that in the next 40 years IFCM will be able to continue what it has fulfilled so far.

We had a very difficult time in the last two years, when we recognized again how important for human beings a choral activity is. Being in a choir brings us a lot of happiness. We managed to improve the online system during the pandemic, so it would be great if you could take advantage of this for some future choral events. It would be wonderful if we could listen to some lectures and concerts at home! All the best for the next 40,

Fumiyo Tozaki (Japan), conductor of Shizuoka Children's Choir, IFCM member

I would like to describe the ever-evolving role of IFCM as follows (many of IFCM mission statement points could be included under the headlines):

Guardian of the past

- to honor, and study, the work of our predecessors, be they composers, teachers, singers, or conductors, and all artists
- to also acknowledge and learn from the geo-political, religious, climatic, and social history of a time and place
- to present and perform the music of the past

Advocate of the present

- to cultivate a vibrant and open dialogue with artists
- to research, commission, and promote the music and musicians of today
- to allow for different and unique perspectives of today's geo-political, religious, climatic, and social history
- to represent choral art on a global, political stage and to work with stakeholders for the wellbeing of artists

Nurturer of the future

- to shape the education of diverse choral artists and choral leaders
- to invest in new disciplines and techniques
- to assist in large-scale transitions of the cultural sector
- to search for truths and engage in reconciliation

I would like to compare IFCM's character to that of a wooden sailing boat, with an expert crew that is dedicated, and flexible enough, to sail in any kind of weather. The boat is at the same time strong and nimble, well-polished and it can race under heavy winds, or simply ride the waves in sunshine. This wooden sailing boat – IFCM – is a treasure and well treated by anyone on board who wishes to go for a ride. It is not a cruise ship that carries several thousand tourists, and that can only lie at anchor in the biggest ports. As many performing arts organizations across the globe, I believe IFCM will be pushed and pulled in various directions, swaying towards global issues such as climate



change, equality, diversity, or large conflicts. As a member, I look to IFCM to remain rooted in the founding principles and the purpose of the organization. We will need transparent and transferable aims to orient our artistic practice within our own cultural environments. IFCM has the challenging task to 'be many things to many people,' and to provide strong guidance in the application of its mission.

In a world that is torn apart through global conflicts, uprooting individuals and entire civilizations, and that faces an environmental catastrophe, I need to expand my artistic practice to include the tools and networks for true diversity, equality, and inclusivity. I need to connect with, exchange, and learn from fellow colleagues, be they choral singers, composers, conductors, or simply the multitudes of cultures that are represented under the roof of IFCM.

The importance of RESILIENCE must be acknowledged, in particular in light of the global pandemic. As an individual, I must reflect and be mindful about my strengths and weaknesses as an artistic practitioner and how I face challenges. As part of the cultural sector, we must collaborate, exchange, and support each other to re-evaluate traditional practices, test assumptions and find new ways for our art form. IFCM's responsibility is to strengthen its vibrant role as a connecting force!

The choral scene must be built from the ground up, with a strong foundation in community singing across the globe. The definition of 'community singing' is fluid and will include more and more non-western-European concepts of group singing. At the same time, the roots of traditional choral art are strong and will continue to provide a point of departure. While the roots of IFCM are strong, the branches must reach deeper into the membership, engaging national and even local organizations to work with and alongside the leadership of IFCM.

Michael Zaugg (Canada), Conductor, IFCM Member

Edited by Irene Auerbach, UK



As I was asked to contribute to the article – Look into the Future – celebrating the 40th anniversary of the IFCM, I started to look back into the past. Why have I been an IFCM member for so long (since 1999), why is it important

for me to belong to this international

community. I read the short history of IFCM, and I was surprised to notice that I was present at some of the “first” events.

- I was a singer of the first World Youth Choir in Sweden in July-August 1989, I also sang in the second WYC session in Belgium.
- I took part in the first IFCM masterclass with Frieder Bernius in Namur, Belgium in 1993.
- Four years later, in 1997, I was invited to the 15th Anniversary festival in Namur, Belgium.
- In 2000, I was one of the lecturers of the first conference of the Choral Conductors' Commission in Altea, Spain.

In 2002, I had a recipe published in the IFCM cookbook. In 1989, when I first met IFCM, I was a young choral conductor and school music teacher who had just graduated from the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. I had a life changing experience at the two WYC sessions. Conductors, concert programmes, singers from all over the world have inspired my professional work. In addition, Jean-Claude Wilkens played an important role through his personal work.

How do I see the Federation in 40 years? My first vision is of a “Holochoir” as an ambassador of choral music, who would go all over the world and knock on every school door. Why exactly in schools? The choirs of the future will grow up with children. Music teachers and teacher

training could be a possible target for the future work of IFCM. How could the Federation, with its objectives, be involved in teacher training in universities and in the work of music teachers in schools? With digital collections (videos, sung parts of choral works – not MIDI –, text pronunciations, etc...), with a free “vocal bank”.

In recent years, we have had to familiarise ourselves with online learning and teaching methods. As a choir conducting teacher, I could imagine working in a teacher's marketplace organised by the IFCM. There could be online classrooms for individual tuition in choral conducting techniques, choral literature, pronunciation, or the possibility to participate as an external consultant in a choir rehearsal.

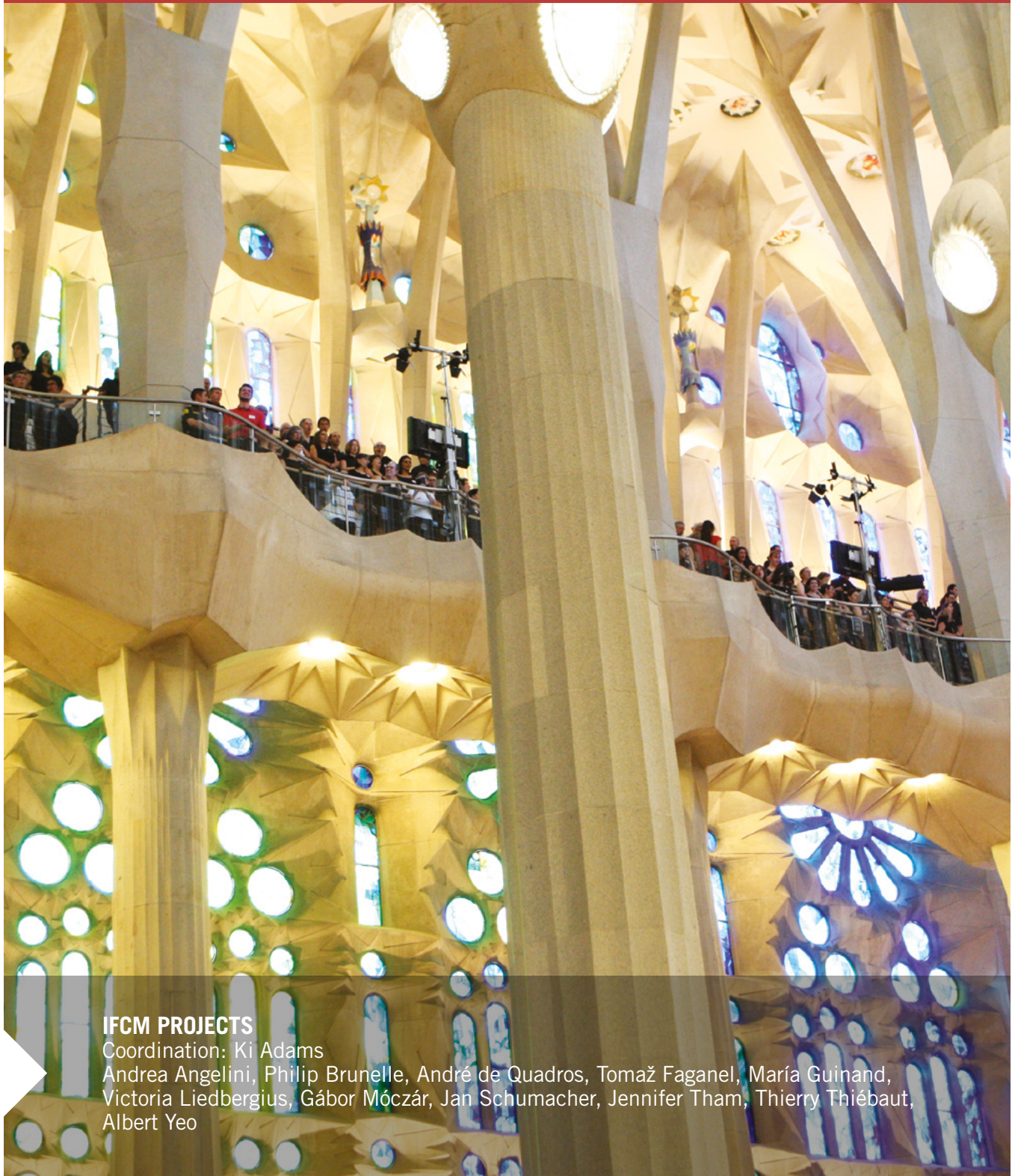
I would also consider it optimal to open a window to the world of truly amateur choirs, to amateur singers and choirmasters who cannot participate in the world's choral festivals, who do not speak English or other international languages. My understanding is that the choral world is like an iceberg. What we see, and the picture we get of it, is just the tip of the iceberg. IFCM, while embracing the best choirs and conductors over the last 40 years, has brought the whole world into the musical bloodstream, showing us the visible half of the iceberg. The task of the next 40 years could be to open up to the world of amateur choirs, as well as to the world of school choirs and the education of young people, in other words to reach out to the world below the surface, which is the foundation of the iceberg, and which is as yet invisible.

Ildikó Ferencziné Ács, dr. habil., Professor and Director of Institute of Music, University of Nyíregyháza, Hungary, IFCM Member



IVA RADULOVIĆ has been Secretary General at the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) since 2022, and before that, from 2019, she was Operations Manager. She studied at the Faculty of Music Arts in Belgrade, Serbia, graduating in musicology in 2011 and completing a master's degree in the same Faculty in 2013. She was Executive Director of Jeunesse Musicales Belgrade, where she organized one of the most prominent classical music competitions in Belgrade in 2015. From 2015 until 2019, she was Executive Director of the academic cultural-artistic society “Branko Krstanovic.” In the international field, she started as a member of the YEMP (Young Event Manager Program) of ECA-EC in 2012. After that, she was a member of the Youth Committee of ECA-EC and participated in organizing some of Europe's major choral events: Europa Cantat 2012, Europa Cantat Junior, Eurochoir, Europa Cantat 2015. Email: secretarygeneral@ifcm.net

FORTY YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS



IFCM PROJECTS

Coordination: Ki Adams

Andrea Angelini, Philip Brunelle, André de Quadros, Tomaž Faganel, María Guinand, Victoria Liedbergius, Gábor Móczár, Jan Schumacher, Jennifer Tham, Thierry Thiébaud, Albert Yeo



FORTY YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

KI ADAMS

IFCM Vice-President

As we celebrate IFCM's 40 years of leadership in the international choral world, we want to highlight the various and diverse programs and partnerships initiated and/or supported by IFCM during the past four decades. IFCM programs range from our flagship event, the World Symposium on Choral Music, and other recurring programs (World Choral Day, World Choral EXPO, Conductors Without Borders, Choral Composition Competition) to intermittent programs such as regional symposia, Cantemus project, youth forum, and Voices of Origin conferences. IFCM has also partnered with numerous national and international organizations around the world to present outstanding choral events and opportunities. A sampling of these global partnerships includes the World Youth Choir, Asia Pacific Youth Choir, America Cantat and Africa Cantat, Songbridge, Shanghai Cooperation Organization Countries Youth Choir, and choral festivals throughout China. Enjoy reflections from IFCM members who have had direct, long-term experiences as "volunteers connecting our choral world." A special thank-you from IFCM to all volunteers who have made these programs and partnerships extraordinarily successful.



KI ADAMS, a native of Birmingham, Alabama (USA), is an honorary research professor at Memorial University of Newfoundland (Canada) where he taught in the undergraduate/graduate music and music education programs for 25 years.

Currently a board member for the International Federation of Choral Music and President of the World Youth Choir Foundation, Ki is Founding Co-Director of The Singing Network, a collective for generating and producing a series of voice-singing-choral experiences ranging from workshops, seminars, master-classes, and dialogues to the biennial International Symposium on Singing and Song. Email: kiadams@mun.ca



WSCM 2014, Seoul, South Korea
Suddenly a choir improvises a short concert on the balcony

WORLD SYMPOSIA ON CHORAL MUSIC (WSCM)

PHILIP BRUNELLE

Former IFCM Vice-President

The first IFCM World Symposium on Choral Music (WSCM) was held in Vienna, Austria, in 1987. Since that time there have been 10 more symposia: 1990 – Stockholm (Sweden)/Helsinki (Finland)/Tallinn (Estonia), 1993 – Vancouver (Canada), 1996 – Sydney (Australia), 1999 – Rotterdam (The Netherlands), 2002 – Minneapolis (USA), 2005 – Kyoto (Japan), 2008 – Copenhagen (Denmark), 2011 – Puerto Madryn (Argentina), 2014 – Seoul (South Korea), and 2017 – Barcelona (Spain). The 2020 WSCM planned for Auckland (New Zealand) was unfortunately cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. IFCM has covered the globe, and my choral friends Anton Armstrong and Diana Leland have attended every one!

Having been asked (or should I say coerced!) by a number of Minnesota colleagues, I agreed to chair the 2002 WSCM in Minneapolis. What a thrill it was to welcome choral enthusiasts from 69 countries to our city and hear 24 guest choirs and 35 lecturers for 10 days focused on glorious choral music! This is the extraordinary experience of everyone who has participated in or attended a WSCM. Each symposium has provided a rich offering of repertoire covering all corners of the world, giving attendees the ability to understand the depth of artistry that you can only experience in the unique space of an international symposium of this magnitude. Hearing choirs of all ages, all cultures, and all sounds sharing their music with integrity and authentic performance practices is life-changing.

Of course, the impact on the community welcoming such an array of choral talent is immeasurable. Though the WSCM in Minneapolis happened 20 years ago, I still receive calls and letters from people recalling this never-to-be-forgotten experience! You would need to book an around-the-world plane ticket to hear so many interesting and exceptional choirs. But an IFCM WSCM provides you with this rare opportunity in one city! Another marvelous benefit is the wonderful opportunity for networking and the number of long-lasting friendships that develop; they become friends for life!

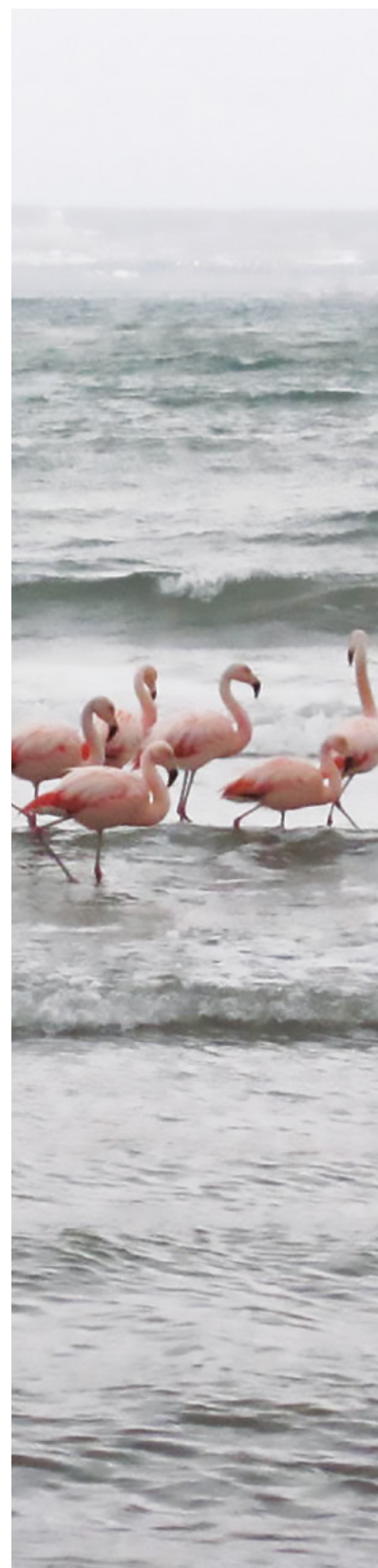
Whenever and wherever the next IFCM World Symposium on Choral Music takes place – DO NOT MISS IT!



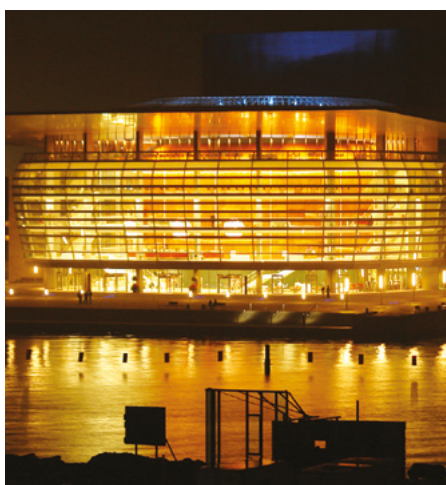
PHILIP BRUNELLE, artistic director and founder of VocalEssence, is an internationally-renowned conductor, choral scholar, and visionary. Under his leadership, VocalEssence has commissioned more than 325 works to date.

Philip holds five honorary doctorates and has received honors from Norway, UK, Sweden, Hungary, and Mexico. He served on the IFCM Board for 15 years.

Email: philip@vocalessence.org



WSCM 2011, Singing with wales and flamingos in Puerto Madryn, Patagonia, Argentina



Top: WSCM 2005, Kyoto, Japan, Opening Ceremony
 Bottom: The Opera House in Copenhagen, Denmark, the main venue of the WSCM 2008

EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC

TOMAŽ FAGANEL

Former IFCM Board Member

Inspired by IFCM symposia in Vienna, Scandinavia, and Vancouver and supported by IFCM President Paul Wehrle, a European Symposium on Choral Music (ESCM) was convened in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in 1995. The goals of ESCM were to present the best of choral Europe, draw attention to the diverse European singing landscape, and sample choral, conducting, educational practices while, simultaneously, promoting the culture and choral traditions of Slovenia.

Invited individuals and choirs – their travel, accommodation, and fees covered by the organizers – participated in 29 concerts (including two Slovenian programs), nine diverse conducting classes and workshops, 33 lectures by guest conductors, five panels, and early morning Open Singing and joint conducting practice by all participants.

During this week in July 1995, Ljubljana was not only the interpretative hub of choral and conducting Europe – with legendary Eric Ericsson at its helm – but also a meeting point of significant European composers. Many compositions were heard for the first time in Slovenia. Petr Eben, Thomas Jennefelt, and Uroš Krek composed splendid new pieces for the festival. The symposium's interpretative crown was the final concert by joint choirs and Slovenian Philharmonic with Krzysztof Penderecki and his *St. Luke Passion*. Ljubljana remains worthy of the memory of ESCM. Its echo still resounds in international choral events and can be heard in Slovenian choirs' recognizable swing.



TOMAŽ FAGANEL is a conductor, musicologist, music educator, editor, and jury member in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Email: tomaz.faganel@guest.arnes.si



ASIA SOUTH PACIFIC SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC

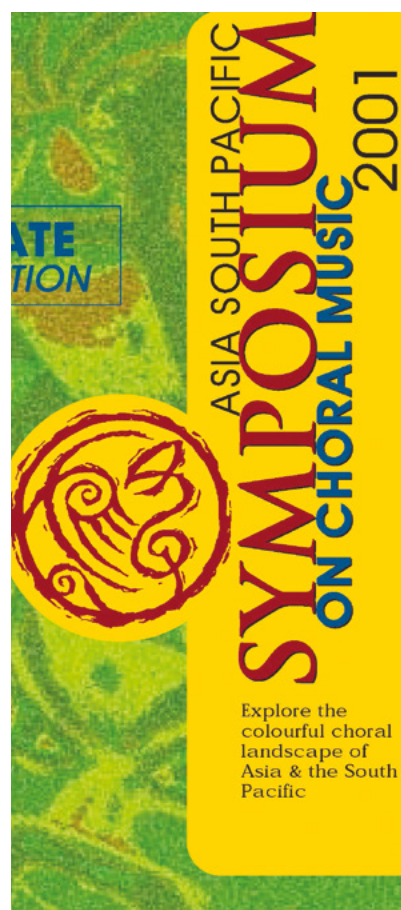
ALBERT YEO AND JENNIFER THAM

Former IFCM Board Members

For a short week in August 2001, 10 choirs and 26 clinicians expanded our choral spaces with their music. We explored the “colourful choral landscape of Asia and the South Pacific” – as the slogan went – in workshops, masterclasses, and concerts, using the IFCM framework for international symposia. In keeping with local practice, we planted chilli and onions to keep the rain at bay, allowing 1,400 participants to walk from venue to venue. Our ears were cleaned by the sounds of other indigenous languages playing polyrhythmically with our own mother tongues and dialects. ASPSCM was the birth of Singapore’s choral potential.



ALBERT YEO is an arts manager and producer, and JENNIFER THAM is a conductor and clinician. They are the husband-wife team who began their life in choral music with the Singapore Youth Choir Ensemble Singers, the choir in which they met almost 40 years ago. Their work for the IFCM began with the ASPSCM, and continued as elected members to the IFCM board from 2002–2014. Jennifer continues to co-ordinate the IFCM Asia Pacific Choral Council, which manages the Asia Pacific Youth Choir. Email: jennifer@syc.org.sg



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THE RICH AND COLOURFUL
CHORAL LANDSCAPE OF ASIA AND
THE SOUTH PACIFIC**

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Conductors Without Borders



Top: Andean Youth Choral Project, founded by María Guinand and Alberto Grau of the Schola Cantorum de Venezuela
Bottom: one of the first missions in French-speaking African country

CONDUCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

THIERRY THIÉBAUT

IFCM Board Member



In August 2006, at the conclusion of the World Assembly of Choral Conductor's Associations (WACCA), a gathering in Buenos Aires, Argentina, organized by IFCM and the Argentinean Association of Choir Conductors, the need for a collaborative, global program to prepare choral conductors was recognized and acknowledged. The concept of Conductors Without Borders (CWB) was born! Conductors who were already involved in similar projects on a regional basis agreed on the necessity of a sustainable program which would support the development of choral leadership all over the world. At a subsequent assembly in Caracas, Venezuela, the concept was expanded to include the capacity and possibility of choral singing to shape fundamental social values, i.e., the formation and expression of solidarity, respect, tolerance, loyalty, community-building, and inter-human communications.

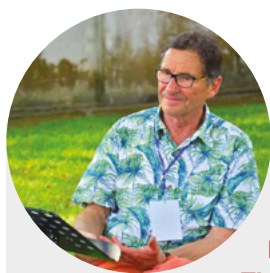
Historically, within the CWB program, priority is given to countries and regions where there is an expressed desire for training possibilities yet no access to educational opportunities. The CWB curriculum includes basic techniques of conducting, vocal technique, general communication (musical and social), rehearsal strategies, and the use of instruments in rehearsals. The selection of appropriate repertoire is guided by the local context and the experience of the conductors and the choirs. It is essential to the CWB program that local mentors, coming from the same region with similar cultural backgrounds, are actively engaged in guiding

the emerging conductors in their development with their own repertoire and musical traditions.

In general, the CWB curriculum and methodology are guided by the local situation, cultural context, and desires of the young conductors. A mentoring approach is used rather than the historical masterclass structure. Mentors observe and listen carefully to identify needs and challenges. They are flexible and accommodating, adapting their instruction to varying levels of experience and skill development.

With its roots in the Andean Youth Choral Project, founded by María Guinand and Alberto Grau of the Schola Cantorum de Venezuela, CWB programs were initially developed in Latin America (Central and South America) and in Sub-Saharan African countries. Today, CWB is now active in Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil, and in isolated regions of Argentina (Chaco and Andes). During the pandemic, CWB in Latin America launched a series of digital seminars which were accessed by participants from many new countries and regions. Professors from 11 countries worked together with 504 delegates from 23 countries.

Building on the initial CWB programs in the Sub-Saharan French-speaking countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Togo, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Gabon, and Benin), courses have been developed recently in Ghana and Kenya. In all of these Sub-Saharan African countries, new choral federations have been created as CWB programs have generated increasingly more interest in choral singing in these countries. New projects in the Middle East and in Southeast Asia are in preparation.



THIERRY THIÉBAUD, IFCM board member and President of À Cœur Joie International, coordinates and teaches in IFCM's Conductors Without Borders (CWB) program. Through his work with CWB, he has founded numerous choral federations in French-speaking Sub-Saharan Africa countries.

Thierry founded the oratorio choir, La Brénadienne, which he conducted for 30 years.

Email: tthiebaut@choralies.org

WORLD CHORAL DAY

GÁBOR MÓCZÁR

IFCM Board Member



World Choral Day is an international choral event initiated and managed by IFCM to extol the values of solidarity, peace, and understanding. Upon the remarkable initiative by former IFCM Vice-President and renowned composer Alberto Grau, World Choral Day was approved by the General Assembly of IFCM at the 2nd World Symposium on Choral Music (1990) with this declaration:

"The world is living through severe and continuous crisis of self-destruction. There are no possible reasons that can justify these actions. The majority of the human race wants to live in peace with dignity. It is time to show, with more power and strength, that our choral family contributes, through music, to break down the artificial barriers product of politics, different ideologies, religious differences, and racial hatred that separate human beings. We must be able to show that MUSIC, the divine art,

is more than the mere search of formal perfection and interpretative beauty. Music should serve to extol the values of solidarity, peace, and understanding. We cannot work isolated; we have to make all possible efforts to have our voices heard and to let music work its own paths of communication."

Annually, World Choral Day (WCD) is linked to a special day, weekend (as in 2018, the 100th anniversary of ending WWI), or even the full month of December. Every year, during the designated period, WCD unites the world through dedicated concerts, festivals, sing-alongs, choral seminars, days of friendship, and other global events. During the pandemic, it was possible to participate through online concerts (live-streamed or edited) as well as linking earlier concert video recordings.

This unique project is, for me, the ultimate, powerful opportunity to unite singers around the world by providing a virtual international stage where they can share their

love for choral singing under the important themes of peace, love, and understanding. It's never been easier to join a global initiative: all participating choirs register their concerts/events at <http://worldchoralday.org>

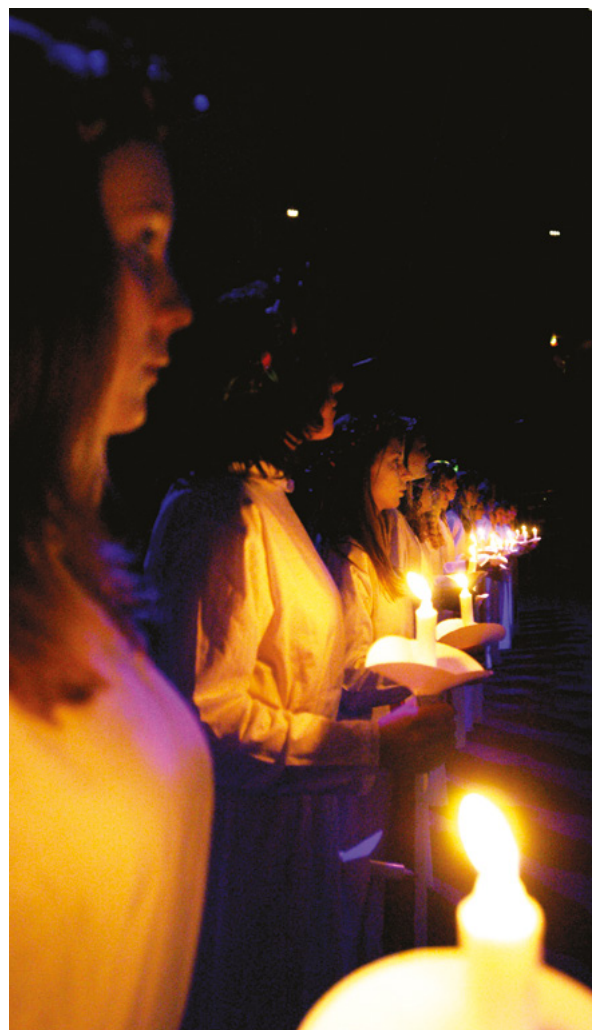
and download the proclamation (provided in 30 languages) that is spoken at every event. Following the performance, materials (video, photos) are uploaded to the WCD website and social media channels for a greater visibility of the project and for a better appearance of individual events by registered choirs.

Since 1990, thousands of choirs and millions of singers from over 50 countries around the world have been joining in the WCD celebration, spreading the proclamation to their audiences. For its 30th anniversary (2020), Alberto Grau composed the joyful *Cantando* as the official WCD song which is performed at many WCD events.

Be our partner and spread the word about WCD so that all choirs around the world may unite once a year to express our deepest desire for peace!



GÁBOR MÓCZÁR, cultural manager, coordinated the Central Eastern European network of ECA-EC for 15 years and was Director of Europa Cantat XIX. ECA-EC past President and IFCM past Vice-President, Gábor is currently on the IFCM board where he chairs World Choral Day and SCOCYC Committees. He is a board member of Hungarian Choral Association and Hungarian Music Council. Email: gmoczar@ifcm.net

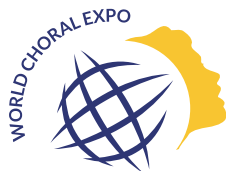


Top: celebration of the World Choral Day during St. Lucia in Nordic Countries
Bottom: Children Choir Junior Carmina Slovenica celebrating the World Choral Day in 2018

WORLD CHORAL EXPO

JAN SCHUMACHER

IFCM Vice-President



The inaugural [World Choral EXPO](#) (WCE) was held in Macau, China, 12-15 November 2015. Conceived as an innovative choral event for all ages and skill levels of singers and conductors in the Asia Pacific region, this first EXPO consisted of four parallel components: choral concerts and demonstrations, masterclasses and lecture presentations, choral competitions, and an exhibition for choral publishers and organizations.

In 2019, through the vision and leadership of IFCM President Emily Kuo, IFCM organized the second WCE as one of its own programs. Held in Lisbon, Portugal, 27-31 July, the WCE 2019 theme was “Voices Meeting for a Better World,” reflecting IFCM’s goal to provide a gathering through which to encourage all forms of collective singing (professional and amateur) and, through special programs and workshops, to support choirs, singers, conductors, and choral enthusiasts in exchanging experience and knowledge. The WCE 2019 program included performances by 12 invited choirs representing nine countries as well as the TURKSOY (International Organization of Turkic Culture) member countries. Adding to the roster of stellar invited choirs was the 2019 World Youth Choir, which celebrated its 30th anniversary with a reception for current singers and alumni hosted by IFCM at its main office in Palacete dos Conde de Monte Real.

In addition to performances by invited choirs, WCE 2019 introduced two new components: Colourful Voices and EXchange! The Colourful Voices program brings children and youth choirs together for a full-day of collaborative opportunities and performances, singing for and with each other. In partnership with The Singing Network, the EXchange! creates an intimate space for international scholars, performers, conductors, pedagogues, and composers to exchange, connect, create, share, and explore a wide range of topics related to collective singing.



Choirs meet and sing together at the WCE, Colourful Voices Workshops and Gala, cond. Jan Schumacher (2019) © Ki Adams

The third edition of WCE will be held again in Lisbon in September 2022. With choirs and vocal ensembles from five continents and ten countries, WCE 2022 continues to provide an opportunity for choral singers, choral professionals, conductors, composers, and music educators to interact with and learn from world-renowned choirs and their conductors. While Colourful Voices and EXchange! continue to be key components of the WCE, three new elements are being introduced for WCE 2022: masterclasses for both conductors and singers by internationally-renowned maestro, Frieder Bernius, with Kammerchor Stuttgart; YOUNG, Youth International Cultural Managers, a program for young event managers; and a participant program for self-supported choirs to perform and take part in various WCE events designed to provide networking and collaborative opportunities. Finally, WCE 2022 will celebrate IFCM's 40th anniversary with a special exhibition dedicated to its 40-year history in the Palacete of dos Condes de Monte Real.



Don't miss the opportunity to participate in a World Choral EXPO.
You will not be disappointed!



JAN SCHUMACHER is professor and music director of Frankfurt Goethe-University and conducting teacher at Darmstadt Music-Academy. With Camerata Musica Limburg, he has performed at IFCM WSCM, ACDA National Conference, and America Cantat. Jan has served as conductor and conducting teacher in the USA and in many European, Asian, and South-American countries. Email: schu.macher@gmx.de



CHORAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION

ANDREA ANGELINI

Former ICB Managing Editor

I have always thought that, among the choral activities worthy of being undertaken and enhanced by the IFCM, great importance should be given to projects aimed at expanding the repertoire of choirs. In 2010, having been the Managing Editor of the *International Choral Bulletin* for only a year but building on experiences of other associations, I proposed a new IFCM project to then-President, Michael Anderson: an International Choral Composition Competition (ICCC).

Graham Lack and I set to work and, in a short time, the rules were ready for publication. The first edition was distinguished by providing a specific theme for the composers: 'A Choral Work for Peace'. The winner would have their composition performed by the World Youth Choir and published by a well-known publishing house. We received 65 compositions, quite a success for the first edition of the competition! The jury (Graham Lack, Stephen Leek, Jonathan Rathbone, Reijo Kekkonen) declared the winner to be *White, those that stayed still* by American composer Matthew Van Brink. The work was premiered by the World Youth Choir in Oslo during the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony and Concert.

Due to the success of the first edition, we decided to continue with the competition. For the second ICCC (2012), a first prize award of \$ 5,000 and a recording of the winning composition by an

internationally-renowned choir were added. We received 637 entries, which was a nightmare for the jury (Graham Lack, John Pamintuan, Libby Larsen, Paul Stanhope, Olli Kortekangas). The winner: Frank Corcoran (Ireland) with *Eight Haikus*, premiered by the Philippine Madrigal Singers. Second prize was awarded to Itzam L. Zapata Paniagua (Mexico) for *On desire*, recorded by Voces 8. Third prize was awarded to Rudi Tas (Belgium) for *Pie Jesu*.

The third ICCC took place in 2017. Once again, prizes were impressive: \$5,000, \$2,500, \$1,000. The jury consisted of Ko Matsushita, Oscar Escalada, Josep Vila i Casañas, Ambrož Čopi, Dominick DiOrio. A total of 186 entries were received, and victory went to Juan Manuel Conejo González (Spain) with *NUR*, followed by *Falling Stars* by Jakub

Szafranski (Poland) *Miserere* by Benedikt Brydern (USA).

The last ICCC edition which I coordinated was in 2019. Prizes were smaller than in 2017, but still 182 compositions were submitted to the jury (Alberto Grau, Ēriks Ešenvalds, Sergey Pleshak). Simone Campanini's (Italy) *Jubilare Deo* ranked first, Jonathan David's (USA) *Te Lucis ante Terminum* ranked second, and David Walters's (USA) *A Voice is Heard in Rama* ranked third.

ICCC 5 (coordinated by Burak Onur Erdem) was launched in 2022, encouraging innovation in choral writing that matches the needs of a 21st-century choir, i.e., compositions that combine originality, imagination, and creativity within the context of contemporary global themes. The jury (Andrea Ramsey, Nana Forte, Onur Türkmen, Miguel Astor, Ko Matsushita) reviewed 93 submissions and awarded prizes in two categories: World Choral Day (Chris Artley, New Zealand, *On the Road of Life*) and Mixed Choir (Victor Daniel Lozada, Venezuela, *He Vuelto al Mar*).



2022 winner in the Mixed Choir category, Victor Daniel Lozada Lima



2022 winner in the World Choral Day category, Chris Artley



ANDREA ANGELINI, a graduate of the Conservatories of Rimini, Ferrara, and Cesena, studied Renaissance choral music in England and in Rome. Formerly managing director of the *International Choral Bulletin* (ICB), he is currently editorial director of *Dirigo*, the magazine of ANDCI. Andrea is the artistic director of the professional group *Musica Ficta Vocal Ensemble*. Email: thechoralconductor@gmail.com

CANTEMUS CHORAL SERIES

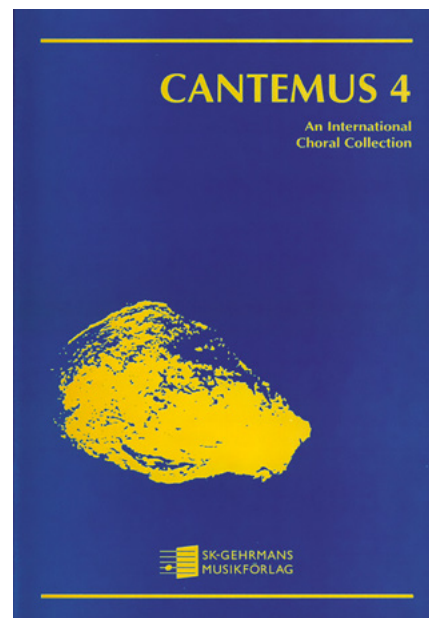
MARÍA GUINAND

IFCM Vice-President



Cantemus Choral Series began in 1992 with the objective of gathering choral scores, with a companion CD, from diverse cultural backgrounds and composers, thus reflecting the musical breadth of IFCM. André de Quadros and Marian Dolan were the General Editors of these collections. The first four volumes were published by Gehrman's Musikförlag (Stockholm) and distributed in North America through Walton Music (Vol. 1, 3, 4 SATB; Vol. 2 SSAA). The 50 published scores were selected primarily from repertoire performed at international choral festivals.

In 2004, *Cantemus Choral Series* was re-envisioned and reorganized under IFCM's Ethnic and Multicultural Commission, and earthsongs became the new publisher. A call for scores generated 70 choral works. Five compositions were published for the 2005 World Symposium on Choral Music in Kyoto, Japan. One more collection of seven scores was later published as octavos. *Cantemus Choral Series* was a significant IFCM project that both enriched and disseminated international choral repertoire.



MARÍA GUINAND, choral and orchestral conductor, university professor, pedagogue, and leader of choral projects, is currently artistic director of the Schola Cantorum Foundation of Venezuela. A vice-president (Latin America) of IFCM, María is frequently invited as guest conductor, teacher, and jury member in many countries. Email: mariaguinand@gmail.com



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FORUM

VICTORIA LIEBERGIUS

IFCM Board Member



Youth Forum 2008, some regulars of the European choral scene will recognize, on the first row from left to right, Victoria Liedbergius, Daphne Wassink, Isabelle Métrope © Thierry Thiébaud



VICTORIA LIEBERGIUS is the secretary general of Ung i Kor, the Norwegian Children and Youth Choir Association. Victoria is currently a board member of the International Federation of Choral Music, vice-president of the World Youth Choir Foundation, and president of the European Music Council. She was a board member of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat from 2012 to 2018, and was the chairperson of their youth committee before that. Victoria has studied singing at the Koninklijk Conservatorium in Brussels and the Hochschule für Music und Tanz Köln, and is also a former a singer of the World Youth Choir. Email: vliebergius@ifcm.net

In 2008, IFCM organized the first international youth forum for young arts managers, *Voice, Youth, and Arts Management*, in partnership with Polyfollia. Now, in 2022, there are a lot of events like this and young people can study arts management and cultural leadership at many universities. However, in 2008, this was *the one* happening for young choral managers. During three days, around 60 young people from all over the choral world met in Caen, France, for lectures, workshops, and concerts. The forum was meant as a place to develop a network for managers to exchange, and until this day I'm still in contact with many of the participants from the forum.

A second forum, *Youth Arts Management Program*, was offered in partnership with America Cantat 8 and the American Choral Directors Association in Nassau, Bahamas, in 2016. A third forum is being organized during the 2022 World Choral EXPO (WCE) in Lisbon, Portugal. Building on the successes of the previous IFCM youth forums and inspired by European Choral Association's highly successful YEMP program, IFCM is launching **YOUNG** Youth International Management Program. This project will provide the opportunity for ten young arts managers from South America, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Europe to gain hands-on experience in organizing WCE. IFCM's investment in youth is paying off as there are already former youth forum participants in leadership roles within IFCM.

VOICES OF ORIGIN CONFERENCES

ANDRÉ DE QUADROS

Former IFCM Board Member and Advisor

The Voices of Origin conferences were initiated by Christian Ljunggren, IFCM Secretary General 1997-1999, and the inaugural conference was held in Puerto Rico in 2000. The purpose of this series of conferences was to get closer to the historical origins of choral music as they related to group singing traditions in different parts of the world. Within the scope of this article, I can reflect on the second IFCM Ethnic and Multicultural Commission Voices of Origin conference (2003) that took place in Jokkmokk, northern Sweden, and was supported by Swedish funding. Almost within the Arctic Circle, this conference brought together singers and conductors from Africa, Latin America, Asia, Israel, and the United States. Particularly memorable at this conference was the collaboration between a men's vocal ensemble from Sicily and a women's ensemble from Stockholm. As chair of IFCM's Ethnic and Multicultural Commission, André de Quadros collaborated with numerous stakeholders to generate conversations about future collaborations. The Voices conferences led to the establishment of IFCM's *Cantemus Choral Series* of choral octavos with earthsongs and the anthology series *Carmina mundi* with Carus-Verlag. In addition to Voices of Origin conferences held in Puerto Rico (2000) and Sweden (2003), three additional Voices of Origin convened: Bremen, Germany (2004), Tallinn, Estonia (2007), and Stellenbosch, South Africa (2009).



ANDRÉ DE QUADROS is a professor of music at Boston University. He directs Common Ground

Voices (Jerusalem), the Manado State University Choir (Indonesia), the Muslim Choral Ensemble (Sri Lanka), and VOICES 21C (Boston). He co-directs Common Ground Voices / La Frontera (US-Mexico), the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Countries Youth Choir, and The Choral Commons.

Email: adq@bu.edu

Estonian Song Festival 2007, a perfect location for Voices of the Baltics



FORTY YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS



IFCM PARTNERSHIPS

Coordination: Ki Adams

André de Quadros, Yoshihiro Egawa, Emily Kuo Vong, Lucien Mendy, Jean-Claude Wilkens

WORLD YOUTH CHOIR

JEAN-CLAUDE WILKENS

Former IFCM Secretary General

As a young employee of the *Jeunesses Musicales of Belgium*, I had the opportunity to attend the general assembly of *Jeunesses Musicales International* which took place in Sweden in 1985. It was then that the decision was made to create an international youth choir built on the model of the *Jeunesses Musicales Orchestra*. The first season would take place in Sweden in 1989. We have Dag Franzén to thank for the name of the ensemble: [World Youth Choir](#) (WYC).

After the memorable premiere season under the artistic direction of Stefan Sköld, the management of the project was entrusted to the International Center for Choral Music of Namur (CIMC), and the partnership between the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) and the *Jeunesses Musicales Internationales* (JMI) was established.

As director of CIMC, I acted as the administrator of the project for just over a decade, supported by a highly competent artistic committee. JMI chapters on five continents provided for strong recruitment of excellent young singers, and the IFCM network of conductors connected us to directors of international reputation. A bit later, Europa Cantat, now the European Choral Association, joined the partnership, and the foundation for the WYC was secured.

Since its founding, the WYC has undeniably contributed to the development of choral singing across the world. The ensemble has provided an opportunity for over 1,000 young singers to discover other cultures, techniques, and choral pedagogies, and to learn from respected conductors and sing for sophisticated audiences. The choir has promoted new repertoire, brought awareness to composers who were previously known only locally, and shown that a large youth choir could aspire to professional level artistry, informed by the freshness and aspiration of a new generation.

Today the world has changed! World-wide communication through the Internet and social networks allows young artists to discover distant cultures. Numerous university exchange programs and the democratization of travel have led us to redefine the mission of the WYC. It remains nonetheless a unique instrument for sharing choral art at the highest level, and reinforcing a network of young singers which will take the lead in the development of the choral culture of the future.



JEAN-CLAUDE WILKENS has devoted his entire career to choral music and international network development. He served as director of the International Center for Choral Music in Namur (1989-2000), Secretary General for IFCM (2000-2009), executive director of the French national choral organisation A Cœur Joie (2009-2020), and conductor of Hodie vocal ensemble for 20 years.
Email: jcwilkens@me.com



World Youth Choir 2018 In Inner Mongolia and China, cond.
Helene Stureborg and Jonathan Velasco

Translated from the French by Joshua Habermann, USA

SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (SCO) COUNTRIES YOUTH CHOIR

ANDRÉ DE QUADROS

Former IFCM Board Member and Advisor

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Countries Youth Choir was founded in 2019, by IFCM President, Emily Kuo Vong, to bring singers together from the eight member states (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), four observer states (Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia), and six dialogue partners (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey) of this international treaty. As a unique combination of eighteen countries, with neither a common language nor a shared musical heritage, the singers and instrumentalists were poised to communicate through and with music. Directed by André de Quadros (India/USA) and Maria Goundorina (Russia/Sweden) and coordinated by Ki Adams and Gábor Móczár with assistance from Yu Hang Tan, the group rehearsed and performed mainly in Hohhot,

Inner Mongolia. The ensemble was accompanied by a unique instrumental combination – bansuri flute (South Asia), fujara (Asia), harmonium (South Asia), morin khuur (Inner Mongolia), rubab (Afghanistan), and tabla (South Asia). The repertoire was varied representing the music and languages from the region and beyond. The unforgettable experience was made even more memorable as so many of the participants faced logistical challenges that are rarely experienced by those who live and work in the privileged countries of the Global North. Just one example serves as an illustration. The Afghan musicians had formidable challenges in securing travel documents, including visas, and then flights that would enable their safe and timely arrival. This is an ensemble with enormous potential for serving as a model for international cooperation.

Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cambodia, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan



SCOCYC singers from 16 SCO countries

Middle of the group: the two conductors, André de Quadros and Maria Goundorina

© Ki Adams



Singers from Sri Lanka, Inner Mongolia, Russia, Iran, Belarus, India, Uzbekistan
Instrumentalists from Sri Lanka and Inner Mongolia
© Ki Adams



ASIA PACIFIC YOUTH CHOIR

YOSHIHIRO EGAWA

IFCM Vice-President



Top: APYC session in Kaili, China, cond. Beverly Shangkuan-Cheng (2018)
Bottom: APYC session in Macau and Hong Kong, cond. Vivian Ip (2019)

The first [Asia Pacific Youth Choir](#), a joint project of the Asia Pacific region, was held in Macau on 21-27 February 2011 to be our sounding symbol for respect, love and joy among the peoples of this culturally diverse region. There is a bit of history to get to that point.

The first time choral representatives from the Asia Pacific met was at the 4th World Choral Symposium in Sydney in 1996. Beginning the following year, we held annual regional meetings, even though they were informal, to exchange information about our individual choral situations and to share ideas from each country. These gatherings resulted in organizing a Regional Choral Symposium in Singapore in 2001, the 7th World Symposium on Choral Music in Kyoto in 2005, and, two years later, the Asia Pacific Cantat in Taiwan.

Following the Asia Pacific Cantat (2007), we continued to hold the regional meetings and considered the possibility of convening another Regional Symposium or Cantat. However, due to the large budgets required to present such events, it was challenging to find a country that could host either event. Nevertheless, at the regional meeting held in Wuxi, it was decided to organize an Asia Pacific Youth Choir (APYC) as the first joint project in the region.

Since the first APYC session in Macau (2011), there have been many more: the second at the IFCM World Choral Summit in Beijing (2012), the third at the ACDA National Convention in Dallas (2013), the fourth at the 10th World Choral Symposium in Seoul (2014), the fifth at the EXPO in Milan and Asia Pacific Choral Expo in Macau (2015), the sixth at the Qiandongnan International Folk Song Choral Festival in Kaili (2018), the seventh at the International Youth Music Festival in Macau and Asia Pacific Choral Summit in Hong Kong (2019). The eighth session was planned to be held in Kuala Lumpur in 2020 but has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



YOSHIHIRO EGAWA was executive director for the 7th World Symposium on Choral Music in Kyoto, Japan (2005) where he was also in charge of international relations. In addition to working with the World Youth Choir, Yoshi has been deputy secretary general of the Japan Choral Association. He is co-coordinator for the IFCM Asia Pacific Choral Council and its joint project, the Asia Pacific Youth Choir. Email: yoshi-egawa@music.email.ne.jp



CHINA CHORAL FESTIVALS

EMILY KUO VONG

IFCM President

SINCE 2017, IFCM HAS PARTNERED WITH SEVERAL CHORAL FESTIVALS IN CHINA, PROVIDING EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CHORAL COMMUNITY, INDIVIDUALS AND CHOIRS, TO PERFORM WITH AND FOR EACH OTHER AS WELL AS TO LEARN WITH AND FROM EACH OTHER.

CHINA QIANDONGNAN INTERNATIONAL FOLK SONG CHORAL FESTIVAL AND IFCM VOICES CONFERENCE

In 2017, IFCM presented its Voices Conference in partnership with the China Qiandongnan International Folk Song Choral Festival. Over 5,000 singers from 69 choirs representing more than 20 countries participated in the festival/conference. Choirs visited Dong and Miao villages and exchanged cultural traditions through sharing folk songs and traditional music. In 2018, again in Kaili, China, over 3,000 singers participated. Of special note in 2018 was the participation of the IFCM-sponsored Asia Pacific Youth Choir (APYC) after a two-year pause.



Top: China Qiandongnan International Folk Song Choral Festival 2017, evening concert
Bottom: IFCM delegates and workshops leaders with local organization team (2017)



INNER MONGOLIA INTERNATIONAL CHORAL WEEK

The Inner Mongolia International Choral Week debuted in 2017 and was organized again in 2018 and in 2019. During these three years, IFCM invited many choirs from around the world to join the festival. In 2018, a World Youth Choir session was held in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, as part of the Inner Mongolia International Choral Week, rehearsing and performing in Inner Mongolia and Beijing.



IFCM President Emily Kuo Vong with some Inner Mongolian conductors including Yalungerile, conductor of the Inner Mongolia Youth Choir (2017)

In 2019, IFCM launched a new international choir project, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Countries Youth Choir. This new choir performed during the Inner Mongolia International Choral Week in Hohhot as well as at the World Garden Expo in Beijing. Singers represented 18 Eurasian countries, many experiencing political conflict and turmoil, even with each other. However, when making music together, these young people sang with hope and love, like roses blooming in the war.



Inner Mongolian International Chorus Naadam performing in a yurt during the International Choral Week 2017



Inner Mongolian International Choral Week workshop leaders: Andrea Angelini, Cristian Grases, Ki Adams, Niels Græsholm (2018)



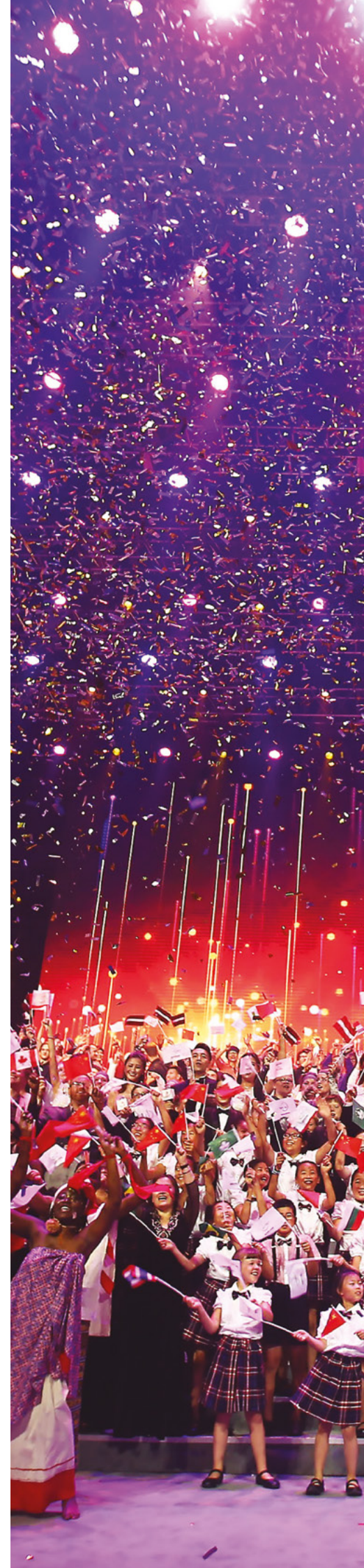
Emily Kuo Vong and Michael J Anderson with the Inner Mongolian International Chorus Naadam (2017)

14TH CHINA INTERNATIONAL CHORUS FESTIVAL AND WORLD CHORAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

In 2018, more than 15,000 singers in 308 choirs from around the globe participated in the 14th China International Chorus Festival in Beijing. IFCM, as a co-organizer, was able to a presence in 263 choral events including charity concerts, workshops, and courses. A memorable concert for me involved nine children's choirs from developing areas performing together on the international stage in Beijing. (photos CICF 2018)



EMILY KUOVONG has established and invested many entities not only to facilitate multicultural exchanges but also to promote diverse business cooperations all over the world. In addition to being the current President of IFCM, Emily is Founder and President of the Chinese American Intercultural Exchange Foundation (CAIEF), Four Seasons Investment Group, Matrix Ultimate, Tianjin Binhai International Airport Hotel, Dimalu-Sociedade de Administrações Agrícolas e Prediais, International Cultural Center of Monte Real, Shining Square Investment and Innovation, and International Cultural Club of Portugal (ICCP).
Email: president@ifcm.net





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AFRICA CANTAT

LUCIEN MENDY

Member of the Editorial Board of the International Choral Magazine

Preparations are well underway for the first ever in-person Africa Cantat festival, to be held in Nairobi, Kenya. The brainchild of the African Confederation of Choral Music, the festival is spearheaded by the Kenya Choral Directors' Trust with the support of the IFCM and in cooperation with the ECA-EC and A Cœur Joie International.

Africa Cantat will offer choirs and choral directors from Kenya, the rest of Africa, and the whole world a unique and totally novel experience: a week-long 'vocal safari' in a country full of extraordinary wildlife and landscapes. Concerts and workshops ('warsha' in Kiswahili) led by renowned directors will showcase the richness of the Kenyan repertoire and the diversity of choral traditions in Africa and worldwide.

Other highlights will include the chance for all the participants to sing together, a special programme for choral directors, and a parallel programme of concerts in prisons, hospitals, and community centres, plus the option of a safari in the Ol Pejeta Conservancy.

Africa Cantat was initially planned for August 2020, but was instead launched online due to Covid-19. The launch was a resounding success, with dozens of virtual concerts by 20 choirs from ten different countries, ten webinars given by experienced directors, networking and vocal warm-up sessions, and a virtual safari.



The conductor of Biayenda Choir and Afrikiyo Choir, LUCIEN MENDY is Secretary General and co-founder of the

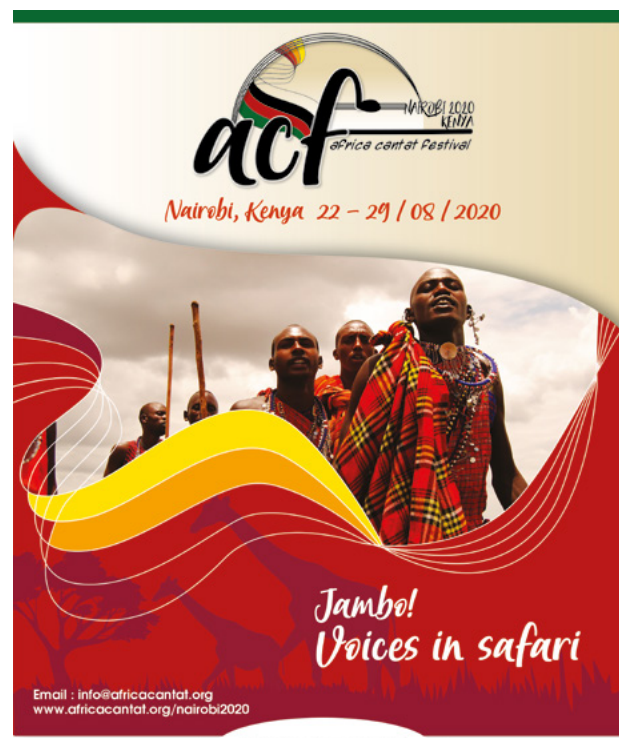
Panafrican Choral Music Movement Afrikiyo and the African Confederation of Choral Music. He is President of A Cœur Joie International, and is a member of the Interkultur World Choir Council. He is also a member of the First Africa Cantat Festival International Committee.

Email: lukymendy@gmail.com

To keep the flame alive, a networking session was held online in August 2021, followed by a webinar for choral directors in January 2022. Another webinar for singers is planned for summer 2022.

Africa Cantat's team of local organisers has been busy working alongside the International Committee (Yveline Damas, Lucien Mendy of the ACCM, Ken Wakia of the KCDT, Iva Radulović from IFCM, Sonja Greiner from ECA-EC, and Thierry Thiébaud from ACJI) to agree new dates with the festival's local partners. The final arrangements are now being made, and with luck, the festival should take place in person in 2023.

Translated from the French by Katie Sykes, UK



With the support of



Original leaflets of the 2020 festival which was finally held online in 2021

WEBINARS

Friday, 28th of August 2020



1:30pm to 2:30pm (EAT)
Muziki Wetu - The Real Kenyan
Choral Experience



6:00pm to 7:00m (EAT)
The Musica Data Base and Choral Events
all over the World



3:00pm to 4:00pm (EAT)
Performing Opera Choruses



4:30pm to 5:30pm (EAT)
African Choral Music - Rhythmic
Approach



WEBINARS

Saturday, 29th of August 2020



10:15am to 12:15pm (EAT)
Networking Morning for Initiatives
on Choral Music, Associations,
Managers and Conductors



1:30pm to 2:30pm (EAT)
How to build a Youth Choir



3:00pm to 4:00pm (EAT)
Singing in the Workplace
6:00pm to 7:00m (EAT)
Concert Planning and Management



4:30pm to 5:30pm (EAT)
Conduct and Rehearsal Methology



Sunday, 30th of August 2020



10:15am to 11:15am (EAT)
Conductors without Borders



Opening Concert



Open Singing with
Denis Thuillier,
France



Welcome Greetings from
Yveline Damas
(President of the African
Confederation for Choral Music)
and Others

Opening Event
27th August, 5:30pm (EAT)

AMERICA CANTAT

OSCAR ESCALADA

Former IFCM Board Member

America Cantat was born in Argentina on October 12, 1992, 500 years after Christopher Columbus arrived on the island of San Salvador, now a part of the Bahamas.

Our goal was to bring awareness of the music of American peoples to the inhabitants of this enormous continent, which is made up of four sub-continents: South America, Central America, North America, and Insular America.

In the past 30 years, America Cantat has passed through all of them. In South America, Argentina, Venezuela, Brazil, and Columbia. In Central America, Panama. In North America, Mexico, and in Insular America, Cuba and the Bahamas.

Our American music is the result of

the cultural conjunction of Europe, Africa, and the aboriginal people who have lived on this soil for more than 10,000 years. This fusion has resulted in an idiosyncratic outcome. Spirituals, jazz, tango, son, música llanera, samba, waltz, huayno, marinera, milonga, candombe, la cueca and murga or cumbia are just some examples of the thousands of American rhythms that we have been discovering in each festival.

We have also had exchanges with Europe and Africa through Europa Cantat, inviting European and African conductors to share their experience and knowledge that, combined with what was preexisting, became the origin of our music.

Great conductors have participated in our workshops over the years, and the generations that come after us will be able to dive into their cultural origins and continue the extraordinary experiences that previous generations have lived.

Like many others, the pandemic forced us to postpone America Cantat 10 planned for 2022. However, we are planning it in Argentina during the second half of 2023. Keep an eye out! It will be an unforgettable festival because you will be there, as well as all of America.

See you soon!

Translated by Taylor Ffitch, USA



OSCAR ESCALADA is conductor, composer, clinician, writer, and music editor. He is President of the Argentine Association for Choral Music "America Cantat" (AAMCANT), former member of the IFCM board of directors, honorary member of ANDCI, and President of the America Cantat Organization (OAC). Email: oeescalada@gmail.com





Top: America Cantat 1992 in Argentina, the 2023 America Cantat will return to Argentina
Left: America Cantat 2019 in Panama





SONGBRIDGE

KARI ALA-PÖLLÄNEN



The innovative idea of a non-competitive forum for international co-operation between children's / youth choirs and contemporary composers was developed by Professor Erkki Pohjola, founder of the renowned Tapiola Choir in Finland. The initial event was named Songbridge 2000, as part of UNESCO's 2000-2001 program, *Music and Peace*. After the first edition at IFCM's 5th World Symposium on Choral Music (WSCM) in Rotterdam, the name was fixed as Songbridge.

Songbridge is an international choral event bringing together 3-4 exceptional young choirs from around the world. Its philosophy is to contribute to international understanding, friendship, and peace. Equally important are the goals of enhancing the quality and evaluation of children's/youth choirs as a distinct, artistically-ambitious instrument and introducing newly-commissioned, advanced repertoire.

Since 2004 Songbridge has been endorsed by IFCM as one of its partnership projects. A Songbridge session is usually organized in co-operation with an international choral event such as WSCM, Europa Cantat, or America Cantat. By 2022, there have been 20 Songbridge sessions with participation of 57 choirs from 33 countries.

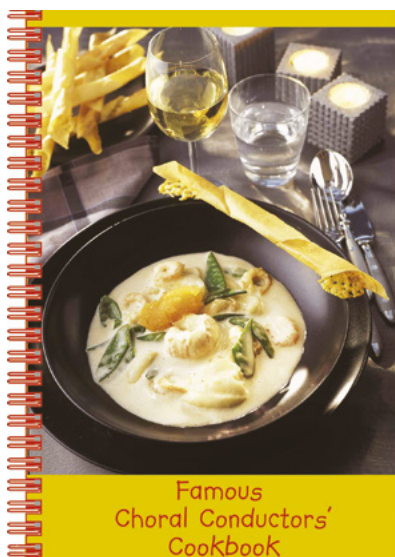
Songbridge is supervised by an Artistic Committee: Erkki Pohjola (Finland), chair 2004-2008; Kari Ala-Pöllänen (Finland), chair 2008-present; Cristian Grases (Venezuela/USA); Susan Knight (Canada); Chifuru Matsubara (Japan); Sanna Valvanne (Finland); Lyn Williams (Australia).



All photos from the Songbridge 2005, in Hong Kong, China. Choirs involved: Saskatoon Children's Choir, Canada, cond. Phoebe Voigts; University of Pretoria Jacaranda Children's Choir, South Africa, cond. Bea van der Sandt; Tapiola Choir, Finland, Cond. Kari Ala-Pöllänen; China Hand-in-Hand Children's Choir, China, cond. Richard Tsang and Meng Dapeng
Artistic Director: Erkki Pohjola, Finland



KARI ALA-PÖLLÄNEN is chair of the Artistic Committee of Songbridge. Having studied musicology and orchestral and choral conducting, Kari is a music teacher, musician, conductor, chorister, composer, and writer of school music books and encyclopedia. Internationally, he is well known as artistic director of festivals, jury member, guest conductor, and lecturer. He conducted the Tapiola Choir 1994-2008. Email: kari.ala-pollanen@hotmail.com



◀ 2001
The Famous
Choral Conductors'
Cookbook

2004 ▶
Voceversa Festival,
Vigevano, Italy



◀ 2006
World Assembly of
Choral Conductors
Associations,
Buenos Aires,
Argentina



▲ The IFCM Ambassador Program awards the choirs selected to perform at a World Symposium on Choral Music



◀ 2005-2008
IFCM in Louvigny,
Normandy, France,
thanks to Polyfolia
and Jacques
Vanherle (first row
on the left)



◀ 2007
Normandy TV
Broadcast on the
Andean project in
Venezuela

2007 ▶
Tour of the Andean
Youth Choir in
Normandy



2008 ▶
African Children
Sing!



Ongoing collaboration with Musica International ▲
from the very beginning



WSCM 1987, Vienna, Austria, IFCM Board meetings and General Assembly
© Jutta Tagger



IFCM 1st paying member from USSR now Estonia
Veljo Tormis © Jutta Tagger



A big thank you to all IFCM Presidents, Board and Staff



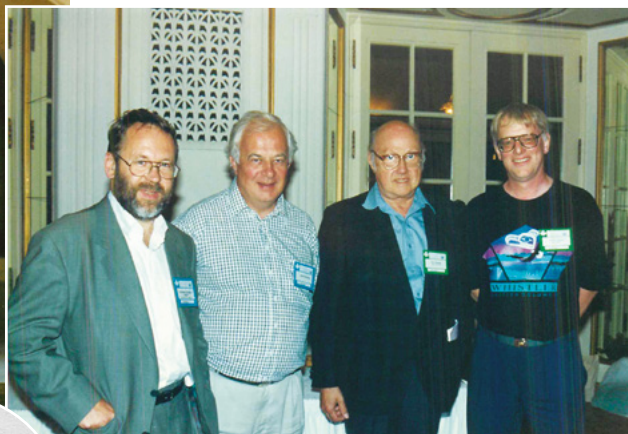
IFCM meeting in Vaison La Romaine in 1986 © Jutta Tagger



Top picture: WSCM 1990 Stockholm, Helsinki, Tallinn
© Michael J Anderson
Left: two IFCM Presidents, Claude Tagger and Michael J Anderson © Jutta Tagger



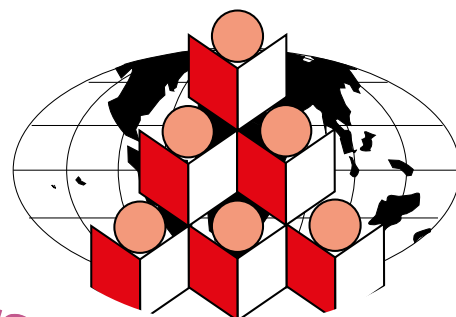
IFCM Meeting during Europa Cantat in Vitoria, Spain, in 1991 © Michael J Anderson



WSCM 1993, Vancouver, Canada, a nice representation of Sweden: Christian Ljuggren, Eskil Hemberg, Eric Ericson and Robert Sund © Michael J Anderson



IFCM Board meeting in Vancouver in 1993 © Michael J Anderson



Staff Members, Advisers, Partners, and IFCM Members!



WSCM 1996, Sydney, Australia.
Top picture: Meeting with the organizer, Ronald Smart
© Michael J Anderson
Right: exhibition hall © Hans Oostendorp



Celebration of the 15th Anniversary of IFCM in Namur, Belgium, in 1997 © Michael J Anderson



WSCM 1999, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, the Songbridge performance © Jutta Tagger

Fifth WSCM CD Cover



The International Center for Choral Music in Namur, Belgium, hosted many IFCM meetings, here a meeting of the Executive Committee in 2000 © Michael J Anderson



Opening of IFCM office in Villa Gadea, Altea, Spain, Michael J Anderson and local officer Ximo Roma Perez (1999) © Michael J Anderson



IFCM meeting in Puerto Rico in 2020, invited by Luis Olivieri © Michael J Anderson



María Guinand, Jean-Claude Wilkens, Jean Sturm, Sonja Greiner and the Cantemus 4 booklet © Dolf Rabus



These "ODD FELLOWS" are no less than IFCM Presidents Eskil Hemberg, Lupwishi Mbuyamba and Claude Tagger © Jutta Tagger



IFCM Board newly elected during the WSCM 2005 in Kyoto, Japan



IFCM General Assembly during the WSCM 2008, Copenhagen, Denmark: Paul Wehrle on the front left
© Dolf Rabus



En route to WSCM 2011, Puerto Madryn, Argentina and the IFCM General Assembly
© Dolf Rabus



WSCM 2014, South Korean officers



Reception at the WSCM 2014, Seoul, South Korea, to the right Anton Armstrong, Philip Brunelle and Emily Kuo Vong

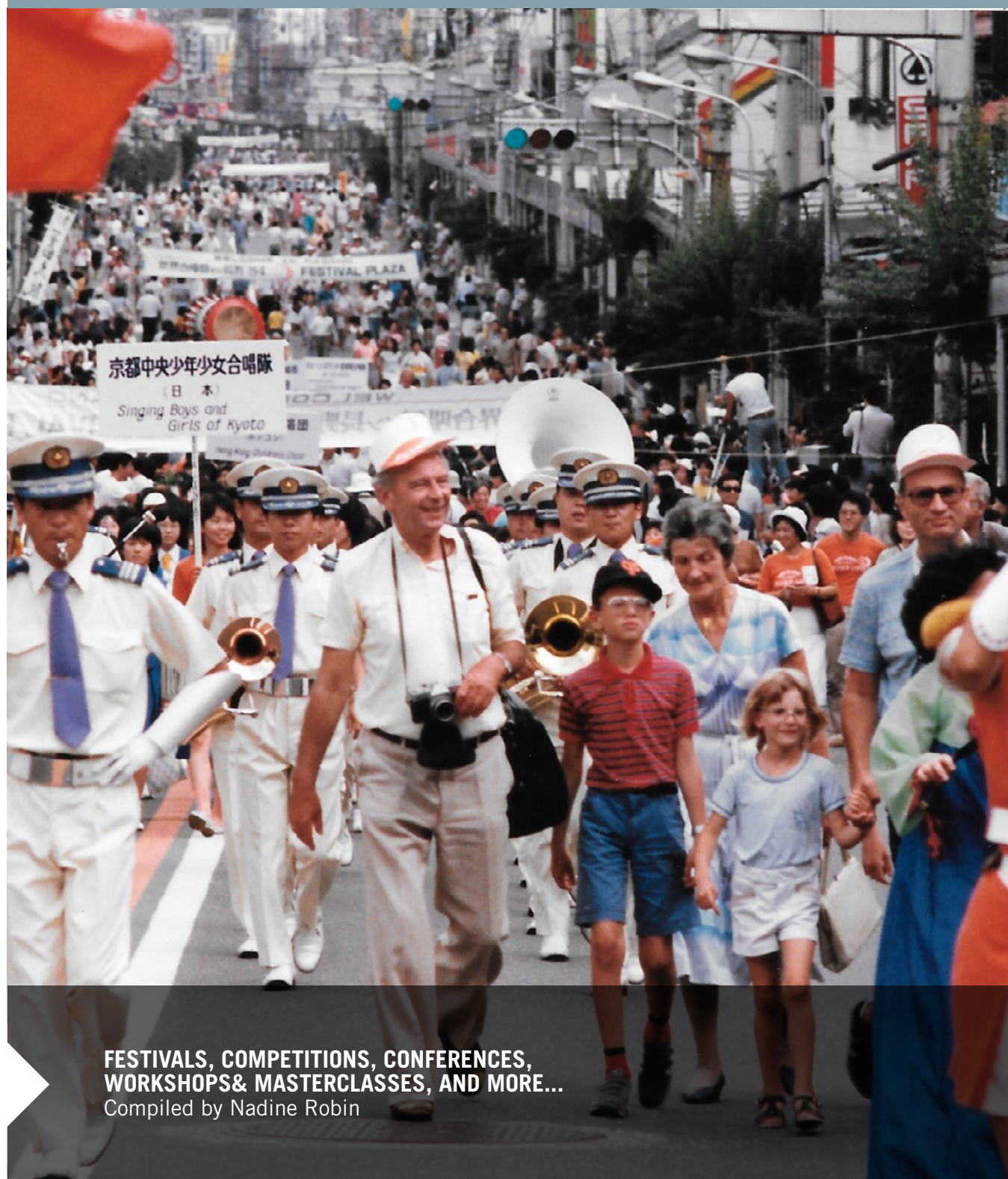


The WSCM 2020 Team at the WSCM 2017, Barcelona



WSCM 2017, Barcelona, Opening Concert, an enthusiastic audience

CHORAL CALENDAR



**FESTIVALS, COMPETITIONS, CONFERENCES,
WORKSHOPS & MASTERCLASSES, AND MORE...**
Compiled by Nadine Robin

Although we thrive to update this choral calendar with new dates for postponed festivals, we haven't been able to check the status of all these festivals listed here below. Many of them also opted for an online event. So please visit their website and show them your interest and your support. Thank you!

Choralies, Vaison-la-Romaine, France, 3-11 Aug 2012. Contact:

A Coeur Joie France, Email: inscriptions@choralies.org - Website: www.choralies.fr

1st Classical Music Summer Festival, Vienna, Austria, 5-8 Aug 2022. Contact: CONCERTS-AUSTRIA,

Email: office@concerts-austria.com - Website: <http://www.concerts-austria.com/summer-festival-vienna>

13th International Youth Chamber Choir Meeting, Usedom Island (Baltic Sea), Germany, 12-21 Aug 2022. Contact: Arbeitskreis Musik

in der Jugend AMJ, Email: info@amj-musik.de - Website: <http://www.usedom.amj-musik.de/en/>

Europa Cantat Junior Festival, Vilnius, Lithuania, 15-24 July 2022. Contact: European Choral Association

– Europa Cantat, Email: info@EuropaCantatJunior.org - Website: <https://europacantatjunior.org/2022/>

International Choral Conducting Summer School, Limerick, Ireland, 6-12 Aug 2022. Contact: Association of Irish Choirs, Email: aoic@ul.ie - Website: www.aoic.ie

Riga Sings, International Choir Competition and Imants Kokars Choral Award, Riga, Latvia, 17-21 Aug 2022. Contact: Förderverein Interkultur, Email: mail@interkultur.com - Website: <https://www.interkultur.com/>

International Festival of choirs and orchestras in Paris, France, 17-21 Aug 2022. Contact:

MusikReisenFaszination Music Festivals, Email: info@mrf-musicfestivals.com - Website: www.mrf-musicfestivals.com

12th International Festival of Choirs and Orchestras, Prague, Czech Republic, 24-28 Aug 2022. Contact: MusikReisenFaszination Music Festivals, Email: info@mrf-musicfestivals.com - Website: www.mrf-musicfestivals.com

11th Istanbul Eurasia Culture Summer Festival, Istanbul, Turkey, 27-31 Aug 2022. Contact: Istanbul Harman Folklor, Email: istanbul@istanbulchorus.com - Website: <http://www.harmanfolk.com/>

Together We Sing International Choir and Music Festival, Thessaloniki, Greece, 30 Aug-3 Sep 2022. Contact: Diavlos Culture Groups & Festivals, Email: diavlosc@yahoo.gr - Website: www.diavloslink.gr

Brighton International Festival of Choirs, Brighton, United Kingdom, 2-5 Sep 2022. Contact: Brighton International Festival of Choirs, Email: festival@brightonifc.com - Website: <https://www.brightonifc.com/>

IFCM World Choral Expo, Lisbon, Portugal, 3-7 Sep 2022. Contact: International Federation for Choral Music, Email: info@ifcm.net - Website: <https://www.worldchoralexpo.org>

Trogir Music Week, Croatia, 4-9 Sep 2022. Contact: Lacock Courses, Andrew van der Beek, Email: avdb@lacock.org - Website: www.lacock.org

EXchange!, Lisbon, Portugal, 5-7 Sep 2022. Contact: The Singing Network, Email: Canada - Website: <http://www.singingnetwork.ca/exchange/>

Al Sole della Sardegna International Choral Festival, Sant'Antioco, Italy, 7-23 Sep 2022. Contact: Prof. Giuliano Rinaldi, Email: info@festivalalsoledellasardegna.eu - Website: www.festivalalsoledellasardegna.eu

ForEverYoung International Choral Festival, Budapest, Hungary, 8-11 Sep 2022. Contact: ForEverYoung Choral Festival, Email: info@fe-festival.com - Website: <http://www.fe-festival.com/>

ON STAGE in Lisbon, Portugal, 9-12 Sep 2022. Contact: Interkultur Foundation, Email: mail@interkultur.com - Website: <https://www.interkultur.com/>

Lucca Consort Week, Tuscany, Italy, 11-17 Sep 2022. Contact: Lacock Courses, Andrew van der Beek, Email: avdb@lacock.org - Website: www.lacock.org

16th Rimini International Choral Competition, Rimini, Italy, 14-18 Sep 2022. Contact: Rimini International Choral Competition, Email: info@riminichoral.it - Website: www.riminichoral.it

4th Kalamata International Choir Competition and Festival, Greece, 22-26 Sep 2022. Contact: Förderverein Interkultur, Email: mail@interkultur.com - Website: <https://www.interkultur.com/>

We Are Singing Dunum International Choral Festival, Belgrade, Serbia, 23-25 Sep 2022. For any kind of choirs from all over the world. Contact: - Website: <https://www.wearesinging.org/Festival-We-Are-Singingdunum>

10th International Choir Festival & Competition "Isola del Sole", Grado, Italy, 25-29 Sep 2022.

Contact: Interkultur Foundation, Email: mail@interkultur.com - Website: <https://www.interkultur.com/>

Cracovia Music Festival 2021, Cracow, Poland, 28 Sep-2 Oct 2022.

Contact: MusikReisenFaszination Music Festivals, Email: info@mrf-musicfestivals.com - Website: www.mrf-musicfestivals.com

16th International Choir Contest Flanders, Genk, Belgium, 30 Sep-1 Oct 2022.

Contact: International Choir Contest Flanders, Email: ikv.vlaanderen@gmail.com - Website: <https://www.ikv-genk.be>

5th Beira Interior International Choir Festival and Competition, Fundão, Portugal, 2-6 Oct 2022.

Contact: Meeting Music, Email: info@meeting-music.com - Website: www.meeting-music.com

Internationales Chorfest, Magdeburg, Germany, 5-9 Oct 2022.

Contact: Förderverein Interkultur, Email: mail@interkultur.com - Website: <https://www.interkultur.com/>

Sing'n'Joy Bohol, Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Philippines, 5-9 Oct 2022.

Contact: Förderverein Interkultur, Email: mail@interkultur.com - Website: <https://www.interkultur.com/>

Bratislava Cantat II, Slovak Republic, 6-9 Oct 2022.

Contact: Bratislava Music Agency, Email: info@choral-music.sk - Website: www.choral-music.sk

3th Agrinio International Choral Festival, Thessaloniki, Greece, 6-10 Oct 2022.

Contact: Diavlos Culture Groups & Festivals, Email: diavlos@yahoo.gr - Website: www.diavloslink.gr

SING FOR GOLD, The World Choral Cup, Calella/Barcelona, Spain, 12-16 Oct 2022.

Contact: Interkultur Foundation e.V., Email: mail@interkultur.com - Website: <https://www.interkultur.com/>

Lago di Garda Music Festival, Italy, 13-17 Oct 2022.

Contact: MusikReisenFaszination Music Festivals, Email: info@mrf-musicfestivals.com - Website: www.mrf-musicfestivals.com

Choral Workshops for International Oratorio choirs, Lake Garda, Italy, 13-16 Oct 2022.

Contact: MusikReisenFaszination Music Festivals, Email: info@mrf-musicfestivals.com - Website: <http://choral-workshops.com>

We Are Singing Ljubljana International Choral Festival 2022, Slovenia, 21-23 Oct 2022.

Contact: - Website: <https://www.wearesinging.org/festival-we-are-singing-ljubljana>

10th Canta al Mar International Choral Festival, Calella, Barcelona, Spain, 21-24 Oct 2022.

Contact: Förderverein Interkultur, Email: mail@interkultur.com - Website: <https://www.interkultur.com/>

Fosco Corti International Competition for conductors 2022, Turin, Italy, 21-23 Oct 2022.

Contact: FENIARCO (Italian Federation of Regional Choir Associations), Email: info@feniarco.it - Website: www.feniarco.it

International Festival of choirs and orchestras in Vienna, Austria, 3-7 Nov 2022.

Contact: MusikReisenFaszination Music Festivals, Email: info@mrf-musicfestivals.com - Website: <https://www.mrf-musicfestivals.com/>

15th International Warsaw Choir Festival Varsovia Cantat, Poland, 4-6 Nov 2022.

Contact: MELODY & Polonia Cantat, Email: info@varsoviacantat.pl - Website: <http://www.krakowchoirfestival.pl>

ON STAGE in Prague, Czech Republic, 10-13 Nov 2022.

Contact: Interkultur Foundation, Email: mail@interkultur.com - Website: <https://www.interkultur.com/>

Misatango Choir Festival Vienna, Austria, 16-22 Nov 2022.

Contact: CONCERTS-AUSTRIA, Email: info@misatango.com - Website: www.misatango.com/

International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music, Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 1-4 Dec 2022.

Contact: Bratislava Music Agency, Email: info@choral-music.sk - Website: www.choral-music.sk

Krakow Advent and Christmas Choir Festival, Poland, 2 Dec 2022.

Contact: Polonia Cantat & Melody, Email: krakow@christmasfestival.pl - Website: <http://krakow.christmasfestival.pl>

10th International Festival of choirs and orchestras in Baden, Germany, 8-11 Dec 2022.

Contact: MusikReisenFaszination Music Festivals, Email: info@mrf-musicfestivals.com - Website: www.mrf-musicfestivals.com

Dublin International Choral Festival, Ireland, 9-13 Mar 2023.

Contact: Music Contact International, Email: ireland@music-contact.com - Website: www.music-contact.com

Festival of Peace and Brotherhood, Rome, Italy, 16-20 Mar 2023.

Contact: Music Contact International, Email: travel@music-contact.com - Website: <https://home.music-contact.com/>

32nd International Franz Schubert Choir Competition, Vienna, Austria, 16-20 Mar 2023.

Contact: Meeting Music, Email: info@meeting-music.com - Website: www.meeting-music.com

Discover Puerto Rico and its Choral Music, Ponce, Puerto Rico, 17-20 Mar 2023. Contact: Music Contact International, Email: travel@music-contact.com - Website: www.music-contact.com

Young Prague Festival, Prague, Czech Republic, 22-26 Mar 2023. Contact: Music Contact International, Email: travel@music-contact.com - Website: www.music-contact.com

18th Budapest International Choir Festival & Competition, Hungary, 2-6 Apr 2023. Contact: Meeting Music, Email: info@meeting-music.com - Website: www.meeting-music.com

17th International Choir Festival Tallinn 2023, Tallinn, Estonia, 13-16 Apr 2023. Contact: Estonian Choral Association, Email: kooriyhing@kooriyhing.ee - Website: www.kooriyyhing.ee

20th Venezia in Musica, International Choir Competition and Festival, Venice and Caorle, Italy, 27 Apr-1 May 2023. Contact: Meeting Music, Email: info@meeting-music.com - Website: www.meeting-music.com

13th European Festival of Youth Choirs, Basel, Switzerland, 16-21 May 2023. Contact: Europäisches Jugendchor Festival Basel, Kathrin Renggli, Email: info@ejcf.ch - Website: www.ejcf.ch

Vox Lucensis, Lucca, Italy, 17-21 May 2023. Contact: Interkultur Foundation, Email: mail@interkultur.com - Website: <https://www.interkultur.com/>

Sound Waves Linz International Choir Competition & Festival, Austria, 7-11 June 2023. Contact: Interkultur Foundation, Email: mail@interkultur.com - Website: <https://www.interkultur.com/>

Dublin Choral Festival, Ireland, 14-18 June 2023. Contact: Music Celebrations International, LLC, Email: info@musiccelebrations.com - Website: <http://dublinchoralfestival.org/>

Alta Pusteria International Choir Festival, Alto Adige-Südtirol, Italy/Austria, 14-18 June 2023. Contact: Alta Pusteria Festival Office, Email: info@festivalpusteria.org - Website: www.festivalpusteria.org

Rome Choral Festival, Rome, Italy, 22-26 June 2023. Contact: Music Celebrations International, LLC, Email: info@musiccelebrations.com - Website: <http://romechoralfestival.org/>

Salzburg Choral Festival Jubilate Mozart!, Austria, 28 June-2 July 2023. Contact: Music Celebrations International, LLC, Email: info@musiccelebrations.com - Website: <https://salzburgchoralfestival.org/>

International Festival Verona Garda Estate, Verona, Brescia, Mantua, Vicenza, Italy, 29 June-17 July 2023. Contact: Prof. Giuliano Rinaldi, Email: info@festivalveronagardaestate.eu - Website: www.festivalveronagardaestate.eu

16th Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival, Vienna, Austria, 30 June-5 July 2023. Contact: CONCERTS-AUSTRIA, Email: office@scfifestival.org - Website: www.scfifestival.org

Great Britain Choral Festival, Ely, United Kingdom, 1-5 July 2023. Contact: Music Celebrations International, LLC, Email: info@musiccelebrations.com - Website: <https://britainchoralfestival.org>

Barcelona Choral Music Festival, Spain, 3-9 July 2023. Contact: Federacio Catalana d'Entitas Corales, Email fcec@fcec.cat - <http://www.fcec.cat>

12th World Choir Games, Gangneung, Gangwon, Korea (Democratic People's Rep. of), 3-13 July 2023. Contact: Interkultur Foundation, Email: mail@interkultur.com - Website: <https://www.interkultur.com/>

International Choral Kathaumixw, Powell River, Canada, 4-8 July 2023. Contact: Powell River Academy of Music, Email: info@kathaumixw.org - Website: www.kathaumixw.org

Golden Gate International Children's and Youth Choir Festival, Oakland, California, USA, 9-15 July 2023. Contact: Piedmont Choirs, Email: info@goldengatefestival.org - Website: <https://www.piedmontchoirs.org/golden-gate-festival>

13th International Choir Competition, Miltenberg, Bavaria, Germany, July 2023. Contact: Kulturreferat des Landratsamtes Miltenberg, Gaby Schmidt, Email: kultur@LRA-MIL.de - Website: www.chorwettbewerb-miltenberg.de

Al Sole della Sardegna International Choral Festival, Sant'Antioco, Italy, 28 Aug-6 Sep 2023. Contact: Prof. Giuliano Rinaldi, Email: info@festivalalsoledellasardegna.eu - Website: www.festivalalsoledellasardegna.eu

20th EUROTREFF 2021, Wolfenbüttel, Germany, 6-10 Sep 2023. Contact: Arbeitskreis Musik in der Jugend AMJ, Email: info@amj-musik.de - Website: <http://www.eurotreff.amj-musik.de>

In Canto sul Garda International Choir Competition, Riva del Garda & Arco, Italy, 13-17 Oct 2023. Contact: Meeting Music, Email: info@meeting-music.com - Website: www.meeting-music.com

Adriatic Pearl International Choir Festival & Competition, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 27-31 Oct 2023. Contact: Meeting Music, Email: info@meeting-music.com - Website: www.meeting-music.com

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www.fcec.cat

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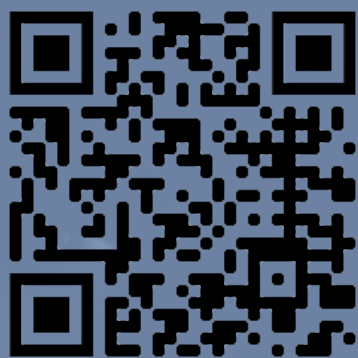
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World Choral EXPO

3-7 September 2022 | Lisbon, Portugal

worldchoralexpo.org

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Participation in the World Choral EXPO 2022 is open to all choirs, vocal ensembles, and individuals from any country.

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