

JULY 2021

Volunteers connecting
our choral world



IFCMeNEWS

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NEWS FROM IFCM

WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC, DOHA, QATAR

30 December 2023 – 5 January 2024

The WSCM 2023/24 team is delighted to introduce the logo for the next IFCM Symposium. In a country characterized by arid desert, areas of greenery create a powerful draw that cannot be fully appreciated without firsthand experience, and that experience fully engages the senses. The temperature drops, the smell of earth and growing plants, and the moisture in the air all signal one's arrival in irrigated land. But a further clue indicating a crossing from desert to fertile ground is in the songs of birds. The desert is a place of subtle sounds. In contrast, the birdsongs of an oasis are a welcome explosion of music.



W S C M
2023-24
World Symposium on Choral Music
QATAR 30 DEC 2023
05 JAN 2024

A wide variety of songbirds contributes to the natural soundscape of Qatar. Among this group, the myna bird is ubiquitous. Originally from South Asia, the myna bird is now a part of regions across the globe. While myna birds are deemed invasive in some parts of the world, in Qatar, the myna bird enjoys a long local history and lives comfortably side by side with other bird species. Like so many who live in Qatar, it is simply another resident with strong global ties.

The myna bird is a virtuoso vocalist. It has an immense range of sounds and songs with which to communicate. There are many cases of hand-raised mynas which have learned to perfectly imitate human speech. As if to echo the choral community (or perhaps it is the choral community echoing them), myna birds demonstrate the particularly notable habit of gathering in large flocks at dusk for collective singing. In Qatar, one can witness this gala performance by walking among the trees and pathways of Katara Cultural Village or Al Bidda Park at sunset. Qatar's mynas are already rehearsing for 2023/24!

The image selected as the logo for WSCM 2023/24 is the creation of Egyptian graphic artist, Mahmoud Tammam. A master of Arabic calligraphy, Tammam has used the letters of the WSCM Arabic acronym to create his whimsical depiction of a myna bird with outspread wings. The signature yellow beak and black body are accented by a dash of burgundy wings. The wings' color reflects that of Qatar's flag while the design gives a nod to a bird that is simultaneously a global citizen and a local singing sensation.

Stay tuned to the WSCM 2023/24 [website](#) for updates on the Calls for Choirs, Vocal Ensembles, and Presentations.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CHORAL MUSIC monthly electronic newsletter

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IFCM CHORAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION 2022

IFCM has organized four international choral composition competitions since this project was created in 2010. The aim of these competitions is to promote the creation and distribution of new, innovative, and accessible choral repertoire.

IFCM announces its [Fifth International Competition for Choral Composition](#) to promote new works in choral music and to encourage innovation in choral writing which fits the needs of a 21st-century choir. We are looking for compositions that combine originality, imagination, and creativity within the context of contemporary global themes.

[Rules and Regulations](#)

Deadline for applications is **15 January 2022**.

THE INTERNATIONAL CHORAL BULLETIN IS LAUNCHING A PHOTO CONTEST IN THE FRAME OF ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

We've all been stuck at home, but the International Choral Bulletin (ICB) has been busy circling the globe! Where do you read yours? In the mountains of Hungary, on the banks of the St. Lawrence, by the cliffs of Ireland, or in the Cordillera? Under a tree or in front of a cosy fire with a cat on your lap?

Send us your most beautiful, unusual, exotic photo of yourself reading the ICB in a setting typical of your region, surrounded by your favourite scenery, or with the oldest copy in your collection.

The most original photo will be given a prominent place in our October 2021 anniversary edition!

Send your photo to icb.editor@ifcm.net by 25 August 2021.



ICB 40th Anniversary photo contest

We've all been stuck at home ... but the ICB has been busy circling the globe!
Where do you read yours?

Send us your most beautiful, unusual, exotic photo of yourself reading the ICB!

The most original photo will be given a prominent place in our October 2021 anniversary edition!

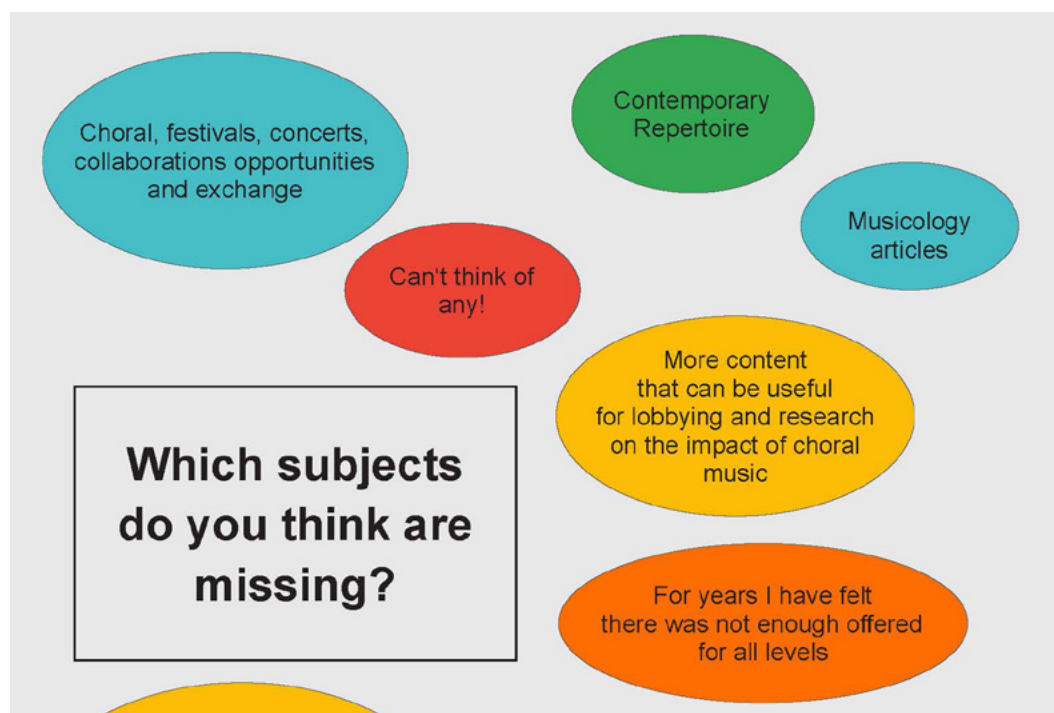
Send your picture to icb.editor@ifcm.net
by 25 August 2021

ICB SURVEY: RESULTS

A big thank you to all who participated!

92 participants from 30 countries answered the ICB survey. Half of them have been reading ICB for more than 15 years! Regarding the format, a third of the participants read it only online,

a third only printed, a third uses both possibilities. This kind of results are very helpful as they help us to make decisions: in this case, keeping only the e-version (which is not an option for now) might lead to a loss of 30% of our readers. The Choral World News and the Dossier are the most read sections (30% each), while 20% of our readers did not specify but read every section with a similar interest. 78% of the survey participants are satisfied with the length of the articles, while the other 21% find them too long. (We thought this proportion would be higher, so the Editorial Board already decided in Spring 2021 to limit the length of articles to 1000-1200 words). Without surprise, the English version is being read the most (the fact the printed version is only in English might also play a role in this data point); therefore, eliminating the translations would lead to a loss of 35% of our readers. Particularly interesting were the topics the participants missed. Scientific musicology articles as well as composition analyses were often mentioned, followed by exciting responses like "human stories", "choir management", "resources for very young singers", "diversity and inclusion". Be assured that we will include your valuable input into our next editorial decisions! [Read the full results here.](#)



AFRICA CANTAT

Keeping the great spirit of last year's Africa Cantat online edition

The Africa Cantat organizing committee is happy to announce three online events scheduled from August 2021 to August 2022. This series of choral events will start on the 28 August 2021 with a second round of the successful live Zoom networking event. From 10:00am to 1:00pm EAT (East African Time), the steering committee of the festival will provide a platform for everyone to connect and exchange again, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 situation in our choral world for more than one year now.

Save the date and stay tuned for more [Africa Cantat Festival](#) events to come!

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NEWS FROM IFCM FOUNDING MEMBERS

EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION - EUROPA CANTAT (ECA-EC)





#BenefitsOfSinging

European Choral Association's Online Campaign

19 May - 31 July 2021

Let's have the whole world experience the
#BenefitsOfSinging



May 19 - July 31    

The European Choral Association has an ambitious vision - a world where everybody experiences the benefits of collective singing, and they channel their efforts to make this world come true. Today more than ever, we need to act together: organisations, choirs and individuals, as representatives from all over Europe and beyond, to unify our voices and bring choral music to the attention of our communities and the agendas of decision-makers, both at the national and international level.

Therefore, from 19 May to 31 July, they have been carrying out an online campaign on the benefits of collective singing and strongly encourage you to develop an individualised, national or regional call to action and link it to any existing activity you're already engaging with. Develop your own call to action, which should answer the question: 'Singing is good for me, what can I do now in my surroundings to let others experience the benefits of collective singing?' or link the campaign to any of your existing content.

Translate the campaign contents

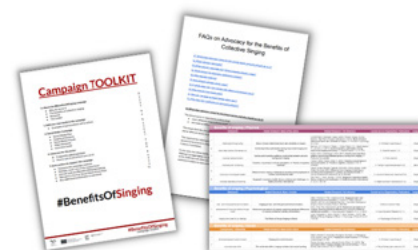
A big contribution you could make is to help translate the contents of this campaign into your own language (and publish them, to reach a broader audience). There are graphics already available in English, Dutch, Turkish, German, Russian, with Italian, Serbian, Arabic and Romanian on the way. Find them all on the [website](#).

Multiply & reach out

In order to reach as many people as possible, you are encouraged to multiply the messages of



Campaign TOOLKIT



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the campaign in your country during the campaign run. We want to reach people at a national level and showcase the benefits of singing through our online campaign. Spread the contents of this toolkit to your network or any other partners which you think could be interested in joining this online campaign.

Interact and use the [#BenefitsOfSinging](#) hashtag.

Let's make some noise together and remind the world about the [#BenefitsOfSinging!](#)

AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)

For a limited time, people can still [join ACDA and register](#) to access recordings from the **ACDA virtual national conference "Diversity in Music."** The recordings will allow conference registrants to view all sessions and recordings through December 2021.

Plans for ACDA's [regional conferences](#) are moving ahead quickly!

- Eastern Region (Boston, Massachusetts), 9-12 February 2022
- Midwestern Region (Chicago, Illinois), 16-19 February 2022
- Southern Region (Raleigh, North Carolina), 23-26 February 2022
- Southwestern Region (Little Rock, Arkansas), 28 February – 3 March 2022
- Western Region (Long Beach, California), 2-5 March 2022
- Northwestern Region (Spokane, Washington), 9-12 March 2022

ACDA recently held two national webinars - one on music in worship and the other on revitalizing middle and high school choral programs. Though they focus on the USA context, some IFCM members may be interested in the recording and handouts which are available for free on ACDA's [National Webinars page](#).



NEWS FROM IFCM MEMBERS

EXPLORE NEW ZEALAND'S CHORAL TRADITIONS

The New Zealand Choral Federation's (NZCF) **Choral Connect** convention runs **14-17 July 2021** and explores the theme of "Choral Traditions of Aotearoa New Zealand". While NZ-based delegates will be able to participate in person in Auckland, the convention will also be live-streamed to delegates from around the world. Sessions will be available online until 31 December 2021.

Artistic Director Karen Grylls will facilitate discussions related to the performance of Māori and Pacific Island music, and renowned choral exponents Bob Chilcott, André de Quadros, and Sofi Jeannin will Zoom in for Q&A sessions on a broader range of topics. Each day will be capped off with a concert featuring New Zealand choirs.

[Read more here.](#)

To find out more about Choral Connect '21: email choralconnect@nzcf.org.nz, visit the [Choral Connect webpage](#), or register now via [Hopin](#).



EUROPEAN MUSIC COUNCIL ELECTS A NEW BOARD

Within the frame of the Annual Meeting of the [European Music Council](#) (EMC), the members have elected a new Board for the next two years.

The EMC Board is comprised of seven representatives of EMC members to decide on content and the strategic outline.

President: Victoria Liedbergius – representing the [European Choral Association](#)

Vice President: Audrey Guerre — representing

[Live DMA – European Network for Live Music Associations](#)

Treasurer: Willem van Moort — representing [The European Music School Union](#) (EMU)

Board Members:

- Joanna Grotkowska — representing [The Polish Music Council](#)
- David Zsoldos — representing [The Hungarian Music Council](#) and [Jeunesses Musicales International](#) (JMI)
- Harrie van den Elsen — representing the [European Association of Conservatoires](#) (AEC)
- Michalis Karakatsanis — representing [International Associations of Music Information Centres](#) (IAMIC)

More info on <https://www.emc-imc.org>

NEWS FROM JEUNESSES MUSICALES INTERNATIONALE

Music Against Child Labour competition

Competition Winners Revealed!

- Global Category: Bernice Pitroipa (Burkina Faso)
- Grassroots Category: Music Crossroads Academy Zimbabwe (MCAZ)
- Clear Cotton Category: Benewend (Burkina Faso), Virginie Dembélé (Mali), Ahmed Faraz (Pakistan) and José Zevallos del Carpio (Peru).

MISATANGO CHOIR FESTIVAL VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 26-30 NOVEMBER 2021

Under the baton of Maestro Saul Zaks, with composer Martín Palmeri at the piano and international soloists, participating choirs will perform the "Misa a Buenos Aires"; a contemporary Roman Mass in Argentinean tango style and the world premiere of Palmeri's newest composition, "Salve Regina".

Application deadlines:

Choirs: **15 October 2021**

Individual singers: **30 October 2021**

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

Website: <http://www.misatango.com>



OBITUARY: CARL HØGSET, NORWAY

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Carl Høgset on 2 June 2021. Carl founded the Norwegian National Youth Choir in 1987 and conducted it until 2003. He also founded Grex Vocalis (The Singing Flock) in 1971 and conducted it until the choir's magnificent final concert in 2019. Under his leadership, both choirs won several prizes at the most renowned European choral competitions.

Carl was also a soloist, a teacher, and a researcher. He created the *Singing Technique* program presented in a booklet including exercises recorded on CD and video. He was appointed Knight of the St. Olav Order in 2007 by the King of Norway for his achievements in the choral field both home and abroad.

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IFCM is grateful for the legacy that Carl left in our choral community and present our most sincere condolences to his family and friends. RIP!



OBITUARY: JORDI SUBIRÀ, CATALONIA

It is with deep sadness that the Catalan Federation of Choirs (FCEC) announces the death of Jordi Subirà, FCEC Founder and Board member since 1982. Jordi began his engagement in the choral world as a singer in the Orfeó Laudate and the Orfeó Català. He soon became involved in federal activities through the Secretariat d'Orfeons de Catalunya (SOC), the actual FCEC,





where he worked with Oriol Martorell. Together, they created the Barcelona Delegation that Jordi managed during 23 years before becoming FCEC President (2000-2003) and FCEC Vice-President (2003-2006).

Jordi organized cycles of concerts, conducting courses, master classes, and other professional activities with internationally-renowned conductors with the aim to energize and improve the choral singing in Barcelona and Catalonia. He also took part in the organization of major choral events, including the Europa Cantat XV Festival held in Barcelona in 2003. In 2014, Jordi received the Gold Medal for Cultural Merit from the Barcelona City Council.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to meet and work with Jordi will always remember him for his mastery and testimony, his kindness, and his generosity. RIP!

WHAT'S ON IN JULY AND AUGUST 2021 IN OUR CHORAL WORLD

30 June-11 July: Festival of Voices, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia — <https://festivalofvoices.com/>

5-11 July: 56th Barcelona International Choir Festival goes online! Spain — <http://www.fcec.cat>

5-11 July: 38th International Choir Festival of Preveza, 27th International Competition of Sacred Music, Preveza, Greece — <http://www.armoniachoir.gr/festival/index.php>

6-11 July: Chanakkale International Choir Festival and Competition, Chanakkale, Turkey — <http://www.canakkalekorofestivali.com/>

7-10 July: International Youth Music Festival I. & Slovakia Folk, Bratislava, Slovak Republic — <https://www.choral-music.sk>

8-12 July: Musica Orbis Prague Festival Online, Czech Republic — <https://www.musicaorbis.com/>

11-16 July: Edinburgh Early Music Summer School, United Kingdom — <http://www.lacock.org>

16-25 July: Europa Cantat Festival 2021, live in Ljubljana or online, Slovenia — <https://europacantat.jskd.si/>

21-25 July: 12th International Festival of Choirs and Orchestras, Tuscany, Italy — <http://www.mrf-musicfestivals.com>

26-29 July: International Youth Music Festival II. and Bratislava Cantat I., Bratislava, Slovak Republic — <https://www.choral-music.sk>

29 July-1 Aug: 1st Classical Music Summer Festival, Vienna, Austria — <http://www.concerts-austria.com/summer-festival-vienna>

4-8 Aug: Roma Music Festival 2021, Italy - <http://www.mrf-musicfestivals.com>

18-22 Aug: International Festival of Choirs and Orchestras in Paris, France - <http://www.mrf-musicfestivals.com>

26-30 Aug: Sing Along Concert on Tour Milan, Italy - <https://www.interkultur.com/>

29 Aug-5 Sep: 11th European Academy for Choral Conductors, Fano, Italy - <http://www.feniarco.it>

25-29 Aug: 11th International Festival of Choirs and Orchestras, Prague, Czech Republic - <http://www.mrf-musicfestivals.com>

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