

## October 2023 IFCMeNEWS – English

### CONDUCTORS' CAFÉ

On Sunday, 24th September, IFCM presented the inaugural International Conductors' Café event. This interactive and informative session took place through Zoom and was **livestreamed on Facebook**, attracting a significant audience from across the globe. With approximately 50 pre-registrations from various countries, the diverse group of participants included conductors, all eager to engage in the discussion and gain valuable insights on conducting techniques and best practices. In addition to the registered attendees, we were thrilled to see that the Facebook livestream attracted over 600 viewers. This broader audience was able to benefit from the event's content and actively contributed to the discussion through comments and questions.

The International Conductors' Café featured renowned choral conductors who graciously shared their expertise and experiences in the field. Moderated by Maria Guinand, IFCM Board member from Venezuela, were invited to share topics in which they are most interested as well their current work in order that IFCM might focus more specifically on these interests in the future. The Zoom platform allowed for active participation, including engaging group discussions. The livestream on Facebook provided an accessible alternative for those unable to register or attend the event live, effectively extending the reach of the International Conductors' Café.

Overall, the event was a great success, offering a valuable exchanging opportunity for conductors. It showcased IFCM's commitment to promoting excellence and fostering global connections within the choral community. We would like to express our gratitude to the conductors who shared their expertise, the participants who actively engaged in the discussion, and the audience members who followed the event on Facebook. We are proud to provide in future a platform for knowledge exchange and networking in these challenging times, and we look forward to organizing more impactful events for our members.



### EMPOWERING THE FUTURE OF CHORAL MUSIC: THE VISION OF YOUNG IFCM

Since its launch in August 2023, YOUNG IFCM has passionately deliberated on its potential role in shaping the future of choral music. After engaging in comprehensive discussions on the subject, we reached a consensus on the missions we aspire to achieve in and beyond our term. First, we aim to amplify young voices in the choral world. Youth voices are the heartbeat of choral music's future. Our committee is dedicated to providing a platform for young choral leaders, conductors, composers, and singers to share their unique perspectives and talents across different nations. Through initiatives such as webinars, podcasts, and interactive online forums, we plan to provide a global platform for these voices, offering them the recognition and support they deserve. We also want to ensure the integration of activities directed to young people in the festivals, which serve as the backbone of the choral music.

Another goal of YOUNG IFCM is to connect choral enthusiasts across generations. We firmly



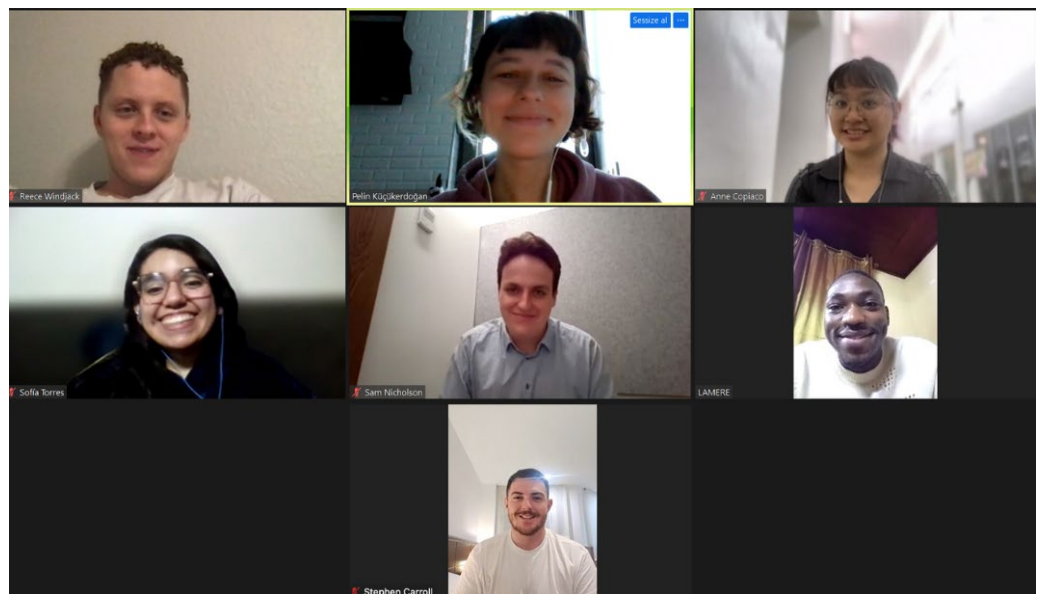
believe that the exchange of experiences and ideas between experienced choral professionals and the emerging generation is vital for the continued growth of choral music worldwide. Our aim is to facilitate mentorship programs, workshops, and collaborative projects that bridge the generational gap, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose.

Finally, we wish to create spaces for education. We envision a choral world in which young talents have access to high-quality education, resources, and avenues for new experiences. To realize this vision with maximum accessibility, we plan to develop online educational content and collaborate with established regional and local organizations to curate workshops.

In our pursuit of these goals, we are committed to leveraging the power of social media and online tools. Webinars, podcasts, and other digital platforms will serve as our primary means of engaging with youth from all corners of the globe. These media will allow us to connect, educate, and inspire young choral enthusiasts, regardless of geographical boundaries.

Stay tuned for more updates from YOUNG IFCM as we work to bring our vision to life and make a lasting impact on the choral world!

IFCM is happy to present a new member of YOUNG IFCM to represent the Sub-Saharan Africa region: Gilles Lamere from Cameroon. Welcome to Gilles!



## WORLD CHORAL DAY: THE DAY IS DECEMBER 10!

Sing, Choirs of the World!  
10 DECEMBER 2023  
(2ND SUNDAY OF DECEMBER)

WORLD CHORAL DAY

CELEBRATE WITH US! JOIN THE CELEBRATION!  
WWW.WORLDCHORALDAY.ORG

#WorldChoralDay #IFCMconnects



## CHINESE MOON FESTIVAL VIDEO COLLABORATION

The International Federation for Choral Music is happy to announce a new collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of China for the publication of a **choral video** to celebrate the Chinese Moon festival. This collaborative effort involved the active participation of a professional choir from Singapore and the support of many friends around the world. It showcases the beauty and essence of the Chinese Moon festival. The video is intended to be shared and viewed around the world, providing a unique cultural experience for individuals from different backgrounds and regions.

Song: May They Live Long (Prelude to Water Melody)

Lyrics: Shi Su of Song Dynasty

Music: Hong Zhi Liang

Arrangement for Chorus: Lin Gan

**天涯共此时**  
Mid-Autumn Festival  
A Moonment to Remember

**Producer**  
Emily Kuo Vong  
President of International Federation for Choral Music

**Coordinator:**  
Iva Radulović  
Secretary General of International Federation for Choral Music

**Artistic Director:**  
Lim Ai Hooi

**Sound Engineer:**  
Cherie Chai

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**  
ONE Chamber Choir  
Conductor Dawn Yin

**Macao Polytechnic University Music Course Choir**  
Conductor Maria Vanessa Leao

**Roula Abou Baker**  
Vice-president of International Federation for Choral Music

**Maria Guinand**  
Vice-president of International Federation for Choral Music

**Ana Patricia Carballo**  
Board member of International Federation for Choral Music

**Yveline Damas**  
Board member of International Federation for Choral Music

**Ken Wakia**  
Henri Mandeng  
Naomi Faran

中国对外文化交流协会  
CHINA INTERNATIONAL CULTURE ASSOCIATION

中国文化中心  
CHINA CULTURAL CENTER

驻外旅游办事处  
CHINA NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICE

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

In July 2023, the first post-pandemic **Asia Pacific Youth Choir** (APYC) session was held in Penang, Malaysia, and it was a great success. We thank the *George Town Festival and Young Choral Academy* for hosting the APYC 2023 session.

The IFCM Asia Pacific Choral Council and Working Committee are pleased to announce





that the APYC session will be held in Daegu, South Korea, in July 2024. We are currently recruiting young choral singers from the Asia Pacific region. For more details, please visit <https://jcanet.or.jp/ap-youth/audition.html>.

## MUSICA INTERNATIONAL

### Goldmine of choral repertoire with unrestricted access for the IFCM members

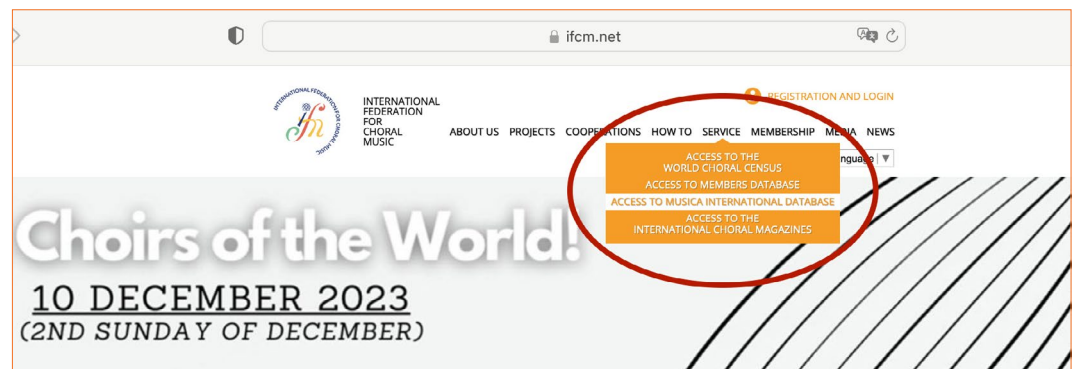
Musica International is a multilingual collaborative database of choral repertoire which references comprehensively more than 200,000 choral titles. As IFCM is a founding member of Musica International, all IFCM members receive unrestricted, privileged access to the Musica database through IFCM's website: [www.ifcm.net](http://www.ifcm.net). But what does it mean?

As an IFCM membership benefit, global privileges to the Musica database include:

- Access to Musica [via the IFCM website](http://www.ifcm.net) without additional login (There is no need to remember another password).
- Unlimited number of results after search. For example, if you search for SATB Christmas works, you can access all 9000+ results and are not restricted only to the first 50 ones. Of course, you may decide to add other criteria to refine the search and reduce the number of results.
- Access to the 'Auditorium' of audio and video clips (several thousands) which are catalogued alphabetically by the composer's name.
- Access to the jubilees of composers for the current year and the three following years.

Non IFCM-members may obtain restricted access to the database by signing up (free) at [www.musicanet.org](http://www.musicanet.org).

Composers, publishers, and conductors who wish to have access to direct online input of information on choral scores should submit a request to [librarian@musicanet.org](mailto:librarian@musicanet.org).



### AMERICA CANTAT: LATIN AMERICAN CHORAL LEADERS INVITE YOU!

The America Cantat 10 Festival will take place in the City of La Plata, Argentina (capital of the Province of Buenos Aires), 11-15 October 2023. We will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the first version of America Cantat which was held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in 1992.

Here is what [Latin American choral leaders say about it](#).





### AFRICA CANTAT 2023

It has already been over a month since the celebration of music during the second edition of the **Africa Cantat Festival**. The gathering was a journey filled with unforgettable musical moments, heartwarming emotions, and the chance to connect with amazing people from all corners of the continent. Relive these beautiful memories or catch a glimpse of what you missed with [this recap video](#)



### NEWS FROM THE JAPAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION (JCA)

#### **The 17<sup>th</sup> Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition 2024 21-24 March 2024, Fukushima City, Japan**

The Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition, co-organized by the [Japan Choral Association](#), is calling for participating groups. This competition is the biggest choral contest in Japan for small vocal ensemble groups (2-16 singers). Each year, more than 120 top-level choirs are invited to Fukushima, known as the 'Kingdom of Choirs' in Japan. Let our singing voices ring out together! Deadline to submit for Preliminary Screening: **31 October 2023**. Learn more and register [here](#).



SPONSORING

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**SUMMER 2024** WELCOMING CHORAL SINGERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

BERKSHIRE CHORAL INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CHORAL MUSIC monthly electronic newsletter

<https://www.ifcm.net>

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### **AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)**

#### **Children's & Community Youth Choir Conductors' Retreat**

**Heart Soul Song, 13-14 January 2024, Nashville, Tennessee, USA**

As we emerge from three years of Covid, we are all in need of healing ourselves as well as finding ways to help our choristers heal. Nashville is at the heart of America's music. For this retreat, ACDA found a hosting venue that will truly help the participants heal their soul and reconnect them as a community through songs.

There is the possibility of a pre-conference seminar on 12 January 2023 focusing on choral administration.

Stay tuned [here](#) or on [Facebook](#)

### **Symposium for Research in Choral Singing**

**25-26 April 2024, Chicago, Illinois, USA (in person and remote)**

ACDA is pleased to announce the fourth [International Symposium on Research in Choral Singing](#), a forum for the dissemination of research and scholarly activity. The 2024 hybrid Symposium is intended to be held in person for ACDA members from North America and remote synchronously (no membership required) for members outside the USA. The international Symposium will combine diverse presentational formats and break-out sessions with opportunities for in-depth conversation, inquiry, and consideration of future research directions of all types. Penn State University will host the conference in conjunction with Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain) and De Montfort University (England).

Info on the **ACDA Regional Conferences 2024** [here](#).

### **72ND EUROPEAN MUSIC FESTIVAL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (EMJ)**

From 26-29 April 2024, approximately 100 children and youth choirs, with 4,000 young people up to the age of 28 from all over the world, will participate in the 72nd European Music Festival for Young People. They will not only share their music and passion, they will also discover each other's cultures and traditions. In addition to the competition performances, evaluated by an international jury, the visiting public can enjoy a broad range of concerts. EMJ aims to encourage young people to sing together and offers ways to meet and appreciate the rich diversity among participating choirs. Conductors, composers, and EMJ jury members praise the value of EMJ and its combination of fraternization and education.

Take a look at [www.emj.be](http://www.emj.be) and don't hesitate to apply: the deadline for registering is **31 October 2023**.



### **FLORENCE INTERNATIONAL CHOIR & ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL (FICF)**

**23-26 July 2024**

The unique and original [Florence Choir Festival](#), also open to orchestras and bands, takes place in the wonderful city of Florence, Italy. [Apply now](#).



## 2-4 July 2024

Florence Choir Festival is also presenting its first **[Florence FUN & Music Festival \(FUN\)](#)** an event for all kinds of choirs, orchestras, and bands. Registration is open to jazz, pop, and rock groups. Make your music resonate in the marvelous venues in the most beautiful stage of the Renaissance, the city of Florence.

Visit [www.florencechoirfestival.com](http://www.florencechoirfestival.com) or contact [info@florencechoirfestival.com](mailto:info@florencechoirfestival.com)



## INTERNATIONAL CHOIR FESTIVAL (IKV) FLANDERS-GENK

### 5-6 October 2024

Genk, a city in the heart of Limburg, Belgium, will once again host the **[International Choir Festival Flanders-Genk](#)**. On the **[C-mine site](#)**, where the past and the charm of old mine buildings go hand in hand with contemporary art and creativity, more than 1,000 voices will echo for three days.

The showpiece of the festival is the international choir competition on 5 October 2024, which includes a compulsory new choral work by Flemish composer Kurt Bikkembergs. The competition will take place in the acoustic jewel of C-mine, the historic **[Barenzaal](#)**. **[Register](#)** to become a competition laureate, experiencing the legendary hospitality of Limburg and getting to know host city Genk as a world city on a human scale through its diverse cultures.

Contact: [info@ikv-genk.be](mailto:info@ikv-genk.be)





## **CORK INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL, IRELAND**

**29 April - 2 May 2024**

Founded in 1954, the [Cork International Choral Festival](#) is one of Europe's premier international choral festivals. Overall, the Festival attracts some 5,000 participants and 50,000 people who bring Cork to life with song over the five days. The festival is noted for its diverse program, high competitive standards, excellent organisation, and the friendliness of its welcome. International choirs are encouraged to submit applications for either the [Fleischmann International Trophy Competition](#) (closing date: 31 October 2023) or the [Non-Competitive International strand](#) (closing date: 30 November 2023). For further information and registration forms, please visit [www.corkchoral.ie](http://www.corkchoral.ie).



## **INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL MILTENBERG, GERMANY**

The [International Choir Competition Miltenberg](#) announces that the next competition will take place **18-21 July 2024** in the district of Miltenberg, Bavaria, Germany. Five selected choirs will participate in the competition. The full announcement as well as the application form are available [online](#) in English and German. Choirs from all over the world are invited to apply to participate in this competition. **Application deadline: 1 December 2023.**

Contact: [kultur@ira-mil.de](mailto:kultur@ira-mil.de).



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.