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## NEWS FROM IFCM

### WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC 2020

#### Update from WSCM2020

Registrations for the 12th World Symposium on Choral Music (WSCM2020) in Auckland, New Zealand next year are well underway, and we are thrilled with the response from the international choral community thus far. With hundreds of people from over 40 countries having registered already, it's already looking to be of the largest-ever Symposia.

Flights to Auckland for July 2020 are now open and we will shortly be releasing special accommodation deals for Symposium delegates. Now is the perfect time to start planning your trip.

If you're thinking of turning this into a real Kiwi adventure, please check out some pre- or post-Symposium activities across [Aotearoa New Zealand here](#).

The next advanced ticket price deadline is 31 December – give yourself the gift of a career-boosting (and maybe even life-changing) opportunity for Christmas!

#### Introducing WSCM2020 choir...The National Youth Choir of Great Britain

Founded in 1983 as a single choir of 100 of the best singers in the nation, the National Youth Choir of Great Britain (NYCGB) is now the flagship youth ensemble in the Arts Council England's national portfolio. The NYCGB boasts over 800 singers between the ages of 9 and 25, and its members hail from every part of the UK.

Ahead of their visit to WSCM2020 in Auckland, the choir was asked a few questions. So too was their Artistic Director and Principal Conductor, Ben Parry.



Inspired by their "amazing UK choral tradition" as well as taking an innovative approach to broadening the scope of what 'choir' means, the NYCGB has in the last five years appeared at the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Snape Maltings, both independently and alongside such diverse artists as Daniel Barenboim, The Real Group, Kylie Minogue and Gustavo Dudamel... in repertoire ranging from Beethoven to beatbox!

Ben, who is half-German (and directly related to Felix Mendelssohn!), says he is bringing the choir to New Zealand in July 2020 because "sharing ideas is the best way to educate ourselves and our singers."



As the choir themselves put it, "WSCM is one of the best meetings of the international choral community and we were desperate to visit New Zealand. We think New Zealand will be an excellent opportunity to perform alongside some of the world's greatest choirs and showcase The National Youth Choir of Great Britain on an international stage. We're also looking forward to doing some serious sightseeing."

So what can audiences expect of the NYCGB's performance in Auckland? They will sing a 2016 Kerry Andrew commission 'Who we are' – the title says it all. They believe too that Symposium attendees will enjoy Ben Parry's 'Flame', which also has a very powerful message about community and sharing.



## IFCM 4TH INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR CHORAL COMPOSITION

The International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) announces the **Fourth International Competition for Choral Composition**, the chief aim of which is to promote the creation and wide distribution of new and innovative choral repertoire. Participation is open to composers of any nationality or age. The Competition is dedicated to choral compositions a cappella (SATB or divided into as many as eight parts, SSAATTBB) with a maximum duration of 5 minutes, specifically for medium to advanced choirs. The text of the composition, sacred or secular, in any language, written for the occasion or pre-existing should be in the public domain. If not, permission in writing must be obtained from the author or copyright holder of the text and must be enclosed with the entry form.

The entry fee is only US\$25.00! **Apply between 1 April to 30 September 2019!**

Download the [Rules](#) — [Application form](#)

## CALL FOR ARTICLES IN THE INTERNATIONAL CHORAL BULLETIN (ICB)

**Would you like to be published in an international choral journal distributed to thousands of IFCM members and associates around the world? Send us your article!**

Since 1983, the ICB, IFCM's scholarly journal/magazine, has been read by thousands of choral lovers around the world. The ICB is published four times a year (January, April, July, October). This is a fabulous opportunity to have your research, scholarship, and expertise shared with the international choral community. We are inviting papers (900 to 1500 words, written in English, French, German, Italian or Spanish) specially related to the technical and historical aspects of choral music. [Submit your articles here](#). We can't wait to read you!

**We are also inviting to join our team of volunteers, all translators from English, French, German, Italian and Spanish into French, Spanish, German or English.**



## RESULTS OF IFCM EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

During the World Choral EXPO in Lisbon, Portugal, the IFCM General Assembly, held on July 29, took some major decisions that will improve and strengthen the basic structure of IFCM:

- **A new version of the [Bylaws](#) and the [IFCM Certificate of Incorporation](#), as well as a new [IFCM internal Policy document](#)**, were unanimously accepted by the General Assembly. All these new documents can be found by clicking on their respective names.
- **A new membership structure including revised benefits** was presented to the members present at the meeting who unanimously approved it. This new system of membership fees and benefits is now more transparent. For the first time, IFCM has new types of membership – 5- and 10-year memberships – which will correspond better to the expectation of a certain group of members. The new structure is [available here](#). This structure, including new fees and benefits, will be valid from **1 January 2020**.
- The IFCM Board presented to the General Assembly the new elected **Honorary Members**, individuals who have had a major impact on developing IFCM as an institution and organization and who also made significant contributions to choral music in general. These Honorary Members are: **Alberto Grau, Maria Guinand, Noël Minet, Royce Saltzman, and Jutta Tagger**.
- The General Assembly received the **2017-2019 IFCM projects reports along with a special report from President Emily Kuo** which also included the past three years' budgets, financial reports, and the strategy for the upcoming years. The IFCM President report is available on request to [office@ifcm.net](mailto:office@ifcm.net)

The next General Assembly will be held during the WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC in Auckland, New Zealand, on July 15, 2020.

## MARÍA GUINAND RECEIVES A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM IFCM

During the Closing Ceremony of the World Choral EXPO in Lisbon, on July 31, 2019, Maestra **María Guinand** received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Federation for Choral Music.

María has always firmly supported the idea that the International Federation for Choral Music is the most important network for institutional, personal, and professional cooperation in the field of choral music. She has been, and continues to be, one of the most prominent leaders of our institution and a tireless, invaluable, and unreserved supporter. For all of this, and most importantly, for her continuous and unconditional friendship, the International Federation for Choral Music owes her a debt of gratitude and was honoured to present her with the Lifetime Achievement Award and the title of Honorary Member.

[Watch the introduction video here](#) (DigitalConnection.pt)

Due to her many choral commitments, María could not be present at the Award Ceremony but we were fortunate to have the presence of her husband, Maestro Alberto Grau, who received the award in her name.

[Watch María's greetings to IFCM and the choral community here](#).

**Congratulations María and thank you so much!**

## EXchange!

The EXchange!, a new partnership between IFCM and [The Singing Network](#), provided an extraordinary opportunity for World Choral EXPO (WCE) participants to learn from and with each other. For one and a half days during the WCE (July 30-31, 2019), international scholars, performers, conductors, pedagogues, and composers met to connect, create, share, and explore various aspects of collective singing. Presenters came from Argentina, Canada, China, Denmark, DR Congo, Gabon, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Norway, Turkey, and the United







EXchange session with Niels Graesholm, Denmark

States. Additional WCE participants came from many other countries, including Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Costa Rica, France, Ireland, Lebanon, Lithuania, and Portugal. In the Closing EXchange session, Sonja Greiner, Secretary-General of the European Choral Association-Europa Cantat (ECA-EC), with help from Estera Mihaila, ECA-EC's newly-appointed Communication Manager, presented a comprehensive and entertaining reflection on the EXchange! presentations. Here are the challenging, thought-provoking topics raised during the EXchange! for consideration by IFCM and the international choral community:

- Perform more in non-traditional concert venues
- Take gender balance seriously
- Use choral singing to raise awareness for social issues
- Celebrate diversity of all kinds
- Include amateurs and professionals
- Rethink conductors without borders
- Identify how many people sing in the world
- Add arts education to STEM, creating STEAM
- Shift from autocratic to assistant, democratic leadership
- Encourage and support research on singing and song
- Dedicate specific attention to singing men
- Empower singers on multiple levels
- Focus on new repertoire
- Clarify and expand the role of the individual in choirs
- Fight for freedom of expression
- Promote more co-creation
- Advocate for values in the choral setting
- Explore social music
- Research the health and social benefits of collective singing
- Understand how to preserve and adapt traditional and folk music
- Balance musical excellence and community involvement

- Become inclusive rather than exclusive
- Be cautious with the notion of 'quality'

Gatherings such as the EXchange! in which the international choral community engages in dialogue, interchange, and discourse are critical to a vibrant, relevant international choral community. Watch for extended articles on some of these topics in future issues of ICB.

## WORLD CHORAL DAY 2019 - JOIN WITH YOUR CHORAL CONCERTS

We are happy to announce that the World Choral Day, a singing tradition since 1990, will happen again this year on the **second Sunday of December (December 8, 2019)**, with the possibility to join with your choral events during **the entire month of December**.

The World Choral Day is an international choral event initiated by Alberto Grau with the main aim to extol the values of solidarity, peace, and understanding through choral music. Since 1990, millions of singers across the globe have been involved in World Choral Day concerts, festivals, sing-alongs, choral seminars, and other choral events. It is very easy to join from anywhere in the world. All participating choirs are invited to [register their concerts](#) by completing a short form and then [download the proclamation](#) which is available in 27 languages. This proclamation shall be announced at the beginning of every World Choral Day event. Your event(s) will be promoted through the World Choral Day website and IFCM's social media platforms. Once your concert has taken place, please **share with us your concert posters, photos and video recordings** so that we can share them on our communication channels and make your event visible globally.

If you would you like to join a global choral event with your choir and share your love for choral singing with thousands of other choirs from all around the globe, then the **World Choral Day** is just for you! [More information](#)



## THE 13TH IFCM WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC 2023 GOES TO... QATAR!

Following the successful presentation of the bid by the Qatar National Choral Association, the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) is very excited to announce that the world's most prestigious, non-competitive choral event will take place in **Doha, Qatar in 2023**.

Through this decision, IFCM addresses a geographical and cultural region that has thus far been hidden on the global choral map, and we are looking forward to an exciting exploration of the musical treasures of the Middle East and Central Asia. The Symposium in Qatar provides IFCM and the WSCM 2023 hosts with the opportunity to create a new network and enhance

exchange and cooperation within and beyond this area.

The international choral community through the IFCM congratulates the Qatar National Choral Association on its winning bid and wishes the WSCM 2023 hosts every success and support in their preparations for this unique event in 2023.

## **FIRST AFRICA CANTAT FESTIVAL, NAIROBI, KENYA, AUGUST 22-29, 2020**

### **Very first! Africa Cantat Festival, Nairobi, Kenya, August 22-29, 2020**

Africa Cantat is a one-week festival bringing together choirs and singers from Kenya, from other parts of Africa and from the rest of the world. The festival offers the opportunity to experience singing together and learning from professional international conductors, surrounded by a unique beautiful Kenyan landscape. During the festival, you'll get the opportunity to attend a one-week „Warsha“ (workshop in Kiswahili, the national language of Kenya). Each conductor of the workshops will bring a unique repertoire to the festival. You will also get a chance to participate in the Open Singing or to perform a concert, if you come with your choir.

There will be an additional programme for conductors to exchange and to get inspired by the cultural diversity of the participating choirs and conductors.

For more information, [visit our website](#) or contact us [directly via email](#)

Come to Nairobi and enjoy the diversity of choral music from different regions in Africa and other countries worldwide! Jambo Kenya!



With the support of







## WORLD YOUTH CHOIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

For 30 years, the World Youth Choir Foundation has provided an extraordinary, high-level choral experience for singers, ages 17-26, from around the world. The WYC Foundation consists of three patrons: IFCM, Jeunesses Musicales International (JMI), and European Choral Association-Europa Cantat (ECA-EC). Since 1989, there have been 1000+ singers from 65 countries in 35 sessions under the leadership of 47 internationally-acclaimed conductors. In late July and early August, two 30th anniversary celebrations were held: one in Lisbon, Portugal, during the World Choral EXPO and one in Vaison-la-Romaine, France, during the Les Chorales festival after the 2019 WYC's final performance. WYC alumni, former conductors, recruiters, and supporters over the past 30 years were invited to the celebration in Lisbon which was held at IFCM's new home, the Palacete dos Condes de Monte Real. We were delighted to welcome two former conductors: Frieder Bernius (Germany) - 1990, 1991, 1995, 1999, 2005/2006 and Josep Vila i Casañas (Catalonia, Spain) - 2010, 2019). The first WYC conductor, Stefan Sköld (Sweden), sent a message which was read during the anniversary reception. We were thrilled to have two singers from the first WYC (1989): Alec Jackson (UK) and Katrin Kern (Estonia). Other WYC alumni and recruiters came to the anniversary celebrations from Sweden, France, Mexico, South Africa, Peru, Canada, Norway, Netherlands, United States, Portugal, Spain, Finland, Ghana, and Italy. The highlight of the day was everyone joining together to sing "The Irish Blessing".

"May this choir live long and continue to offer young singers from across the world the opportunity to learn from great masters, as well as their peers, and to promote peace and tolerance!" (Sonja Greiner, WYCF board member)

**For more details, articles, and photos from the 2019 WYC session, see the [WYC website](#) – [Facebook](#) – [Instagram](#)**



World Youth Choir 2019, Conducted by Josep Vila i Casañas, in Cascais, Portugal

## 2020 WORLD YOUTH CHOIR AUDITIONS

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

- Between 17 and 26 years old on July 1, 2020,
- A passionate choral singer,

- From a background of basic or semi-professional music education,
- Ready to meet new friends all over the world,
- Able to speak English at an intermediate level,
- Seeking a different professional challenge, and
- Eager to learn in a multicultural environment?

**Then you are ready to apply for the 2020 World Youth Choir!**

In **July and August 2020**, the World Youth Choir will have a special session in the frame of the festivities for the Beethoven 250th Birthday Anniversary Year. Joining the National Youth Orchestra of Germany (Bundesjugendorchester), the 2020 WYC programme will be Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 and a commissioned work by Tan Dun entitled "Nine".

- Session dates: July 30, 2020 (day of arrival) to August 20, 2020 (day of departure).
- Location: Rehearsal session in Bonn, Germany, followed by a tour with concerts in Germany, Netherlands, Austria and Italy
- First concert: August 8, 2020 - Beethoven 2020 Gala concert with the first performance of Tan Dun's "Nine".
- Artistic Team: Tan Dun (USA), composer of the commissioned work, will conduct the first concerts in the tour, including the Gala concert in Bonn; Jörn Hinnerk Andresen (Germany) will conduct the remaining concerts. Soloists will be World Youth Choir alumni.

Additionally, singers who are of European nationality or European-based will have the opportunity to concurrently apply for a second project connected with the festivities of the Beethoven 250th anniversary: a special performance of Beethoven's Symphony number 9 involving the famous West-Eastern Divan Orchestra and its conductor Daniel Barenboim and an auditioned European Youth Choir, to be held in Bonn on December 2020. To apply for both the World Youth Choir summer session 2020 and this project, you can use the same audition material but it should be submitted by the **31st of October 2019**.

The selection will be done by two different juries and thus the announcement of the selected singers will also be done at different timings. Selection for one project does not affect the chances of selection for the other one



WYC 2019 singers and alumni singing 'Irish Blessing' at the Palacete dos Condes de Monte Real, IFCM new home



## Important Dates

**September 2019** - Worldwide recruitment will start via national recruiters and/or direct application for countries without national recruiters. The official information will be announced via the World Youth Choir website and social media.

**October 31, 2019** - Deadline to submit audition materials to be considered for both projects.

**December 1, 2019** - Deadline to submit audition materials to be considered for the World Youth Choir 2020 summer session only. NOTE: Audition deadline dates in countries with National Recruiters may be earlier in order to facilitate national juries.

**End of January 2020** - The international jury will announce the selected singers for the World Youth Choir 2020 summer session.

See [WYC website](#) for more audition details (to be published soon).

## THE 15TH CHINA INTERNATIONAL CHORUS FESTIVAL

**23-29 July 2020, Beijing**

Competition, concerts, cultural exchange programs and high-quality tourist programs.

<http://en.cicfbj.cn/>

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## NEWS FROM IFCM FOUNDING MEMBERS

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### EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION – EUROPA CANTAT (ECA-EC)

**Check the [ECA-EC brochure of choral activities 2020](#)**

A selection of activities open to singers, conductors, composers and all choral lovers around Europe and beyond.

All activities are international, non-competitive and have educational aspects.

[www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org](http://www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org)



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

### **Registration Open!**

**Boychoir Symposium** - Nov. 1-2, 2019 (**New location:** Houston, TX)

A two-day retreat and symposium for those who teach boys to sing! Featuring sessions and discussions on topics ranging from the male changing voice, best administrative practices, supporting all boys who love to sing, and the role and value of boychoirs in a changing world. \$50 registration; hotel information is available on the website.



### **Save the Dates:**

**Children's Choir Conductor Retreat** - Jan. 18-19, 2020

**ACDA Regional Conferences** - Mar. 2020. Exhibitor registration for all conferences will open in early September 2019, and attendee registration will open in October.

- Central & North Central Regions - Mar. 4-7 (Milwaukee, WI)
- Eastern Region - Mar. 4-7 (Rochester, NY)
- Southwestern Region - Mar. 4-7 (Little Rock, AR)
- Western Region - Mar. 4-7 (Salt Lake City, UT)
- Northwestern Region - Mar. 10-14 (Spokane, WA)
- Southern Region - Mar. 10-14 (Mobile, AL)

**2nd National Symposium on Research in Choral Singing** - May 1-2 (Atlanta, GA)

**ACDA National Conference** - Mar. 17-20, 2021 (Dallas, TX)

Have you joined **ACDA's Facebook group ACDA International Activities**? That group is run by our standing committee on International Activities and is another way to keep up to date on ACDA international work and share some of your own.

## **NEWS FROM IFCM MEMBERS**

The Eugene Concert Choir, a Resident Company of the Hult Center for the Performing Arts, Eugene, Oregon, USA, is seeking to host and present a touring choir for a joint concert, either December 13, 2020 or April 18, 2021. Urgently send inquiry to Artistic Director Dr. Diane Retallack: [Diane@EugeneConcertChoir.org](mailto:Diane@EugeneConcertChoir.org).



## NEWS FROM CHORAL CANADA

### National Youth Choir of Canada 2020 Call for Singers

<http://www.choralcanada.org/national-youth-choir.html>

<http://www.choralcanada.org/choeur-national-des-jeunes.html>

### National Youth Choir of Canada 2020 Call for Apprentice Conductor

<http://www.choralcanada.org/conducting-apprenticeship-program.html>

<http://www.choralcanada.org/programme-dapprentissage-en-direction-chorale.html>

## ADVERTISE YOUR CHORAL EVENT TO THE WORLD in the ICB and on our websites

Advertisement spaces are now available on <http://ifcm.net/> and <http://icb.ifcm.net> as well as in the quarterly ICB and eICB. Rates and dimensions are on the Reserve A Space form. Take advantage of the excellent usage statistics of our websites and media to promote your choral events!

## WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR CHORAL WORLD IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2019

3-8 Sep : International Choir Festival Corearte Argentina 2019, Córdoba, Argentina -

<https://www.corearte.es>

6-8 Sep: Liviu Borlan International Choral Festival, Baia Mare City, Romania -

<http://eng.festivalborlan.ro/>

8-13 Sep: Jimena de la Frontera Music Week, Spain - [www.lacock.org](http://www.lacock.org)

11-15 Sep: 19th EUROTREFF 2019, Wolfenbüttel, Germany -

<http://www.eurotreff.amj-musik.de>

13 Sep: ON STAGE with Interkultur in Israel - <https://www.interkultur.com/>

13-16 Sep: ON STAGE with Interkultur in Lisbon, Portugal - <https://www.interkultur.com/>

19-22 Sep: 13th Rimini International Choral Competition, Rimini, Italy - [www.riminichoral.it](http://www.riminichoral.it)

27 Sep-1 Oct: 6th International Music Council World Forum, Paris, France -

[www.unesco.org/imc](http://www.unesco.org/imc)

2-6 Oct: Cracovia Music Festival 2019, Cracow, Poland - [www.mrf-musicfestivals.com](http://www.mrf-musicfestivals.com)

3-6 Oct: Bratislava Cantat II, Slovak Republic - [www.choral-music.sk](http://www.choral-music.sk)

4-6 Oct: 15th International Choir Contest Flanders, Genk, Belgium - [www.ikv2019.be](http://www.ikv2019.be)

7-13 Oct: International Choir Festival Corearte Barcelona 2019, Spain - [www.corearte.es](http://www.corearte.es)

9-13 Oct: 3rd Kalamata International Choir Competition and Festival, Greece -

<https://www.interkultur.com/>

10-13 October: Musica Festival Bad Hofgastein 2019, Salzburg, Austria -

[www.musicultur.com](http://www.musicultur.com)

12-13 Oct: 10th Choral Singing Contest of South American Folk and Popular Music, Buenos Aires, Argentina - [www.aamcant.org.ar](http://www.aamcant.org.ar)

12-15 Oct: 2nd Botticelli International Choral Festival, Florence, Italy -

<http://www.florencechoral.com/>

12-16 Oct: 13th In Canto sul Garda International Choir Competition, Riva del Garda & Arco, Italy - [www.meeting-music.com](http://www.meeting-music.com)

13-18 Oct: Singing in Rome, Italy - [www.lacock.org](http://www.lacock.org)

17-20 Oct: Claudio Monteverdi Choral Festival and Competition, Venice, Italy -

[www.venicechoralcompetition.it](http://www.venicechoralcompetition.it)

18-20 Oct: 9th International Competition for Young Conductors, Versailles, France -

[www.artchoral.org](http://www.artchoral.org)

19-25 Oct: Sing Ireland Conductor Study Tour, City of Derry, Ireland -

<https://www.singireland.ie>



SEPTEMBER 2019

*Volunteers connecting  
our choral world*



# IFCMeNEWS

23-27 Oct: 8th Canta al Mar International Choral Festival, Calella, Barcelona, Spain -

<https://www.interkultur.com/>

24-27 Oct: 1st Jakarta World Choir Festival, Jakarta, Indonesia -

<https://www.bandungchoral.com/jwcf2019>

25-28 Oct: Cantate Barcelona, Spain - [www.music-contact.com](http://www.music-contact.com)

30 Oct-3 Nov: Dubrovnik International Choir Festival & Competition, Croatia -

[www.meeting-music.com](http://www.meeting-music.com)

31 Oct-4 Nov: Dakar International Singing Festival, Côte d'Ivoire -

<https://www.facebook.com/DAKARSINGING/>

31 Oct-3 Nov: FICA'19 International Choral festival, Aveiro, Portugal -

<https://www.voznua.com/en/fica/about/>