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NEWS FROM IFCM

IFCM AT HOME

INTERESTING CHORAL CONTENTS IN THE TIME OF SOCIAL DISTANCING

The world is going through very difficult and strange times. Among numerous other challenging consequences of this pandemic, choral enthusiasts around the globe are not allowed to maintain normal choral activities, rehearsals, and performances. We believe that it is more important than ever to stay strong and stick together, even if the challenges of moving forward are more difficult than before. Thanks to modern online technologies, we are not completely lost. Our community is discovering that there are many ways to keep ourselves connected to each other and our audiences.

IFCM recently began gathering articles, resources, ideas, and tips that could be useful for the entire choral community. We launched a new subpage on our website: [IFCM-at-Home](#). Here we are accumulating practical, general resources for your use. The page will be kept fresh daily with new, interesting posts, so be sure to check-in every day. In order to not miss any updates and amazing virtual projects, make sure to follow us on our social media platforms ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#)) where we share more practical information and resources on this topic. We would also like to encourage you to [submit](#) any material connected to this topic that you think would benefit the worldwide choral community at this time. We would also be happy to hear more about your experiences and your own projects. Thank you in advance! Take care and stay safe!

Stay safe!

News, interesting articles, ideas and tips with IFCM
in the time of social distancing.

#ifcmathome #choirsathome

WORLD CHORAL DAY: PLANNED DATE FOR 2020!

Despite all types of choral events being cancelled due to the current pandemic crisis and even though we don't know how long the crisis will last, we believe that it is important to remain positive and hopeful. That is why we are cautiously, and optimistically, announcing the planned date for [World Choral Day 2020](#). Following last year's decision by the IFCM Executive Committee, World Choral Day 2020 will take place on the second Sunday of December (**13 December 2020**). The World Choral Day event also provides the opportunity for choirs and choral events to join the celebrations anytime during the entire month of December. We



sincerely hope that the black clouds will soon disappear from above us and that everything, including all choral activities, can return to normal as soon as possible. Of course, we will constantly keep ourselves informed and will know more in the coming weeks and months as to whether or not we might need to make adjustments to the dates. Please follow our [Facebook](#) page for news and updates.

In the meantime, we kindly invite you to read a detailed [review](#) of **World Choral Day 2019**, published in the *International Choral Bulletin* (April 2020).

IFCM YOUTUBE PLAYLIST – VIRTUAL CHOIR PROJECTS

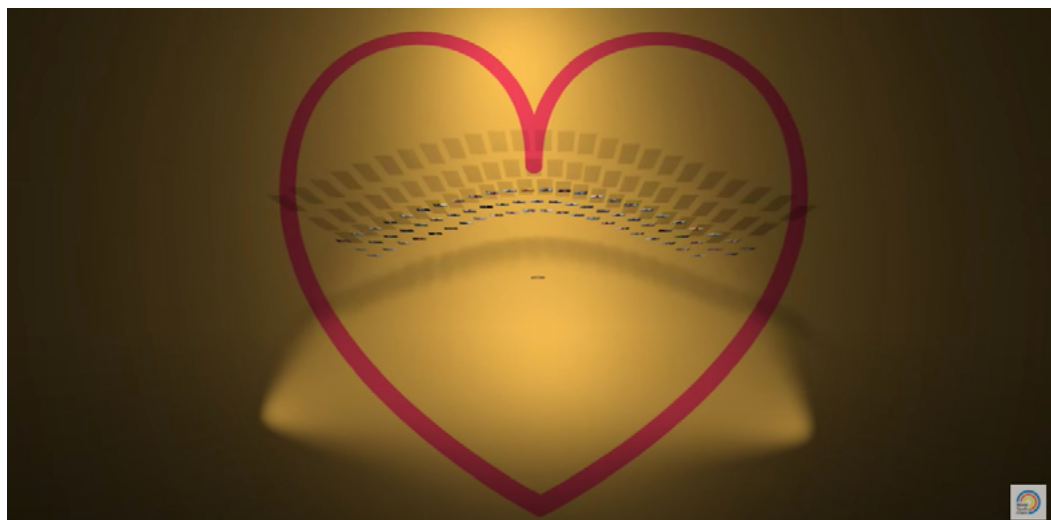
IFCM is collecting favourite virtual choral projects that have been created as a result of the current pandemic and compiling them in a YouTube. Have you also made similar videos recently? Please send the links to us on social media or through [email](#), and we will add your virtual projects to the playlist. Click [here](#) to begin watching these amazing videos.

WORLD YOUTH CHOIR FOUNDATION

The [World Youth Choir Foundation](#) (WYCF) continues to add documentaries about former World Youth Choir sessions to its YouTube channel. Since the 2020 World Youth Choir session with the German National Youth Orchestra has been [cancelled](#) due to the coronavirus pandemic, the WYCF is featuring a documentary to mark the 10th anniversary of the [2010 World Youth Choir](#) in Spain. This ensemble consisted of 80 singers from 38 countries under the artistic direction of conductors Ragnar Rasmussen (Norway) and Josep Vila i Casañas (Spain). This documentary and other videos on the WYC [website](#) and the WYC [YouTube channel](#) are great promotional tools for encouraging singers to apply for future sessions. As well, these videos provide useful information and background documentation for potential organizers of future sessions. Add the WYC videos to your playlist while you are sheltered-at-home.



Don't miss this beautiful virtual performance of [An Irish Blessing](#) (Irish folksong, arr. James E. Moore). A few weeks ago, at the height of the coronavirus pandemic, some singers of the World Youth Choir sessions 2018-2020 had the idea to put together a virtual choir. The result is stunning - 71 young singers and WYC board members from 32 countries sending a message of hope, comfort, and solidarity. Until we meet them again!



NEWS FROM IFCM FOUNDING MEMBERS

EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION - EUROPA CANTAT (ECA-EC)

Results of the survey

It is important for us, as a European network, to have our ears "in the field" and to hear from all of you involved in collective singing/choral music as to what impact the COVID-19 outbreak is having worldwide.

In the past month, ECA-EC has been conducting a survey to see how the choral sector is affected by the current virus outbreak. [Read](#) the summary of first results of the survey.

The [survey](#) is still open to receive responses of anyone active in the choral sector, from any country. Please share widely so we can hear as many voices from as many places as possible! Share your experiences.

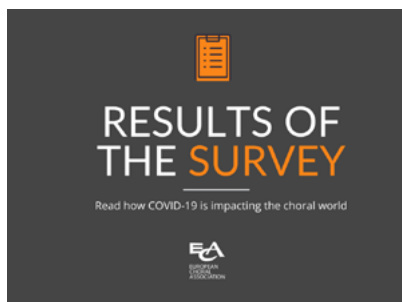
Additional tools and resources related to COVID-19

See [webpage](#) for more tools and resources gathered by the ECA-EC and its members.

Webinar on The Intelligent Choir & Vocal Painting

The Intelligent Choir (TIC) is a philosophy and concept developed by Danish professor, Jim Daus Hjernøe. TIC refers to his musical philosophy and concept of training choir conductors which inspires and permits choristers to share responsibility for the musical process. The concept includes a pedagogical and artistic methodology using Vocal Painting (VOPA) signs and conducting as an instructional/conducting tool along with ear training, theory, vocal art, and improvisation.

Vocal Painting is an extensive collection of interactive hand signals designed to become a new language for vocal art and used to complement conventional conducting techniques of choral



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music. It currently consists of 75 signals and more are in the making.

[Read more and register](#)



THE INTELLIGENT CHOIR & VOCAL PAINTING

Friday, 19 June, 11.00 CEST

introduced by
Jean-Claude Wilkens

Jim Daus Hjernøe



ECA-EC Annual Report 2019 is out!

The [ECA-EC Annual Report 2019](#) is a wrap-up of our rich network of choral enthusiasts, all the activities that were organised throughout Europe, and the projects developed during 2019. Thanks to all our members, partners, and volunteers who make all this possible! Enjoy a short stroll down memory lane and let yourself be reminded of events you might have been part of, in a way or another.

Request a copy [here](#).

AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)

[The 2020 Symposium for Research in Choral Singing](#). In response to COVID-19, the 2020 symposium is virtual! Presentations, papers, posters, and performances from the symposium are available from 15 May to 25 July.

Save the Date: [ACDA National Conference - "Diversity in Music"](#) 17-19 March 2021 (Dallas, Texas).

[Resources for Choral Professionals During the Pandemic](#). ACDA has created a page of information, ideas, and tools especially for choral conductors and educators. Most are free and the page is updated regularly.

NEWS FROM IFCM MEMBERS

NEW ZEALAND STUDENTS CREATE SINGING BUBBLES

In the same week that the **New Zealand Choral Federation (NZCF)** and IFCM announced the cancellation of WSCM2020 (11-18 July 2020 in Auckland, NZ), NZCF also cancelled its major secondary schools choral festival, [The Big Sing](#). Each year, close to 10,000 young people from over 250 schools take part in The Big Sing regional festivals nationwide which culminate in The Big Sing Finale. As so many choral communities have done around the world, NZCF launched

a virtual choir project for the students to work on during the country's lockdown. Singing from their individual bubbles up and down the country, 180 secondary students joined their voices, and bubbles, to create extraordinary 'singing bubbles' floating over the islands. For 2020, The Big Sing became [The Virtual Sing](#) in the performance of an energetic waiata, [A te terakihi](#) (The Cicada).



INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL

Ensuring Culture Fulfills its Potential in Responding to the Covid-19 Pandemic

With the world faced with the COVID-19 pandemic today and the need to rebuild our societies tomorrow, culture should be at the heart of the response. Culture brings inspiration, comfort, and hope into people's lives. To harness this potential, the International Music Council and its fellow partners of the [#Culture2030Goal](#) movement, in the context of its engagement in the United Nations 2030 Agenda, call on UN agencies, governments, and all other stakeholders to act.

[Read, Sign, Share!](#)

[Lisez, Signez, Partagez!](#)

[Leer, firmar, compartir!](#)

THE 19TH INTERNATIONAL CHOIR FESTIVAL ZLATNA VILA, PRIJEDOR, BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA, POSTPONED

The 19th International Choir Festival Zlatna Vila, organized in Prijedor, Bosnia Herzegovina, is postponed to **7-9 May 2021**. Established in 2001 as a natural sequence of 134 year-long choral tradition in Prijedor, this Festival is a three-day competition for amateur mixed and youth choirs who perform a cappella old and modern compositions.

Website: www.zlatnavila.info

MESSAGE FROM THE EUROPEAN YOUTH CHOIR FESTIVAL BASEL (EJCF BASEL)

On 21 May 2020, EJCF Basel expressed its solidarity with the choirs that were invited to the 10th EJCF (initially scheduled for 20-24 May) and with people all over Europe and the world. More than 40 festival staff members, in groups of five, wove a multi-coloured solidarity flag of over 400m2 from 900 unused advertising banners. Each colourful flag represents a singer or a guest.

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Combined together, the flag represents “The Colours of Cultures”, the motto of the EJCF festival. Re-live the event on [EJCF Website](#), [EJCF Facebook](#), [EJCF Youtube](#) or [EJCF Instagram](#).
Next EFYC Basel: 12-16 May 2021.



WHAT'S ON IN JUNE AND JULY IN THE CHORAL WORLD

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.