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NEWS FROM IFCM

MEMBERS OF IFCM: SAVE THE DATE!

Due to the current pandemic situation throughout the world, the Board of IFCM decided that this year's General Assembly including the Election of the Board of Directors will be held entirely online.

The General Assembly will be held on **3 December 2020**. Please mark your calendar! (the exact time will be announced in September).

The first meeting of the newly elected Board will be on **4 December 2020**.

Please note that only members who registered by the official deadline (also announced in September), and who paid their membership fee 2020 **by 30 September 2020** are allowed to vote in the online elections.

CALL FOR FREELANCE POSITIONS AT IFCM

The International Federation for Choral Music announces the call for **two freelance positions, starting January 2021**.

1. Call for Communication Manager

The role of the Communication Manager is to support the maintenance and development of IFCM's dynamic network by supplying its members with adequate information, by enabling exchanges between members, and by communicating the strategy and activities of the network to its members and the global choral community. The Communication Manager will be a freelancer contracted by IFCM on a basis of 20 hours per week (flexible schedule).

Full Job Description

Please send your application by email by **30 September 2020** to: manager@ifcm.net, mentioning your name and "Communication Manager" in the subject line.

The application must include:

- Motivation letter
- CV
- Social Media Strategy of IFCM for one month (in word, Docx, pdf, or PowerPoint file)
- Any other documents relevant to marketing and social media experience

2. Call for ICB Manager

The International Choral Bulletin (ICB) is published quarterly in the three official languages of IFCM: English, French and Spanish. Summaries of articles are provided in Arabic, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian. The ICB is distributed on all continents (more than 80 countries) and is the official voice of IFCM for choral music around the world.

The ICB Editing Manager will have a passion for communication, an international network and experience in the field of choral music, and experience of editing a musical journal. He will have the opportunity to work with IFCM to help shape the future direction of the ICB by identifying strategies to enhance its quality and reputation.

The ICB Editing Manager will be a freelancer contracted by IFCM on a basis of 20 hours per week (flexible schedule but including publication deadlines).

Full Job Description

Please send your application by **30 SEPTEMBER 2020** by email to: manager@ifcm.net, mentioning your name and "ICB Editing Manager" in the subject line.

The application must include:

- Motivation letter
- CV
- Any other documents relevant to previous editorial experience



- Comprehensive vision for the future of ICB (no more than 1 page of the written text in word, Docx or pdf file)

Job interviews for both positions:

- Online (October 2020)

For the online interview, pre-selected candidates should be prepared to present their vision and answer any other questions to IFCM interviewers.

MESSAGE FROM THE WSCM2020 TEAM

Two weeks ago, on July 11, we were going to welcome the choral world to Auckland. That afternoon you would have picked up your bag and lanyard at registration, learnt how to use the conference app, and oriented yourself in the main Symposium hub. You might also have strolled around the city and the harbour – and yes, it was a mild, sunny day! Later that day, you would have been treated to a spectacular, theatrical opening concert that was to showcase Aotearoa New Zealand in song.

It's been hard coming to terms with the fact that WSCM2020 will now not happen. From your messages it's clear that many of you – performers, presenters, and delegates alike – have felt the same, and we remain hugely disappointed that we couldn't put on the show we'd planned. But that disappointment pales into insignificance against what most singers and would-be audience members are still experiencing as the pandemic continues to rage. We've stayed in touch with old and new friends from all over the globe and feel desperately sad for choirs who are still months away from being able to meet again in person. The clever, creative, collaborative solutions people have come up with to make choral connections possible are truly astounding, but of course there's no real substitute for singing together in the same room.

While New Zealand is now in the hugely fortunate position of being able to hold rehearsals and concerts again, we certainly don't take it for granted and realise it is only made possible by keeping our borders closed – not something Kiwis enjoy. Our domestic 'reopening' has coincided with the country's celebration of [Matariki](#), the reappearance of the star cluster of that name that heralds the beginning of the Māori New Year and harvest festival. It's a time to rejoice, reflect, and contemplate our dreams and desires for the year ahead. WSCM2020 was to feature a groundbreaking new multi-choir-and-composer choral work for Matariki. We still intend to perform the work this time next year to celebrate with tangata whenua (the people



of the land), to remember our Symposium, and to look toward the future. We haven't given up on our dream to host the choral world here in Aotearoa. One day, not too far away, we'd love you to accept our invitation again!

Ngā mihi maioha

WORLD YOUTH CHOIR PRESS RELEASE

The [World Youth Choir Foundation](#) is thrilled to announce that the World Youth Choir (WYC) will be one of the performing choirs at the next American Choral Directors Association ([ACDA](#)) **National Conference**, which will take place in Dallas, Texas (USA). The conference will convene 17-20 March 2021, and a World Youth Choir session will be held on the days surrounding the conference dates, to include a short rehearsal period and some additional performances.

Within the framework of the conference, the WYC will perform two concerts on 17 March at the Winspear Opera House and will have two informal performances for the ACDA Honor Choirs on 18 March. For the duration of the conference, singers from 34 countries will also be able to attend conference activities not conflicting with the choir's pre-arranged performances. The possibility to participate in an ACDA conference will be an extraordinary opportunity for the singers' professional development and an excellent opportunity to promote our programme amongst the conference delegates. Outside of the conference framework, the choir will additionally have 1-2 concerts open to the general public in Dallas, with dates and location to be announced at a later stage.

The choir will be composed of 48 singers who have taken part in a WYC session from 2016 to 2019. As this is a short session with only 3 days of rehearsal, we have recruited among singers who recently participated in WYC projects and therefore already have a connection with the choir and a strong knowledge of the programme's mission, vision, and values. The selection process aimed at creating a high-quality young ensemble with a balanced blend of voices and a wide geographic representation. The list of selected singers can be found [here](#).

The ensemble will be under the artistic direction of [Martina Batič](#) (Slovenia), an internationally-renowned conductor and current Musical Director of the *Chœur de Radio France* in Paris. The repertoire will consist of up to 40 minutes of music representative of different continents and include both classic and contemporary pieces. With this programme, the choir aims to showcase the excellence and diversity of choral music across the world to the ACDA audience of 4,000-5,000 choral directors, alongside 5,000 choral singers.



Make sure to follow the WYC social media channels for more information about this session which will be released throughout the coming months. We hope to meet you in Dallas in March 2021!

ASIA PACIFIC YOUTH CHOIR 2020 IS POSTPONED TO 2021

The new coronavirus (COVID-19) is continuing to spread all over the world and we are witness to this worldwide pandemic which has caused the cancellation or postponement of international choral events.

We checked the COVID-19 situation in the countries represented in the APYC, and several countries are beginning to see a second wave although the situation in Malaysia is improving. The Working Committee of the Asia Pacific Choral Council decided yesterday to postpone the APYC2020 session in Kuala Lumpur to November 2021.

We are mainly concerned with travel restrictions and self-isolation policies:

1. Tracy Wong, one of the APYC2020 conductors, is unable to travel to Malaysia this year due to Canadian travel restrictions.
2. Participants are likely to have to self-isolate for two weeks on their arrival to Malaysia, and possibly also for two weeks when they go home. This is in addition to the 10-day APYC session. As the situation is constantly changing, there is no guarantee that these restrictions will all be lifted before November 2020. We also cannot guarantee a risk-free stay in Kuala Lumpur.

The participants' safety and health are important to us.

At this time, we would like to announce that the all selected singers for APYC 2020 are invited to our next APYC session in 2021.

Press Release of IFCM Asia Pacific Choral Council Working Committee (Yoshihiro Egawa, Japan, Kathy Fok, Hong Kong – China, Johnny Ku, Taiwan, Susanna Saw, Malaysia, Beverly Shangkuan-Cheng, Philippines, Jennifer Tham, Singapore)

NEWS FROM IFCM FOUNDING MEMBERS

AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)

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



T.J. Harper, Chair of ACDA's International Initiatives Standing Committee, and Tim Sharp, Executive Director, have presented a series of webinars entitled ACDA: Connecting with the World in which they converse with choral conductors from different parts of the world. Countries include Kenya, China, South Korea, Sweden, and Cuba. Listen to the recordings of those conversations on the [ACDA YouTube channel](#). (picture: third episode featuring conductors from South Korea: Hakwon Yoon, Shinhwa Park, Heechurl Kim, Euijoong Yoon, and Hyowon Woo.)

[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.

ACDA created guidance for choral singing and study during the COVID-19 pandemic, The [COVID-19 Response Committee Report](#), published 15 June 2020. It is USA-based, but may be of interest to choral leaders in other countries.

ACDA has helped fund the following research projects designed to expand the scientific research to help members develop science-based plans for singing together again. Initial results of these studies will be available before the end of the summer.

- [Study of the Effects of COVID-19 on the Return to the Rehearsal Hall](#) (University of Colorado - Boulder).
- [Reducing Bioaerosol Emissions and Exposures in the Performing Arts: A Scientific Roadmap for a Safe Return from COVID-19](#) (Colorado State University).

EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION - EUROPA CANTAT (ECA-EC)

Training *Leading Voices* Survey

The [European Choral Association - Europa Cantat](#) is planning a new event for conductors, vocal leaders, music educators, composers, arrangers, creators, choral managers, students, and coaches. [Leading Voices](#) will be organised in Utrecht, The Netherlands, in July 2022, in cooperation with their local partner ZIMIHC. In order to make sure that the event will have something to offer for everybody, the organisers have designed a survey in which they are collecting input from those for whom the event will be designed. We would therefore like to encourage you to [fill in this survey](#) and submit your wishes and ideas. Your answers will help the music commission designing *Leading Voices* make sure that the event is relevant and attractive for the target groups it will be designed for, in all their diversity. Thank you very much in advance!



Statement on Covid-19 and Collective Singing

Currently, around Europe, even with the removal of some restrictions in most European countries, prohibitions or strong recommendations against singing still exist in countries such as the UK and Russia as well as in parts of Germany. At the same time, other group activities that also involve heavy breathing (e.g., sports) or loud speaking and laughing (e.g., social gatherings) are largely no longer forbidden.

The European Choral Association - Europa Cantat has been gathering what scientific evidence exists to date in its [Covid-19 resources document](#). *Whatever science proves in the end: it is not singing that is dangerous, Covid-19 is.*

From the extensive research that is being done by the association and its network, with collaborators in all the European countries and beyond, we must take a stand and say that singing improves people's lives, now as much as ever! Read the full [Press Release](#).

For more information on the situation of collective singing in Europe, we remain at your disposal. You can find additional resources on our website: [COVID-19 Outbreak: How does the choral world deal with it?](#)

Europa Cantat Junior

With the many insecurities around the Covid-19 pandemic, we must sadly announce that Europa Cantat Junior in Vilnius, Lithuania, will be postponed to summer 2022.

The team is working tirelessly, together with the involved partners, looking ahead to better times. We are hopeful to be able to offer children and youth choirs plenty of options for meeting and singing together in the coming years:

- **2021** – Ateliers for children and youth choirs at the [EUROPA CANTAT Festival](#) in Ljubljana, Slovenia (16-25 July 2021)
- **2022** – [EUROPA CANTAT Junior](#) in Vilnius, Lithuania (15-24 July 2022)
- **2023** – EUROPA CANTAT Junior Ghent in Belgium (5-13 July 2023)

More details will be updated on the official festival channels soon! Until then, keep safe and healthy!



NEWS FROM IFCM MEMBERS

NEWS FROM THE FEDERACIO CATALANA D'ENTITATS CORALS (FCEC)

Three years exactly after the WSCM12 opening in Barcelona on July 22, 2017, The Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals released seven videos (one for each day of the symposium), that offer a summary of the 2017 program: a song from each of the selected choirs, some pieces of the concert circle, a summary of the Sagrada Família concert, of the opening and closing concerts and of the concerts outside Barcelona.

The FCEC released these videos for all those affected by the pandemic, for all the choir singers and members, for all the people who made the WSCM2017 possible, and dedicate these releases to the organizers who worked so hard on this year's symposium, the WSCM2020 in Auckland, New Zealand, and had to cancel it.

Links to the videos: [July 22](#) — [July 23](#) — [July 24](#) — [July 25](#) — [July 26](#) — [July 27](#) — [July 28](#) — [July 29](#)



NEWS FROM CARUS-VERLAG

Our blog. Your passion. Choral music.

The new [CARUS blog](#) is online! In our blog, experts from the fields of sacred and secular choral music regularly write about your and our current favorite topics – sometimes from the performer's perspective, sometimes from the musicologist's viewpoint. Or about a work or personalities in the choral world.

Let yourself be inspired!

OBITUARY: DARINKA MATIĆ-MAROVIĆ

Professor Emeritus **Darinka Matić Marović** was a Serbian conductor, former rector of the University of Arts in Belgrade and dean of the Faculty of Music. Her successful career as a dancer took her all over the world but she excelled in choral conducting and became an expert in contemporary (domestic) music. During her 40 years of conducting *Collegium musicum*, she and the choir performed at Carnegie Hall, New York, Orchestra Hall, Moscow, as well as in Mexico,

AUGUST 2020

*Volunteers connecting
our choral world*



IFCMeNEWS

Rome, San Francisco, Leningrad, Paris, Lisbon, Madrid, New Delhi, Havana, Brussels, Stuttgart, Vienna, Prague, Bucharest, Beijing, Berlin, Stockholm... She touched so many lives and will be dearly missed.



WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 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.