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## NEWS FROM IFCM

Our deepest gratitude goes to our IFCMeNEWS Translators who made it possible for a lot of us to read this enews in our own language: Lore Auerback (German), Anna Bobrikova and her team (Russian), Jacob Chang (Korean), Nadine Robin (French), Shuhei Sanada, Tomoko Yokoyama and Hikaru Tomioka (Japanese), Ariel Vertzman (Spanish), Vienna Gu (Chinese), with a special thought for Carlo Leonardi (Italian) who left us last year. Thanks to all of them and to you who read the IFCMeNEWS!



## HOPE &amp; HEALING: WORLD CHORAL DAY 2021

On 12 December 2021, the second Sunday of December, the global choral community celebrated World Choral Day (WCD). Throughout the month, we saw many wonderful posts on social media as to how singing groups took part in the celebration. For several weeks before the celebration, IFCM posted videos of personalities in the choral music industry delivering the World Choral Day proclamation in their own languages. To date, we have translations of the proclamation in 35 languages, and we welcome additional translations in order to make our future celebrations even more inclusive.



Ikeda Junior Choir, Japan (cond. Kayoko Shibuya)

More than 100 choirs, composed of more than 2000 choral musicians from 40 nations, performed in live singing or in virtual performances. Each registered choir will receive an electronic certificate for their participation in the World Choral Day 2021. If you wish to find more about the World Choral Day 2021, visit the [WCD website](#) as well as the [WCD Facebook page](#). Selected videos from the different celebrations will be made available on the [IFCM YouTube channel](#). In 2022, we are expecting more choirs to take part in the celebration as the world gradually opens back up again for live choral performances and gatherings. Mark the second Sunday of December 2022 on your calendars – **11 December 2022!**

### WORLD CHORAL EXPO 2022: GREAT OFFER!

**Lisbon, Portugal, 3-7 September 2022**

The best is yet to come and it will be in Lisbon, Portugal in September this year!

Why should you join with your **choir** or **vocal ensemble**?

How about to meet and work with some of the best choirs in the world?

[Kammerchor Stuttgart](#) (Germany), [Ordinarius](#) (Brazil), [Aarhus Girls Choir](#) (Denmark), [Cantemus Youth Choir](#) (Moldova), [Collective Singers](#) (Namibia), [Incantare](#) (Argentina), [Maze](#) (the Netherlands), [Mosaica Singers](#) (Jordan), [Portland State Chamber Choir](#) (USA), [Shallaway Youth Choir](#) (Canada).

How about the participation fee? One or two performances especially organized for your choir or vocal ensemble; common workshops with the invited choirs where you can exchange, sing, and perform; the EXchange! program organized by the The Singing Network with more than 50 choral presentations - all this for a participation fee of **350 Euros** for the entire choir, conductor(s), accompanists, staff, and chaperons (15 singers and more) and **250 Euros** for the entire vocal ensemble (from 2 to 15 singers).

**Special offer for choirs and vocal ensembles from Portugal: FREE participation!**

Don't wait any longer, [register your choir or vocal ensemble now!](#)



Not able to come with your choir? Come as an **individual** and get full access to the entire [WCE 2022 program](#) for only **150 Euros**. Students with proof of status only pay **100 Euros**.

**Special offer for individuals and students from Portugal: 50% discount!**

Why wait? [Register as an individual now!](#)

As promised in our previous newsletter, each month the IFCMeNEWS will feature one or two of the choirs invited to the World Choral EXPO 2022.

### **INCANTARE, ARGENTINA**

The female choir, Incantare, was founded in 2016 in Córdoba, Argentina, with Natalia Vadillo as conductor. Since its founding, the choir's repertoire and programming best illustrates its mission and artistic goals. The choir's first program featured Basque contemporary composers, followed by a second program of Argentinian folklore arranged by Cordovan composers. Repertoire from these two concerts comprised the programming for their first international tour (Uruguay, 2016). In 2017, Incantare performed *Los Juegos* (Argentinian folk rhythm songs) with music by Norberto Ambrós, lyrics by Hamlet Lima Quintana, and arranged by Carlos Alberto Flores. In 2018, they performed a Baltic music concert and the première performance in South America of *Misa Folk* by Laura Jekabson. In 2019, Incantare presented *De pájaros y flores*, a concert dedicated to composers from all times ranging from the Renaissance to the present. In 2020, they prepared the following concerts: *De Película* (pieces from films of all times), *Por Amor* (commissioned works composed or arranged especially for Incantare), *Canticum Novum* (sacred pieces from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries), and *Concierto V Aniversario* (works by Basque contemporary composers).



### **AARHUS GIRLS CHOIR, DENMARK**

Aarhus Girls Choir (Aarhus Pigekor) consists of 30 young female singers from Aarhus Music School (Aarhus, Denmark). Founded in the 1940s, the choir changed its name in 2002 to coincide with a shift in direction and goals, which included a higher musical ambition. Since then, Aarhus Girls Choir has toured internationally, including Europe, USA, South Africa, China, Argentina, and Canada. At home, the choir collaborates regularly with the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra and The Danish National Opera. During the past two decades, Aarhus Girls Choir has participated in numerous prestigious international choral competitions, winning gold medals and first prizes at International Choral Kathauxmixw (Canada), Let the Peoples Sing (European Broadcast Union), and World Choir Games (Latvia and South Africa). Helle Høyer Vedel, a prominent and highly-acclaimed conductor in the Danish choral community, initiated the choir's change in mission in 2002. Under her leadership, the choir achieved its many successes at competitions while also performing at large events across Denmark, recording several CDs, and commissioning many pieces for the choir. The choir has enjoyed a long and significant collaboration with choreographer Panda van Proosdij, leading to the development of a special



focus on musical expression using movements to support musical ideas. In 2021, Birgitte Næslund Madsen became the conductor of Aarhus Girls Choir.



### WCE EXchange!

Over 70 proposal submissions from 10 countries were received for the [EXchange!](#) component of the World Choral EXPO 2022. The selections committee has offered invitations for 55 presentations. A list of confirmed acceptances will be available in late January 2022. The EXchange! promises to be a professional opportunity that you do not want to miss.

Don't forget to follow us on [WCE Facebook](#) or on <https://www.worldchoralexpo.org/>

### IFCM CHORAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION 2022

#### Only TWO WEEKS to compose your piece and submit it!

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**.

### NEWS FROM MUSICA INTERNATIONAL, THE GLOBAL VIRTUAL CHORAL LIBRARY

Special offering for all readers of this January 2022 newsletter: **FULL ACCESS to [Musica International's 'Auditorium'](#)**!

The Auditorium is an alphabetical compilation of all the choral pieces which have a link to a video or to an audio file in the Musica International (MI) database (currently more than 30,000 links).

You can spend hours in the Auditorium listening to various interpretations selected by the MI team/volunteers and discovering choral gems that fit your taste and programming ideas. Each reference in the Auditorium list includes a link to the data entry describing the score in detail.

By clicking [here](#), you will directly access the MI website, logged in as a member of IFCM



with unrestricted privileges to all the features of the menu. To visit the Auditorium, choose "Features", then "Auditorium" in the upper menu. Like everything in the MI project, this feature is collaborative. If you have audio files or videos that you think should be in MI database, please send a message to [librarian@musicanet.org](mailto:librarian@musicanet.org)

You can, of course, also go directly to a given title by doing a search in the database. The present privileged access also allows you to do searches without any limitation in the database of about 200,000 choral scores or in the table of more than 33,000 composer biographies. MI is a powerful tool allowing you to build a *choral music program according to an idea or a theme by defining a series of criteria*.

If you are responsible of a choral organization wishing to offer a similar MI privileged access to its members through its own website, [contact.office@musicanet.org](mailto:contact.office@musicanet.org).



#### INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP

##### Roula Abou Baker, IFCM Board member, elected IMC Vice-President

Last month, members of the International Music Council gathered online for the organisation's 39th General Assembly during which they elected new leadership and adopted an ambitious work plan for the next two years. Alfons Karabuda (Sweden) was re-elected President. The IMC General Assembly also elected a new Executive Board composed of Roula Abou Baker (Lebanon), Charles Binam Bikoi (Cameroon), Dorothy Conaghan (Ireland), Paul Dujardin (Belgium), Ardavan Jafarian (Iran), Jacques Moreau (France), Charles Sanders (USA), Christine Thomassen (Norway), and Sheila Woodward (South Africa/USA).

Roula Abou Baker, IFCM Board member co-opted in 2020, was not only re-elected to the IMC Board but was also chosen to be one of the IMC Vice-Presidents. Here is what Roula has said about the appointment: *Being a Vice-President in the IMC board is definitely a big honor but I see it also as a big responsibility. Focusing on joining more Arab members to the IMC and IFCM is on the top of my priorities. In the Arab region, we need to believe more in the importance of networking, to connect more with the world, so we can promote our music and develop it.* Congratulations and thank you Roula!

#### Sponsoring



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## NEWS FROM IFCM FOUNDING MEMBERS

**LIVE NATIONAL CHORAL COMPETITION OF JAPAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION HELD SUCCESSFULLY!**

The Japan Choral Association (JCA) is proud to announce that, for the first time in two years, its live National Choral Competition was held successfully. After winning the prefectural/regional rounds, 133 choirs presented brilliant performances during the competition organized in October and November. In all, 1,222 choirs participated in the series of competitions: 72 primary schools, 497 junior high schools, 413 senior high schools, and 240 youth/university/chamber/equal/mixed choirs. Since the live audience had to be limited this year, performances were also viewed online by 3,400 people.

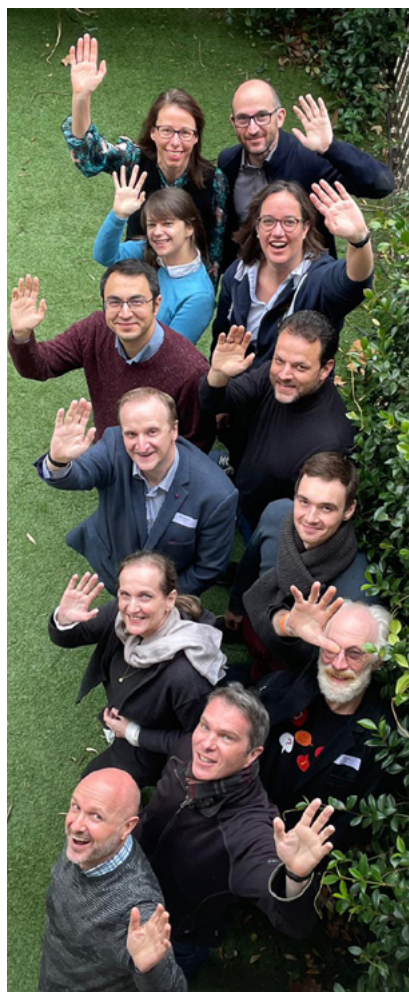
To keep choirs alive even during the pandemic crisis, JCA developed a comprehensive guideline on choral activities to prevent Covid-19 infection, based on a scientific experiment of droplet release from singing supervised by medical experts. The successful 2021 competition was result of choirs being consistent in taking careful measure at every rehearsal according to the guidelines, cooperation by choirs with the competition organizers' policies, and countless initiatives taken by the Japanese choral community to support choral activities during the pandemic.

More on <https://jcanet.or.jp/index.html>

**EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION - EUROPA CANTAT (ECA-EC)****The new Board of the European Choral Association**

The European Choral Association proudly presents its board of directors for the coming three years - 12 highly experienced professionals who will offer their time, passion, and expertise in the service of the European choral sector:

- Dermot O'Callaghan (Ireland - President)
- Martine Spanjers (Netherlands - 1st Vice President & Treasurer)
- Burak Onur Erdem (Turkey - 2nd Artistic Vice President)



- Raul Talmar (Estonia - 3rd Vice President)
- Tamara Adamov Petijevic (Serbia)
- Jeroen Beckers (Belgium)
- Côme Ferrand-Cooper (France)
- Xavier Devillers (Belgium)
- Marco Fornasier (Italy)
- Silvija Pročkytė (Latvia)
- Josep Vila i Casañas (Spain)
- Daphne Wassink (Netherlands - co-opted as representative of the Friends of Choral Music in Europe)

Read the [press release](#)!

### Join the ECA Executive Staff as Regional Development Assistant

Do you have strong language skills and an interest in choral music, and are you experienced in intercultural work with a focus on Central and Eastern Europe? ECA is hiring an assistant for the regional development of our association, either working in the General Secretariat office in Bonn, Germany, or working remote. Read the [full job offer](#) and apply by **5 January 2022**.

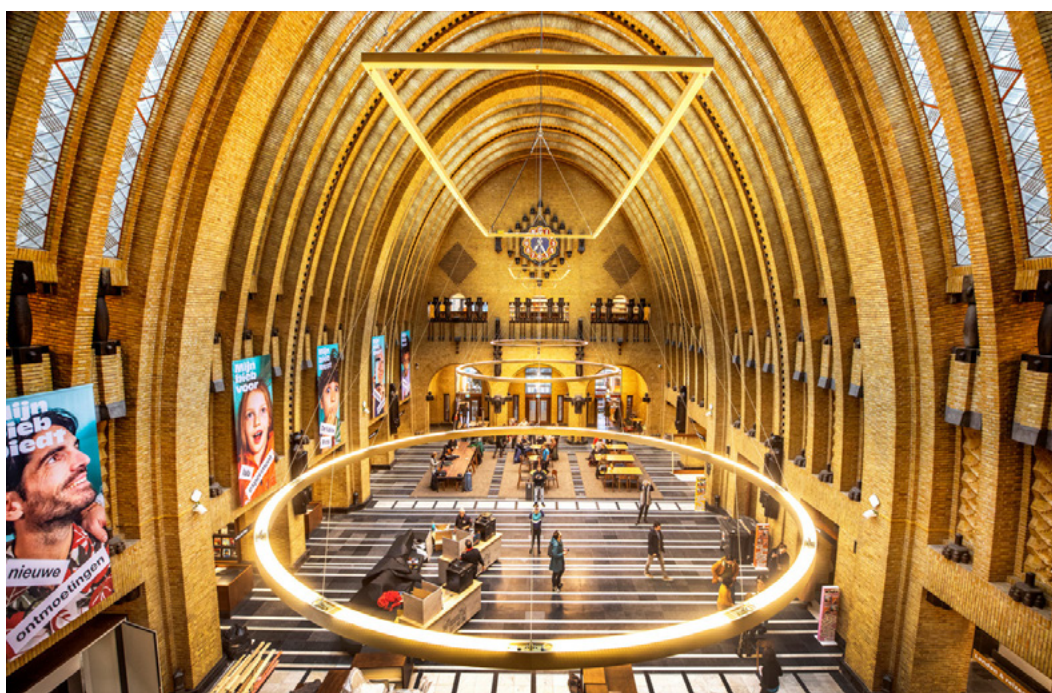
### Business for musicians: Learn how to manage your career

In the final webinar of Business for Musicians, the EPIC project (co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the EU), Gal Faganel addresses many of the non-musical skills required for a successful self-managed career in music, including developing your image, creating an online presence, and making connections.

You can see it now on [YouTube](#)!

### Registration opens for Leading Voices 2022

The new year begins with some good news about **Leading Voices, European Days for Vocal and Choral Leaders** - registration will open **10 January 2022**. This summer, 27-31 July 2022, this brand new major event takes place in Utrecht, Netherlands. Leading Voices will offer over 70 sessions, including workshops, lectures, masterclasses, and roundtables



Utrecht Library



on topics for professionals working in the field of collective singing. Members of European Choral Association get a discount on the registration fees. Fees are even more attractive if you register **before April 2022**.

Visit [www.leadingvoices.nl](http://www.leadingvoices.nl) to register for the event.

## AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)

### ACDA REGION CONFERENCES

Registration for all of ACDA's 2022 region conferences is open! Follow this [link](#) to our region conference page, which provides links to information and registration for each, as well as national Covid-19 guidance for these conferences. Additional Covid-related requirements for some region conferences are also on this page.

- [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 NATIONAL EVENTS

[International Symposium on Research in Choral Singing](#) (29-30 April 2022, synchronous virtual event)

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## NEWS FROM IFCM MEMBERS

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### IFCM WELCOMES A NEW MEMBER IN THE LOCAL ORGANIZATION CATEGORY

**The International Choir Contest Flanders (IKV), Genk, Belgium**



The International Choir Contest Flanders will organize its 16th choral competition from 30 September to 2 October 2022. Twelve international choirs will be selected to participate in this competition.



JANUARY 2022

*Volunteers connecting  
our choral world*



# IFCMeNEWS

Register [here](#) to be one of these selected choirs.

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

Website: <https://www.ikv-genk.be>

## NEWS FROM CHORAL CANADA

**PODIUM 2022 Choral Conference & Festival: Reimagine, Rebuild, Reconnect**

**19-23 May 2022, Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

Visit [www.podium2022.ca](http://www.podium2022.ca) for more details.

## WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2022 IN OUR CHORAL WORLD

7 Jan: 1st Choral Composition Competition of Preveza, Greece —

<http://www.armoniachoir.gr/festival/index.php>

10 Jan: International Competition for Girls' Choir Compositions, Riga, Latvia —

<http://www.rdks.lv/en/par-skolu/kori/meitenu-koris/>

15 Jan: 18th International composer's competition MUSICA SACRA NOVA 2022, Germany —

<https://musicasacranova.com>

**15 Jan: 5th IFCM International Choral Composition Competition —**

<https://www.ifcm.net/projects/choral-composition-competition>

20-24 Jan: 3rd Sing'n'Pray Kobe, Japan — <https://www.interkultur.com/events/2022/kobe/>

20-27 Feb: Singing in Castara, Trinidad and Tobago — <http://www.lacock.org>

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.