



## NEWS FROM IFCM

### **WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC (WSCM) IN ISTANBUL (25-30 April 2023)**

The first IFCM worldwide choral gathering in six years will be in the world's only transcontinental city of Istanbul, 25-30 April 2023, celebrating and exploring the theme of Changing Horizons! Don't miss out on this festive opportunity to meet with voices of the world! For registration information and more details, go to [www.wscmistanbul2023.com](http://www.wscmistanbul2023.com).

**We are very happy to announce three more of the 11 invited choirs: Orfeón San Juan Bautista, Vancouver Youth Choir, and Fayha National Choir.**

### **Orfeón San Juan Bautista, Puerto Rico**

Orfeón San Juan Bautista is a Puerto Rican professional chamber choral ensemble established in 2001. It is directed by Founder Guarionex Morales-Matos and Daniel Alejandro Tapia-Santiago. The choir's repertoire includes sacred and secular works from the great global traditions as well as folkloric and popular pieces from Puerto Rico and Ibero-America. This diversity in repertoire is featured in its 17 titles discography.



Orfeón San Juan Bautista, Puerto Rico

### **Vancouver Youth Choir, Canada**

Vancouver Youth Choir (VYC) has quickly emerged as one of the most active and highly regarded youth choirs in Canada. In nine years, the organization has expanded to include more than 320 singers in seven ensembles, including the brand-new *VYC Kindred*, a free of charge choral program through which immigrant and refugee youth learn about Indigenous music and culture. The Vancouver Youth Choir, the flagship ensemble, consists of 70 singers ages 14-24.



**FEBRUARY 2023**

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Vancouver Youth Choir, Canada

## **Fayha National Choir, Lebanon**

Fayha National Choir of Lebanon, conducted by Maestro Barkev Taslakian, was established in 2003 in the city of Tripoli. Today the organisation has choirs in two other Lebanese cities: Beirut and Chouf. Fayha National Choir of Lebanon is recognized internationally as a standard-bearer for Arabic acapella singing. The choir's repertoire is primarily Arab songs reflecting different aspects of musical traditions in the region.



Fayha National Choir, Lebanon

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CHORAL MUSIC monthly electronic newsletter

**<https://www.ifcm.net>**

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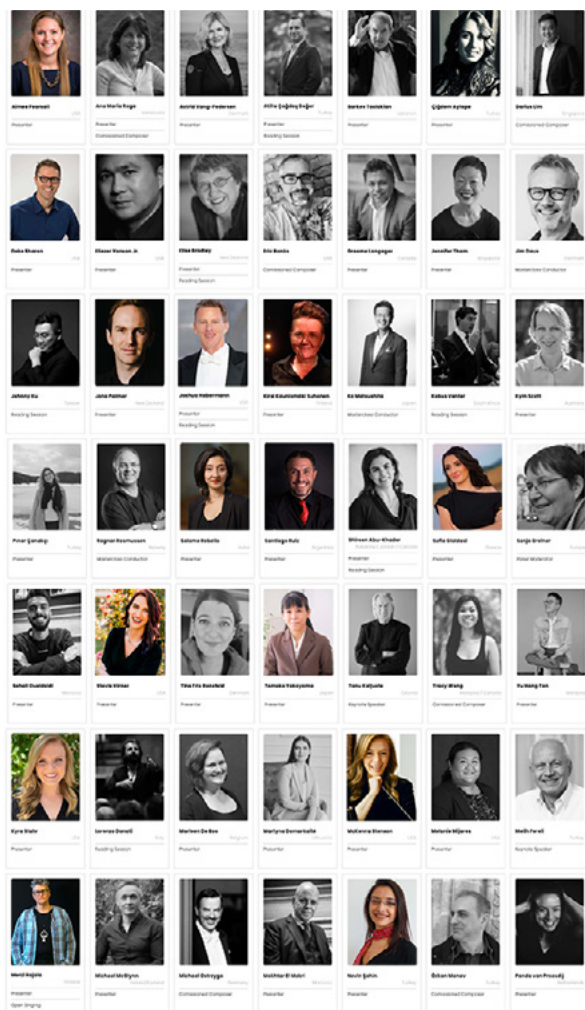


# FEBRUARY 2023

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The WSCM 2023 presenters



The Swingles, UK

**We are pleased to highlight some of the WSCM 2023 speakers who will give presentations on a wide range of topics:**

Aimee Pearsall (USA), Çiğdem Aytepe (Türkiye), Deke Sharon (USA), Jono Palmer (New Zealand), Joshua Habermann (USA), Kirsi Kaunismäki Suhonen (Finland), Kyra Stahr (USA), McKenna Stenson (USA), Melanie Mijares (USA), Merzi Rajala (Finland), Nevin Şahin (Türkiye), Saeko Hasegawa (Japan) Salome Rebello (India), Santiago Ruiz (Argentina), Sofia Gioldasi (Greece), Stevie Hirner (USA), Tomoko Yokoyama (Japan) and more.

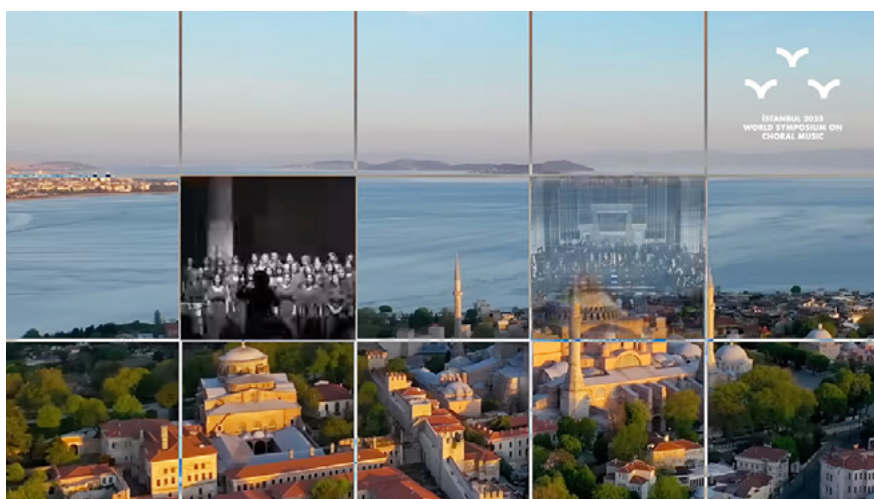
As well, guest artists and keynote speakers will provide information and inspiration on a wide range of topics, each more interesting than the other. The invited choirs will be joined by Extended Program choral ensembles from all over the world.

## The Swingles, UK

A world-renowned vocal group, winner of five Grammys, and recipient of many global and prestigious awards, **The Swingles** will be taking the stage as guest artists in WSCM Istanbul 2023!

**We look forward to meeting you in April and enjoying choral music together for a full week.**

**Visit the WSCM Istanbul 2023 [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Youtube](#).** Watch the [official video of WSCM 2023](#) and share it!





We are excited to announce that IFCM will be present at the **ACDA National Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA (22-25 February 2023)**. Members of the IFCM board and staff are looking forward to connecting with ACDA attendees. We would be more than happy to chat with you when you stop by **BOOTH 110** in the Grand Ballroom Foyer to say hi!

## WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC 2026

### Call for expressions of interest for countries, regions, and/or cities to host the WSCM 2026

IFCM welcomes expressions of interest to host the World Symposium on Choral Music to be held in 2026. National organizations, institutions, or consortia interested in hosting the WSCM 2026 should submit a document (.doc, .docx or .pdf) by **28 February 2023**, including the following details:

- Name of organization/institution
- Mailing address of organization/institution
- Website of organization/institution
- Full name of primary contact person
- Email address of primary contact person
- Brief description regarding previous experience the organization/institution has in hosting choral events
- Brief description regarding the available infrastructure (buildings, rooms, spaces).

Because planning such events years in advance and securing them with the necessary funds has become more challenging in the recent years, your submission does not need to provide detailed numbers and facts. At the same time, it should include realistic funding expectations. Please send your submission to [office@ifcm.net](mailto:office@ifcm.net) before **28 February 2023**.

Your submission will be reviewed by the IFCM Board of Directors. Finalists will be able to meet the Board during the WSCM 2023 in Istanbul or after the event at the most convenient location for a deeper evaluation of the WSCM 2026 proposal.

## AFRICA CANTAT



It is official. The 2<sup>nd</sup> **Africa Cantat**, scheduled to take place in Yaoundé from 1 to 6 August 2023, will be held under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Culture and Arts of Cameroon. This strong institutional support from the government authorities of the host country was confirmed in a memorandum of understanding with the organisers, the **Association of Friends of the Madrigal Choir of Cameroon (ACMC)**. This sponsorship is in line with current local policies on the promotion of cultural identity and national integration, capacity building in the field of choral art practice, and the organisation of festivals and other events which aim to promote equal access for all

to choral art and, more generally, to musical culture. Initiated by the African Confederation of Choral Music (ACCM), Africa Cantat is the largest international festival of choral music on the continent. As such, this decisive support by the Ministry of Culture and Arts of Cameroon corroborates the confidence already demonstrated by Africa Cantat's technical and institutional partners: **IFCM**, the **European Choral Association**, **A Coeur Joie International (ACJI)**, **Afrikiyo**, and the **Fédération Camerounaise de Musique Chorale A Coeur Joie (FECAMUSH-ACJ)**, as well as the financing of the regional programme "**ACP- EU CULTURE - Creating in Central Africa**" with the sponsorship of the European Union and the support of the Organisation of ACP States. This is excellent news for the organisers and the hundreds of festival-goers expected to attend this major event on the African and global choral agenda.



Register [here](#).

***Let's sing in the heart of Africa!***



Watch the [official video of Africa Cantat](#)

## AMERICA CANTAT 10

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.

Those who join this celebration will be able to choose between several workshops:

- Digna Guerra, Cuba
- Elisenda Carrasco, Spain
- Cecilia Espinosa, Colombia
- Federico Trinidad, Brazil/Uruguay
- Mabel Troia, Venezuela
- Viviana Bognar, Argentina
- Leonardo Garcia Alarcon, Argentina

More details [here](#).

Register [here](#).

## MUSICA INTERNATIONAL

### You said pronunciation?

Among other functions, Musica International ([www.musicanet.org](http://www.musicanet.org)) provides the correct pronunciation of choral pieces by native speakers. Whenever you see the microphone icon in the description of a score, there is a recording of the text.

Do you have a favorite choral piece in your mother tongue? Please check [www.musicanet.org](http://www.musicanet.org) to see if a recording of its pronunciation is included. If not, send a registration of the pronunciation to [librarian@musicanet.org](mailto:librarian@musicanet.org) and become the official "Musica voice" for this piece! No need for any specific software. A simple recording, even with your smartphone, will do the job. All you need to do is articulate distinctly, speak slowly, and be natural. You will be brilliant!

For examples, check out Eric Whitacre's "Water Night" in English (<https://www.musicanet.org>).



FEBRUARY 2023

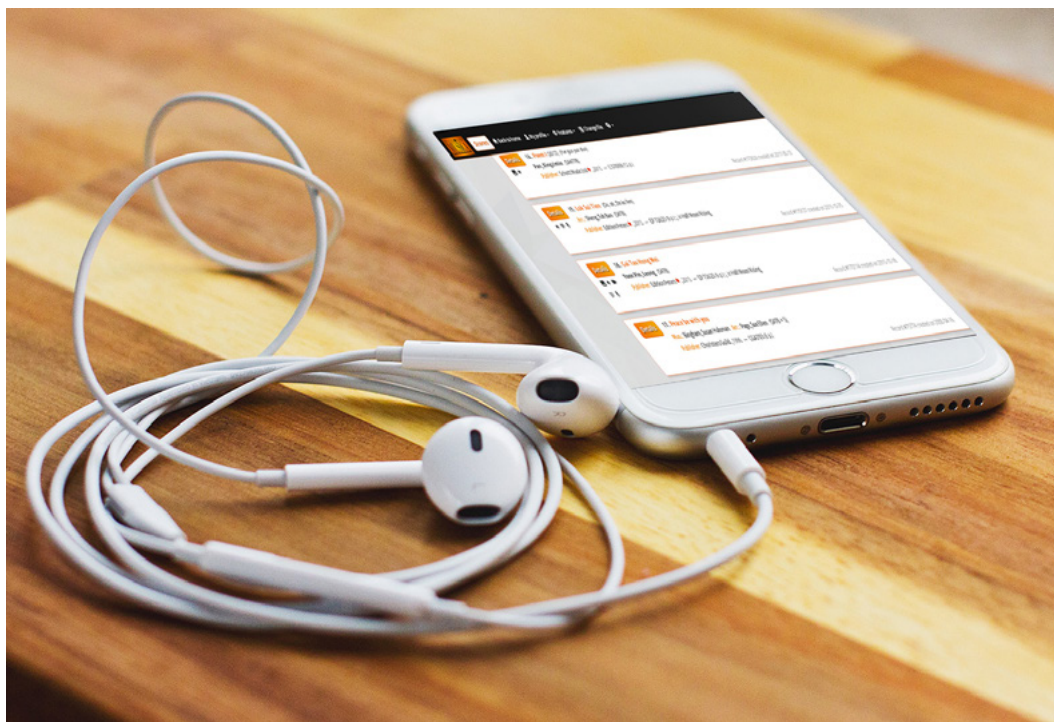
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[org/son/00/00058t.mp3](https://www.musicanet.org/son/00/00058t.mp3)) or Johann Sebastian Bach's "Jesu meine Freude" in German (<https://www.musicanet.org/son/04/00131t.mp3>) or Claude Debussy's "Dieu, qu'il la fait bon regarder" in French (<https://www.musicanet.org/son/00/00119t.mp3>)...

**Full unrestricted access here for all IFCM members.**



## NEWS FROM IFCM FOUNDING MEMBERS

### AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)

#### **2023 ACDA National Conference - A Place of Belonging**

22-25 February 2023, Cincinnati, Ohio

Belonging is fundamental to being human. In our choirs, within our institutions, and as members of the greater chorus of humanity, belonging to a community means that each member is heard, understood, seen, and valued.

The 2023 National Conference welcomes us all back in person to a place where we can celebrate our diversity and affinities, eliminate barriers, and inspire each other towards collective action ensuring that everyone feels they belong to our shared journey.

To know more about the program, the **ACDA Conference App** is currently being populated. Download the app from the Google Play or Apple App store by searching <ACDA conference app>. Once downloaded, search ACDA2023 using <Find Guides> in the lower right corner.

### EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION

#### **Brainstorming Report 'Youth, Mental Health and Culture' now available**

Participants from 23 countries, representing 53 selected organisations, responded to an Open Call in the fields of culture, health, education, and social services. Participants were asked to examine the evidence and practices of the cultural and creative sectors on the mental health of young people from different angles and formulate concrete recommendations and tools for policy makers and cultural practitioners in the European Union and on national levels.



The outcomes were presented to the European Commission in a Dialogue Meeting on 8 December 2022.

The European Choral Association is thrilled to have been included among these 53 selected organisations and to have contributed to the development of this report.

Read more about it [here](#).

Visit the website of the VOICES OF CULTURE project [here](#).

## Youth, Mental Health and Culture

BRAINSTORMING REPORT



### VOICES OF CULTURE

Structured Dialogue between the European Commission and the cultural sector



## NEWS FROM IFCM MEMBERS

### IFCM IS HAPPY TO WELCOME AMONG ITS MEMBERSHIP TWO NEW LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ONE NEW BUSINESS

#### Cork International Choral Festival

Founded in 1954, the [Cork International Choral Festival](#) is one of Europe's premier international choral festivals. It is held annually over the five days preceding the first Monday in May in venues across the city, centering around Cork City Hall, one of the most attractive and acoustically superb venues in Ireland.

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 programme, high competitive standards, excellent organisation, and the friendliness of its welcome. Tickets for the 2023 Gala Concerts are now [on sale!](#)

Join us in Cork **26-30 April 2023** for an unforgettable celebration of choral music.

#### FICF-Florence International Choir & Orchestra Festival

The unique and original [Florence Choir Festival](#), also open to orchestras and bands, takes place in the wonderful city of Florence, Italy. The 10th edition of the festival will take place in some of the most prestigious venues, including the magnificent Basilicas of Santa Croce and Santa Trinita and the wonderful Church of Ognissanti, **from 25-27 July 2023**.

Email: [info@florencechoirfestival.com](mailto:info@florencechoirfestival.com) — Tel. WhatsApp: +39 339 8362788 — [Apply here](#).





## MUSICA ORBIS PRAGUE FESTIVAL

**Musica Orbis Prague Festival** is a welcoming place where ensembles share their talent and gain motivation for further musical activity. The most spectacular venues for choir's performance can be found in Prague – the heart of Europe!

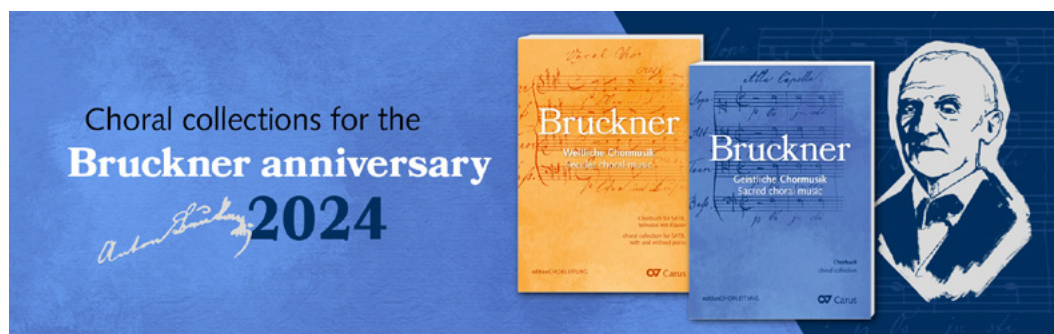
The festival is open to all non-professional choirs and offers competitive and non-competitive categories and various concerts for public. The program includes workshops, professional feedbacks for conductors and sightseeing activities which simply cannot be missed while in here!

## NEWS FROM CARUS-VERLAG

### Anton Bruckner – 200th anniversary 2024

"Everything has its limits. Bruckner lies beyond." This is how Johannes Brahms once commented on his Austrian contemporary. Celebrating Bruckner's 200th anniversary in 2024 presents an extraordinary opportunity to focus on the choral works of a composer revered highly for his masses, symphonies, and his *Te Deum*. Discover the two new choral collections with sacred and secular choral music by Bruckner, now available for pre-order at an introductory price!

[More information here.](#)



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.