

IFCM General Assembly



Minutes
Puerto Madryn, Argentina
6 August 2011, 14:30 to 19:00

Present:

1. Board members:

Anderson Michael, Brunelle Philip, Garavano Daniel, Grases Cristian, Knight Susan, Leek Stephen, Saluveer Aarne, Shavit Maya, Sjöberg Fred, Tham Jennifer, Tong Shiu-wai Leon, Van Der Walt Annemarie,

Excused:

Dho Young-Shim proxy to Darrell Kennedy, Jacques Martine, Liedbergius Victoria, Mbuyamba Lupwishi, Pavlovitch Theodora proxy to Sharp Tim, Prieto Catalina, Rabbow Thomas.

2. Founding members:

Japan Choral Association: Hasegawa Saeko, American Choral Directors Association: Sharp Tim, European Choral Association- Europa Cantat: Smeets Jean, A Coeur Joie International: Thiébaud Thierry, Nordisk Korforum: Wickström Håkan proxy to Theodor Lind.

3. International organizations:

Choral Festival Network: Rabus Dolf, Chorus America: Brunelle Philip, Accreditations and voting rights (cf. Statutes Article VI, 5, c).

Argentina: Denegri Ricardo

Australia: Leek Stephen

Belgium: Minet Noël (ACJ Belgique) proxy to Thiébaud Thierry

Canada: Bullen Ian

Denmark: Lindholm Steen

Estonia: Tanner Kaie

Finland: Kekkonen Reijo

France: Crette Anne Marie

Germany: Pflüger Sebastian

Guatemala: Archila Fernando

Hong Kong China: Tong Shiu-wai Leon

India: de Quadros André

Israel: Goldberg Nathalie

Italy: Fornasier Sante

Japan: Imai Kunio
Korea (Rep. of): Chang Jacob
Netherlands: Schrijner Jeroen
Norway: Lind Theodor
Panama: Perea Roger
Portugal: Santos e Castro Myguel
Singapore: Tham Jennifer
South Africa: de Beer Rudolf
Spain: Garmendia Amaia
Sweden: Klintberg Örjan
Switzerland: Helbling Guido
United Kingdom: Hill Joy
Venezuela: Gedulis Guntars
USA: Leland Diana J

4. Other members present

Schüle Thomas (Germany), Dzangare Israel (Zimbabwe), Leonardi Francesco (Italy), Angelini Andrea (Italy), Kanagawa Akihiro (Japan), Hemberg Birgit (Sweden), Lazri Gent (Albania), Greiner Sonja (Germany), Tagger Jutta (France), Ljunggren Christian (Sweden), Wold Stanley R. (USA), Mancuso Maximiliano (Argentina), De la Vega Hugo (Argentina), López Carolina (Colombia), Ollen Bengt (Sweden), Wedar Mikael (Sweden), Nilsson Bo (Sweden), Chapelliere Sylvain (France), Saint Martin Samuel (France), Correa de Paiva Carlos Ernesto (Uruguay) Mira Maria João (Portugal), Heng Sim Kok (Singapore), Duperrin Laurent (France), Quintana Lucia Esther (Guatemala), Julian Sipac Julio Edgar (Guatemala), Lenger Diego (Argentina) Ekman Frisk Lena (Sweden), Stureborg Helene (Sweden), Cadevall Montserrat (Catalonia Spain), Hanken Kåre (Norway), Farran Naomi (Israel), Vanherle Jacques (France), Jacobs Lungile (South Africa), Græsholm Niels (Denmark), Kim Dohn (Korea, Rep. of), Shani Michael (Israel), Renggli Kathrin (Switzerland), Vluggen Wim (Netherlands), Scarpetta Alejandro (Argentina), ShangKuan Pearl (USA), Armstrong Anton (USA), Garcia-Novelli Eduardo (Argentina), Varillas José Rodrigo (Argentina)

0. Welcome and introduction by Interim President

Interim President Michael Anderson greets the members and encourages them to speak up at any point of the meeting. The room has been set up in a circle in order to facilitate communication and dialogue. He then presents the Board and Staff members of IFCM. Sonja Greiner transmits the greetings of the President and Secretary General of IMC who are unfortunately stuck in Buenos Aires. Michael Anderson greets Birgit Hemberg, widow of former President Eskil Hemberg

Michael Anderson then announces changes in the agenda. The new order of agenda points will be:

1. President's Report with: Review of past 3 years / IFCM upside down / Where is IFCM going? / Vision of the Board Responsibilities
2. Changes of Statutes and Bylaws
3. Finances
4. Report on Projects
5. Elections with presentation of candidates and election results
6. Miscellaneous

1. President's Report

Review of past 3 years

IFCM upside down

Where is IFCM going?

Vision of the Board

Michael Anderson looks back at the last 3 years:

August 2008: He reminds the members of the symposium in Copenhagen and thanks Steen Lindholm for their tremendous work.

October 2009: Jean-Claude Wilkens announced at a Board meeting in Namur that he would leave IFCM in 6 months.

December 2008: Advertisements for new Secretary General, but unclear about funding. It was not clear which funding IFCM had.

Early and mid-2009: During several Executive Committee (ExCom) meetings there were interviews for the post of Secretary General without result.

October 2009: the General Assembly met in Örebro (thanks to Fred Sjöberg). At the end of the meeting IFCM Staff Member Christina Kühlewein resigned. IFCM was unable to employ Nadine Robin, so she was released. She negotiated a deal whereby she would work as freelancer for six months, after which she worked with no salary.

March 2010: The International Center for Choral Music in Namur had to be closed, President Lupwishi Mbuyamba was not present at the meeting. Véronique Bour, employed by ICCM for 20 years, had to be laid off.

The ExCom confronted Lupwishi Mbuyamba (who arrived a day later), about his lack of leadership. They asked him to step down as President, but remain on the ExCom. Lupwishi Mbuyamba then resigned.

July 2010: The Board met in Barcelona (thanks to Montserrat Cadevall). They realized that there was no office, no staff, and no clear view on how much money was available. Since it was becoming impossible for the Interim President/ExCom to handle all the work alone, Board members were involved in the work and Task Forces were formed to discuss important matters. At this point Michael felt that IFCM had a chance.

September 2010: Following her marriage to an American, Nadine Robin moved to USA, received a green card and was rehired on full-time basis. She is now the only full-time paid staff member of IFCM.

November 2010: The Board decided to focus on the most important points. One important point was to sign a contract with China for the 2012 World Choral Summit (WCS), which will also bring money to IFCM.

March 2011: The next important issue was to discuss the venue of the next IFCM Symposium. The ExCom met at the ACDA convention in Chicago (thanks to Tim Sharpe).

June 2011: The ExCom met in Legnano, Italy, discussing how IFCM could be involved in the 2015 World Expo.

July 2011: There were meetings about the WCS in Hong Kong and Royce Saltzman was invited to join. He is helping build the World Choral Summit in China.

August 2011: The present symposium in Puerto Madryn is amazing even though it is diplomatic. The local organizers had the strength to move on despite all odds—symbolic metaphor for IFCM.

In Barcelona the Board made a time-line with things to be done:

Within 3 months:

- File taxes in USA (done)
- Verify non-profit statutes (done)
- Create legal committee (done)
- Newsletter for membership (done)
- Bank account in Chicago (done), account in Namur retained
- Work on website (done)
- Do fundraising (not yet)
- Membership drive (not yet)

- Job descriptions for Boards, President and Vice-President (not yet)
- Shipping ICB from other country (done)
- Book-keeping up to date (finished)
- Determine the need for Board insurance (in progress)

Within 6 months:

- Prepare a budget for 2011 (done)
- Close 2010 books (in progress)
- Identify which projects should continue and which should not (done)

IFCM upside down – in the past the leadership was formed with the IFCM ExCom at the top of the pyramid, followed by the Board, followed by the membership. The Board was not so much asked to approve things, but more to carry decisions back into their countries.

This model does not work anymore. It should now be put upside down. The membership should be on top, then below the Board should make decisions, the ExCom is then in charge for the process of putting the decisions into practice on the daily basis.

The suggested changes in the statutes have been written with this idea in mind. At this General Assembly, different from past General Assemblies, there will be no reports—there are more important things to discuss.

The original mission of IFCM was to be an *umbrella*, bringing together seven national and international choral organizations to exchange ideas and talk to each other. However, it turned out that IFCM had to fight for the same funds, similar projects, etc. Now it is necessary to put IFCM “back to the top” so that it will not compete with its (founding) members—put it back at the pinnacle.

- 2012 World Choral Summit, Beijing
- 2013 World Expo, there is the idea to plan a 2nd Youth Forum in the USA as a follow-up activity of Caen.
- 2014 Next symposium in Seoul, Korea
- Greater focus on Conductors Without Borders
- More focus on Children’s Choirs
- Publish a “juried” journal, where academics can publish scholarly texts: “International Choral Journal”
- Composers’ Corner—more emphasis exchanging idea with living composers

2. Motions on Statutes voted in Copenhagen / Suggested amendments of the Statutes and Bylaws:

2.1 Motions on Statutes voted in Copenhagen

At the 2010 Board meeting in Barcelona, an ad hoc Legal Committee was formed (with Susan Knight, Chair, Christian Graces, Ricardo Denegri, Thomas Rabbow, and later Jean Smeets). Susan Knight addressed the 2011 General Assembly, reviewing the exceptional circumstances which affected the 2011 elections, which information had been previously communicated by email to the membership, and which required resolution by the 2011 General Assembly. Susan Knight summarized the circumstances in two key points:

1. *Lawyers advised that unclear wording in the 2008 General Assembly minutes created an obstacle for the 2011 elections to proceed by the 2008 revised Statutes. The proposed solution required adoption by the 2011 General Assembly of a change of wording to the 2008 minutes, which would allow the elections to proceed according to the 2008 revised statutes.*
2. *Resolution of the problem outlined in point (1) above necessitated the extension of an extraordinary presidential nomination call to August 3rd, 2011.*

As no questions on points 1 and 2 above were forthcoming, the following two motions were put to the 2011 General Assembly:

MOTION 1: (Motion: André de Quadros. Second: Philip Brunelle)

In order to affirm that the INTENT of the 2008 General Assembly was to have the 2011 GA elections governed by the Statutes as revised at the 2008 General Assembly, the following text from the 2008 minutes be amended

From:

*“All changes relating to the election process and duration of mandates can only be effective after the **next** election. All other items are effective immediately”*

To:

*All changes relating to the election process and duration of mandates can only be effective after the **2008** election. All other items are effective immediately”.*

The General Assembly approved this motion unanimously.

MOTION 2: (Motion: André de Quadros. Second : Annemarie Van Der Walt)

“The 2011 GA approves this one-time extension of the presidential nomination deadline to August 3, 2011.”

The General Assembly approved this motion unanimously.

2.2 Proposals of amendments of the statutes and bylaws

2.2.1 Amendments of the statutes

Susan Knight explains that on demand of the General Assembly in Copenhagen (2008) the Legal Committee has made a comprehensive revision of the Statutes. She proposes the revised articles to the General Assembly article by article, to be voted on.

2.2.3 Consequences of changes of statutes

All the changes of statutes and bylaws have been adopted with the necessary majority of 2/3 of the membership present. The General Assembly votes on the fact that the changes of statutes shall be applied immediately.

In favour: 50

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

This has the consequence that the General Assembly shall appoint **2 financial auditors (see below)**

3. Finances

Michael Anderson explains the situation on the accounts 2011 and the budget for 2011.

The line on Opus Choral will be taken out since according to Jutta Tagger Opus Choral has been liquidated in October 2010 and there is no money left. However, there has been no official communication about this.

Treasurer Philip Brunelle reports that it was difficult to get an overview on finances, among other reasons because the money was on three different accounts. Noël Minet was very helpful in Belgium to try to clarify the situation. The banks in Belgium partly blocked the accounts because they still had the name of the previous President Lupwishi Mbuyamba.

IFCM had lost its tax-exempt status in the USA and a lawyer helped to get this fixed (offering his work for free). An audit may also be offered free of costs, once the figures will be clear.

Once these two issues are clarified, IFCM can start to fundraise for specific projects. The projects in China (World choral Summit 2012) and in Korea (World Symposium on Choral Music 2014) should be income-bringing and help IFCM's solvency.

The General Assembly votes on the finances as presented:

In favour: 49

Against: 1

Abstention: 0

Afterwards the General Assembly votes on the budget 2011

In favour: 48

Against: 0

Abstention: 2

Michael Anderson apologizes for the fact that the finances were not presented completely and a budget for 2012 could not be presented at this point. He asks the membership for understanding.

4. Project reports

Nadine Robin will get a pay-rise, decided by the Board, and was given the title "Office Manager." Also the Board decided to give Francesco Leonardi the title of "Project Manager," he will support IFCM for projects as a volunteer.

In 2015 the World Expo will be in Milano. The ExCom preparing this has been asked to assist with the inclusion of choral music in to the agenda of the World Expo. The idea is to have **a choral festival lasting for 12 months, with at least one choir from every country that will be represented in the World Expo.** The group preparing this in Italy is hoping that IFCM will help to find choirs for this project. The decisions about this are expected for end of the year.

One further effect of the closing of ICCM was that the **World Youth Choir** was left without an office and without staff members. There were some periods with little communication about the project. At the end of 2010 a new foundation was created, with a seat in The Hague, in cooperation between IFCM, Jeunesses Musicales International, and the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat. So far there is no staff member in the office, but the project is developing. Unfortunately the 2011 summer session had to be cancelled despite great efforts from Daniel Garavano to try to save the session. It was the first time in 21 years that the WYC session had to be

cancelled, and it was a great pity to have to do this. Now the focus is on trying to secure sessions for the coming years.

The **World Symposium on Choral Music 2014** will happen in Korea. Michael Anderson was in Korea and already received a signed contract from the National Theatre that will host the symposium. Ambassador Dho has done everything to make this possible. The STEP Foundation is one of the funders of the symposium and an agreement was made up with them.

The **World Choral Summit in Beijing, China, 15 – 22 July 2012**, gets the help of a non-profit foundation, Music Connection, set up in Hong Kong, which will have a multiple purpose, to help and support the World Choral Summit, but also support the Hong Kong Treble Choir Association, and choral music in Hong Kong. Five choirs, one from each continental region, is invited, along with the Asia-Pacific Youth Choir. You can participate in the summit as an individual or with your choir. There will also be a competition.

Christian Grases reports about the **World Choral Day** – the 2nd Sunday of December. Last year there were 23 nations represented, now the text is available in 24 languages. For the first time the world was divided into three regions with a coordinator for each region to promote the project in that region. There are concerts, festivals, Christmas concerts etc., but in some countries they simply read out the declaration or they organize flashmobs. The theme in 2011 will be “choir aid” and “solidarity” to show how choral music can bring people together in times of need, also thinking about the many catastrophes which happened in 2011. Francesco Leonardi will become the coordinator for this project.

5. Election

5.1 Presentation of candidates

The candidates to the Board present at the General Assembly present themselves in alphabetical order:

- Eric Banks, USA
- Philip Brunelle, USA
- Rudolf de Beer, South Africa
- Young-Shim Dho, Rep. Korea was presented by her assistant Darrell Kennedy, since she was not able to come due to professional engagements in Korea and the impossibility to return on time with the flights cancelled
- Naomi Faran, Israel
- Saeko Hasegawa, Japan
- Diego Lenger, Argentina

- Montserrat Rios Hevia, Catalonia/Spain was presented by Montserrat Cadevall since she could not be present for health reasons

Further candidates not present at the General Assembly:

- Bernard Giot, Belgium
- Duane R. Karna, USA
- Cara Tasher, USA
- Kari Turunen, Finland

Candidates announced originally, but who have withdrawn or were not eligible, as candidatures because they were not in good standing at the time of submitting their candidature:

- Lungile Jacobs, South Africa
- Aurelio Porfiri, Italy/Macau

5.2 Voting Rights

Susan Knight calls for three members to do the counting of votes. The following members volunteer:

- Jutta Tagger
- Lungile Jacobs
- Steen Lindholm

She then presents the voting rights according to the new statutes voted for by the General Assembly before. She checks that all countries which are represented at the General Assembly

5.3 Presidential elections

Even though there is only one candidate to the Presidency, there is a secret ballot.

Election Result: Altogether 49 ballots were returned and were valid. Michael Anderson, USA was elected President with 43 votes in favor and 6 votes against. (88% positive votes).

5.4 Election of the Board

49 Ballots were returned. All were valid.

Election Result: The following Board members were elected:

- Young-Shim Dho, Rep. Korea - 34
- Saeko Hasegawa, Japan – 34
- Philip Brunelle, USA - 31
- Diego Lenger, Argentina – 30
- Rudolf de Beer, South Africa – 19

The following candidates were not elected:

- Kari Turunen, Finland – 17
- Montserrat Rios Hevia, Catalonia/Spain – 15
- Eric Banks, USA – 10
- Naomi Faran, Israel – 8
- Duane R. Karna, USA – 3
- Cara Tasher, USA – 3
- Bernard Giot, Belgium - 1

After the General Assembly the newly elected Board had its first meeting. During this meeting they:

- Co-opted the following persons to the Board:
 - Stephen Leek, Australia (who was co-opted for 6 years by the GA in Copenhagen)
 - Susan Knight, Canada
 - A third cooption will be filled in as soon as possible by the most appropriate person
- elected the other members of the Executive Committee:
 - 1st Vice-President:
Tong Shiu-wai Leon, Hong-Kong, China
 - Other Vice-Presidents (in alphabetical order):
Brunelle Philip, USA
Hasegawa Saeko, Japan
Leek Stephen, Australia
Pavlovitch Theodora, Bulgaria
 - Treasurer:
Wickström Håkan, Finland

The Board could not co-opt any youth representatives because there is currently no youth committee to nominate candidates. Therefore these co-optations shall be done later.

5.5 Election of Financial Auditors

Montserrat Cadevall from Catalonia, Spain, volunteers to serve as financial auditor. Philip Brunelle nominates Anne Meier Baker from Chorus America as second auditor. The Board unanimously elects these two financial auditors.

5.6 Election of a Legal Committee

Michael Anderson asks for candidates to the Legal Committee. There is one candidate: Mr. Örjan Klintberg (Sweden). The motion is put forward that the Board shall exceptionally be allowed to fill the two other places until the next General Assembly. Members are

welcome to send proposals to the Board if they can think of persons who would be good for the legal committee. This motion is put to the General Assembly which votes on the motion with

In favor: 54

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

Miscellaneous / other issues

A minute of silence is kept in memory of Boniface Mganga, former advisor of IFCM who recently passed away.

Michael Anderson reports that the Board had originally planned to divide the General Assembly into discussion groups on Finances/Fundraising, Membership, Projects. Because time is limited, Michael Anderson asks the General Assembly if they have any questions or comments about any of these themes.

Sonja Greiner asks about the Youth Committee since theoretically the Board would have to appoint two (2) youth representatives. Michael Anderson confirms that currently there is no functioning Youth Committee. The Board suggested that it would make sense at the moment to wait until a new Youth Committee will be formed, before appoint youth representatives to the Board.

Jacques Vanherle moves that the General Assembly shall approve of the fact that the contract according to which CIC has to pay royalties to the IFCM be cancelled due to the special circumstances and in order to avoid that the CIC Foundation will run into a substantial deficit. Different persons (Sonja Greiner, Anton Armstrong) like to reformulate the motion. The Board shall be charged with checking the final result of the Symposium finances before taking the final decision.

The motion is accepted with

In favor: 48

Against: 0

Abstention: 6

There were about 500 or 600 participants attending the symposium, about half of them from Latin America, plus around 700 singers from choirs.

Michael Anderson recognizes Maya Shavit, Susan Knight, Daniel Garavano, Thomas Rabbow, Victoria Liedbergius and Catalina Prieto as outgoing Board members.

At the end of the General Assembly the members thank Daniel Garavano and his team for the tremendous work they have been doing.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Smeets
Board Member IFCM

With thanks to Sonja Greiner