

IFCM 2026 Elections

Application Form for Elections of the Board



Given names: AMBROISE
Family name: KUA-NZAMBI TOKO
Date of birth (Day/Month/Year): 06/03/1963

Residential address (Postal Code & City): BP 9991 KIN 1
Street and number: 04 BIS MADUDA – BANDAL-MAKELELE
Country of residence: DR CONGO

Please note that according to IFCM Bylaws the attribution to the regions of the world depends only on the country of residence, not on possible nationalities of a candidate.

Region of the world:

- North America
- Latin America and Caribbean
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Middle East and North Africa
- Northern & Western Europe and Israel
- Central-Eastern & South-Eastern Europe
- Asia (Central, East and South)
- Oceania (Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific)

Email: kuanzambi@yahoo.fr
Phone: +243999958469 **Website (if applicable):**
<https://www.facebook.com/KuaNzambiToko>

Spoken language(s): French – Lingala – Kikongo – English (60%)
Place of employment: AFRICAN ACADEMY OF CHORAL MUSIC AT KINSHASA
Title at your employment: DIRECTOR

For individual members - IFCM membership number:

For candidates nominated by member choirs or member organizations:

My candidacy is supported by / I am nominated as candidate by: African Confederation for Choral Music
(name of member choir or member organisation, country in which the choir/organisation is based)

IFCM membership number of the choir or organisation: 5013

Please outline your experience/involvement in the IFCM to date:

Since 1977, I've devoted myself to musical composition, and since 1980 to choral conducting. I direct 3 ensembles: Schola Cantorum, Chœur d'Hommes du Centenaire, and Chœur La Grâce. With Chœur La Grâce only, we've performed 289 concerts in 113 cities worldwide and participated in 42 international festivals, including 2 editions of the World Symposium and two editions of the Choralies de Vaison-la-Romaine (2007, 2025). My career includes active participation in 4 editions of the World Symposium (Tokyo, Istanbul, Barcelona, Seoul), 2 editions of the Namur en Chœur festival (2007 and 2015), including the 25th anniversary of IFCM in Namur (2007), as well as 3 IFCM General Assemblies (Mainz, Bremen, Tokyo). I also took part in Crossing Voice in Cotonou (2014), in the recruitment of Congolese singers for the World Youth Choir (South Africa and Pécs), in 2 editions of Europa Cantat (Mainz&Pécs) as presenter, and 2 editions of Africa Cantat (Kenya and Cameroon).

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I've conducted workshops and communication sessions at the World Choral Expo in Lisbon (2019), at Namur en Chœur (2007), at WSCM in Barcelona (2018), and at the first International Workshop of African Choirs in Namibia (2001) as Congolese representative. I'm individual member of IFCM and Chœur La Grâce too since 2000, I've published numerous articles in the ICB review since that year (2000). Institutionally, I was the first President of the Congolese Federation of Choral Music and the first conductor of the African Youth Choir of the African Confederation for Choral Music, of which I am a co-founder. I contributed to the creation of several national choral federations in Africa and encouraged many young conductors to affiliate with IFCM. I served as "Advisor" to IFCM in 2005 and as "Ambassador" in 2014 with the African Youth Choir. I'm also member of: World Choir Games Council since 2004, A Cœur Joie International Council since 2005. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, I initiated several festivals, some of which were published in ICB: the Festival of Congolese Composers, the Choral Festival Choristes, Glorifie ton ministère (2002), the Jubilee of Veterans of the Choral Movement in Congo (2003 and 2006), as well as two editions of the Intercommunity Festival of Male Choirs. I was also the first Artistic Director of the Africa Cantat festival, planned to be held in Kinshasa. My career has been recognized with 14 individual awards and 13 collective awards with Chœur La Grâce, including the Gold Medal of Artistic Merit, the Bronze Medal of Scientific Merit, the "Special Commendation" prize from the International Music Council, as well as two honorary doctorates (TBU Canada and Triune Biblical University, USA). As a choral music editor, I have published several anthologies of choral works and three books dedicated to the voice, African music, and in-depth reflections on the art of choral music (Mélopées sacrées). I founded the African Academy of Choral Music and, more recently, the International Center for Publishing and Research in Musical Innovations (CIERIM), subsidized by the Congolese government. Finally, I've led numerous workshops on African choral music in the DRC, across Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Please write a short text to present your vision as a Board member (Max 300 words in English):

Dear colleagues. For more than twenty-five years, my commitment within the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM), encouraged since the year 2000 by Lupwishi Mbuyamba, has opened the doors of the global choral network to me. Thanks to this affiliation, I've been able to raise Africa's voice high, participating in more than 60 international festivals and performing in over 130 cities worldwide. My journey is living proof of what IFCM can offer to a choral actor: opportunities, visibility, and international momentum. Today, I want to dedicate myself to convincing choirs, associations, and African choral leaders to join IFCM, so that our continent may have a strong and active presence, capable of sharing with the world the very best it has to offer. I carry two dreams: First, to see IFCM significantly involved in the development of the African choral movement, by launching the major projects our continent truly needs. Second, to see Africa take its rightful place on the international stage of the global choral movement, contributing fully to its evolution. These dreams are achievable. I believe in them deeply. With your trust, we can make them a reality. Together, let's place Africa at the heart of the world choral movement.

Monday, April 20, 2026 at 2:19:13 PM Central Daylight Time

Subject: Candidacy from Ambroise Kua-Nzambi Toko for IFCM Board
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 at 6:11:28 am Central Daylight Time
From: Yveline DAMAS
To: Nadine Robin
CC: Ambroise KUA-NZAMBI TOKO

On behalf of African Confederation for Choral Music (ACCM), I am please to confirm the nomination of Ambroise Kua-Nzambi Toko, member of our association, as a candidate of ACCM for the IFCM Board during the upcoming elections of september 2026.

Best regards

Yveline DAMAS

Born in Kinshasa, DRC, Ambroise is recognized as a composer, choir conductor, researcher, essayist, and cultural operator. He currently serves as Director of the African Academy of Music, National Music Director of Congolese Protestant Church and is a member of both ACJ International and the World Choir Games Councils. In addition, he teaches choral singing, vocal technique, and acoustics.

Ambroise is the founder and artistic director of several choral festivals in the DR Congo. His academic and artistic training is remarkably diverse, encompassing singing, African music, composition, physics and computer sciences, and choir conducting. He pursued advanced studies with A Cœur Joie International, including a high-level session on choral conducting in 2005. He currently directs three Congolese choirs: *Chœur La Grâce* of Kinshasa, *Schola Cantorum* and the Men's Choir of the Centennial Protestant Cathedral.

As a prolific author, he has published collections such as *African Traditional, Contemporary and Popular Songs*, *Florilège de Chants inédits de Noël*, *Minkunga mia Afrika*, *Zaburi*, and *Nativitas*. With *Chœur La Grâce*, he has created landmark productions and choral shows including *Zimboka za bantu*, *Zingana*, *Mélopées d'Afrique noire*, *Humanité des humains*, ... From 2012 to 2015, he served as the first conductor of the African Youth Choir. His international career includes more than 140 workshops and 310 concerts in 113 cities with Chœur la Grace and in more than 20 cities individually across Europe, Africa, and Asia, with participation in 42 international festivals alongside his choir and more than 15 individually.

Ambroise has been selected for four editions of the World Symposium on Choral Music (Kyoto 2005, Seoul 2014, Barcelona 2017, Istanbul 2023). He has conducted workshops and presented communications at major events such as the *Choralies de Vaison-La-Romaine* (2007,2010,2013,2016,2019,2025), *Europa Cantat* (2005,2015), the *World Choral Expo* (Lisbon 2019), the *World Forum on Music* (Paris 2019), *Africa Cantat* (Cameroon 2023), and *Cross the Voices* (2013).

His awards include: the Wallonia-Brussels choral Artist of the DR Congo's Fiftieth Anniversary(2010) ; the International Music Council "Special Commendation" Prize ; six African choral prizes, National Prize of Culture and Arts (2014), the "Optimum Kantor" Trophy (2017), the Gold Medal for Artistic Merit (2023), and the Bronze Medal for Scientific Merit (2024). He is also the author of four books—*Mélopées sacrées*, *La Voix decryptée* and *African Music: Generalities and Singularities*—as well as numerous articles published in *ICB* (IFCM), *Chanter* (A Cœur Joie Québec), and *Tuimbe* (African Confederation of Choral Music). He is the creator of the *Aktonic System* (*Mimin'si*), a new musical notation, and holds two honorary doctorates in musical art and hymnology from Triune Biblical University (Canada & USA).

With *Chœur La Grâce* and *Schola Cantorum*, he contributed to the recognition of Congolese rumba as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage by defining its choral version, presented at the Istanbul Symposium, the Karditsa Festival (Greece), and the Choralies2025.

Through his multifaceted career, Ambroise embodies the union of artistic excellence, scientific inquiry, and cultural leadership, positioning African choral music at the forefront of the global stage.