

IFCM 2026 Elections

Application Form for Elections of the President



Given names: Burak Onur

Family name: Erdem

Date of birth (Day/Month/Year): 27.04.1986

Residential address (Postal Code & City): 06490 Ankara

Street and number: Y. Bahçelievler 82. Sok 21/11

Country of residence: Türkiye

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: burakonurerdem@gmail.com

Phone: +90 532 012 27 43

Website (if applicable):

www.burakonurerdem.com

Spoken language(s): English, German, Turkish

Place of employment: Turkish State Choir

Title at your employment: Principal Conductor

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: European Choral Association
(name of member choir or member organisation, country in which the choir/organisation is based)

IFCM membership number of the choir or organisation:

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

I have been serving in the board of IFCM since 2018, first as a representative of European Choral Association (of which I have been the vice-president), and later as elected board member. Since 2023, I have acted as vice-president of IFCM. I have been the festival director at WSCM 2023 Istanbul and have taken part in many projects of IFCM actively as committee member (World Choral Expo, Composition Competition, World Choral Day, Conductors Beyond Borders, Youth Committee Work, Artistic Committees, and many more...)

Please attach a detailed description of your vision for the future of IFCM and how you want to shape it as future president, should you be elected.

It is in the attachment as a separate document.

European Choral Association | Weberstr. 59A - DE 53113 Bonn

IFCM (International Federation for Choral Music)

Nomination Letter – To whom it may concern

I, Sonja Greiner, Secretary General of the European Choral Association (founding) member of IFCM – International Federation for Choral Music hereby nominate:

Burak Onur Erdem, Türkiye
from the region of Central-Eastern & South-Eastern Europe
as candidate for the IFCM presidency

I hereby confirm that, by decision of our executive board, the European Choral Association fully supports the candidature of Burak Onur Erdem and that we are a member in good standing (having paid our 2026 membership fee) at the time of signing this letter.

Bonn, April 8th 2026



Sonja Greiner
European Choral Association



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Dr. Burak Onur Erdem is the Artistic Director of the Turkish State Choir and Vice-President of the International Federation for Choral Music.

Educated at the Deutsche Schule Istanbul, he graduated with high honours and the Rector's Prize from Boğaziçi University (Political Science & International Relations). He holds a Master's in Music Theory and a Ph.D. in Conducting from the ITU Centre for Advanced Studies in Music, and completed postgraduate studies in Choral Conducting under Prof. Johannes Prinz at Kunstuniversität Graz. He has received further training through masterclasses with Maria Guinand, Frieder Bernius, Volker Hempfling, Anders Eby among others. His early years as a performer were marked by prizes in the Jugend Musiziert competitions in Cairo, Athens, Rome, and Nürnberg.

As Artistic Director of the Turkish State Choir since 2017, he has conducted over fifty a cappella concerts in Türkiye and abroad, prepared major choral-orchestral programmes, and conducted premieres of numerous Turkish choral works. Under his direction the choir delivers education concerts for schools and universities, outreach programmes for children from across Türkiye, and Sing-Along concerts that bring together amateur choirs and audiences on the same stage. In 2025, the Turkish State Choir hosted the TENSÖ Re:Connect Conference in Ankara.

He is the founder and conductor of Rezonans, a professional vocal ensemble based in Istanbul. The ensemble has won prizes at international competitions in Cork, Arezzo, Varna, and Marktobendorf — including the Best Young Conductor award — and was named Choir of the Year in Türkiye in 2017. With Rezonans he has performed across Europe and brought Turkish choral repertoire to international concert stages.

He teaches choral conducting at Bilkent University and co-founded the Walter Strauss Choral Conducting Masterclass in Ankara. He has led concerts and workshops in Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Italy, Ireland, Portugal, Hungary, Estonia, Bulgaria, and Greece.

Dr. Erdem is the founder of the Turkish Choral Culture Association. Under his leadership the association has hosted the European Choral Association's Conference in Cappadocia, organised the Mediterranean Choral Forum, founded the Turkish National Youth Choir, established an annual Choral Marathon series, initiated the Turkish Choral Music Library, and started training programmes for young conductors in the country.

Dr. Erdem served as the vice-president of the European Choral Association. He chaired the Music Commission of the Leading Voices Festival and served on music commissions for Europa Cantat Festivals. He has served as a jury member for choral competitions and festivals in Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Germany, Italy, and the European Grand Prix for Choral Singing.

Dr. Erdem has served on the IFCM Board since 2018, initially as the representative of the European Choral Association and later as an elected board member. Since 2023 he has served as Vice-President. During this period he has contributed to the federation's artistic and governance work across multiple committees — including the World Choral Expo, Composition Competition, World Choral Day, Conductors Beyond Borders, and Artistic Committees. In 2023, he served as Festival Director for the World Symposium on Choral Music in Istanbul.