

IFCM 2026 Elections

Application Form for Elections of the Board



Given names: John David
Family name: ROSSER
Date of birth (Day/Month/Year): 01/03/1957

Residential address (Postal Code & City): Auckland 1024
Street and number: 34 Henley Road, Mt Eden
Country of residence: NEW ZEALAND

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: songanddance@xtra.co.nz

Phone: +64 27 493 0606

Website (if applicable):

Spoken language(s): English, with some (descending) ability in French, German & Italian

Place of employment: Self-employed

Title at your employment: (Conductor, Artistic/Musical Director)

For individual members - IFCM membership number: 1489

For candidates nominated by member choirs or member organizations:

My candidacy is supported by / I am nominated as candidate by: NZCF (with support from ANCA)

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

IFCM membership number of the choir or organisation: (unknown)

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

2008: represented NZCF at Asia-Pacific Forum during WSCM8 in Copenhagen; 2016: won bid to host WSCM12; 2017: accepted handover from WSCM11 in Barcelona; 2020: announced Covid-cancellation of Auckland Symposium and elected to IFCM Board; 2022: moderator at WCE in Lisbon; 2023: moderator at WSCM2023 in Istanbul and re-elected to NZCF Board

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

With insights from my time as Chair of the New Zealand Choral Federation, and as Artistic Director of both the 12th World Symposium on Choral Music and the 2024 World Choir Games, I believe strongly in the importance of national and international choral organisations and the benefits they offer to individual choirs, conductors and singers. During my years on the IFCM Board I have worked to bring a strategic perspective on what the Federation does, with particular interest in the organisation of its major events. I have also been involved in the

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Governance and Election Committees, which have made real strides in streamlining IFCM's rules and processes, while aiming to widen its global reach. // In the coming years, I believe that IFCM, as the global umbrella organisation for choirs, can lean even more into the qualities of innovation, communication and transparency, while continuing to provide a suite of exciting events and learning opportunities for our members. We also need to work hard over this next term to secure IFCM's financial future in this challenging environment. // I come from a region that sits at the opposite end of the dominant Northern Hemisphere seasonal calendar and will continue to promote an understanding of the issues faced by those in more far-flung countries. That said, Oceania, which encompasses a huge part of the South Pacific, is a strong and united region and has a fine track record in supporting IFCM, its aims and activities. I am honoured that both the NZ Choral Federation and the Australian National Choral Association have again supported my nomination to the IFCM Board.

Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 10:13:23 AM Central Daylight Time

Subject: IFCM Board nomination for John Rosser
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 2:57:19 pm Central Daylight Time
From: Christine Argyle
To: office@ifcm.net
CC: Rosser John
Priority: High
Attachments: image001.jpg

Dear Nadine

I'm writing on behalf of NZCF to nominate John Rosser to the Board of IFCM. This nomination has the backing of the NZCF Board.

Kind regards
Christine

Christine Argyle
Chief Executive
New Zealand Choral Federation
Te Kotahitanga Manu Reo o Aotearoa



John Rosser CNZM MA LTCL

CONDUCTOR

Graduating MA in both Latin and Greek from the University of Auckland and with an LTCL in performance singing, John trained as a choral conductor under Professor Peter Godfrey. A foundation member of both the National Youth Choir and the New Zealand Singers, he also sang with the internationally acclaimed Dorian Choir.

in 1985 John formed the innovative and (now) highly successful a cappella chamber choir Viva Voce, which he has now led in over 500 concerts, broadcasts and recordings. He has also appeared as guest conductor for many groups, such as the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, St Matthew's Chamber Orchestra, Auckland Sinfonietta, Hamilton Civic Choir, Rotorua District Choir, South Auckland Choral Society, Whangārei Choral Society and the Auckland Bach Cantata Society. He was for several years Director of the Hamilton Music School and ran the 1996 Auckland International Festival of Choirs.

From 1996 to 2018 John was Chorus Director and Associate Conductor for New Zealand Opera. During this time he prepared more than 60 operas and conducted five, while working with a host of international conductors and singers. He has also sung as a baritone soloist with groups throughout New Zealand in much of the oratorio and cantata repertoire, and performed roles for Mercury Opera and Opera Boutique. He has given several concert recitals and recorded programmes for Radio NZ.

Frequently engaged for choral and vocal courses, radio talks, compèring, workshops and adjudication, John has also conducted many massed-choir events, including the 1000 voices at Auckland's annual outdoor extravaganza *Starlight Symphony* for 15 years. He was awarded a grant by the NZ Arts Council to attend the 2008 World Symposium on Choral Music in Copenhagen and invited to Brisbane in 2009 to conduct the inaugural ANCA Queensland Chamber Choir for the Australian National Choral Association. He was a jury member in 2023 for the World Choir Games in Korea and in 2025 for the European Choir Games and Grand Prix of Nations in Denmark.

In 2006 John was elected inaugural Chair of the New Zealand Choral Federation (NZCF) and continued to lead the Board for much of the next 12 years. Long-time National Director of both *Sing Aotearoa* and *The Big Sing*, he devised and directed the NZCF National Anthems Project for the 2011 Rugby World Cup, conducting at 13 of 14 matches himself, including the All Blacks-France final. In 2013 he organised the Tallis Project in conjunction with renowned UK ensemble The Tallis Scholars and in 2016 led NZCF's successful bid to host the World Symposium on Choral Music in Auckland, subsequently being appointed its Artistic Director. NZCF awarded him life membership in 2018 and a Distinguished Service Award in 2025.

When in the wake of the Symposium's Covid-forced cancellation NZCF was awarded hosting rights to the 2024 World Choir Games, John was appointed its Artistic & Games Director. WCG2024 proved a significant artistic, logistical and economic success, winning Best Major/Mega Event and NZ's Favourite Event at the national 2024/25 NZEA Awards.

John is on the Board of the International Federation for Choral Music and a member of the World Choir Council. In the 2022 New Year's Honours List, he was made Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) for services to choral music.