

IFCM 2026 Elections

Run to be part of the new Board



Given names: Ki **Family name:** Adams
Date of birth (Day/Month/Year): 7 February 1949
Residential address: 16 Forest Avenue
Street and number: St. John's, NL A1C 3J9
Country: Canada **Email:** kiadams@mun.ca
Phone: 1-709-351-0467 **Website (if applicable):** <http://www.singingnetwork.ca/about/directors/>
Spoken language(s): English
Place of employment: Memorial University of Newfoundland (retired university professor)
Title at your employment: Honourary Research Professor
IFCM membership number: 41335

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

IFCM board member (2017-2023); Vice-President/Secretary (2020-2023)
Contributing writer/editor for International Choral Magazine and IFCMeNEWS (2018-2023)
2023 World Symposium on Choral Music (Istanbul) – Chair, Administrative Committee
World Youth Choir Foundation President (2019-2023), Treasurer (2017-2018)
Co-Director of EXchange! – academic component of IFCM World Choral EXPO (Lisbon, 2019, 2022)
2020 World Symposium on Choral Music (Auckland) - Administrative Committee member
Shanghai Cooperation Organization Countries' Youth Choir (2019-) - Artistic Committee Chair
IFCM Choral Education Conference (Beijing, 2018) - lecturer and jury member
China Inner Mongolia International Choral Week (Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, 2018) - lecturer
Delegate at three World Symposia: 6th World Symposium in Minneapolis (2002), 7th World Symposium in Kyoto (2005), 11th World Symposium in Barcelona (2017)
Since 2001 I have been involved in the following international (IFCM related/supported) projects:
Songbridge (2001, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Newfoundland Symphony Youth Choir)
Songbridge (2003, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. Festival 500: Sharing the Voices)
World Youth Choir (2018, 2010, national recruiter for Canadian applicants)
America Cantat 8 (2016, Bahamas. Artistic Committee member)
Europa Cantat (2012, Torino. Exhibitor for Festival 500)
Europa Cantat (2018, Tallinn; 2015, Pécs. Delegate)
Polyfolia (2010, 2008, 2006, 2004. Invited festival organizer)

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

I envision the International Federation for Choral Music as a global leader in reimagining the role of collective singing in our time - an organization that not only celebrates artistic excellence, but actively reshapes how excellence itself is understood, valued, and experienced across cultures.

Inspired by organizational models that emphasizing inclusivity, cultural exchange, and the social power of the voice, I believe the IFCM can foster spaces where artistic expression and social purpose are inseparable. In this vision, choral music becomes a powerful vehicle for dialogue, belonging, and connection - bringing together singers, educators, and communities in ways that reflect the full diversity of human experience.

This requires us to move beyond narrow or hierarchical definitions of artistry. Excellence in choral music is not singular or universal; it is culturally grounded and context specific. Each singing tradition carries its own forms of virtuosity, knowledge, and beauty. The role of IFCM, as I see it, is to honour these differences, not by measuring them against one standard, but by creating conditions where each can be experienced with depth, integrity, and respect.

I am committed to an IFCM that embraces a true “both/and” philosophy, i.e., welcoming professional and community ensembles, Western and non-Western traditions, formal and informal practices. In this inclusive vision, difference is not an obstacle to overcome, but a source of artistic richness and human understanding.

As a board member, I would advocate for programming, partnerships, and leadership practices that challenge exclusion, amplify voices historically marginalized, and foster meaningful cross-cultural exchange. This means not only presenting diverse traditions, but engaging with them on their own terms and cultivating relationships grounded in curiosity, humility, and mutual respect.

I believe the IFCM has the potential to redefine what international choral gatherings can achieve. These spaces can move beyond performance alone to become sites of encounter—where dialogue deepens, perspectives shift, and belonging is actively built. Through collective singing, we can bridge divides, strengthen communities, and contribute to a more just and connected world.

Ultimately, my vision is for the IFCM to stand as a living model of what is possible when artistic ambition is paired with social responsibility: an organization that reflects the full breadth of global singing traditions and demonstrates the transformative power of collective voice.

Prof Ki Adams

Memorial University (retired professor)
Honourary Professor of Research, Faculty of Education

Citizenship: Canada & USA
Residency: Canada

updated 2026.04.15

EDUCATION

1966-1971 B.Mus.Ed. (Organ). Evangel College, Springfield, Missouri, USA
1971-1973 M.Mus. (Applied Organ). Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, USA
1982-1984 Diploma of Fine Arts: Kodály Concept of Music Education. University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
1988-1990 Orff Certification, Levels I, II, III. Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA
1993-2001 Doctoral studies (Music Education) ABD. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA

EMPLOYMENT

1995-2015 Memorial University of Newfoundland, Faculty of Education & School of Music
Graduate and undergraduate courses: Orientation to Music Education, Primary and Elementary School Methods, Voice and Choral Methods, Applied Organ, Context of Music Education, Teaching from the Podium, Musicianship-Pedagogy-Learning, Choral Conducting Seminar, Vocal/Choral Pedagogy, Singing Traditions and Practices

1989-1995 Education Consultant (Music) – Department of Education, Government of NL

1974-1989 Music Specialist – Eugene Vaters Academy & Collegiate, St. John’s, NL
Grades K-12. Comprehensive music program based on musical literacy through a vocal/choral experience in which choirs were an extension of the classroom music program

2001-present Director of Music (Organist/Choirmaster), St. Thomas’ Church, St. John’s, NL

1992-2001 Organist, Gower Street United Church, St. John’s, NL

1982-1992 Organist/Choirmaster, Cochrane Street United Church, St. John’s, NL

1975-1982 Organist/Choirmaster, St. David’s Presbyterian Church, St. John’s, NL

1997-1998 Instructor: University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Education, Department of C&I

1991, 1992 Instructor: Kodály Summer Certification Program, University of Western Ontario

1990 Instructor: The Kodály Approach to Music Education Summer Diploma Program, Acadia University

1987 Instructor: Early Childhood Education degree program, Cabot Institute of Trades and Technology

AWARDS

2015 Dean’s Award (Faculty of Education, Memorial University) - Excellence in Teaching
2020 Distinguished Service Award, Choral Canada
2021 Honourary Life Member, Canadian Music Educators Association
2023 Honourary Life Membership, Kodály Society of Canada

LEADERSHIP in PROFESSIONAL, COMMUNITY, and GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

2023-2026 HarbourVOICES! International Festival of Collective Singing Traditions – Co-Artistic Director

2017-2026 International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) – Vice President (2020-2023), Board Member (2017-2026)

2017-2026 World Youth Choir Foundation – President (2019-2025), Treasurer (2017-2018)

2020-2023 2023 *World Symposium on Choral Music* (Istanbul, Türkiye) - Chair, Administrative Committee

2019, 2022 World Choral EXPO *EXchange!* Lisbon, Portugal - Co-Director

2019 *Sing Together! Workshop/Hymn Festival on Congregational Singing and Building Community* - Co-Chair

2019-2020 Shanghai Cooperation Organization Countries’ Youth Choir - Chair, Artistic Committee

2018-2020 12th *World Symposium on Choral Music* (Auckland, NZ) - Administrative Committee Member

2016-2018 *PODIUM on the EDGE: Singing from Sea to Sea to Sea*. Choral Canada’s biennial conference - Co-Chair

2018, 2015 *International Symposia on Singing and Song* - Co-Director

2014-present The Singing Network – Co-Founder and Co-Director

2004-2014 Choral Canada (formerly Association of Canadian Choral Communities) - Past-President (2012-2014), President (2010-2012), President-Elect (2008-2010), board member (2004-2008)

2001-2005 International Kodály Society - Secretary-Treasurer

1991-1995 Kodály Society of Canada - Past-President (1995-1999), President (1991-1995)

1996-2002 Royal Canadian College of Organists (Avalon Chapter) - President (2000-2002), Secretary (1996-1997)

2007 Pan-Canadian Music Education Think Thank II - Co-Chair

1997-2013 Festival 500 *Sharing the Voices* Choral Festival – Co-Artistic Director

1999-2013 Phenomenon of Singing International Symposia - Co-Director

1999, 2002/14 Canada Council of the Arts – Peer Assessment Choir Committee jury member

1976-2014 Department of Education Curriculum Committees: Senior High Music Education Steering Committee, Primary/Elementary Music Working Group, Music Curriculum Advisory Committee, Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation (APEF) Arts Education Committee, Senior High Music Working Group, Foundation Program Working Group (Royal Commission Implementation Secretariat), Intermediate Music Working Group, Exploring Music (Grades 7-9) Working Group

PERFORMANCE

- 1992-2006 Newfoundland Symphony Youth Choir (now Shallaway) – Associate Conductor and Accompanist
- World premiere of *Ann and Séamus*, commissioned chamber opera (Stephen Hatfield) (2006)
 - Healey Willian Grand Prize - 14th CBC Radio National Competition for Amateur Choirs (2002)
 - ECMA (East Coast Music Association) 2001, Best Classical Recording Award for *At the Rim of the Carol-Singing Sea* (2001)
 - *Let the Peoples Sing* finalist (European Broadcasting Union's choral competition). London, UK (2001)
 - Songbridge 2001. Vancouver, BC (2001)
 - CBC-TV national broadcast - *At the Rim of the Carol-Singing Sea* (2000)
 - ECMA 2000, Best Classical Recording Award for *Reaching from the Rock* (2000)
 - World premiere of *Full Circle* (commissioned by Stephen Hatfield) at the Arrival of the Islandingur and Viking Sail with Skólakór Kársness (Iceland), and S'et A'Newey Mi'kmaq Choir. L'Anse aux Meadows (2000)
 - 4th International Choral Sympaatti for Children's and Youth Choirs. Helsinki, Joensuu, Oulainen, Oulu, and Turku, Finland (1999)
 - CBC Radio Two national broadcast - *Make We Merrie* (1998)
- 1996-2005 CD Recordings with Newfoundland Symphony Youth Choir - Associate Conductor and Accompanist, Co-Producer, researcher for and author of liner notes
Quest (2004), *Full Circle* (2001), *At the Rim of the Carol-Singing Sea* (1999), *Reaching from the Rock* (1998), *Rock Within the Sea: Folksong of Newfoundland* (1996)
- 2011, 2007 Festival 500 Corner Brook Regional Festival - Massed Youth Project, conductor
2004 Lift Every Voice: Felician International Choral Festival - Massed Choir, conductor
- 1992-2015 Organist: MUN Choirs, MUN Convocation, Festival 500 Grande Finale Concerts, MUN Concert Band, Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra, CBC *Musicraft*, Cochrane Street United Church Summer Organ Recital Series, RCCO Annual Scholarship Recital, St. Andrews' Bach Anniversary Recital Series, 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Installation of the Casavant Organ (1957).

PAPERS and PRESENTATIONS

- International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) Choral Education Conference*. Beijing, China (2018)
China Inner Mongolia International Choral Week. Hohhot, Inner Mongolia (2018)
Music Conference Alberta (Choir Alberta & Alberta Kodály Association). Banff, Alberta (2016)
International Society for Music Education (ISME) *World Conferences*. Glasgow, Scotland (2016), Porto Alegre, Brazil (2014), Thessaloniki, Greece (2012), Beijing, China (2010), Bologna, Italy (2008), Tenerife, Spain (2004), Edmonton, Alberta (2000)
Foro Coral Americano. San Juan, Argentina (2015)
Podium (Choral Canada). Halifax, Nova Scotia (2014), Victoria, British Columbia (2006)
International Symposium on Singing in Music Education: How Can Singing Belong to Everyone? Budapest, Hungary (2014)
American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Choral Symposium 2013: Music of the Americas. Fargo, North Dakota (2013)
Phenomenon of Singing International Symposium. St. John's, NL (2011, 1999, 1997)
Arts Work Conference. St. John's, NL (2011)
Pan-Canadian Music Education Think Tank. Victoria, British Columbia (2009), London, Ontario (2005)
Epiphany in England: Choral Music in Worship. Little Gidding, England (2008)
Kodály Society of Canada National Conference. Halifax, Nova Scotia (2007), Victoria, British Columbia (1995)
30th Anniversary Zoltán Kodály Pedagogical Institute of Music, Liszt Academy of Music. Kecskemét, Hungary (2005)
Nova Scotia Music Educators Conference. Truro, Nova Scotia (2002)
The World of Children's Choirs - 2001: An International Festival & Symposium. Vancouver, British Columbia (2001)
Choral Connections 2000 - Avalon East School District. St. John's, NL (2000)
Mountain Lake Colloquium for Teachers of General Music Methods. Mountain Lake, Virginia (1999, 1997)
Music Council of the NLTA Biennial Conference. St. John's, NL (1999)
Prince Edward Island Music Educators' Association Conference. Charlottetown, PEI (1998)
Kodály in Manitoba Conference. Winnipeg, Manitoba (1998)

PUBLICATIONS

- International Choral Bulletin* - International Federation for Choral Music (2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018)
Anacrusis - Choral Canada (2022, 2014)
Proceedings for *The Phenomenon of Singing International Symposium* (2013, 2011, 2009, 2007, 2005, 2003, 2001)
Canadian Music Educator Journal - Canadian Music Educators Association (2007)
Proceedings from the *Pan-Canadian Think-Tank on Music Education* (2005)
In Their Own Words: Canadian Choral Conductors (H.H. Jonas, 2001)
Teacher of Teachers: Essays in Honour of Lois Choksy (E. Cramer & J. Panagapka, 1998)