



WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC 2029

IFCM is seeking Expressions of Interest from organisations keen to host this prestigious global event in 2029, or beyond!

THE OPPORTUNITY

The World Symposium on Choral Music (WSCM) is the flagship event of the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) and one of the most significant gatherings for choral singing on the planet. Since its inception in 1987, WSCM has brought together leading choirs, vocal ensembles, conductors, composers, educators, researchers, singers, and industry professionals – from across cultures, traditions, and regions – in one glorious festival!

Held every three years, across five to eight days, WSCM is a dynamic celebration of choral music that combines world-class performances, workshops, masterclasses, presentations, reading sessions, cultural exchanges, an exhibition, a fringe festival, and countless opportunities to sing with and learn from one another.

For the host city and region, WSCM is an extraordinary opportunity to showcase local choral traditions, strengthen the local and national choral community, build international partnerships, and create a lasting artistic and cultural legacy.

WHO CAN HOST WSCM?

Any national organization, institution, or consortium with the capacity and vision to deliver a major international event may submit a proposal. The Host Organization takes primary responsibility for planning and delivery, working in partnership with IFCM through joint Artistic and Administrative Committees.

WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL HOST?

The ideal Host Organization and destination will demonstrate:

- Strong artistic leadership, comprising respected conductors, educators, and other choral leaders;
- Experienced administration and financial management, with the capacity to deliver a large-scale international event;
- Excellent concert, conference, rehearsal, exhibition, and meeting facilities in a well-connected central location;
- A range of accommodation and dining options accessible to international participants;
- Strong partnerships and financial support from e.g., government, city, universities, cultural institutions, corporations, and other community partners;
- A city and region with compelling cultural, artistic, historical, and touristic appeal and good international accessibility;

- A commitment to presenting the widest possible range of collective singing traditions, styles, cultures, and artistic perspectives.

THE PROGRAM

The Host Organization will develop a distinctive theme or artistic focus for WSCM 2029, in collaboration with IFCM. The program will build on the traditional WSCM format while reflecting the host region and the contemporary global choral landscape. Participating ensembles will be encouraged to share music rooted in their own cultural traditions while engaging with the Symposium theme.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Hosting WSCM offers significant opportunities to generate revenue through sponsorship, registration, exhibition, and other locally developed partnerships. The Host Organization will retain sponsorship income it independently secures, and the financial model for registration and exhibition participation will be developed collaboratively with IFCM during the planning process. This approach is intended to provide both flexibility for the Host and shared responsibility between the Host and IFCM for the financial success of the Symposium.

The Host Organization will be responsible for developing and managing the overall WSCM budget, including the following principal costs:

- IFCM rights fee;
- Accommodation and hospitality for invited ensembles, presenters, committees, and IFCM Board and staff;
- In-person meetings of the committees throughout the planning period;
- Venue rental, technical production, pianos/keyboards, and personnel;
- Local administrative, artistic, production, insurance, and planning costs;
- Marketing, communications, website, registration, program, and promotional materials;
- IFCM exhibition space, offices, meeting facilities, and General Assembly requirements.
- Translation services as required;
- At least 10% contingency.

The final financial framework, including the respective responsibilities of the Host Organization and IFCM, will be established collaboratively as part of the WSCM planning process.

WHAT SHOULD YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST INCLUDE?

- Motivation & Vision — Why should your organization and community host WSCM?
- Host & City — What strengths, opportunities, partnerships, and legacy might you offer?
- Dates & Venues — What are the approximate dates and venues you would be considering?
- Revenue & Partnerships — What kinds of public, private, institutional, and other support might you look for?
- Governance — What organizational structure is likely to support the project?

MORE THAN AN EVENT

Hosting WSCM is an opportunity to bring the world to your community... and your community to the world. It is a chance to celebrate the extraordinary diversity of collective singing, create meaningful international connections, inspire new artistic collaborations, and leave a lasting legacy for singers and communities long after the Symposium has ended.

NEXT STEPS

To express your interest in hosting the next WSCM, or perhaps the following one in 2032, please write a brief proposal that outlines your ideas and responds to the five bulleted questions above, and email it to Nadine Robin, IFCM Office Manager, at office@ifcm.net by **01 December 2026**.

An IFCM Board member will then arrange an online conversation to learn more about your vision and answer any questions you may have.

Formal bids to host the 2029 WSCM will be invited in February/March 2027.