



WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC 2026 MACAU, 23-28 AUGUST 2026



Call for Choirs and Vocal Ensembles

Within the theme **Reimagining the Future**, the World Symposium on Choral Music 2026 aims to build on IFCM's commitment to inclusive representation across and within all regions of the world. Choirs and Vocal Ensembles are encouraged to imagine creative programs grounded in diversity through the inclusion of repertoire and performance practices that showcase different social, ethnic, geographical, and/or cultural backgrounds within each ensemble's region. Considering the music of earlier periods in your country sets the background for newer music. Including folk and popular traditions side-by-side with more academic works could serve as an aural map of the development of singing in your region. Highlighting songs with different vocal timbres and rhythmic blueprints could offer a curated journey through your musical landscape. WSCM 2026 provides a platform where we can celebrate the wonders, the richness, and the beauty of as many singing traditions as possible from across the globe while simultaneously exploring ways in which choral traditions are evolving, changing, and transforming.

WSCM 2026 encourages submissions of programs that align with the symposium theme **Reimagining the Future**, a theme that we hope embraces the richness of as many singing traditions as possible from across the globe. **Reimagining the Future** holds the potential for both probing and celebrating our choral landscape. It looks at the present (what has changed or is changing) but also to the future (what might/could be changed).

Reflect on the following questions as you think about creating your proposed programs for WSCM 2026.

- What makes collective singing in your area unique? How are ensembles constituted that might represent the broader population of your region?
- What ethnic, racial, and national groups does your choir represent in terms of repertoire, styles, aesthetics, and choir population?
- What is the nature of the relationship between the language/texts and the music that serves as their vehicle in your singing tradition?
- What are the singing practices and traditions that are generally underrepresented in your region? What are the ensembles who are working in respectful/reciprocal collaborations with indigenous music and culture bearers of their region?
- What is the relationship between Western compositional techniques and the local musical techniques including indigenous, folk, and traditional cultural practices?
- What are the innovative trends of ensemble singing in your region? How are these new developments connected with historical traditions? What are your relationships to local composers and music makers?



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- How does your ensemble work with oral traditions, i.e., singing that does not rely on Western notation and literacy, or with traditions that do not use the well-tempered, diatonic scale?

We welcome singing ensembles that practice music indigenous to their homes. We encourage all Choirs and Vocal Ensembles to become cultural ambassadors of their countries and regions, showcasing the immense wealth of their vocal traditions. This international symposium aims to celebrate the human practice of singing together.

How to Apply

All application information and materials will be submitted through email. All documents and data must be sent to wscm2026@ifcm.net.

Submission materials include the following:

- **Choir/Vocal Ensemble bio** (maximum 250 words) - including the name of the choir, city, country, and a number of singers.
- **Conductor(s) bio** (maximum 150 words)
- **Audio recording.** Provide three contrasting selections in a single stereo MP3 file. The total music time should be no longer than 15 minutes. Excerpts of longer compositions may be used. Selections must be from performances between 2023-2025. Save the document with filename <NameofEnsemble_Audio.mp3>.
- **Audio Recording Index.** Provide the following information for EACH selection on the recording: title, composer/arranger, the timing where each piece occurs on the recording, an indication as to whether this is a live performance or a studio recording, indication as to whether the recording was edited or not, and the date on which the recording was made. Save the document with filename <NameofEnsemble_AudioIndex.doc>.
- **Video recording** (strongly encouraged). In addition to the required audio recording, one video recording may be submitted to illustrate a unique visual presentation of performance staging. The video recording must be from 2023 to 2025. Provide the following information for the video: title, composer/arranger, the timing of the piece, an indication as to whether this is a live performance or a studio recording, indication as to whether the recording was edited or not, and the date on which the recording was made. Save the document with filename <NameofEnsemble_Video.mov>
- **TWO recommendation letters from national choral organisation and/or internationally renowned musicians.** Save the documents with filenames <NameofEnsemble_Recommendation1.doc> and <NameofEnsemble_Recommendation2.doc>.
- **TWO concert Programs.** Two concert programs presented within the past four years. Save the scanned documents as <NameofEnsemble_ConcertProgram1.pdf> and <NameofEnsemble_ConcertProgram2.pdf>.



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- **Ensemble photo.** Photos must be sent in a JPG format with a resolution of 300 dpi and a size of at least 3,000 x 2,000 pixels (landscape orientation). Save the photo with filename <NameofEnsemble_EnsemblePhoto.jpg>.
- **Conductor(s) photo.** Photos must be sent in a JPG format with a resolution of 300 dpi and a size of at least 3,000 x 2,000 pixels (portrait orientation). Save the photo with filename <NameofEnsemble_Conductor1Photo.jpg>.
- **Technical Requirements.** Concert venues will be equipped with an acoustic piano, choral risers, and music stands/chairs for instrumentalists. Indicate any additional technical requirements (e.g., sound system, microphones, special lighting). While the organizers will do their best to accommodate requests for additional technical equipment, provision cannot be guaranteed.
- **Two Proposed Programs** with separate repertoire:
 - Program A (40-45 minutes of music)
 - Program B (20-25 minutes of music)

Each program must list the title, composer/arranger full names (no abbreviations), original source/composer (if arrangement), birth/death years for composer/arranger, performance time for each piece, and publisher/catalogue number for each selection. Encores should not be included as they will not be permitted during the performance. Provide a statement (250 words maximum) which explains the selection of this repertoire and speaks to the program's relationship to and connection with the theme of **Reimagining the Future**. Save the documents with filename <NameofEnsemble_ProgramA.doc> and <NameofEnsemble_ProgramB.doc>.

Materials submitted in a format other than that described above will not be accepted. All submissions must be in English. Submissions must arrive by the deadline of **15 October 2025** in an email sent to wscm2026@ifcm.net. Late submissions will not be accepted. Applicants should ensure that they begin the process of submitting with sufficient extra time and should not assume that the deadline will be extended. Successful applicants will be announced on or before **31 October 2025**.

Selection Criteria

The WSCM 2026 aims to showcase the diversity of vocal and choral music at the highest level within any singing tradition. The selection committee will evaluate submissions on the basis of authenticity, technique, innovation, and connection with the theme **Reimagining the Future**. In order to achieve the goals of diversity, inclusion, and equity, the invited choirs will represent a geographical balance as well as a balance of styles, programming, and performance formats. The decision of the selection committee is final.



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More Information or Questions

While we have tried to provide a comprehensive overview of the Call for Choirs/Vocal Ensembles and the process through which to do so, we understand that there might be further questions or information required.

Please contact WSCM 2026 Artistic Committee at wscm2026@ifcm.net for all submission related questions.

Key Dates

15 October 2025: Deadline for submissions for Choirs/Vocal Ensembles

31 October 2025: Invitations for Choirs/Vocal Ensembles will be offered on or before this date

15 November 2025: Acceptance of invitation

1 May 2026: Deadline for submission of final concert programs

Conditions of Participation

1. Proposed concert programs should be approximately 40-45 and 20-25 minutes of music. Program proposals that are longer will not be considered.
2. Concert programs must align with the conference theme **Reimagining the Future**. Repertoire should reflect the varied social, ethnic, geographical, and/or cultural backgrounds within each ensemble's region.
3. Invited Choirs/Vocal Ensembles will be provided accommodations, meals, and ground transportation for the duration of their involvement in the symposium, to a maximum of 5 days. The submission of an application implies that, if invited, the Choir/Vocal Ensemble is prepared to travel to and perform at WSCM 2026.
4. Invited Choirs/Vocal Ensembles will receive complimentary tickets for all concerts, as space permits. Based on the availability of space, invited Choirs/Vocal Ensembles will have access to symposium presentations, workshops, and conducting masterclasses.
5. In addition to being featured in TWO symposium concerts (one 40-45 minute program and one 20-25 minute program), invited Choirs/Vocal Ensembles may avail of additional opportunities to perform in other venues in and around the City of Macao including, for example, pop-up concerts, the fringe festival, and churches. More information about other performance opportunities will be made available to invited ensembles at a later date. The choir will be responsible for everything, from planning and negotiating concert tours outside the symposium period to covering the costs.
6. Choirs/Vocal Ensembles may be asked to act as a demonstration ensemble during the symposium in addition to the two concerts. Details will be agreed upon by the ensemble and WSCM 2026 Artistic Committee no later than 1 June 2026.
7. Based on the Conditions of Participation, applicants understand that the World Symposium on Choral Music 2026 does not assume any financial responsibility for the



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international travel for choirs, vocal ensembles, and presenters. The submission of a proposal implies that, "if invited, applicants as a choir, vocal ensemble, or presenter are prepared to accept the invitation and travel to the World Symposium on Choral Music 2026 at their expense.