



World Symposium on Choral Music WSCM 2026

Organizational Guidelines

IFCM World Symposium on Choral Music

ORGANIZATIONAL GUIDELINES

WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC (WSCM) - 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The World Symposium on Choral Music (WSCM) is an international choral event organized every three years by the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM). Lasting 5-8 days, the goals of a World Symposium are to promote artistic excellence, cooperation, and exchange by bringing together the finest choirs/vocal ensembles and collective singing leaders for seminars, masterclasses, reading sessions, and performances; to facilitate the dissemination of choral repertoire, research, recordings, and other related material and information; and to enhance the existing choral life in a specific region of the world; A World Symposium occurs in a prominent and attractive city that has the facilities, financial supports, and organizational/managerial structures to successfully plan and deliver a major international event.
- 1.2. A national organization, institution, or consortium wishing to host a World Symposium should submit its bid to IFCM's Board of Directors through office@ifcm.net, not later than four years before the proposed date. Until a bid is accepted by IFCM, there is no obligation on either side.
- 1.3. The bid should substantiate the feasibility of hosting a World Symposium, bearing in mind the responsibilities as outlined below. Finalists will be responsible for hosting an IFCM delegation for a site visit. Finalists will also be invited to provide an in-person presentation to the IFCM Board of Directors, with all related travel and miscellaneous costs at the finalists' expense.
- 1.4. The Host Organization should have and be able to demonstrate:
 - Active involvement of respected and influential choral conductors who will provide leadership in the planning and delivery of a World Symposium
 - Adequate administrative structures and personnel
 - Experience in planning large-scale national and/or international choral events
 - Financial expertise
 - Evidence of goodwill and financial support from governmental agencies, corporate leaders, and/or universities
 - Excellent performance venues for concerts (evening and daytime)
 - Conference site(s), centrally located, with a wide range of rooms suitable for lecture demonstrations, seminars, masterclasses, meetings, and an exhibition;
 - Availability of a wide range of accommodation options, ranging in quality at the best possible local prices
 - On-site catering and/or restaurants ranging in cost from inexpensive to average within close proximity to hotels, performance venues, and conference site(s)
 - Visa availability for persons from all countries
 - Attractiveness of the city and the region, e.g., accessibility by plane and train for international participants, cultural institutions and attractions in the city and region that could be relevant for the bid

2. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IFCM AND HOST ORGANIZATION

- 2.1. The role and responsibility of planning a World Symposium will be largely on the national organization, institution, or consortium that is hosting the event (see 1.2 and

hereafter referred to in this document as the Host Organization). However, joint committees, composed of members from IFCM and the Host Organization will be responsible for all major areas of planning and organization. These committees will be accountable to both IFCM and the Host Organization.

- The Steering Committee makes final decisions based on input from the Administrative and Artistic Committees.
 - The Administrative Committee works on administrative and financial areas regarding the production of the World Symposium.
 - The Artistic Committee plans the format and content of the World Symposium, including the selection of choirs/vocal ensembles, presenters, and other program content.
 - The Host Organization is responsible for all costs related to the meetings of these three committees.
- 2.2. Initial negotiation between IFCM and the Host Organization will be done by IFCM's Treasurer and designated representative(s) so that there is a clear understanding of the respective financial and organizational responsibilities of both parties.
 - 2.3. Once a bid is accepted and financial responsibilities are negotiated, IFCM and the Host Organization will sign a pre-agreement which confirms the will on both sides to organize a World Symposium in the city suggested and to begin communicating this decision to the international choral world.
 - 2.4. A Detailed Agreement between the two parties will be signed at a later date. In this agreement, all specific details about planning for and hosting the World Symposium will be addressed, including dates and a negotiated license fee to be paid by the Host Organization to IFCM.
 - 2.5. All finances for a World Symposium, including possible losses, will be the responsibility of the Host Organization.

3. COSTS OF A WORLD SYMPOSIUM

The budget of a World Symposium must include:

- Fully hosting choirs/vocal ensembles and presenters selected by the Artistic Committee (accommodation, meals, local transportation) for an agreed-upon number of days (Note: International travel expenses and fees for some choirs/vocal ensembles and presenters may need to be provided in order to achieve geographic/stylistic representation and balance as well as to provide a high level of programming.) (for orientation, we invited 24 choirs to the WSCM in Barcelona 2017 and in Auckland 2020 - the exact number for 2026 will have to be agreed on between IFCM and the host organization)
- Fully hosting selected VIP guests, the IFCM Board of Directors and Staff (international travel, accommodation, meals, local transportation) for an agreed-upon number of days and providing special hospitality events (e.g., receptions for VIP guests, conductors, solo artists)
- Administrative and production expenses, including all costs for local professional staff, symposium-related planning and administration, music scores, and necessary insurances
- Venues (for gala concerts, workshops, seminars, masterclasses, daily concerts, exhibitions, etc) with equipment (including pianos/keyboards) and support staff
- Appropriate technology equipment (including very good internet connections) and a dedicated technology team for streaming parts of the World Symposium
- Design and delivery of communication and marketing plan and materials, including logo, website, registration system, program (print and/or digital)
- Promotion of the World Symposium at national/international events (travel, accommodation, meals, conference fees, exhibition fees, etc.)
- Fully hosting IFCM Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and Staff for meetings,

- prior to and during the World Symposium (details to be agreed upon)
- Translation services (printed and/or simultaneous) as well as any translation infrastructure required (Note: This will include any components of the symposium not presented in English as well as the translation of the English website/program into another language for local accessibility and use.)
- Two complimentary side-by-side booths for IFCM and its Founding Members, complete with all furnishings, in the main exhibition area for the duration of the symposium
- One complimentary IFCM office, one complimentary IFCM meeting room, and one complimentary large room (suitable for 150 persons for one day) for the IFCM General Assembly (Note: All offices/rooms shall be well-equipped with appropriate furnishing, including power outlets and internet connectivity.)
- Additional costs to be defined by the committees mentioned under 2.1
- Contingency of not less than 10% of the total budget be included in the financial planning

4. FINANCING A WORLD SYMPOSIUM

- 4.1. Direct income to a Host Organization may come from any of the following sources:
 - Public funding
 - Sponsorships (corporate, business, organizational)
 - Donations (individual, corporate, business, organizational)
 - Registration fees (to be agreed upon between IFCM and the Host Organization, respecting the HDI groups and providing discounts for IFCM members and members of the Host Organization)
 - Sale of exhibition booths and advertising space in official program and brochures
 - Ticket sales to concert events open to the public
- 4.2. Indirect or in-kind support negotiated locally by the Host Organization:
 - Free use of, or greatly-reduced fees for, the use of venues for concerts, seminars, meeting rooms, offices, exhibition, and/or staffing
 - Promotional items
 - Free tickets or discounts
 - Complimentary public transportation for performing groups, staff, guests, and registered delegates
 - Free/discounted use of symphony orchestra for major concerts
 - Media partnerships

5. PROGRAM CONTENT

- 5.1. The format of a World Symposium should follow, in general terms, the traditional pattern of past symposia. It must include the following:
 - Opening ceremony and concert, usually with an emphasis on the choral traditions of the host country/region
 - Concerts, seminars, masterclasses, reading sessions, discussion groups
 - Closing ceremony and concert
- 5.2. IFCM and the Host Organization shall develop a specific theme for the World Symposium. Choirs and vocal ensembles should be encouraged to perform music representative of their own country's choral traditions while, at the same time, responding to the theme for the World Symposium.
- 5.3. Each selected choir and vocal ensemble should have the opportunity to perform at least two concerts during a World Symposium and should be given assistance in finding additional performing opportunities within the country or region. Choirs and vocal ensembles wishing to tour prior to or after a World Symposium must assume all related costs. Every consideration should be given to making each choir's residency during a

World Symposium a meaningful experience, artistically and logistically.

- 5.4. The Host Organization has the possibility to organize an Adjunct Symposium program, i.e., fringe festival.
- 5.5. The official language used at the World Symposium is English.

These are Guidelines and changes will be possible before the Detailed Agreement is negotiated.