



Basilio Astulez



Zimfira Poloz



Ken Wakia



## May 2025 IFCMeNEWS Don't miss the next Webinar!

### Choral TIES Webinar on 22 May 2025 at 2PM CET: Conducting Youth and Children's Choirs

*Encouraging the creation of youth and children's choirs, giving practical inputs and tools to choral conductors and leaders*

Conducting children's and youth choirs can be challenging. It requires creativity, enthusiasm, joy, and excellence. The three invited conductors, each with different, personal, and successful works, will present their ideas, strategies, and philosophies on how to choose repertoire, work on rehearsal techniques, and prepare concerts and projects for this type of ensemble.

Read more

Guests:

- **Basilio Astulez** (Basque Country, Spain). Basilio is a choral conductor and music educator. He founded the Leioa Kantika Korala children's choir in 2000 and the San Juan Bautista Abesbatza (SJB) mixed youth choir in 2008. The recently-founded choir school at the Leioa Municipal Music Conservatory has over 250 singers and its choral ensembles have received numerous awards.
- **Zimfira Poloz** (Canada). Award-winning conductor, educator, and artistic director of the Toronto Children's Chorus, Zimfira leads 300 singers across eight ensembles. Passionate about the transformative power of choral music, Zimfira is committed to developing artistic excellence and vocal integrity while, simultaneously, inspiring the next generation of musicians worldwide.
- **Ken Wakia** (Kenya). Motivated in the early years of his career by his membership in the World Youth Choir and his time in the United States singing with Jubilate Vocal Ensemble (Miami, Florida), Ken founded the Nairobi Chamber Chorus with a vision of enabling young Kenyans to participate in a high-quality musical forum through which they can build their careers and expand their realm of knowledge and interest in the arts.

Register [here](#)

### CONDUCTING YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

ENCOURAGING THE CREATION OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S CHOIRS, GIVING PRACTICAL INPUTS AND TOOLS TO CHORAL CONDUCTORS AND LEADERS

Thursday, 22 May 2025 | 2 PM CEST | Online

Basilio Astulez Zimfira Poloz Ken Wakia

Co-funded by the European Union

in cooperation with

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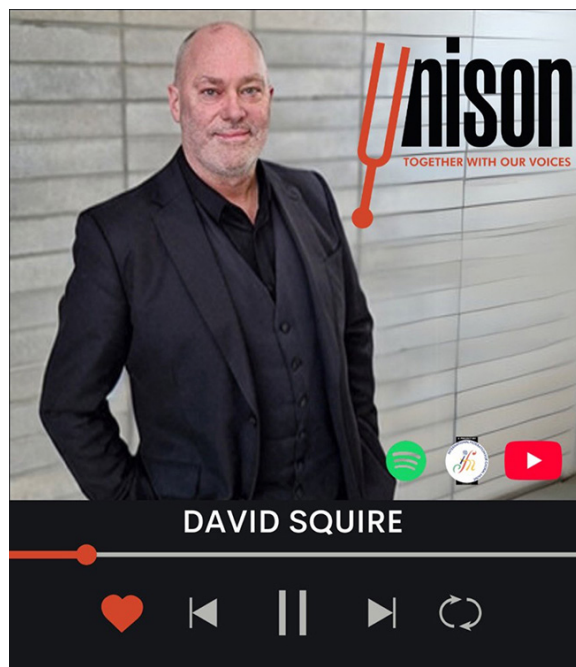
### Unison welcomed Basilio Astulez in its 4<sup>th</sup> episode

In addition to teaching and conducting Leioa Kantika Korala children's choir and SJB mixed youth choir at the Leioa Municipal Music Conservatory, **Basilio Astulez** conducts Vocalia Taldea, an award-winning female chamber ensemble (Toulouse, Torrevieja, Maasmechelen, Arezzo, Tours, and Cork). He has recorded 12 albums and toured in Europe, North America, and Asia with these choirs.

Since 2018, Basilio has taught choral conducting at the Musikene Higher Conservatory of the Basque Country where he leads the Basque Youth Choir (EHGA), recently awarded with three first prizes in the International Choral Contest of Tolosa. Graduating with a

degree in Fine Arts at the University of the Basque Country and studying music in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Basilio trained as a conductor in the Herria Euskal Choral Federation, attending courses and seminars with Johan Duyick and Javier Busto. Between 1996 and 2004, Basilio conducted Coro Alaitz Abesbatza in Vitoria-Gasteiz with which he won several national and international awards, including the Gran Premio Nacional de Canto Coral (Spain) in 2000. In 2014, he performed with Leioa Kantika Korala at the 10th World Symposium on Choral Music in Seoul, South Korea. Basilio currently teaches choral conducting for educational institutions, universities and choral federations; he is a frequent clinician for choral competitions; and he leads choral singing courses and masterclasses all over the world.

Listen on [Spotify](#) or [YouTube](#)



### Unison welcomed David Squire in its 5<sup>th</sup> episode

**David Squire** is one of New Zealand's most prominent conductors. Since 2011, he has been Music Director of the New Zealand Youth Choir, the first alumnus director of the choir. David also directs the Auckland Youth Choir and international award-winning ensembles Voicemale (Westlake Boys High School), Euphony (Kristin School), and the Westlake Symphony Orchestra.

Currently vice-chair of the New Zealand Association of Choral Directors, David is a national conducting advisor and tutor. For nine years, he served as a governance board member of the New Zealand Choral Federation. David is in demand around the world as a clinician, educator, guest conductor, and

adjudicator, and he is the choral director for the International Schools Choral Music Society based in China.

Listen on [Spotify](#) or [YouTube](#)

## YOUNG, Youth International Cultural Management Programme 2025

Meet the selected candidates who will participate in YOUNG 2025, Youth International Cultural Management Programme, in the frame of the 45<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Pueri Cantores, 16-20 July 2025, in Munich, Germany.

- Gürkay Aydoğmuş, Türkiye
- Keying Huo-Smith, New Zealand
- Jonas Likandja Abuba, Belgium/DR Congo
- Ria Master, India
- Lorena Miličević, Croatia
- Diāna Daiva Priediena,
- McKinley Short, Spain/USA
- Katherine Tejera Suárez, Venezuela

These YOUNG 2025 participants are all set to get started and will soon meet online with their session leader, Iva Radulović. They will then be assigned to various departments of the International Congress of Pueri Cantores Munich 2025, such as InfoPoint, Administrative Coordination (email, phone), Volunteer Organisation, Communication (Instagram, Facebook, photo coverage), Site Management, and VIP Services where they will gain invaluable hands-on experience in cultural management.

Congratulations to the selected participants and a big thank you to all who applied. We will certainly keep you in mind for future projects.

Gürkay Aydoğmuş  
TÜRKIYE

Keying Huo-Smith  
NEW ZEALAND

Jonas Likandja  
BELGIUM

Ria Master  
INDIA

Lorena Miličević  
CROATIA

Diāna Daiva Priediena  
LATVIA

McKinley Short  
SPAIN

Katherine Tejera Suárez  
VENEZUELA

YOUNG 2025

FOEDERATIO INTERNATIONALIS PUERI CANTORES

MUC 2025 CANTATE DOMINO

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PUERI CANTORES

EA EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION

Choral TIES

Co-funded by the European Union

Photo: International Congress Pueri Cantores 2022 in Florence © Niels Singer/Rottweiler Münstersängerknaben

This programme is part of the Choral TIES project coordinated by the European Choral Association, co-funded by the European Union Creative Europe programme, and organised in cooperation with IFCM in the frame of the 45<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Pueri Cantores.

**Join or Renew Your Membership, Support IFCM Projects, We Need You!**

	Annual fee amount in USD - HDI 1	Annual fee amount in USD - HDI 2	Annual fee amount in USD - HDI 3
INDIVIDUAL	84	67	42
CHORAL ENSEMBLE	181	145	91
LOCAL ORGANIZATION	269	180	108
NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATION	755	498	252
BUSINESS	449	359	269
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION	1262		



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CHORAL MUSIC monthly electronic newsletter

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### IFCM welcomes a new member in the Choir Category: Chœur Miangaly from Madagascar

Created in 2013, Chœur Miangaly is a Malagasy secular choir composed of approximately 30 talented and passionate young singers. With its corporate status, Chœur Miangaly is the single model of choral ensemble in Madagascar. Conducted by Antsanirina Rakotoarimino (a.k.a. Rahf), Chœur Miangaly performs a wide range of repertoire from medieval music to contemporary styles. They also showcase traditional and folk Malagasy music with an emphasis on a cappella repertoire. The 2025 season of Chœur Miangaly has been named “Echos de la nature”, demonstrating their desire to carry the voices of nature through their music.



### WORLD YOUTH CHOIR 2025

The World Youth Choir is thrilled to announce its 2025 summer tour across Catalonia and France!



Under the direction of Dutch conductor Daniel Reuss (Capella Amsterdam, Rias Kammerchor, Ensemble Vocal de Lausanne), the 2025 World Youth Choir will present a rich and diverse programme of European composers, including Vaughan Williams, Vasks, Schnittke, and Martin, complemented by folk pieces and a world première by a Catalan composer — and World Youth Choir alumna — Anna Campmany Duch. The tour includes eight concerts in Catalonia (Spain) and France. You can already check the concert locations and dates [here](#).

**Join the World Youth Choir Study Tour on 19-22 July 2025.**

Organized by [Asociación Española de Directores de Coro](#) (AEDCORO) in collaboration with the World Youth Choir Foundation and the [Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals](#), this Study Tour is

available exclusively to AEDCORO members and WYC alumni. It will take place in Barcelona during the 2025 WYC session.

If you are a member of AEDCORO and/or a World Youth Choir alumna/alumnus, consider [joining the Study Tour](#) for these extraordinary experiences:

- Attend WYC rehearsals under the direction of Daniel Reuss (2025 WYC conductor)
- Attend WYC performances in Sagrada Familia (Barcelona) and Montserrat Abbey
- Meet with WYC conductor Daniel Reuss and prestigious guests: Daniel Mestre, Bernat Vivancos, and Anna Campmany Duch

Fee: €100 (includes all activities). Travel, meals, and accommodation are not included.

Limited spots – first come, first served!

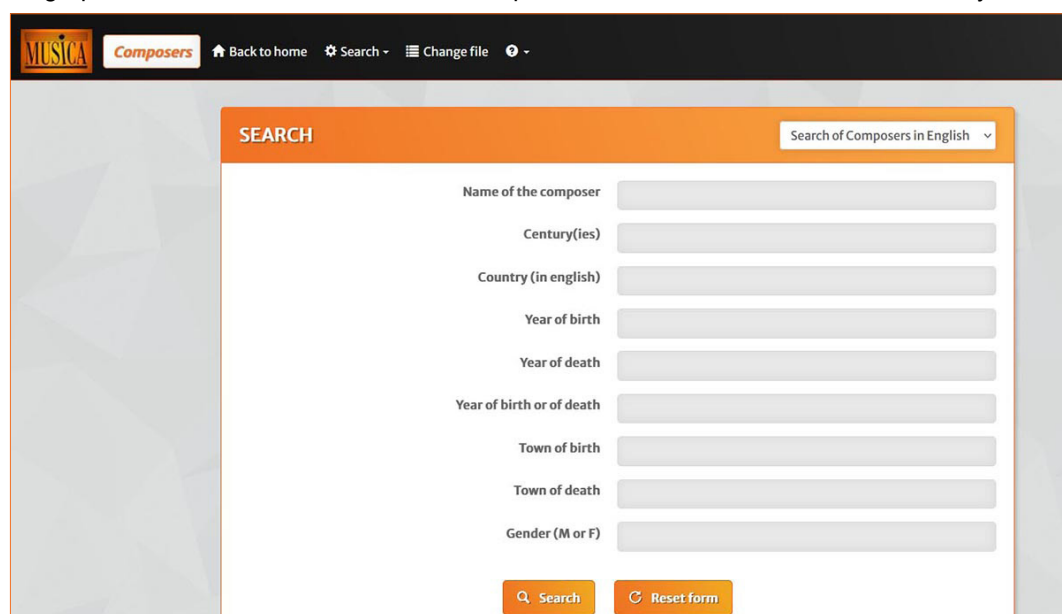


### **Musica International:**

#### **A quick way to find information about composers of choral music**

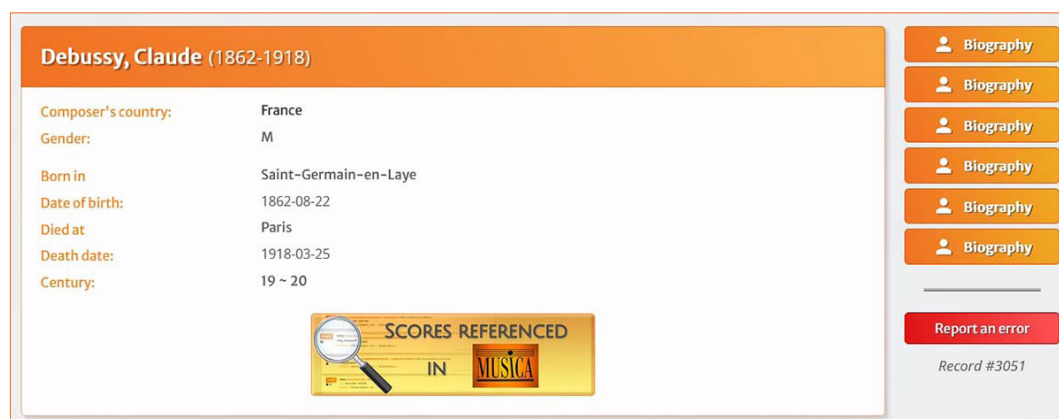
All choirs and conductors need information about the composers or arrangers of choral works in order to better introduce these pieces to both the singers and the audiences of their concerts. For example, the years of birth and death of composers in concert programmes are appreciated in order to provide an historical point of reference for the composition. Sometimes short composer biographies help to contextualise the works and enhance both printed programmes and spoken presentations during concerts.

Among the many sources of information available in the Musica International database, the **Composers' Table** is particularly rich and easy to use. This resource can be accessed at <https://www.musicanet.org>, or with additional possibilities via the <Services> page of various choral federation websites, such as **IFCM** ([www.ifcm.net](http://www.ifcm.net)). The Composers' Table contains biographical information for over 33,000 composers of choral music. You can search by one or



more criteria at the same time: name, country, century, gender, etc.

The results include the composer's full name (and any synonyms), nationality(ies), year/date of birth and death, place of birth and death, gender, links to detailed biographies in various languages, and, of course, a link to the list of all the composer's scores referenced in the Musica International database.



Conversely, when searching for a choral piece in the **Score Table**, detailed biographical information about the composer can be accessed directly by clicking on the composer's name. Musica International has reached this level of comprehensiveness and richness thanks to the ongoing collaboration of all those involved in the choral world since 1983! Don't hesitate to contribute and help to make the database even richer! Are you a composer not yet listed in the database? Or would you like to provide additional information for your biographical entry? Contact [librarian@musicanet.org](mailto:librarian@musicanet.org)! The same goes for your compositions or arrangements. All information is moderated by the music librarian to ensure quality and accuracy.

### European Choral Association (ECA)

#### Leading Voices, Tallinn, Estonia, 6-10 July 2025

Several hundred choral professionals from Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, and USA have already registered for Leading Voices!

While the Masterclasses and Labs are now full, there are still spots left to participate in a variety of 45 sessions and the Estonian Song Celebration. The registration for festival accommodation with special prices is now closed, but you are welcome to register for Leading Voices and find your own accommodation in Tallinn.

Don't miss this opportunity! Join us this July 6–10 in the stunning city of Tallinn!

See the program and register for Leading Voices [HERE](https://www.leadingvoices.ee)!





### **A Cœur Joie International presents the Choralies**

**Choralies, Vaison-la-Romaine, France, 30 July-7 August 2025**

#### **The French Choral Rendez-vous!**

For almost 70 years, this unique festival, open to all, has been committed to presenting the very best of choral traditions and modernity. Mobilizing 500 highly motivated volunteers in a friendly, caring atmosphere, the [Choralies](#) brings together choral music lovers and those curious to discover new things. This year's event includes 3-8 days of choral workshops with renowned conductors sharing their experiences and enthusiasm each morning. The festival offers a wide range of workshops for all ages and levels. Come and share unforgettable choral moments with your family!

[Read more](#)



### **American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), *Between the Staves***

***Between the Staves* is an initiative of the ACDA Education and Collaboration National Standing Committee.**

*Between the Staves: Choral Questions, Candid Answers*, is a new take on the classic advice column - this time for all things choral music! This blog will answer your questions about choral music education, performance, and leadership. Whether you're curious about vocal technique, rehearsal tips, repertoire selection, or other aspects of the profession (business, fundraising, scheduling, recruiting, communication, audio engineering, etc.), *Between the Staves* will have you covered. Have a question that you just don't know who to ask or maybe it's something you feel like you should know but don't? *Between the Staves* will have you covered. Need to ask for advice but need to be anonymous? *Between the Staves* will have you covered.

This month's focus is: [How do I engage the reluctant learner in my choirs?](#)



### **FENIARCO: 13th European Academy for choral conductors, Fano, Italy, 24-31 August 2025**

The European Academy organised by the *Federazione Nazionale Italiana Associazioni Regionali Corali* ([FENIARCO](#)) in partnership with the European Choral Association is a biannual professional masterclass opened to participants from all over Europe. The lecturer for the [Academy 2025](#) is Māris Sirmāis (Latvia). The participants will work with a high level pilot-choir during the whole Academy.

#### **Baltic Inspiration: a Choral Journey**

This is the theme chosen for the thirteenth edition. A musical excursus through the compositions of some of the major composers of choral music from the Baltic countries, highlighting different

and articulated techniques and stylistic approaches. The proposed repertoire focuses on the masterpieces of the most important Baltic composers, offering choir conductors, under the guidance of Maestro Māris Sirmāis, the opportunity to delve into a musical area of great cultural and emotional value. Baltic choral music is distinguished by its intensity, beauty and spirituality, with a focus on the fusion of voices and harmonies, but also on expressive power and depth of feeling, becoming over time a symbol of cultural identity, historical endurance and artistic refinement.

[Apply](#) before 31 May 2025.



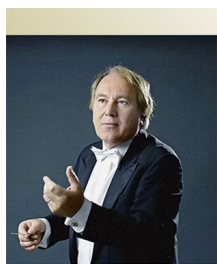
**Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corales offers Summer Course on Choral Conducting**  
**Barcelona, Spain, 8-11 July 2025**

The [Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corales](#) (FCEC) offers a [4-day course on choral conducting](#) for working groups in three levels: Initial, Intermediate, and Advanced. Each group will work with a pilot choir. Aspects of conducting technique (conducting practices, auditory perception, vocal training, and common singing) and complementary activities (conference and analysis) will be included.

The closing concert of the course will take place on 11 July 2025.

Guest conductors are: Frieder Bernius (Germany) and Pere Lluís Biosca, Jordi Lluch, Salvador Brotons, and Elisenda Carrasco (Catalonia).

[Register](#) before 31 May 2025.



Frieder Bernius



Jordi Lluch



Pere Lluís Biosca



Elisenda Carrasco



Salvador Brotons

**European Music Council: European Forum on Music, Brussels, Belgium**  
**11-12 June 2025**

This year, the 13<sup>th</sup> European Forum on Music is celebrating the [20th anniversary of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions](#).

The [European Forum on Music](#) (EFM) will foster personal exchanges and strengthen relationships between organisations, projects, and individuals. At EFM, you will be able to



meet key actors and to participate in a variety of sessions, including keynote speeches, panel discussions, interactive workshops, and networking sessions. Registration [here](#).



We invite you to visit the [Calendar of Choral Activities](#) published by the European Choral Association — Europa Cantat and the American Choral Directors Association ACDA's Network [ChoralNet](#) to check on the choral events planned in the coming months.