



SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION COUNTRIES' YOUTH CHOIR

a new project of
the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM)

To the kind attention of our partners in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Countries who are helping us recruit singers

Dear colleagues,

This summer, the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Countries' Choral Festival** (July 2-5, 2019) in Hohhot, Inner-Mongolia, China, will welcome and present, for the first time ever, the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Countries' YOUTH CHOIR**. With this letter, we are kindly inviting you to help us find the best singers in your country to participate in this exciting and innovative project. Moreover, we hope that you will assist the singers in sending us their applications to the project in due course (**deadline: May 1, 2019**). The application process, including the necessary documents, is outlined below.

This special project choir is aiming to unite young singers from the 18 countries comprising the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) for a remarkable educational and social experience. Following a week of rehearsal with two internationally-renowned choral conductors, the SCO Countries' Youth Choir will perform at the SCO Countries' Choral Festival in Hohhot, Inner-Mongolia, China. During the choral festival, the choir will give concerts in Hohhot and surrounding cities. As well, there is a plan to perform in Beijing prior to the festival itself.

The SCO Countries' Youth Choir project is intended to become a sustainable enterprise that will be held every year, in one of the countries in the SCO region, for the development of cooperation, peace, and understanding. Through the medium of choral singing, one of the main goals is to endorse and support the growth and expansion of musical culture, in particular, choral singing, and cultural relations among the participating countries. Providing opportunities for young people to engage in educational projects at the highest level and to work with each other to produce choral art together holds the potential for advancing the consolidation of peace in the regions.

Artistically, SCO Countries' Youth Choir will be a unique experience for young singers to develop their musical and vocal talents by performing together and interacting with world-class conductors. Socially and educationally, the SCO Countries' Youth Choir will contribute to the raising of new generations of 'global citizens' by providing the opportunity for young musicians of different cultures to live and tour together, creating an exceptional school of understanding between different cultures, people, music, and traditions.

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IFCM

PO Box 42318, Austin, TX 78704 USA
office@ifcm.net — www.ifcm.net

volunteers connecting our choral world

IMPORTANT FACTS

Organisers

The International Federation for Choral Music - IFCM (www.ifcm.net) and the Inner Mongolia Bureau of National Art Troupes.

Dates

- June 24, 2019: Arrival of the singers in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China
- June 25 – July 2, 2019: Rehearsal session in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China (plus a concert in Beijing is being planned in this period)
- July 2-5, 2019: Performances at the SCO Countries' Choral Festival in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China, and in the surrounding region
- July 5-7, 2019: Touristic programme in Inner Mongolia
- July 7, 2019: Departure of the singers to their homes

According to the plans, the choir will be invited to perform at the Annual Prime Ministers' Meeting of the SCO in September/October 2019 in Uzbekistan (dates to be confirmed) and at the Annual Presidents' Meeting of the SCO in 2020 in Chelyabinsk, Russia.

Choir Details

The youth choir will consist of 60-70 young performers, ages 19–35, from the 18 countries connected to the SCO network: namely the eight member states (Kazakhstan, China, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan), the four observer states (Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, Mongolia), and the six dialogue partners (Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Armenia, Turkey and Sri Lanka). Each country is invited to select and propose trained, qualified, English-speaking singers through its authorized cultural agency in collaboration with national choral organizations and institutions of higher learning. Each country shall propose at least one singer and up to six singers per country. Applications must include the following:

- Application form which will include an English CV with detailed choral experience and references,
- Recommendation letter in English by a renowned choral conductor or musician in the country, and
- Solo voice recording (*optional, but a recording will assist the Artistic Committee in the selection process*).

Details about the application process are included in the Application Form (downloadable at xxx). The Artistic Committee of the SCO Countries' Youth Choir will select a maximum of 60-70 singers with some reserves for each voice part.

Conductors

The Artistic Committee has selected two world-renowned conductors who have extensive experience at the international scene and who also have in-depth knowledge of the SCO countries' area.

Maria Goundorina studied conducting at the Ippolitov-Ivanov Music College and the Tchaikovsky Conservatory, both in Moscow. After receiving her diploma, Ms. Goundorina continued her postgraduate studies in Musicology at the University of Vienna. In 2005, she began her studies with Anders Eby at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. Ms. Goundorina was a finalist in the Competition for Young Choir Conductors in Vienna and won the award for Best Interpretation of a Romantic Work. In 2007, she was the recipient of the Eric Ericson Travel Scholarship, and, in 2009, she was one of the finalists in the international conductor competition, The Eric Ericson Award. Ms. Goundorina has conducted several prominent Russian, German, and Swedish choirs and ensembles. In November 2009, she was appointed conductor of the internationally-renowned and critically-acclaimed Swedish choir Allmänna Sången.

Dr. André de Quadros, conductor, ethnomusicologist, human rights activist, and music educator has conducted and undertaken research in over forty countries and is a professor of music at Boston University where he also holds affiliated faculty appointments in the African Studies Center, the Center for the Study of Asia, the Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations, and the Prison Education Program. Dr. de Quadros is the music director and conductor of the Manado State University Choir; artistic director of a conducting institute at the Eric Ericson International Choral Centre: *CONDUCTING 21C: Musical Leadership for a New Century*; artistic director of the London International Music Festival; artistic director of Aswatuna – Arab Choral Festival; and artistic director of the Bali International Choir Festival.

Repertoire

Repertoire (to be confirmed) will include both vocal treasures of the region and international choral highlights.

Working Language

The official languages of the choir will be Russian, Chinese, and English. Within the context of the project (rehearsal session and touring), the working language will be English.

Conditions

The organisers of the SCO Countries' Choral Festival will be responsible for all accommodation, meals, transportation, and music materials associated with rehearsing and performing in China. A certificate of participation (diploma) will be issued to each singer.

Selected participants are responsible for:

- Travel in between their host country and the rehearsal/festival location (Hohhot, Inner-Mongolia, China)
- Preparation of the chosen repertoire in advance, at home (music materials in a digital package will be sent to all selected singers by email)
- Visas and all other official documents as well as health and travel insurance, etc.
- Pocket money

Application Deadline
May 1, 2019

Please send your questions and application to:
Prof Ki Adams, Chair of the SCO Countries' Youth Choir Artistic Committee
kiadams@mun.ca

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

With the kindest regards,



Emily Kuo Vong
President
International Federation for Choral Music IFCM



Ki Adams
Chair, Artistic Committee
SCO Countries' Youth Choir

