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NEWS FROM IFCM

LOOKING FOR A CONCERT TOUR IN CHINA IN JULY/AUGUST 2020? HERE IS AN EXCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITY!

IFCM is collaborating with partners in China on a set of international choral festivals in **July and August 2020** and is calling for high-level choirs interested in being featured in one, two, or even all three of these festivals:

- The [15th China International Chorus Festival](#) in Beijing, 23-29 July
- The [International Folk Song Choral Festival and IFCM Voices Conference](#), in Kaili, 31 July-4 August.
- The [China Inner Mongolia International Choral Week](#), in Hohhot, 6-9 August.

For each festival, invited choirs will have local transportation, food, and accommodation covered by the local organizers!

China Inner Mongolia International Choral Week in Hohhot



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If you are interested in participating in the selection for any of these festivals, please send the following materials to office@ifcm.net **before November 15, 2019**: motivation letter, CV of the choir and conductor, pictures, contact details, links to recordings and the name of the festival(s) you are applying for.

If a choir applies and is invited to more than one festival:

While their international travel expenses to the designated city of the festival will be their responsibility, the choirs who apply and are invited to more than one festival will benefit from the following travel conditions between festivals:

- Choirs invited to the CICF and the **Kaili** Festival will have their trip from Beijing to Kaili and back to Beijing covered by the organizers in Kaili. These choirs will have to cover their trip from home to Beijing and back.
- Choirs invited to the **Kaili** and the **Hohhot** Festivals will have their trip from Kaili to Hohhot

and back covered by both organizers in Kaili and Hohhot. These choirs will have to cover their trip from home to Kaili and back.

- Choirs invited to the **CICF**, the **Kaili** and the **Hohhot** Festivals will have their transportation between the three cities covered by the local organisers as followed:
 - Beijing-Kaili (covered by Kaili)
 - Kaili-Hohhot (costs shared by Kaili and Hohhot)
 - Hohhot-Beijing (covered by Hohhot)

These choirs will have to cover their trip from home to Beijing and back.

For choirs who apply and are invited to only one festival, the international travel expenses to the designated city of this festival will be their own responsibility.

International Folk Song Choral Festival and IFCM Voice Conference in Kaili



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**IF NOT SELECTED AS AN INVITED CHOIR FOR ANY OF THESE FESTIVALS...
YOU CAN STILL PARTICIPATE IN THE 15TH CHINA INTERNATIONAL CHORUS FESTIVAL (CICF) AND IFCM WORLD CHORAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

Beijing, China, 23-29 July 2020

Founded in 1992 and now one of the largest-scale and highest-level international chorus festivals in China, the CICF is a cultural event which brings together hundreds of choirs from China and abroad. The past 14 festivals have attracted more than 2,000 choirs and more than 70,000 choristers. With its theme, ***Come to Beijing: Listen to the songs of the world***, and its aim to “Build an harmonious world together for the future—Peace and Friendship”, the CICF invites choirs from all countries and regions, from various nationalities and ethnicities, and from diverse voicings and musical styles to come together and compete on the same stage.

- [Conditions of participation](#)
- [More info on the application](#)
- [CICF Competition Evaluation System](#)

Possibility of early bird registration before January 31, 2020.

Final deadline to register: May 1, 2020.

CICF Websites

- In English: <http://en.cicfbj.cn/>
- In Chinese: <http://www.cicfbj.cn>



© China International Chorus Festival

WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC 2020

Take it from the top

WSCM regulars Debra Shearer-Dirie and Sonja Greiner had a chat with the WSCM2020 team

"I have come away from every WSCM with new ideas, new research findings, new repertoire and, best of all, new colleagues and friends for life," says Debra Shearer-Dirie, Musical Director of the Brisbane Concert Choir and Fusion Vocal Ensemble and a member of the National Council for the Australian National Choral Association. However, it's not just conductors who benefit from the Symposium. Sonja Greiner, Governance Advisor for the International Federation of Choral Music, first travelled to a Symposium early in her career as a choral festival manager. "WSCM has helped me to do my job well," she says. "It's the only major truly international

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conference and meeting point offering choral professionals and enthusiasts an opportunity to receive input and inspiration on the latest trends, exchange ideas with colleagues from around the world and hear top-level choirs from different continents.”

Read the WSCM2020's full interview with Sonja and Debra [here](#).



Sonja Greiner (left), Debra Shearer-Dirie (right)

MEET THE WSCM2020 CHOIRS

Get to know Kammerchor Stuttgart

The Kammerchor Stuttgart is a favourite with Symposium audiences – 2020 will be its fourth WSCM. The repertoire of this mixed choir spans five centuries and is performed with the choir's internationally-recognised and refined sound. With friends all around the world, Kammerchor Stuttgart is eager to meet more in Auckland.

Read more about Kammerchor Stuttgart [HERE](#) and watch their [VIDEO](#).



8-12th JULY 2020
DEBRECEN, HUNGARY



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**APPLY
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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CHORAL MUSIC monthly electronic newsletter

<http://ifcm.net/>

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Introducing Harmonia Ensemble

Led by Kazuhiro Fukunaga, the ensemble's repertoire includes works from Renaissance to the 21st Century as well as pop, jazz, and folklore.

Renowned for their fresh young sensitivity and creative energy, the singers look forward to connecting with choirs from across the globe at WSCM2020.

More info [HERE](#).



Presenting Ensemble Vocapella Limburg

The Ensemble Vocapella Limburg is a multi-award-winning men's chamber choir from Germany. Members have said they look forward to the #WSCM2020 as an opportunity for cultural exchange, inspiration and new musical impulses—and we couldn't agree more!

More info on the choir is [HERE](#).



STILL THINKING ABOUT HEADING TO AUCKLAND?

Find out more about the vibrant city below thanks to two Kiwi superstars - internationally regarded actor, singer and chorister, Lucy Lawless and member of the beloved and award-winning trio Sol3Mio, Moses Mackay [HERE](#) or on [Youtube](#)

IFCM DONATES PRIZE AT THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR YOUNG CONDUCTORS

The [9th International Competition for Young Conductors](#) was organized last week in Paris by the Institut Français d'art Choral (IFAC) in partnership with the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat (ECA-EC). The International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) was pleased to donate the 3rd Prize Award (750 Euros) to Jonas Rasmussen from Denmark.

The winners:

- 1st Prize: Ingrid Roose, Estonia
- 2nd Prize: Justus Barleben, Germany
- 3rd Prize: Jonas Rasmussen, Denmark

Special Prizes:

- Special prize of the Noël Minet Fund: Yeonju Lee, South Korea
- Special prize of the European Youth Choir Festival Basel: Tanguy Bouvet, France
- Special prize of the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat: Kristina Bogataj, Slovenia
- Best interpretation of a French baroque piece: Quintin Beer, United-Kingdom
- Best interpretation of the commissioned work "Brightest Star": Jonas Rasmussen, Denmark
- Prize of the Choir of Paris Orchestra: Ingrid Roose, Estonia
- Audience prize: Justus Barleben, Germany



Jonas Rasmussen receiving the Prize from IFCM Operations Manager, Iva Radulovic

CALL FOR ARTICLES IN THE INTERNATIONAL CHORAL BULLETIN (ICB)

Would you like to be published in an international choral journal distributed to thousands of IFCM members and associates around the world? Send us your article!

Since 1983, the ICB, IFCM's scholarly journal/magazine, has been read by thousands of choral lovers around the world. The ICB is published four times a year (January, April, July, October). This is a fabulous opportunity to have your research, scholarship, and expertise shared with the international choral community. We are inviting papers (900 to 1500 words, written in English, French, German, Italian or Spanish) specially related to the technical, pedagogical, and historical aspects of choral music. [Submit your articles here](#). We can't wait to read you!

We are also inviting to join our team of volunteers, all translators from English, French, German, Italian and Spanish into French, Spanish, German or English.

WORLD CHORAL DAY 2019 - JOIN WITH YOUR CHORAL CONCERTS

World Choral Day, a singing tradition since 1990, as already published in our previous eNews will happen again this year on the **second Sunday of December (December 8, 2019) with the possibility to join with your choral events during the entire month of December.**

We are thrilled to announce that Alberto Grau, the initiator of World Choral Day, has composed a new joyful song for this year's celebration that can be easily sung by any kind of choir or ensemble. We would like to invite and encourage you to sing this wonderful piece at your choral event. Download the [sheet music](#) and an mp3 [recording](#) of the song **Cantando** and enjoy being one of the thousands of voices from all around the world singing the same piece for the same cause.

How to join World Choral Day with your choral events?

Any choir and any choral concert can become part of the World Choral Day global chain. All you have to do is [register your concert](#) by completing a short inline form any time between now and the end of December 2019; it takes only 5 minutes. Please don't forget to [download the proclamation](#) which is available in 27 languages. This proclamation shall be announced at the beginning of every World Choral Day event. Your event(s) will be promoted through the World Choral Day website and IFCM's social media platforms. Once your concert has taken place, please **share with us your concert posters, photos and video recordings** so that we can share them on our communication channels and make your event visible globally. If you would like to join a global choral event with your choir and share your love for choral singing with thousands of other choirs from all around the globe, then the **World Choral Day** is just for you! [More information](#)

**FIRST AFRICA CANTAT FESTIVAL, NAIROBI, KENYA, 22-29 AUGUST, 2020**

We are very happy to announce the very first Africa Cantat Festival which will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, 22-29 August 2020!

Africa Cantat is a one-week festival bringing together choirs and singers from Kenya, from other parts of Africa, and from the rest of the world. The festival offers the opportunity for choirs and individual choristers to sing with and for each other and to learn from professional international conductors in a setting surrounded by the unique, beautiful Kenyan landscape. During the festival, participants will have the opportunity to attend a one-week „Warsha“ (workshop in Kiswahili, the national language of Kenya). Each workshop conductor will bring

distinctive repertoire to the festival. Participants will also have the chance to participate in the Open Singing and to perform a concert, if they come with their choir. There will be an additional programme for conductors to exchange and to be inspired by the cultural diversity of the participating choirs and conductors.

For more information, [visit the Africa Cantat website](#) or contact the festival directly [via email](#). Come to Nairobi and enjoy the rich diversity of choral music from different regions in Africa and other countries worldwide! Jambo Kenya!



2020 WORLD YOUTH CHOIR AUDITIONS

Are you or any of your choristers/students...

- Between 17 and 26 years old on July 1, 2020,
- A passionate choral singer,
- From a background of basic or semi-professional music education,
- Ready to meet new friends all over the world,
- Able to speak English at an intermediate level,
- Seeking a different professional challenge, and
- Eager to learn in a multicultural environment?

Then you are ready to apply for the 2020 World Youth Choir!

In **July and August 2020**, the World Youth Choir will have a special session in the frame of the festivities for the Beethoven 250th Birthday Anniversary Year. Joining the National Youth Orchestra of Germany (Bundesjugendorchester), the 2020 WYC programme will be Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* and a commissioned work by Tan Dun entitled *Nine*.

- Session dates: July 30, 2020 (day of arrival) to August 20, 2020 (day of departure).
- Location: Rehearsal session in Bonn, Germany, followed by a tour with concerts Bonn (DE), Berlin (DE), Einbeck (DE), Lübeck (DE), Amsterdam (NL), Weikersheim (DE), Kassel (DE), Sterzing (IT), and Vienna (AT).
- First concert: August 8, 2020 - Beethoven 2020 Gala concert with the first performance of Tan Dun's "Nine".
- Artistic Team: Tan Dun (USA), composer of the commissioned work, will conduct the first concerts in the tour, including the Gala concert in Bonn; Jörn Hinnerk Andresen (Germany) will conduct the remaining concerts. Soloists will be World Youth Choir alumni.

Additional opportunity

The European Choral Association – Europa Cantat (ECA-ED), one of the patrons of the World

Youth Choir, will be organizing a special European Youth Choir for the final concert of the Beethoven Anniversary year 2020 on December 17, 2020. The choir will also perform Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the West-Eastern Divan Ensemble conducted by Daniel Barenboim. In addition, they will perform a short a cappella programme directed by Simon Halsey (UK), who will also prepare the choir. Singers under 30 with a European citizenship or living in a European country can apply for this project with the same audition material as for the World Youth Choir. However, the deadline for applications for the European Youth Choir is October 31, 2019. For more information about this additional opportunity, www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org —> activities.

Important Dates (World Youth Choir and European Youth Choir auditions)

September-November 2019 - Worldwide recruitment via national recruiters and/or direct application for countries without national recruiters. The official audition information will be available via the [WYC website](http://www.worldyouthchoir.org) and social media. Please also visit <https://www.worldyouthchoir.org/national-recruiters> for information on the recruiters in your country.

October 31, 2019 - Deadline for applying to the ECA-EC for the project with Daniel Barenboim and Simon Halsey as an additional opportunity.

December 1, 2019 - Deadline for submitting audition materials to the international jury for the 2020 World Youth Choir session. NOTE: Audition deadline dates in countries with National Recruiters may be earlier in order to facilitate national juries.

End of January/beginning of February 2020 - The international jury will announce the selected singers for the World Youth Choir 2020 summer session. See [WYC website](http://www.worldyouthchoir.org) for more audition details.



“This is an incredibly special project, which I feel so privileged to have been a part of. It has not only helped me grow as a musician, but has allowed me to make friends and connections from all over of the world. It has been an absolute joy to sing with the World Youth Choir, and it is something that I will cherish for a very long time.”

CIARÁN FENNELLY, WYC 2019 SINGER



NEWS FROM IFCM FOUNDING MEMBERS

A COEUR JOIE INTERNATIONAL: UPDATE ON THE RECENT CHORALIES

The Choralies Festival 2019: a great success

The 23rd edition of this unique festival offered a week of choral singing to all those who love to sing and listen to choral music. More than 4,000 participants came to Vaison-la-Romaine, France, for jam-packed days of singing, concerts, and summer warmth. Everyone left with their ears overflowing with magnificent music, their eyes brimming with smiles, their brains exhausted, and their muscles aching.

In the morning, 40 or so workshops with guest conductors from all over the world enabled participants to discover new music or to rediscover choral masterpieces. In the afternoon, around 100 concerts took place in six venues throughout the town of Vaison-la-Romaine. Concerts were provided by both those taking part in the festival and touring choirs; as well, there were a number of regional projects that culminated in performances in the city. Each evening, the ancient Roman theatre came alive with the sound of Open Singing - everyone singing together - followed by Gala Concerts with varied and sometimes intense programmes which made us reflect on our passion for choral singing as well as the society in which we live. From an artistic perspective, all the feedback has been extremely positive. People were happy with the workshops, the interesting and varied afternoon concerts in which everyone gave their best, the high quality evening performances, the tremendous Open Singing sessions, and the productions created and produced by dedicated members of À Cœur Joie. From the participant survey and congratulatory emails, it is clear that Choralies Festival 2019 was a success, not only from a musical point of view but also in terms of the logistics, the preparations, the warm welcome, and the smooth running of the festival.

Until 2022 for the 24th edition of the [Choralies Festival](#) in Vaison-la-Romaine.



EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION – EUROPA CANTAT (ECA-EC)

There are many choirs in Europe, but only one EuroChoir! For over 20 years, this project has allowed singers from all over Europe to join their voices and share their passion and dedication for singing. It's happening again next year in Limerick, Ireland. From 24 July to 3 August 2020, singers will have the opportunity to work with the award-winning choral conductor [Yuval Weinberg](#) and perform in beautiful locations across Ireland. Applications will open on 1 November 2019.

Read about the previous editions — <http://theeurochoir.org>



AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)

Registration Open!

[Children's Choir Conductor Retreat](#) - Jan. 18-19, 2020 (Atlanta, GA). Early Bird registration (\$125) ends Dec. 1. On that day, the price rises to \$150.



Dream a World of Song
Connections • Community • Creative Thought

ACDA CHILDREN'S & COMMUNITY YOUTH
CHOIR CONDUCTORS' RETREAT
JANUARY 18-19, 2020 • ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Save the Dates:

[ACDA Regional Conferences](#) - Mar. 2020. Exhibitor registration for all conferences will open in early September 2019, and attendee registration will open in October.

- Central & North Central Regions - Mar. 4-7 (Milwaukee, WI)
- Eastern Region - Mar. 4-7 (Rochester, NY)
- Southwestern Region - Mar. 4-7 (Little Rock, AR)
- Western Region - Mar. 4-7 (Salt Lake City, UT)
- Northwestern Region - Mar. 10-14 (Spokane, WA)
- Southern Region - Mar. 10-14 (Mobile, AL)

[2nd National Symposium on Research in Choral Singing](#) - May 1-2 (Atlanta, GA)

- Call for Proposals. Deadline: Nov. 30

[Summer Choral Composers Forum](#) - Jun. 22-29, 2020 (Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA).

[NextDirection Choral Leadership Conference](#) - Jul. 6-10, 2020 (Eau Claire, WI).

- NextDirection Virginia - July 28-31, 2020 (Virginia Beach, VA)

[ACDA National Conference](#) - Mar. 17-20, 2021 (Dallas, TX)

NEWS FROM IFCM MEMBERS

NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL

On 28 September 2019, members of the International Music Council gathered in Paris for the organisation's 38th General Assembly where they elected a new leadership team and adopted an ambitious work plan for the next two years. **Alfons Karabuda** (Sweden), composer and President of ECSA (European Composer & Songwriter Alliance) and SKAP (Swedish Association of Composers, Songwriters and Lyricists), was elected President. The IMC General Assembly also elected a new Executive Board composed of **Roula Abou Baker** (Lebanon), **Charles Binam Bikoi** (Cameroon), **Paul Dujardin** (Belgium), **Martí Ferrer** (Catalunia/Spain), **Ardavan Jafarian** (Iran), **Jacques Moreau** (France), **Naomi Pohl** (UK), **Sheila Woodward** (South Africa/USA), and **Xiaogang Ye** (China). Sheila Woodward will serve as Executive Vice-President, joined by Charles Binam Bikoi and Xiaogang Ye as Vice-Presidents and Martí Ferrer as Treasurer.

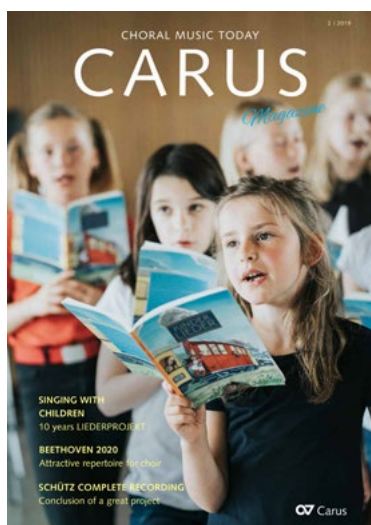


The new leadership team of the International Music Council

The General Assembly was followed by the **6th IMC World Forum on Music**, which gathered some 350 participants for a celebration of the organisation's core values, embedded in the Five Music Rights. This event also commemorated the 70th anniversary of the IMC, founded under the aegis of UNESCO in January 1949.

Choral music was mentioned in different sessions of the Forum by a number of speakers, and there were examples of choral traditions from almost all continents. This choral thread began with the importance of singing lullabies in families and the role singing plays in many African societies. It also included the presentation of choirs in countries with little choral tradition such as Afghanistan. Special projects were presented such as the first black Opera Choir in South Africa and a USA community choir with prisoners and singers from outside the prison singing together, even involving victims' families. Finally, participants learned how computer technique can add choral sound to a singing voice and how singers can successfully warm up their voice in the morning.

A permanent poster presentation included 70 projects promoting one or several of the Five Music Rights. One of the posters was from the **World Youth Choir** (www.worldyouthchoir.org),



a project of Jeunesses Musicales International, IFCM, and the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat (ECA-EC). Choral music was also represented by the project, Sing Me In, coordinated by ECA-EC and co-funded by the European Union Erasmus+ Programme.

Last but not least, **Revoice!**, an ensemble with alumni of the EuroChoir (a project of the ECA-EC) and the World Youth Choir, performed between two sessions with a varied and fitting repertoire conducted by three young conductors who also sing in the choir. The choristers in Revoice! were wonderful ambassadors of the choral world and received warm applause and positive feedback. (For more, see www.revoiceensemble.com) On October 1, International Music Day, Ian Smith (Chair of the European Music Council) ended the last session of the IMC World Forum which dealt with freedom of expression by quoting the text of the song “Even when he is silent” by Kim André Arnesen which the choir had beautifully performed.

Read the full report on the representation of Choral Music at the IMC Forum in the October issue of the ICB: <http://icb.ifcm.net/>

NEWS FROM CARUS-VERLAG

New CARUS magazine 2/2019

Twice a year the CARUS Magazine keeps you informed with interesting topics around choral music today. Hot off the press is the new CARUS Magazine 2/2019 with lots of articles about choral music.

You're in for a surprise! [>> Read online](#)

ADVERTISE YOUR CHORAL EVENT TO THE WORLD in the ICB and on our websites

Advertisement spaces are now available on <http://ifcm.net/> and <http://icb.ifcm.net> as well as in the quarterly ICB and eICB. Rates and dimensions are on the Reserve A Space form. Take advantage of the excellent usage statistics of our websites and media to promote your choral events!

WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR CHORAL WORLD IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2019

7-10 Nov: ON STAGE with Interkultur in Prague, Czech Republic -

<https://www.interkultur.com/>

11-17 Nov: International Choir Festival Corearte Brazil 2019, Caxias do Sul, Brazil -

www.corearte.es

14-17 Nov: Young Prague Festival, Prague, Czech Republic - www.music-contact.com

15-18 Nov: Singers in Residence - Sing Along Concert in Vienna, Austria -

<https://www.interkultur.com/>

15-17 Nov: 15th International Warsaw Choir Festival Varsovia Cantat, Poland -

www.varsoviacantat.pl

18-23 Nov: 1st International Festival for Female Choirs in Latin-America, Puerto Madryn, Chubut Province, Argentina - <https://www.ficfe.com>

19-24 Nov: International Choir Festival Corearte Medellin 2019, Colombia - www.corearte.es

25-30 Nov: 17th Festival Paraibano de Coros, Choral Festival of Paraíba, FEPAC 2019, João Pessoa, Brazil - <http://www.festivalparaibanodecoros.com>

26 Nov-1 Dec: 37th International Choral Festival of Karditsa, Greece -

<http://festivalofkarditsa.blogspot.gr/>

28 Nov-2 Dec, 5-9 Dec, 12-16 Dec, 19-23 Dec 2019, Vienna Advent Sing, Austria -

www.music-contact.com

28 Nov-1 Dec: Budapest International Choir Fest, Hungary - <http://www.megaartsm.com>

1-4 Dec: Vocal Competition Voices of Costa Brava, Lloret de Mar, Spain -

www.fiestalonia.net

NOVEMBER 2019

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1 Dec: Allmänna Sången & Anders Wall Composition Award 2019, Uppsala, Sweden -

<https://www.allmannasangen.se/asawca>

5-9, 12-16 & 19-23 Dec: International Advent Singing Festival Vienna 2019, Austria -

<https://www.musicultur.com/en/our-choral-trips.html>

5-8 Dec: International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music, Bratislava, Slovak Republic -

www.choral-music.sk

6-8 Dec: 10th Krakow Advent and Christmas Choir Festival , Poland -

www.christmasfestival.pl

15 Dec: 1st International Choral Composition Competition Carmina Nova, Malaga, Spain -

<https://www.coralcarminanova.com>

28 Dec 2019-2 Jan 2020 Corsham Winter School, United Kingdom - www.lacock.org