



## November 2025 IFCMeNEWS

### **World Symposium on Choral Music, 23-28 August 2026, Macau, China, *Reimagining the Future***

Invitations will soon be sent to the selected choirs and presenters for WSCM 2026, as the Artistic Committee continues the exciting process of shaping the official Symposium programme. The call for participation drew an inspiring global response, with choir entries from 30 countries and presenter applications from 36. With such rich diversity, the Artistic Committee aims to ensure that all regions of the world are represented—perfectly reflecting the Symposium's spirit: a celebration of global connection, creativity, and shared vision.

The WSCM 2026 Artistic Committee extends its heartfelt thanks to everyone who applied. The enthusiasm and creativity expressed by so many choral leaders and ensembles set the stage for a truly exceptional event.

It won't be long until registration opens for individual and group participants at WSCM 2026 in Macau, China, 23–28 August 2026! Stay tuned and follow IFCM social media (@IFCMofficial) and IFCMeNEWS for the latest updates.



World Symposium on Choral Music 2023; Istanbul, Türkiye © Gülcan Acar

### **IFCM Online Café, 22 November 2025, 10AM CET, *Creating, Conducting, and Inspiring Youth Ensembles***

**With Michael Barrett (South Africa), Maria Theresa Vizconde-Roldan (Philippines) and Lyn Williams (Australia)**

Join us for an engaging IFCM Online Café dedicated to the art of working with youth and children's choirs. Our guests will explore the many dimensions of conducting, inspiring, and sustaining young vocal ensembles around the world.

**Topics include:**

- 1. Conducting and Leadership** – What makes conducting youth and children's choirs unique? We'll look at philosophy, strategy, practical tools, and repertoire selection.
- 2. Musical and Vocal Development** – Discover rehearsal techniques tailored to young voices, approaches to healthy vocal technique, and ways to unlock expressive potential.
- 3. Creative Approaches and Expression** – Learn how to integrate movement, staging, and transitions and explore themes of gender and inclusivity in youth choir settings.
- 4. Community and Ensemble Building** – Exchange ideas on creating new youth choirs, fostering collaboration, and strengthening networks among conductors and ensembles.
- 5. Sustainability and Resources** – Discuss effective fundraising strategies and ways to build lasting support structures for youth choir initiatives.

Whether you're an experienced conductor or just starting your journey with young singers, this Online Café will offer practical insights, inspiration, and connection within our global choral community.

Register [here](#).

The banner features a background image of a laptop keyboard and a spiral notebook. In the top right corner is the IFCM logo. The main text is in bold blue and orange. Below the title, there are four circular headshots of the guests and moderator, each with their name and location underneath. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

**IFCM Online Café**  
**22 November 2025, 10AM CET**

**Creating, Conducting, and Inspiring Youth Ensembles**

**Guests:**

-   
**Michael Barrett**  
South Africa
-   
**Maria Theresa Vizconde-Roldan**  
Philippines
-   
**Lyn Williams**  
Australia
-   
**Jan Schumacher**  
Germany

**Moderator:**



[https://bit.ly/IFCMOnlineCafeNovember2025\\_Register](https://bit.ly/IFCMOnlineCafeNovember2025_Register)

**The Promotional Campaign of the World Choral Day Has Just Started!**

IFCM invites conductors, singers, and choirs worldwide to join in building an international collage of photos and stories. Together, let's show how choral singing touches lives, strengthens communities, and unites our planet. **Start sharing now your unforgettable moments** when singing together truly made a difference.

**How to participate in this WCD promotional campaign:**

- Share one photo that captures a powerful choral moment for you on Facebook and/or Instagram.
- In your caption (max 100 words), tell the story of how/why this choral experience was meaningful for you, your choir, or your community.

The graphic is divided into three sections. On the left is a dark blue box with white text. In the center is a photograph of a large group of people singing in a field. On the right is a green box with white text.

**1**

**Share one photo that captures a powerful choral moment for you on Facebook and/or Instagram**



**2**

**In your caption (max 100 words), tell the story of how/why this choral experience was meaningful for you, your choir, or your community**

- Tag three singers, conductors, or choirs and challenge them to keep the chain going.
- Use #WorldChoralDay2025 and tag IFCM to link all contributions.
- Together, let's create a global mosaic of collective singing (one photo and one story at a time), showing how voices joined in harmony have the potential to unite us all — one voice on one planet.

**3**

**Tag three singers,  
conductors, or choirs  
and challenge them to  
keep the chain going**

**14 December 2025**



*Singing for Peace,  
Connection,  
and Our Common Home*

**4**

**Use  
#WorldChoralDay2025  
and tag IFCM to link all  
contributions**



On 14 December, let's come together once more — in person and in spirit — to lift our voices in song and celebrate **peace, connection, and our shared home**.

## IFCM recommends...

### Connect & Create - Strengthening Cultural Ties Between Africa and Europe

*Connect & Create* is the Sub-Saharan Africa branch of the EU-funded Africa-Europe Partnerships for Culture programme. Led by the [Goethe-Institut](#) and [Expertise France](#), in partnership with the [Institut français](#), it seeks to renew and strengthen cultural ties between Sub-Saharan Africa and the European Union through equity, inclusion, and sustainability.

Launched in 2025 in Addis Ababa and Zanzibar, the initiative embodies the Team Europe spirit, combining the expertise of the three partner institutions. It promotes a collaborative, artist-centered approach, positioning culture not only as a means of outreach but also as a transformative force for genuine cooperation, creativity, and mutual respect.

Read more about the call and apply [here](#), before **14 December 2025 (11:59PM CET)**.



### Research on the Intelligibility of Choirs - Perception Investigation

Whether you have choral experience or none at all, Anastasia Kananovich, 3rd year PhD student at the University of Strasbourg, France, would like to invite you to take part in a perception investigation:

<https://www.psytoolkit.org/c/3.6.4/survey?s=amfFQ> (English version)

<https://www.psytoolkit.org/c/3.6.4/survey?s=rHSGH> (version française)

<https://www.psytoolkit.org/c/3.6.4/survey?s=c5LOB> (versione italiana)

The aim is to identify certain consonants sung by a small choir.

All you need is a pair of headphones and 10 to 15 minutes of free time. No musical experience or specific linguistic knowledge is required.

The perception exercise is accessible till **10 November 2025**.

Thank you very much for your kind participation!



### **Musica International : End of a Huge Work on the Composers Table**

The May 2025 IFCMeNEWS included a description of the benefits of using the database of 33,000 biographies of choral music composers. This resource has been developed by Musica International and is available at [www.musicanet.org](http://www.musicanet.org), or, with full privileged access, through the "SERVICE" section of [www.ifcm.net](http://www.ifcm.net) if you are a member of IFCM: see <https://www.ifcm.net/news/1074/musica-international-----a-quick-way-to-find-information-about-composers-of-choral-music>. The database is, in fact, a table of composers connected to the more than 200,000 descriptions of choral scores of Musica International database.

An important milestone occurred in October 2025 - the re-examination and upgrading of this table was completed after a careful, one-by-one analysis of 33,000 records (several years of work)! This type of upgrading will continue and is never-ending. In the future, updates will occur through tracking news concerning the composers, e.g., every month, composers are passing away, and their record needs to be updated. As well, the database of scores is enriched almost daily as new records are added for composers not yet cited. While 25,000 records now have at least one external link to detailed biographies, links to new biographies need to be added and dead links need constantly to be removed and, if possible, replaced by others.

This is an appeal to every choral music lover to help us perpetuate and refine this work. Do not hesitate to use this database, to check the presence and correctness of the information about yourself (if you are a composer), to send us comments, and to give us information that is still not present in Musica. Contact us at [librarian@musicanet.org](mailto:librarian@musicanet.org). Musica is a collaborative project needing the participation of everybody.

Examples of recent updated records:

**Nörgård, Per (1932-2025)**

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Composer's country: | Denmark    |
| Gender:             | M          |
| Born in             | Gentofte   |
| Date of birth:      | 1932-07-13 |
| Died in             | København  |
| Date of death:      | 2025-05-28 |
| Century:            | 20 ~ 21    |

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Record #10044

<https://www.musicanet.org/bdd/en/composer/10044-norgard--per>

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**Schtschedrin, Rodion (1932-2025)**

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Composer's country: | USSR ; Russia |
| Gender:             | M             |
| Born in             | Moscow        |
| Date of birth:      | 1932-12-16    |
| Died in             | München       |
| Date of death:      | 2025-08-29    |
| Century:            | 20 ~ 21       |

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<https://www.musicanet.org/bdd/en/composer/12988-schtschedrin--rodion>

### World Youth Choir (WYC) Performing *Peace*

During its session 2025 in Catalonia and France, the World Youth Choir premiered *Peace*, a new composition by Anna Campmany. Commissioned especially for this session, *Peace* was performed in renowned venues including the Palau de la Música in Barcelona and the *Théâtre Antique* in Vaison-la-Romaine.

Rooted in themes of connection and harmony, *Peace* reflects the spirit of the World Youth Choir—an ensemble that unites young singers from across the globe in a shared celebration of music and understanding.

You can watch the performance of *Peace* at the Palau de la Música Catalana [here](#).



## European Choral Association (ECA)

### Conductors Beyond Borders Peer-to-Peer Exchange Programme

Through a [Choral TIES project](#), a series of inspiring sessions have brought together conductors and choirs across borders, strengthening artistic and cultural connections worldwide. The programme has provided limited financial support to help cover travel expenses, enabling European conductors to collaborate with choirs from other continents, EU conductors to work in European countries outside the Union, or European choirs to host conductors from abroad.

#### A few words on the recent Peer-to-Peer CBB Session

**Oksana Sukhetska** (Ukraine) was invited by [Pro Coro Canada](#) (Edmonton, Alberta, Canada) to work with the choir (18-30 September 2025) under the guidance of Artistic Director Michael Zaugg and guest conductor Lone Larsen (Sweden). Together, they prepared a selection of choral works for the concert *From a Root a Flower Opens*, held on 28 September 2025, in Edmonton.

During her stay, Oksana took part in all rehearsals, workshops, and the concert itself. She studied and prepared the repertoire, worked closely with Lone and Michael on conducting techniques, both individually with the conductors and in front of the choir, and conducted a selection of a cappella pieces in the opening concert. Oksana also met with Ukrainian choirs and choral leaders in Edmonton, observed rehearsals, shared her own music and background, and became part of the local choral community. In addition, she had the opportunity to connect with other Canadian choirs and observe their work.

Read Oksana's blog [here](#).



*The Conductors beyond borders peer-to-peer exchange 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.*

#### A few months left to apply for a Peer-to-Peer CBB Programme

Before applying, please read the [complete guidelines](#).

[Apply here](#).



### 15th European Youth Choir Festival Basel – CALL FOR CHOIRS!

Basel, Switzerland | 4-9 May 2027

Registration open from 1 December 2025 – 31 January 2026

The [EJCF Basel](#) ranges among the most important platforms for highly qualified children's and youth choirs in the world. Every two years in May (Ascension) eleven outstanding choirs from European countries, one guest choir from a non-European country and six selected choirs from Switzerland thrill an audience of over 36,000 concert-goers in more than 50 events. Apart from the high-quality music, the festival focuses on the youngsters' interaction among themselves as well as with the locals. All singers are hosted in guest families. The festival covers all costs of the invited choirs. Have a look at our [short video presentation](#) and read the exciting [report of Cristina](#) from Romania.



### Get Ready for the 71st Cork International Choral Festival, Ireland, 29 April-3 May 2026

The application deadline for the [International Non-Competitive Participation](#) is 30 November 2025.

The [2026 International Choral Conducting Course](#), Cork, Ireland, 28 April–1 May 2026, returns next year. This four-day intensive course offers hands-on training to help you develop your conducting skills. You will learn from international guest tutors, Jennifer Moir and Jani Sívén, and perform with the acclaimed Chamber Choir Ireland in your final ensemble workshop. Register before 6 February 2026.

#### [2026 Internship Opportunity](#)

The Cork International Choral Festival is looking for enthusiastic, self-motivated candidates who are keen to establish a career in the festivals and music events industry!



This is a great opportunity to be fully involved from the outset with the production of a well-established and exciting festival and advance your existing creative skills by working with the Festival Team on a range of projects across media and platforms.

Application closing date: **30 November 2025**.

### **Berkshire Choral Summer 2026 Season**

Berkshire Choral is the elevated music camp experience for adults. Pick a program you like, and you'll sing amazing repertoire with world-class conductors, sharpen your skills, and bond with new friends who love to sing as much as you do.

2026 conductors include André Thomas, Beth Willer, Anthony Trecek-King, Iris Levine, Deke Sharon, and Patrick Dupre Quigley.

From Tanglewood to Denver to Tallinn, [find your next choral adventure](#).

[Watch our season preview video](#)



### **Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals (FCEC) Announces the 61st International Choral Music Festival**

From **6–12 July 2026**, the [Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals \(FCEC\)](#) invites choirs from around the globe to Barcelona for its 61st International Choral Music Festival—a week of singing, cultural exchange, and unforgettable performances.



The festival offers six days of workshops and concerts in the vibrant heart of Barcelona, bringing together music and cultures from all over the world. Participating choirs will present two concerts each, culminating in the final concert at the iconic Palau de la Música Catalana, one of the city's most celebrated Art Nouveau/modernist landmarks.

Afternoon workshops, open to both choirs and individual singers, will be led by Núria Cunillera (Catalonia, Spain), Pablo Assante (Argentina), and Fidel G. Calalang (The Philippines).

**Applications are open until 15 November 2025.**

### **The European Music Festival for Young People, Neerpelt, Belgium, celebrates its 75th Anniversary in 2027**

Join the [European Music Festival for Young People](https://www.emj.be/emj75) (EMJ) in Neerpelt, Belgium, **4-10 May 2027**, for an unforgettable musical adventure. During these six days, the city will come alive with song, friendship, and international exchange. Over 150 children's and youth choirs and instrumental ensembles from Europe, Asia, South America, North America, Oceania, and Africa will share their musical passion, perform for a renowned jury, and receive valuable, constructive feedback. Along with the jury concerts, participants will enjoy inspiring workshops, improvised performances, and heartwarming moments of connection. The EMJ is not just a festival; it's a celebration of young talent, cultural unity, and boundless musical energy. Visit [www.emj.be/emj75](https://www.emj.be/emj75) to find out more about EMJ 2027 and take your place on this unique international stage.



### **The Internationaler Volkskulturkreis, Germany, Announces Two Festivals in 2026**

The [Internationaler Volkskulturkreis](https://www.volkskulturkreis.de) is a non-profit association that promotes encounters between people of different nationalities and cultures, especially between China and Europe. Through various events such as festivals, competitions, seminars & workshops, they organize choir and orchestra experiences. Their next events are:

- The 12th International Youth Arts Festival, Vienna, Austria, on 6-8 February 2026. Register before 6 January 2026.
- The 8th World Youth Arts Festival 2026, Vienna, Austria, on 16-18 July 2026. Register before 31 May 2026 (Early Birds ends on 31. December 2025)

Contact: [info@volkskulturkreis.de](mailto:info@volkskulturkreis.de)



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.