



Happy Holidays!

Wishing Everyone Peace, Joy and Prosperity.

December 2025 IFCMeNEWS

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

For six days in August 2026, Macau will be host to one of the biggest events of the International Federation for Choral Music, held with the support of the Macau Choral Arts Association. The theme for the 2026 triennial gathering of the international choral community is *Reimagining the Future* and aims to attract representation from all regions in the world. WSCM 2026 will invite us to reflect on the present, considering what has changed or is in the process of changing, while also looking forward with imagination and curiosity to what the future could hold.

Macau is a vibrant destination that blends Portuguese and Chinese cultures, famous for its dazzling casinos, luxurious resorts, and unique Macanese cuisine. An autonomous region on the south coast of China, across the Pearl River Delta from Hong Kong, Macau was a Portuguese territory until 1999. The region offers a captivating mix of old and new. As such, it is an ideal location in which to 'reimagine the future'!

To help us fulfil this challenge of *Reimagining the Future*, let's meet the selected choirs:

[Hamilton Children's Choir](#) (Canada), the [Philippine Madrigal Singers](#) (Philippines), the [National Taiwan Hakka Children's Choir](#) (Taiwan), [Vox Clamantis](#) (Estonia), the [Norwegian Male Choir](#) (Norway), the [Ponomarev Vesna Children's Choir](#) (Russia), [Postyr](#) (Denmark), the [Adelaide Chamber Singers](#) (Australia), the [Mad Singers Youth Choir](#) (Hong Kong China), The [Singapore Choral Artists](#) (Singapore), the [Ansan City Choir](#) (South Korea), the Shanghai Youth Choir (China), the [University of Johannesburg Choir](#) (South Africa) and the [World Youth Choir](#).

Stay tuned for details on the selected choirs and to meet the inspiring presenters, workshop and conducting masterclass leaders behind this WSCM 2026.

Thank you to all the choirs and presenters who have participated in the calls!



WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC 2026

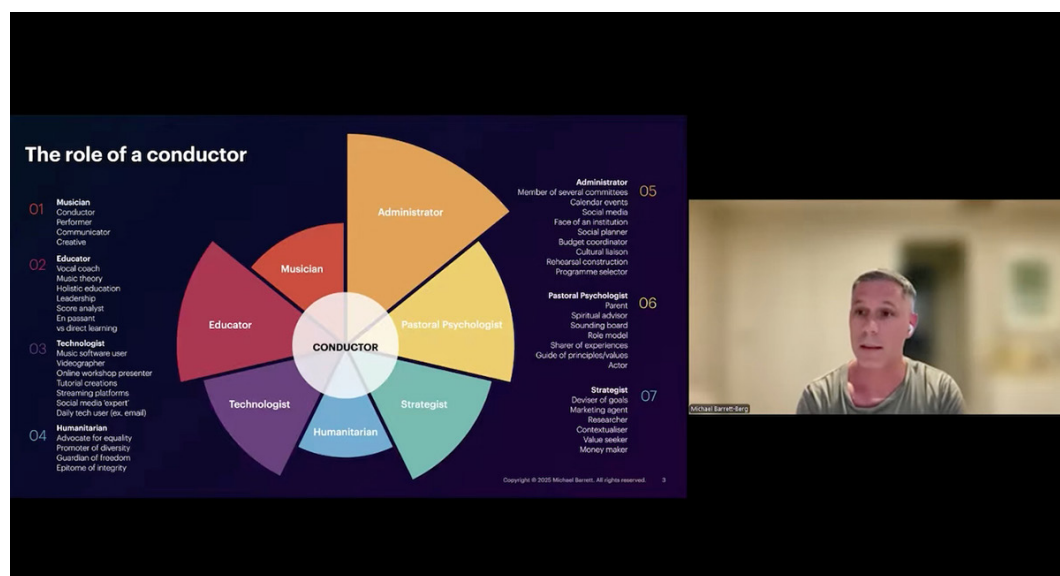
MACAU · CHINA
23-28 August 2026

Did you miss the 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)

In this Online Café, IFCM guests shared their experiences and strategies for working with youth choirs, including approaches to teaching non-reading members, creative rehearsal techniques, and cultural exchange through music. All guests agreed on the importance of nurturing creativity and collaboration. Like choral leaders worldwide, they believe young individuals can contribute to build a peaceful community and preserve cultural heritage.

You can watch the recording [here](#) after login.



Celebrate the World Choral Day (14 December) and Send Your Video to IFCM

Send your poster to announce your WCD concert to office@ifcm.net

[Download](#) the World Choral Day Proclamation. Recite it before, during or after your concert.

After the concert, send your video to office@ifcm.net. We will publish it on the [World Choral Day Facebook page](#).



On World Choral Day, voices from every corner of the globe will join together with a powerful message: **peace is possible, and it begins with us**. In a world too often divided by conflict, fear, and isolation, singing together is a radical act. It builds trust, opens hearts, and connects strangers.

When two people sing together, they are **not in conflict**—they are **listening, responding, and creating harmony**.

World Choral Day celebrates the power of music to unite us. It's not just about performance - it's about presence. It's about choosing **conversation over conflict, connection over silence**. This year, we are called to reject the walls that separate us - between nations, cultures, communities, even neighbors. **If we sing together, we choose not to fight. We choose to create peace.**

In a time of global uncertainty, our voices must also rise to **protect our shared home**. Climate change reminds us that we are all in this together. Just as a choir depends on every voice to create harmony, a livable planet depends on each of us to protect and care for it. **Peace and a healthy planet are built on strong human relationships.**

Every choir that gathers across cultural, political, or linguistic divides is practicing what it means to be a global family. Just as every singer plays a part in the music, each of us has a role in shaping a more peaceful, connected, and sustainable world.

On World Choral Day, let us **raise our voices—in song, in solidarity, and in hope.**

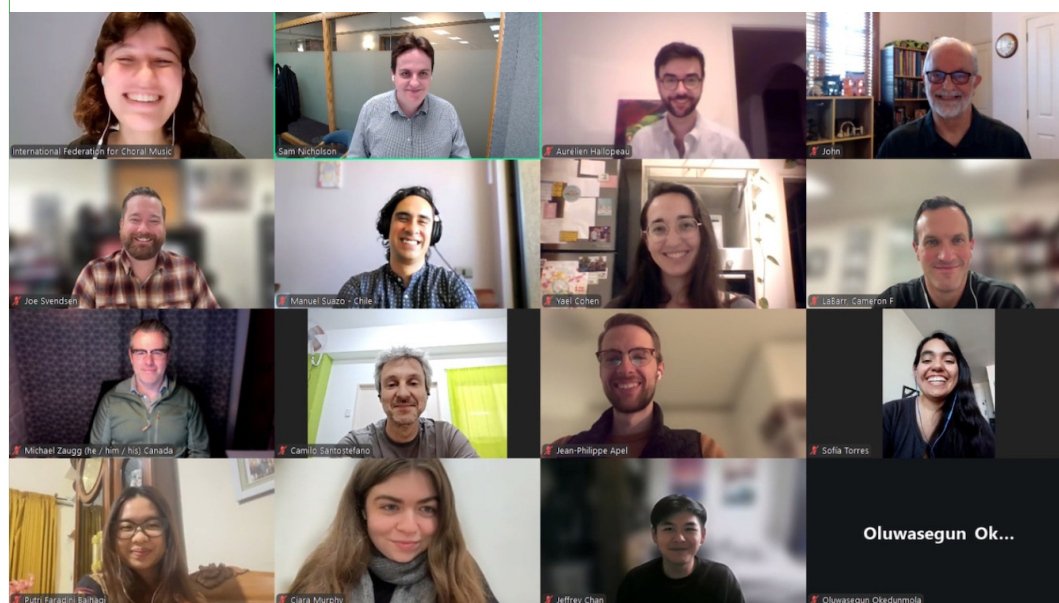
Sing for peace. Sing for our planet. Sing for our future.

The inaugural IFCM Young Conductors' Virtual Mentorship Programme is underway!

As part of the launch of this new IFCM initiative, the YOUNG IFCM Committee hosted a welcome Zoom session for mentors and mentees from around the world. This programme brings together 14 mentor-mentee pairings from 17 countries, fostering learning, connection, and cross-border collaboration as we support the next generation of choral leaders.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all the mentors who have joined us, and a warm welcome to our aspiring choral leaders!

#IFCM #ChoralMusic #YoungConductors #GlobalCommunity #Mentorship



Peer-to-Peer Conductors Beyond Borders Exchange Programme

The Peer-to-Peer Conductors Beyond Borders (CBB) 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.

Thank you to all the participating partners! Here's a peek into some of the November exchanges made possible through the Peer-to-Peer CBB Exchange Programme.

7-10 November: A European conductor from outside the EU (Kerry Boyle, UK) hosted by several choirs in the region of Reims, France

The villages in and around Reims have struggled to recover since the pandemic. Like many places post-Covid, choir numbers remain very low and choirs are looking for new members. To

help revitalise local participation, the villagers invited neighbouring choirs to join and perform at a social event. The choirs were led by Kerry Boyle, who also provided a preparatory workshop for the choirs.



13-16 November: A European conductor (Rudolf de Beer, Norway) hosted by a Department of Education Institution in South Africa (North West Musikon)

During this CBB Peer-to-Peer Exchange Program session, Rudolf de Beer undertook several professional engagements that contributed meaningfully to his artistic development. He led a workshop with Viva Cantare Choir, a choir from Stellenbosch, providing technical and musical guidance to support the ensemble's ongoing growth. Rudolf also served as guest conductor for a new choral-orchestral project with Musikon in Klerksdorp, collaborating closely with local musicians on the preparation and interpretation of the repertoire.



13-17 November: A conductor from outside Europe (Maria Guinand, Venezuela) hosted by choral conductors in Finland (Global Music Department at Uniarts Helsinki)

This CBB Peer-to-Peer Exchange Program session aimed to strengthen global choral leadership by exploring vocal work within an intercultural rhythmic choir. It covered rhythmic conducting techniques across diverse musical cultures, vocal groove, group voice teaching, workshop and rehearsal methods, planning, body-rhythm integration, choral improvisation, and creative approaches to choir direction.



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)**.

IFCM Signed Policy Recommendations from the Cultural and Creative Sectors on the Future of EU-UK Cultural Relations

The [Policy Recommendations](#) are addressed to EU and UK institutions, including the EU–UK Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (PPA). They evolved from a recent forum in Brussels where EU and UK cultural organisations discussed key issues such as mobility, transnational funding, cross-border collaboration, regulation, and innovation.

The document will be shared with UK and European Parliament members attending the next PPA meeting, which will focus on strengthening UK–EU cultural and creative exchange.

[Read](#) the Press Release.

European Choral Association (ECA)

Rewatch the Choral TIES Webinar “Designing International Events: From Preparation to Evaluation”

How do you bring an international choral event to life, from the first idea to the final evaluation?

This webinar, that took place online on 18 November, explores the full journey of designing, preparing, organising and assessing successful choral gatherings, with insights from three experienced organisers representing a diversity of approaches and contexts. Tamara Adamov Petijevic (Serbia), Silvija Prockyte (Lithuania) and Côme Ferrand-Cooper (France) shared their perspectives from both established and emerging festivals across different European regions. The discussion was moderated by Sonja Greiner, Secretary General of the European Choral Association.

This Webinar was organised by the European Choral Association in the framework of the [Choral TIES](#) project co-funded by the EU.

Watch the webinar [here](#).

The poster is divided into two main sections. The left section has a white background with the ECA logo (European Choral Association) at the top. Below it, on an orange background, is the title "DESIGNING INTERNATIONAL CHORAL EVENTS FROM PREPARATION TO EVALUATION" in white capital letters. Underneath the title, it says "Tuesday 18 November 2025 | 3 pm CET | Online". Below this are three circular headshots of the speakers: Silvija Prockytė, Côme Ferrand Cooper, and Tamara Adamov Petijevic, with their names written below each. At the bottom left, it says "an initiative of Choral TIES" with the Choral TIES logo and the European Union flag, followed by "Co-funded by the European Union". The right section of the poster shows a photograph of a choral performance on a stage with dramatic lighting.

Opportunity: One-on-One Online Exchange with a Singing for your Life Conductor

Learn about choirs for people confronted with cancer

Kanker in Beeld offers a one-on-one online meeting with an experienced Dutch conductor who works with Singing for your Life choirs.

This is an opportunity to learn about choirs for people confronted with cancer, including:

- how Singing for your Life choirs work
- how to start a choir for people confronted with cancer
- the benefits of singing for people confronted with cancer
- making international connections with conductors of Singing for your Life choirs

During your individual exchange, you can ask questions, discuss methods and explore how these choirs support wellbeing through singing.

Who is it for?

Anyone interested in supporting people confronted with cancer through singing and music-making, including representatives of choral, music, community or health organisations, conductors, choir managers and more.

What is a Singing for your Life choir?

Singing for your Life choirs are designed for people who are living with or recovering from cancer and their families. They offer a supportive space where participants can sing together, regain confidence and benefit from the social and emotional impact of collective singing.

When can we talk?

This opportunity runs **until 15 December 2025**. If you are only available in 2026, please still fill in the application form and register your interest for the future!

If you are interested, fill in this form and we will connect you with a conductor to arrange a meeting at a convenient time.

This opportunity takes place in the frame of the [SWAN Project](#) (Singing With Additional Needs), which is co-funded by the EU.

Learn more [here](#).

OPPORTUNITY

**One-on-One Online
Exchange with a
Singing for your Life
Conductor**

KANKER
IN BEELD

 Co-funded by the
European Union

SWAN
SINGING WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

**CONCERTS-AUSTRIA Presents Two Versions of the Summa Cum Laude Festival
Summa Cum Laude Youth Music Festival 2026 in Vienna**

The **Summa Cum Laude (SCL) Youth Music Festival**, held every July in Vienna brings together young musicians from all continents to perform and learn together. Concerts take place in the city's most prestigious halls, including the Golden Hall of the Musikverein and the Great Hall of the Konzerthaus, while workshops and lectures are hosted at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (MDW). Open to choirs, bands, and orchestras, the 2026 edition, themed *"We are children just the same – child composers over the centuries"*, celebrates intercultural exchange and musical excellence.



Summa Cum Laude on Tour South Africa 2026

Building on the success of the Summa Cum Laude Festival in Vienna, **SCLonTour** brings its global youth music experience to new horizons. The first edition will be held 6-11 August 2026 in Sun City, South Africa, featuring performances, competitions, and workshops with international professionals. Highlights include the Inkululeko Ngomculu Parade, a traditional African drumming circle, and an exclusive safari game drive in Pilanesberg National Park. Ensembles may also extend their stay to perform in Cape Town's historic City Hall. SCLonTour unites young musicians worldwide through music, friendship, and intercultural exchange on extraordinary stages across the globe.

SCL

ON TOUR

SOUTH AFRICA

SUN CITY

AUGUST 6-11, 2026

CHINA

SHANGHAI

AUGUST 2027

OPENING CEREMONY WORKSHOPS & LECTURE ADDITIONAL CONCERTS
COMPETITION OR CELEBRATION PERFORMANCE CLOSING CEREMONY
WWW.SCLONTOUR.ORG

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](#) is one of the most important non-competitive platforms for highly qualified children's and youth choirs in the world. Every two years in May (around the Feast of the 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 young people's 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.



Cantemus Choral Institute Organises its 16th Cantemus International Choral Festival and Conducting Masterclass

Nyíregyháza, Hungary, 16-21 August 2026

The [Cantemus Festival](#) offers choirs a unique opportunity to showcase their talents while creating unforgettable memories. Participants will enjoy a rich program of cultural experiences, concerts and performances, folk evenings, dance houses, competitions, and awards. Read the application requirements [here](#).



Apply before 15 January 2026.

The festival also offers the opportunity to refine your choral conducting skills through a masterclass led by Dénes Szabó, world-renowned, Kossuth Prize-winning conductor, together with the [Cantemus Children's Choir and the Pro Musica Girls' Choir](#).

Read about the participation conditions [here](#).

Apply before 1 May 2026.

The Internationaler Volkskulturkreis, Germany, Announces Two Festivals in 2026

The [Internationaler Volkskulturkreis](#) 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 and workshops, they organize choir and orchestra experiences. Their next events are:

The **12th International Youth Arts Festival**, Vienna, Austria, 6-8 February 2026. Register before **6 January 2026**.

The **8th World Youth Arts Festival 2026**, Vienna, Austria, 16-18 July 2026. Register before **31 May 2026** (Early Bird registration ends 31 December 2025)

Contact: 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.