



August 2025 IFCMeNEWS WSCM 2026 Logo Unveiled, Calls Open!



Reimagining the Future
**WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON
CHORAL MUSIC
MACAU 2026**

Reimagining the Future: Be Part of the WSCM 2026 Artistic Programme & Discover Its New Logo

The WSCM promotes artistic excellence, cooperation, and exchange by bringing together the finest choirs and choral leaders for performances, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, and choral reading sessions.

Reimagining the Future: The Theme!

The theme of WSCM 2026, ***Reimagining the Future*** encourages submissions of programs or presentation proposals that align with the richness of as many singing traditions as possible from across the globe. ***Reimagining the Future*** invites exploration and celebration of our choral landscape. It looks at the present (what has changed or is changing) but also to the future (what might/could be changed).

WSCM 2026: The Logo!

The WSCM 2026 logo reflects Macau's iconic lotus, encircled by vibrant colors symbolizing diversity and unity. Its upward flow embodies growth and aspiration — a perfect image of “Grow your network, Grow your voice, Grow your future.”

Choirs and Vocal Ensembles, and Presenters: Apply Now!

How to Apply:

All application materials must be submitted via email to wscm2026@ifcm.net.

[Download](#) the submission instructions for Choirs.

[Download](#) the submission instructions for Presenters.

Deadline: 15 October 2025.

World Choral Day 2025: Singing for Peace, Connection, and Our Common Home

On [World Choral Day](#) 2025 (14 December 2025), voices from every corner of the globe will



rise in 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. 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 peace.

In a time of global uncertainty, our voices must also rise to protect our shared home. Climate change reminds us: 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.

**#WorldChoralDay #SingForPeace #VoicesTogether #BuildHarmony #PeaceThroughSong
#OnePlanetOneVoice**

Did You Miss the IFCM Online Café, 26 July 2025, 2PM CEST: Creating Choral Music: Exploring the Art of Choral Composition

The video recording is on YouTube

The Online Café “*Creating Choral Music: Exploring the Art of Choral Composition*” took place on Zoom on 26 July 2025.

174 people from 46 countries registered for this Online Cafe featuring three composers from three different countries and traditions who shared their experiences and insights on composing for choirs: [Rudolf de Beer](#) (Norway/South Africa), [Zuzanna Koziej](#) (Poland), and [Edgard Moya Godoy](#) (Denmark/Argentina).

Moderated by IFCM Vice-President María Guinand (Venezuela), our guest composers are sharing valuable insights into the artistic and practical aspects of choral composition by presenting two or three pieces of their own work. Whether you are an experienced composer, a choral director, or simply passionate about vocal music, this is a unique opportunity to learn directly from the individuals shaping the contemporary choral repertoire.

[Watch it here](#) (after login)

YOUNG Programme 2025, Pueri Cantores Festival, Munich (14–21 July 2025)

The third edition of the [IFCM YOUNG programme](#) was successfully held in Munich from 14 to 21 July 2025, as part of the [Pueri Cantores International Festival](#). This year's program gathered eight emerging choral managers from Europe and around the world, offering them a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in organizing a large-scale international choral event.

At the beginning of the program, participants took part in focused workshops introducing the structure, goals, and key components of international festival planning. These sessions laid the groundwork for the rest of the week, during which the YOUNGs were fully integrated into the Pueri Cantores organizing team. Working alongside professionals who hosted over 4,000 young singers from across the globe, they gained direct insight into event logistics, coordination, and the realities of large-scale cultural management.

The experience allowed the YOUNG participants to expand their skills, deepen their understanding of international collaboration, and build valuable professional networks. Their energy, dedication, and contribution throughout the week were recognized and appreciated by the entire team, making this edition of YOUNG a meaningful step in their development as future leaders in the choral world.



From left to right: Gürkay Aydoğmuş (Türkiye), Diāna Daiva Priediena (Latvia), Lorena Miličević (Croatia), Keying Huo-Smith (New Zealand), Ria Master (India), Katherine Tejera Suárez (Spain/Venezuela), McKinley Short (Spain/USA) and Jonas Likandja (Belgium/DR Congo)

This programme is part of the [Choral TIES project](#) coordinated by the [European Choral Association](#) and co-funded by the [European Union Creative Europe programme](#) and organised in cooperation with IFCM in the frame of the [45th International Congress of Pueri Cantores](#)

Conductors Beyond Borders, Douala, Cameroon, 21-28 June 2025

This training session marks the end of a three-year [Conductors Beyond Borders](#) (CBB) programme (2021–2024), with a week of training taking place each semester. The 2025 session, led by Thierry Thiébaud, Président of A Cœur Joie International and IFCM previous Vice-President, culminated in a concert conducted by two of the six choir conductors who have graduated from the programme. All of the graduates will subsequently train other conductors nationwide. This session as well as the previous ones was organised by the [Cameroonian Federation for Choral Music À Cœur Joie](#) (Fédération Camerounaise de Musique Chorale A Cœur Joie, FECAMUCH-ACJ), [À Cœur Joie International](#), in collaboration with IFCM.

The choir in residence, *la Chorale A Cœur Joie of the FECAMUCH-ACJ*, is a choir formed by participants of the CBB programmes in Douala between 2021 and 2024, and created with the aim of continuing to work together.



Unlike previous years, the recent session saw a change of focus. The courses were no longer centred on foundational elements such as vocal technique, sight-reading, scales, transposition, modulation, harmony, pedagogy, conducting, organisation and rehearsal management. These aspects have now been thoroughly mastered by the current graduates, who have successfully completed their initial training. This time was about refining the final stages of the project and leading the concluding rehearsals with the choir and soloists.

The culminating performance—(*Petite Messe Solennelle* by Rossini) a complex multi-part work integrating solos and choral sections—was conducted in succession by Christelle Kemayou Fokou (Cameroon), Patrice Ewoungouo (Cameroon), and Thierry Thiébaut (France), each bringing their own expertise and leadership to the stage.



In parallel, a training seminar on 'How to Compose' was organised by the *Grande Chorale d'Hommes de Deïdo* in Douala. The aim of this educational event was to enhance the skills of choirmasters, conductors and musicians from various regions of Cameroon.

The main objective was to encourage participants to generate a musical idea and explore its potential variations. Through theoretical presentations and practical workshops, participants were introduced to essential techniques for developing a musical theme from a literary text fragment.

The workshop sessions enabled participants to practise creating music in small groups in an atmosphere of intense collaboration. Each participant received a certificate of attendance and an assurance of future support for local choral creation.

Panel leaders were Toto Guillaume (Cameroon), Thierry Thiébaut (France), Patrick Ewoungouo (Cameroon), Dr Ntsama and Théodore Kae of the Fine Arts Institute of Nkongsamba, Cameroon.

Reflections of Christelle Kemayou Fokou in [English](#) and [French](#) and Patrice Ewoungouo in [English](#) and [French](#).

IFCM Welcomes a New Member in the Local Organisation Category St Peters Chorale, Brisbane, Australia

St Peters Chorale, from St Peters Lutheran College (Indooroopilly), is a mixed voice choir of students in Years 9 - 12. Founded by Graeme Morton in 1983, the choir has developed a national and international reputation as an outstanding youth choir and is well known for its championing of Australian choral composers. The Chorale regularly commissions works from eminent Australian composers, many of which have become choral 'classics' performed by leading choirs throughout the world. In addition to its focus on Australian repertoire, the Chorale also performs major works from the great European tradition of choral music such

as Mendelssohn's Elijah, Mozart's Requiem, Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb and John Rutter's Gloria.

St Peters Chorale has an extensive history of both domestic and international touring. The choir has been privileged to be invited to perform in many special venues, including Cathedrals of St Pauls, Ely, Bristol, Canterbury, Wells, Newport and Winchester, Bath Abbey, St Clements Dane (UK), Salzburg Dom (Austria), Tempelpiaukio Church (Denmark). Other destinations have included the USA, Canada, Singapore, Finland, Russia, Sweden, Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Hungary and Poland.



IFCM Welcomes a New Member in the Choir Category Vox Humanis & Vox Libera, Sanliurfa, Türkiye

Located at Harran University in Şanlıurfa, the [Vox Humanis Polyphonic Choir](#) comprises twenty-four voices under the direction of Dr Firat Altun. Its repertoire ranges from Renaissance motets and Turkish premières to vibrant Anatolian polyphony—embracing Komitas's and Ganatchian's folk harmonisations, Mozart's Ave verum corpus, Hasan Ferit Alnar's modal works, and Karl Jenkins's globally inflected oratorios.



Emerging from its female membership, the [Vox Libera Polyphonic Female Choir](#) cultivates an artistic sisterhood, foregrounding women's choral literature while promoting cultural dialogue throughout Anatolia.

By uniting Anatolia's multi-ethnic musical traditions with Western classics and the university's commitment to musical excellence, community engagement and intercultural harmony, both ensembles—representing Şanlıurfa, a UNESCO Creative City of Music—seek to extend cultural understanding and nurture intercultural harmony, connecting regional heritage to global choral practice through festivals, community-outreach projects, and collaborative ventures.”

Musica International at Leading Voices

[Musica International](#) was present at [Leading Voices](#) (6–10 July, Tallinn, Estonia), where its director, Jean Sturm, held a reading session in collaboration with Linas Balandis, a conductor from Vilnius, Lithuania. The audience learned how to use the Musica database to design choral concerts based on different themes. All the examples focused on pieces by Baltic composers, of which there are many! The audience had the opportunity to sight-read eight selected choral works by composers such as Pärt, Raminsh, Sisask and Uusberg.



World Youth Choir 2025

The [World Youth Choir](#) Summer Session 2025 officially began in Barcelona on 14 July, bringing together 62 talented young singers from 36 countries for several weeks of music, learning, and connection.

For the record, this session was hosted by the [Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals](#) (FCEC), with a rehearsal period in Catalonia and a concert tour in Catalonia and France with a performance at [Les Choralies](#) in Vaison-la-Romaine. The session conductor was Daniel Reuss (The Netherlands), assisted by João de Almeida Barros (Portugal).

By the second day, sectional rehearsals were already in full swing, led by Cécile Kretz (France, sopranos), Pinar Çanakçı Çavdur (Türkiye, altos), Aljaž Bastič (Slovenia, tenors), and Graeme Climie (Canada, basses).

The choir's first performance took place on 20 July at the International Mass in the iconic Sagrada Família — a profoundly moving musical moment for singers and audience alike. Just two days later, they performed at the breathtaking Montserrat Abbey.

WYC Singers and Alumni Involvement

Some of the singers themselves had the opportunity to conduct different pieces at different concerts, which was a valuable experience for them.

The repertoire of the 2025 session featured the world premiere of *Peace*, a powerful new work by Ana Campmany, a World Youth Choir alumna.



World Youth Choir performing at Les Chorales, Vaison-la-Romaine, France © Les Chorales

Discover more moments, stories, and photos from this unforgettable session on the WYC official pages: [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

European Choral Association: Leading Voices Was a Success!

From 6-10 July 2025, the second edition of [Leading Voices](#) brought more than 800 people to Tallinn from 38 countries. The event began with the main concert of the [Estonian Song Celebration](#). The programme of Leading Voices included 55 sessions by 40 session leaders, 128 individual lessons on conducting and singing, and 10 concerts. The main venue of the event was the [Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre](#).



Hundreds of conductors, vocal leaders, composers, managers and music educators from all over Europe and beyond visited Tallinn for an exchange of knowledge and sharing of experience. The participants were inspired in workshops and lectures and experimented with new ways of improvisation, collaboration and co-creation in LAB's. New music was composed and new ways of designing and presenting concerts were developed. Informal lounges and numerous round table discussions provided opportunities for networking and sharing of views on a variety of topics.

Leading Voices, an event of the [European Choral Association](#), was organised in cooperation with the [Estonian Choral Association](#) and the [Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre](#).

45th International Congress of Pueri Cantores, Munich, Germany, 16-20 July 2025

After four days of intense encounters and deeply moving musical experiences, the [45th Pueri Cantores International Choir Festival](#) in Munich came to an end with a festive Closing Service with Cardinal Reinhard Marx on Marienplatz. Under the motto “CANTATE DOMINO – Vielstimmig für den Frieden – #comeandsing”, around 4,500 singers in 166 choirs from 16 countries came together from July 16 to 20, 2025 to sing for peace in the Bavarian capital. This success was made possible in particular by the tireless efforts of all 537 festival helpers.

[Read more](#)



Join the European Music Council (EMC) for the *Green Beat* Workshop, 11 September 2025, 9:30-16:00 CEST

As part of the [SHIP Festival](#)—a dynamic showcase and music conference in Šibenik, Croatia—the EMC invites you to take part in *Green Beat*, a full-day workshop dedicated to advancing the green transition in the music sector.

The workshop will explore a wide range of topics, including:

- Practical strategies for reducing your carbon footprint
- Environmentally responsible practices in music production and events
- Engaging and educating audiences on sustainability
- Updates on EU funding opportunities supporting green initiatives in the music sector



Green Beat will be facilitated by [Nika Brunet Milunovic](#), founder of the [Calm Nest Collective](#), in collaboration with the EMC team.

Priority participation will be given to EMC members and members of EMC member organizations. The EMC will also cover two nights of accommodation for selected participants.

[Pre-register](#) now to secure your spot!

International Youth Chamber Choir Meeting, Usedom, Germany, 14-23 August 2026

The [International Youth Chamber Choir Meeting](#) is a unique choral experience in a truly special place, the beautiful island of Usedom, Germany, right by the sea.

Just steps away from the beach, nestled in nature and on the German-Polish border, this vibrant summer gathering brings together young singers from across Europe to share music, friendship, and salty sea air in an inspiring atmosphere.

[Read more](#)



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.