Bringing the World Together Through Choral Music

IFCMeNEWS

November 2026

President's Message — November 2026

Dear friends,
November has begun, and for many of us it is a month of rehearsals. Amateur and professional choirs alike are preparing their December concerts. In universities and community choirs, we are learning new repertoire, and the rehearsals become more intense as the season approaches.
It is a time of learning for IFCM as well. We are finding our way as a new board, and we are building the structure that will carry us through our three-year term. In October, the board set up five standing committees, each chaired by one of our Vice-Presidents:

- **Music Committee**, chaired by Jan Schumacher: the music at the heart of all IFCM events and programmes.
- **Governance Committee**, chaired by Ki Adams: how IFCM is run, how we make decisions, and how we keep the members informed.
- **Membership Committee**, chaired by María Guinand: listening to our members, taking care of their needs, and welcoming new ones.
- **Communication Committee**, chaired by Tomoko Yokoyama: how we share our message and tell IFCM's story to the world.
- **Fundraising & Partnerships Committee**, chaired by Kaie Tanner: finding partners and hosts who help our projects grow.

The committees have started their work, and each one is setting up working groups to bring concrete projects to life. We have big dreams and big goals for this term, and we will reach them together, step by step.
If you would like to take part more closely and contribute to one of our working groups, please write to us at office@ifcm.net and tell us where your interest lies. We will pass your message on to the committee concerned.
IFCM belongs to its members, and together we shape the future of choral music. You are most welcome to be part of it.
I look forward to hearing from you.

Burak

Burak Onur Erdem

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Celebrate World Choral Day 2026: The Courage to Listen

On 13 December 2026, the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) invites choirs, singers, organizations, and communities around the world to celebrate World Choral Day.

This year's theme, "The Courage to Listen," recognizes that listening is part of what brings us together. In a choir, we listen to other voices to make music together. Beyond music, listening can help us understand one another and make space for different experiences and perspectives.

There are many ways to take part. You might dedicate a concert or rehearsal to World Choral Day, organize a community sing-along, share a musical message, or create a moment for people to listen and connect.

Choirs and conductors are welcome to participate, as are individual singers, listeners, schools, community organizations, and businesses that support choral music.

How will you celebrate? Tell us what you're planning by registering your intent to participate: https://forms.gle/9LCnWwa8CPvsqwF68

Join us as we make room for voices from around the world and celebrate the courage to listen.



Could your City Host the World Symposium on Choral Music?

IFCM is seeking Expressions of Interest from organizations interested in hosting the World Symposium on Choral Music (WSCM) in 2029... or beyond! WSCM is the flagship event of IFCM, and one of the world's most significant gatherings for choral singing. Every three years, leading choirs, conductors, composers, educators, researchers, singers, and industry professionals come together for an extraordinary celebration of music, culture, creativity, and connection.

Hosting WSCM is far more than hosting an event. It is an opportunity to bring the world to your community and your community to the world, showcase local choral traditions, forge international partnerships, inspire artistic

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collaboration, and create a lasting cultural legacy. Could your organization, city, or region be the next WSCM host?
Expressions of Interest are due **1 December 2026**. Formal bids for WSCM 2029 will be invited in early 2027.
Read the full Host Opportunity and submission guidelines here.



The IFCM Online Café Series Returns in 2027!

Tell us what you think and help us shape the next season

Since 2023, IFCM has been hosting online cafés, and the IFCM global network has continued to grow through this initiative. It's inspiring to see such strong participation. As we prepare for the 2027 season, we would love to hear your ideas. What topics would you like us to explore, and which guests would you be excited to welcome?
Please complete this survey to have input into the planning of future online cafés.



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Musica International: Are You a Publisher, Composer, or Manager of a Music Library?

For several years, importing choral repertoire data from files stored in other systems was no longer possible due to a major software change that had not yet been fully implemented on our side. This feature has now been restored with even more powerful and extensive capabilities than before.

Importing existing data from external sources in a structured format is now a fast and efficient option. You can then review and refine the imported records online to ensure their accuracy and completeness.

To get started, request the Excel template from librarian@musicanet.org. Designed to match the structure of the Musica database, the template will help you prepare your data for import. Our music librarian will guide you through the process, helping make your repertoire available to audiences worldwide through Musica.



European Choral Association: EUROPA CANTAT 2027 Registration Open!

Registration for EUROPA CANTAT 2027, one of Europe's leading choral music events, is open as of 26 October 2026. The international festival will take place in **Liepāja, Latvia, from 9 to 15 August 2027**, welcoming choirs, vocal ensembles, individual singers, and choral music enthusiasts.



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EUROPA CANTAT brings together singers, conductors, and choral music lovers from across the world to make music together, discover new repertoire, explore different cultures, and build international connections. In 2027, the festival will be part of the *Liepāja – European Capital of Culture 2027* programme.



Mboa en Chœur, Yaoundé, Cameroon, 22-25 July 2027. Registration Opens Soon!

From 22 to 25 July 2027, Yaoundé will host the first edition of **Mboa en Chœur**, an international choral singing festival organized by the Association des Amis du Chœur Madrigal du Cameroun (ACMC). The festival will be hosted by the Catholic University of Central Africa (UCAC). It is presented under the patronage of the Ministry of Arts and Culture of Cameroon with the support of UNESCO, IFCM, the Institut français du



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Cameroun, the African Confederation of Choral Music (CAMC), and the Cameroonian Federation for Choral Music A Cœur Joie (FECAMUCH-ACJ).
Save the dates: **22-25 July 2027!**
Registration will open on 15 November 2026.
Information about the workshops and the various festival venues will be shared in the coming days.
Mboa en Chœur: Voices from Cameroon, Africa, and beyond, singing together!
Watch the Mboa en Chœur promotional video.

9th World Youth Arts Festival, Vienna, 16-18 July 2027, Vienna. Registration Now Open!

The 9th World Youth Arts Festival invites choirs and instrumental ensembles from around the world to Vienna for three days of concerts, workshops, International Friendship Competition, and cultural exchange under the theme "ONE WORLD. CONNECTED BY MUSIC." Highlights include an opening concert in the renowned Golden Hall of the Vienna Musikverein, festival performances, and a closing concert with an awards ceremony.
Organizer: Internationaler Volkskulturkreis e. V. (IVK)
Early-bird registration deadline: 31 March 2027
Registration deadline: 31 May 2027
Website: World Youth Arts Festival
Contact: Olivia Zhang – yan.zhang@volkskulturkreis.de
More here.



Daniel Reuss and the Turkish State Choir: 11th Walter Strauss Masterclass

From 24 to 30 January 2027, conductors from around the world are invited to Ankara, Türkiye, to take part in the 11th Walter Strauss Masterclass, led by the internationally acclaimed Dutch conductor, Daniel Reuss. Five

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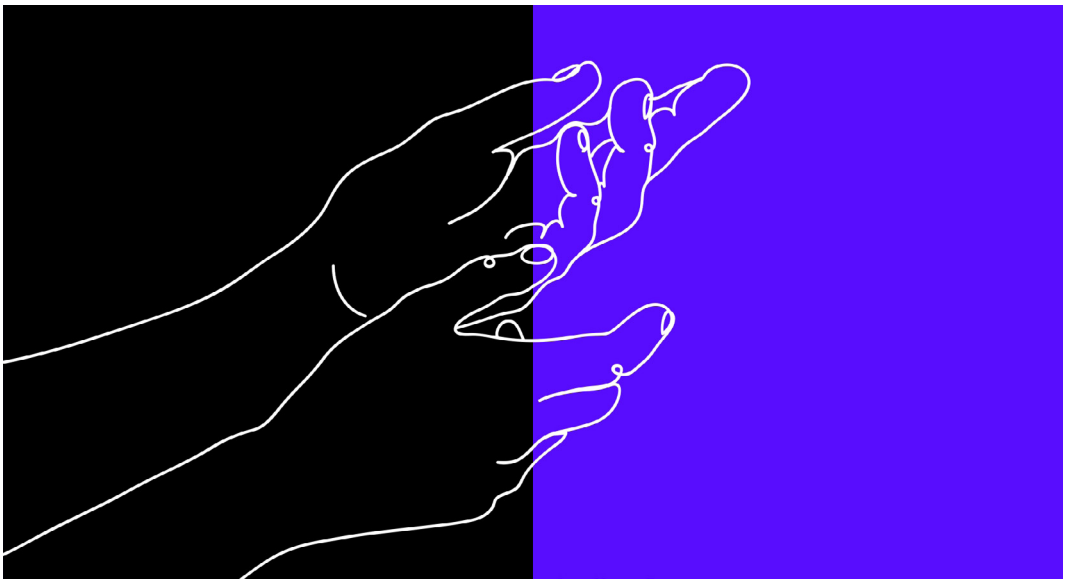
active participants will work closely with Daniel and the Turkish State Choir, a full-time professional ensemble, through intensive podium sessions and rehearsals, culminating in a final concert at the end of the week. Observer participants are also welcome to attend the sessions throughout the week. The masterclass, which is held in English, offers advanced conductors the opportunity to refine their technique, interpretation, and rehearsal skills through direct feedback and hands-on experience with a professional choir. Applications close on **15 November 2026**.





Eric Ericson Award 2027 – Applications Are Open!

Are you – or do you know – a choral conductor under the age of 36 ready to take the next step in their career? Apply for the Eric Ericson Award 2027! In addition to a generous cash prize, the winner will conduct eleven of the European Broadcasting Union's leading media choirs, including the BBC Singers, Chœur de Radio France, the Swedish Radio Choir, and the RIAS Chamber Choir Berlin. Learn more at ericericsonaward.se/en



Call for Choirs: 22nd EUROTREFF 2027 in Wolfenbüttel, Germany

Join the 22nd edition of EUROTREFF 2027 from 8-12 September 2027 for an inspiring choral festival of music, friendship, and intercultural exchange!

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In Wolfenbüttel, Germany, around 600 young singers from across Europe will come together to discover new repertoire, share their passion for choral music in choir-to-choir concerts and build lasting connections across borders. Ateliers will be led by renowned conductors Josep Vila Jover (Spain), Elena Szuczies (Germany), Tori Longdon (UK), Marleen de Boo (Belgium), Maud Hamon-Loisance (France), and Laura Jēkabsone (Latvia). Children's, youth, and girls' choirs are invited to apply.

Good news! The application deadline has been extended to 30 November 2026.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with young singers around the world and experience the power of the choral community.



Berkshire Choral Adventures in 2027

Berkshire Choral International (BCI), the summer choral experience for amateur adult singers, is hosting six bold and rewarding programs in Summer 2027 including Cape Town, South Africa, with Anthony Trecek-King; Britten's *War Requiem* with Erin Freeman in New York, Andrew Clark leading music from the American Songbook at Tanglewood, and more. Come find your choral adventure. Watch our preview with Anthony Trecek-King



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16th International Krakow Choir Festival CRACOVIA CANTANS, 10-13 June 2027

MELODY invites choirs from around the world to the 16th edition of Cracovia Cantans in Krakow, Poland, 10–13 June 2027!

Cracovia Cantans is one of Poland's leading international choral festivals, welcoming choirs from across the globe for four days of music, cultural exchange, and unforgettable performances.

Choirs can choose to:

Perform in the non-competitive programme and share their music with audiences in Krakow.

Take part in the competition in one of 9 categories, performing in front of an international jury panel.

Over the past editions, almost 500 choirs have performed in Krakow, creating wonderful musical experiences and connecting with fellow choirs from around the world.

Bring your choir to Krakow and be part of this international celebration of choral music!

Registration deadline: **30 November 2026**



Festivals and workshops with registration deadlines in November and December

Yogyakarta International Choir Festival, Yogyarkarta, Indonesia, 24-27 Jan 2027. Apply before 8 December 2026.

6th International Choral Celebration & Laurea Mundi Budapest, Hungary, 3-6 July 2026. Early Bird deadline: 15 December 2025. Application deadline: 15 February 2026.

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15th Musica Eterna Roma International Choir Festival and Competition, Italy, 15-19 July 2026. Early Bird deadline: 30 November 2025. Application deadline: 15 February 2026.

Sing Eat¡ Choir Festival, Valencia, Dénia, Alicante, Spain, 25-29 Nov 2026. Register before 1 November 2026.

Muntra Musikander International Choral Composition Competition, Finland, 31 Dec 2026. Submit your entry before 31 December 2026.

6th Allmänna Sängen & Anders Wall Composition Award, Uppsala, Sweden, 31 Dec 2026. Apply between 8 March and 31 December 2026.

International Choral Conducting Masterclass, Debrecen, Hungary, 3-9 Jan 2027. Early Bird application deadline: 20 November 2026. Final deadline: 10 December 2026.

International Festival of Sacred Music Silver Bells, Daugavpils, Latvia, 15-17 Jan 2027. Apply before 20 December 2026.

Young Bohemia Festival 2027, Prague, Czech Republic, 11-14 Mar 2027. Register before 30 November 2026.

29th International Choir Festival of Paris, France, 11-14 Mar 2027. Register before 1 December 2026.

15th International Gdansk Choir Festival, Poland, 12-14 Mar 2027. Apply before 15 November 2026.

Budapest International Choir Festival & Competition, Hungary, 21-25 Mar 2027. Apply before 10 December 2026.

1st Arvo Pärt Centre's International Masterclass, Laulasmaa, Estonia, 8-11 Apr 2027. Applications for active participants are open until 30 December 2026.

9th Vietnam International Choir Festival & Competition, Hoi An, Da Nang, Vietnam, 17-21 Apr 2027. Register before 25 November 2026.

International Choir Festival Tallinn 2027, Tallinn, Estonia, 22-25 apr 2027. Apply before 15 November 2026.

72nd Cork International Choral, Ireland, 28 Apr-2 May 2027. Fleischmann International Trophy Competition (closing date: 31 October 2026) or the Non-Competitive International strand (closing date: 30 November 2026).

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International Johannes Brahms Choir Festival and Competition, Wernigerode, Germany, 19-23 May 2027. Register before 14 December 2026.

4th Sing Berlin! International Choir Festival & Competition, Germany, 27-31 May 2027. Early birds apply before 15 December 2026. Others apply before 15 February 2027.

16th International Krakow Choir Festival Cracovia Cantans, Poland, 10-13 June 2027. Apply before 30 November 2026.

6th Salzburg International Choral Celebration and Competition, Salzburg, Austria, 17-21 June 2027. Apply before 15 December 2026.

62nd Barcelona International Choir Festival, Spain, 5-11 July 2027. Register before 16 November 2026.

World Choir Games, Linz, Austria, 21-31 July 2027. Early Bird Deadline: 4 November 2026. Registration Deadline: 20 January 2027.

33th International Music and Dance Festival Under the Sky of Durrës, Albania, 30 Aug-3 Sep 2027. Register before 15 November 2026.

We invite you to visit the Calendar of Choral Activities published by the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat and the IFCM Facebook Open Community Board to check on the choral events planned in the coming months.

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