



WSCM2026 Early Bird Period EXTENDED!

April 2026 IFCMeNEWS: Early Bird Period EXTENDED!

Only Two Weeks to Send your Candidature to the IFCM Board and Presidency

The [International Federation for Choral Music](#) calls for candidates to fill positions on the IFCM Board of Directors and Presidency for a three-year term, beginning in September 2026. All candidate applications must be sent to the [IFCM office](#) before **15 April 2026**.

Please find [more details](#) on how to submit your candidature.

To submit your **candidature for the Board of Directors**, please [download this form](#), fill it and send it back to office@ifcm.net.

To submit your **candidature for the Presidency of IFCM**, please [download this form](#), fill it and send it back to office@ifcm.net.

More details on the elections in the [IFCM Bylaws](#) and IFCM [Membership Policy Document](#). [List of countries sorted by regions](#) where IFCM has members.



Save the Date: IFCM General Assembly in Macau on 23 August

As usual, the General Assembly of IFCM will be held in connection with the World Symposium on Choral Music, on 23 August 2026 in the afternoon in Macau, China. The official invitation to all IFCM members will be sent in May 2026.

World Symposium on Choral Music (WSCM 2026)

23–28 August 2026 | Macau, China

WE'VE HEARD YOU – WSCM2026 Early Bird Period EXTENDED!

Great news! We are responding to your requests for a little more time and have extended our Early Bird registration pricing for another **two weeks**! From now until **Wednesday, 15 April**, you can still make big savings on registration fees right [here](#).

Your safety is our priority

Macau is regarded as one of the safest Asian destinations with low violent crime and strong security. The city is well equipped for international visitors with reliable infrastructure, safe public transport, and secure venues. We will also provide practical guidance and support, so that you can focus on the WSCM 2026 experience without any safety concerns.

We are aware of the current international situation and can confirm that safe and reliable travel routes to Macau remain available.



Reserve Your Room at One of the WSCM 2026 Official Hotels

Discover our official hotel options, all conveniently located in different cultural districts of Macau which offer three to five-star hotels rates for your reservation and premium comfort for your stay. If you would like to take advantage of the best offers, we invite you to book as soon as possible. Hotel reservation deadline: July 30, 2026.

(Friendly reminder: Hotel rates may fluctuate without any prior notice before booking is confirmed. Thank you for your understanding.)

For further assistance regarding your bookings, please don't hesitate to contact our designated local agent at marketing@macauexplorertravel.com

<https://www.macauexplorertravel.com/en/hotel>

Exhibitors, Reserve Your Booth Now!

We are pleased to invite exhibitors to join the World Symposium on Choral Music 2026 and showcase their products to an international community of choral professionals, conductors, and enthusiasts.

This is a unique opportunity to present your publications, recordings, services, and innovations to a highly engaged and specialized audience from around the world.

- **Location of the exhibition:** 2nd Floor, Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Centre, Macao.
- **Opening hours:** 22nd August for Exhibitors Move in and Set up from 09:00-22:00 23rd to 27th August EXPO opens from 10:00-16:00.

We warmly encourage you to secure your exhibition space and be part of this vibrant global gathering.

Register now and connect your work with the world of choral music!



Introducing Three WSCM 2026 Choirs...

Vox Clamantis, Estonia

Formed in 1996, ensemble Vox Clamantis comprises a diversity of musicians (singers, composers, instrumentalists, and conductors) who have a common interest in the Gregorian chant. In addition to Gregorian chant, considered to be the foundation of the European choral tradition, Vox Clamantis often performs early polyphony and contemporary music. Many Estonian composers, among them Arvo Pärt, Helena Tulve, Galina Grigorjeva, Tõnu Kõrvits,

Tõnis Kaumann and Sven Grünberg, as well as USA composer David Lang and Norwegian composer Henrik Ødegaard have written compositions for Vox Clamantis.

Vox Clamantis has performed with Catalan soprano Arianna Savall, French pianist Jean- Claude Pennetier, Italian nyckelharpa player Marco Ambrosini, Israeli oud player Yair Dalal, Tunisian singer Dhafer Youssef, The Cello Octet Amsterdam, The Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, and The Tallinn Chamber Orchestra. Ongoing collaborations with different musicians have inspired the birth of impromptu programmes, based on improvisation.

Vox Clamantis has recorded for ECM Records and Mirare. The CD "*Arvo Pärt - Adam's Lament*" won a GRAMMY-Award for Best Choral Performance in 2014. The film featuring Vox Clamantis music, "*The Great Beauty*" (La Grande Bellezza), received an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film.



The ensemble gives concerts in Estonia as well as abroad. Concert tours have taken Vox Clamantis throughout the world. They have participated La Biennale musica di Venezia, Sydney Festival, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Royal Conservatory of Music's (RCM) 21C festival in Toronto, Manchester International Festival, La Folle Journée festival in France and Japan, and The International Piano Festival of La Roque d'Anthéron. In 2017, Vox Clamantis received National Culture Award of the Republic of Estonia.

University of Johannesburg Choir, South Africa

Rooted in the vibrant heart of Johannesburg, South Africa, the University of Johannesburg (UJ) Choir is a 70-member group of young voices united by the passion and spirit of a rainbow



nation. Formed in 2005 through the merger of the former RAU Choir and RAU Chorale, UJ Choir brings together students from the University of Johannesburg that study a range of subjects which does not include music.

The choir has grown into one of South Africa's most celebrated musical ambassadors and has carried the South African flag to stages across the world.

In 2015, they received the Overall Grand Prix award at the Slovakia Folk Competition in Bratislava. Their success continued at the 2018 World Choir Games in Tshwane, where they earned two gold medals: third place in the Mixed Choirs category and first place in Folk Music. Soon after, their voices echoed across Beijing at the International Beijing Chorus Festival, captivating audiences with their uniquely South African sound.

With 13 acclaimed albums, UJ Choir continues to showcase its versatility and artistry through award-winning works such as *Echoes of Heritage* (released in 2024 with over 800,000 streams), a testament to the choir's innovation and commitment to storytelling through music.

In 2024, the choir entered an exciting new chapter under the baton of Sizwe Mondlane, whose vision propels the remarkable legacy of this diverse group to shape a new era of sound that honours the past, celebrates the present, and looks with hope toward the future.

The Shanghai Youth Choir, China

The China Welfare Institute Children's Palace Little Companion Art Troupe Choir was founded in June 1955 by Soong Ching Ling and is one of the leading youth choirs in Shanghai. The choir has performed at major events such as the APEC Meeting, Shanghai World Expo, and the CICA Summit, and works closely with groups like the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra and Shanghai Opera House, as well as renowned musicians including Plácido Domingo and Tan Dun.

In 2012, the Shanghai Youth Choir (SYC) was established under the Shanghai Municipal Education Commission and is known as a "golden cradle of singers." Its federation now includes over 300 member choirs, helping raise the overall standard of choral education in Shanghai. The choir has collaborated with distinguished conductors and won multiple international awards, including top prizes at the Singing World, Singapore International Choir Competition, Béla Bartók International Choir Competition, and the 13th World Choir Games in 2024.



Voices of the World Program, a Special Addition to the WSCM 2026

The *Voices of the World Program* will feature 15 invited presenters from China, who are experts and scholars in choral conducting and composition. The *Voices of the World Program* will offer a rich and diverse range of content and topics.

Choirs who apply to take part in the *Voices of the World Program* will be offered:

- One concert in Macau within the frame of WSCM (25 minutes repertoire time).
- One workshop with an expert or exchange session with a local or international choir according to the availability.

- Complimentary WSCM Registration for the conductor or a representative of the choir. Seven jury members will select the best choir from among all the participants of this program, and the winning choir will have the chance to join a tour across three European countries: Portugal, Spain, and France.

Participation Fee: US\$3,000.00

How to apply:

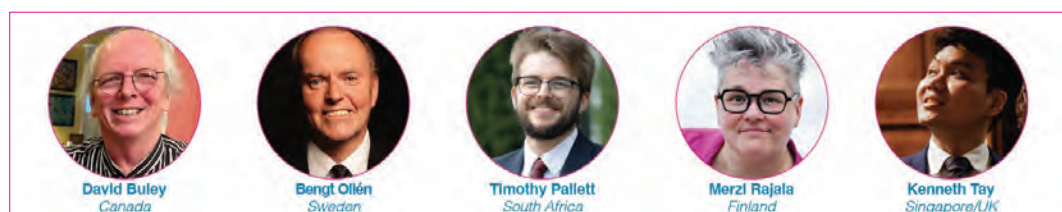
The choirs participating in the *Voices of the World Program* will be selected through an application process. The application deadline: **15 April 2026**. Announcement of participation: **15 May 2026**. To apply to the *Voices of the World Program* as an international choir, please send the following to office@ifmc.net: short biography of the choir and the conductor (150 words), CV of the conductor, 25 minute concert program proposal, video of the choir within the last three years, and photographs of the choir and the conductor.



IFCM Online Café: Reimagining the Story, 21 March 2026

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the video recording to the Online Café: Reimagining the Future, Reimagining the Story - Repertoire and Narratives Shaping the Future of Choral Music (21 March 2026) will not be available. Thank you so much to David Buley (Canada), Bengt Ollén (Sweden), Timothy Pallett (South Africa), Merzi Rajala (Finland), and Kenneth Tay (Singapore) for their exciting and inspiring presentations, moderated by IFCM board member Ki Adams (Canada). Those who missed the Online Café can hear the full presentations at WSCM 2026 in Macau in late August.

The next Online Café will be on 2 May 2026 and will feature five more WSCM 2026 presenters.



IFCM Welcomes a New Member in the Local Organization Category

ONE Choral Company: Advancing Choral Excellence in Singapore

ONE Choral Company is a Singapore-based arts and education charity dedicated to the advancement of choral music. Rooted in the artistic legacy of the acclaimed ONE Chamber Choir (est. 2009), the charity serves the global choral community through artistic excellence, education, and meaningful collaboration.

ONE Choral Company believes choral music is a powerful force that shapes individuals and strengthens communities. Its mission focuses on nurturing singers, conductors, and educators through structured learning pathways and high-quality performances. With over a decade of

professional expertise, ONE Choral Company delivers festivals, education initiatives, and platforms for international artistic exchange. Guided by the belief that excellence inspires and education empowers, it seeks to bridge the choral community and shape the future of our art form — one voice, one ensemble, and one shared purpose at a time.



IFCM Welcomes Two New Members in the Choir Category

AC Orquesta y Juvenil Europea de Madrid, Spain

The choirs of the [Orquesta Juvenil Europea de Madrid](#) serve as a gathering place that brings together children, young people, and adults around the joy of singing together and sharing the stage. Founded within the French Lycée in Madrid, the choir has grown to include the Symphonic Choir, the Choral School, a Vocal Camerata, and a youth choir, becoming a model of harmony between generations and cultures.

Vocal training, attention to language, and a diverse repertoire (ranging from a cappella choral music to grand symphonic-choral works) are combined with collaborative orchestral projects at venues such as the Auditorio Nacional of Madrid.

Rehearsals, gatherings, and concerts also serve as a 'school of values,' where members learn to listen, assume responsibilities, and enjoy music as part of an open and committed community. The orchestra and choir are both under the direction of founder Adriana Tanus.



Himig Kabataan Cultural Society, Canada

Based in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, [Himig Kabataan Cultural Society \(HKCS\)](#) is a choral ensemble led by Fil-Canadian youth, the first of its kind in Canada. With members ages 15-25, HKCS performs compositions by Filipino artists, from folk songs to contemporary pieces. This group of multicultural Fil-Canadian youth strives to share the beauty of Filipino music and

share its significance to the world. HKCS has had the privilege to perform locally, including singing the Canadian National Anthem at major sporting events, and has shared their talents internationally, making their global debut in Colombia in November 2025.

HKCS leaders are Bea Correa, Founder and Executive Director; Matthew Perez, Musical Director; and John Reyes, Pianist and Assistant Musical Director.

Follow HKCS on [Instagram](#) — [Facebook](#) — [Tik Tok](#)



World Youth Choir 2026 — Selected Singers

The [World Youth Choir](#) international jury selected 60 singers from 37 countries to participate in the World Youth Choir 2026 session. The selection from 87 applications was made by a jury representative from each of the three World Youth Choir patron organisations (IFCM, European Choral Association and Jeunesses Musicales International) and the World Youth Choir Session Manager.

The World Youth Choir Foundation would like to thank the World Youth Choir jury for fulfilling the challenging task of reviewing audition files and selecting a fair and balanced roster of singers which will join together to create the 2026 World Youth Choir.

Discover the full list of singers here: [WYC 2026 Session | List of Singers](#)



World Youth Choir conducted by Zoltán Pad in 2023 © 4K Media Studio

European Choral Association (ECA)

Call for interest: Hosting the sessions 2027, 2028, and beyond of the [European Youth Choir](#) (Former EuroChoir)

Open until 20 May 2026

Following a successful first session in 2025 in Valencia, Spain, and with this year's session taking place in Montpellier, France, we are now looking ahead and inviting hosts for 2027, 2028 and beyond as we continue shaping the future of this choir.



Call for Interest: Hosting [Europa Cantat Junior 2029](#)

Open until 30 April 2026

After the success of recent editions in Vilnius (2022), Ghent (2023), and the upcoming 2026 festival in Girona, we are now seeking the host city and organising team for Europa Cantat Junior 2029.

The European Youth Choir and Europa Cantat Junior are cooperation events of the [European Choral Association](#). Designed to travel between countries, these events follow a well-established structure, with room for local adaptation in each edition. The European Choral Association is closely involved in the artistic design as well as in the key decision-making processes.

10th Singapore International Choral Festival (SICF): A Decade of Harmony

Singapore | 16–20 July 2026

ONE Choral Company and Rave Group Int'l are proud to announce the milestone **10th edition of the [Singapore International Choral Festival \(SICF\)](#)**. Since its inception in 2014, SICF has grown into a cornerstone of the Asian choral calendar, welcoming over 22,000 choristers from across the globe to Singapore.

The 2026 anniversary edition promises to be a spectacular celebration of unity and artistry. Held at world-class venues including the Esplanade Concert Hall and the Victoria Concert Hall, the festival offers choirs a unique platform for growth through:

- **Adjudicated Competitions:** Diverse categories evaluated by a world-renowned international jury.
- **Educational Growth:** Individual choral workshops and masterclasses led by esteemed clinicians.
- **Cultural Exchange:** Outreach performances and choral exchanges that build lasting friendships across borders.

- **Feature Concert:** Listen to Cantus from Norway (the famous voices from Disney's *Frozen*) live at the SICF Feature Concert.
- **The Grand Prix:** Top-scoring choirs will compete for the prestigious Grand Prix Champion title and a spot in the 6th Asia Choral Grand Prix to be held in Manila 2027.

Choirs of all ages are invited to join the 10th Singapore International Choral Festival this July to “bridge the world” through song.

Application Deadline: 30 April 2026

Inquiries: info@sicf.sg — www.sicf.sg



The Korean Federation for Choral Music Introduces the World Choralympic in Phu Quoc, Vietnam, 2026 – for All Voices

World Choralympic will be held in Phu Quoc, Vietnam, from 28 May to 1 June 2026.

Final Application Deadline: 20 April 2026

Choirs from around the world are welcome to join the festival. We will share the joy of singing together at the venue where the APEC summit conference will be held next year. The programme includes competitions, friendship concerts, various classes, one-day picnic, souvenir exchanging markets, talent shows, and more. Our next event is scheduled to take place on 26 May 2027. Early bird applications are available until the end of this year, and a 7% discount is applied.

More information and application are available at www.choralympic.com





World Choralympic
in Phu Quoc, Vietnam, 2026

MAY 28 (THU) ~ JUNE 01 (MON)
www.choralympic.com

K-Choral Organizing Committee
Vin-School Grand World
Vin-Pearl Resort / Bộ VHTTDL / KFCM



Grieg International Choir Festival and NINA Solo Competition – for Young Voices

The **Grieg International Choir Festival** and NINA Solo Competition – for Young Voices will take place in Bergen/Norway, **24-27 September 2026**.

Application deadline: **10 May 2026**

Grieg International Choir Festival & Nina Solo Competition

BERGEN / NORWAY
SEPTEMBER 24 - 27, 2026

competitions
friendship concerts
festival events

Application date: May 10, 2026
<https://griegfestival.no/>




Choirs from around the world are welcome to join the festival and celebrate the art of singing. The programme offers competitions, friendship concerts, and diverse festival events, while young singers can showcase their talent in the NINA Solo Competition for young voices.

More information and application on <https://griegfestival.no>

[Magic Moments & Memories from 2024](#)

Update from the Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corales (FCEC) on the "Festa de la Música Coral" 2026

The "Festa de la Música Coral" 2026 took place on 1 March at the Palau de la Música Catalana

This Catalan and international choral music event serves as a distinguished occasion for the choral arts, featuring the premieres of the works awarded in the **10th Catalunya International Choral Composition Awards of the Catalan Federation of Choral Entities (FCEC)** and in the **5th Orfeó Català International Choral Composition Competition**.

The 5th Orfeó Català International Choral Composition received 204 works submitted by 128 composers representing 24 different nationalities, while the 10th Catalunya International Choral Composition Awards of the [Catalan Federation of Choral Entities \(FCEC\)](#) received 88 works by 49 composers representing 9 different nationalities.

Discover the winning compositions [here](#).

All these works, already premiered, will be published by the FCEC and distributed among choirs across Catalonia and around the world to ensure their continued circulation and performance.



IFCM Signed this petition. Did you?

Sign and share this petition by the [Forum on EU–UK Cultural & Media Relations](#) calling on the [UK to join the Creative Europe programme from 2027](#).

- **Creative Europe is the cultural scheme of the European Union.** It enables and funds collaborations between artists and other professionals from the cultural and creative sectors across borders.
- After Brexit, the UK decided to withdraw from the programme. Since then, the cultural and creative sectors have been calling on the UK to join the programme.
- **The timing is right for the UK to join Creative Europe.**
 - **On the UK side,** the UK has recently joined Horizon and Erasmus+.
 - **On the EU side,** the UK's joining of Creative Europe is supported by the European Commission and the European Parliament.

- **The UK government states that there is limited support for the UK to join Creative Europe.** The petition is an opportunity to correct this narrative.
- From 2028, the UK's joining of Creative Europe might become harder for technical and political reasons.
- **[Call on the UK government to join Creative Europe](#)**

The petition is open to UK and EU citizens and residents. It closes 30 April 2026 and will be delivered to the UK government in May.

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.