

August 2026 IFCMeNEWS: The Stage Is Set for WSCM 2026

The Macau World Symposium on Choral Music Is in 23 Days!

Don't tell us that you haven't registered yet...

The World Symposium on Choral Music 2026 in Macau is just around the corner! Join us as we *Reimagine the Future* and experience the extraordinary artistry of the world's finest choral ensembles in one of Asia's most captivating destinations.

From the superb acoustics of the Macau Cultural Centre to the breathtaking atmosphere of the city's historic churches, every performance will be set against an unforgettable backdrop. Inspiring music, remarkable venues, and a truly global choral community await you. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of this extraordinary celebration of choral music.

More Performances... With the World Voices Programme!

This vibrant side programme brings together choirs from the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area, outstanding ethnic Chinese choirs, and exceptional children's and youth choirs from around the world, showcasing the rich diversity of choral traditions and cultures.

Coro de Câmara do Instituto Gregoriano de Lisboa, Portugal

Founded in 2014 and conducted by Filipa Palhares, this youth choir builds on the Instituto Gregoriano de Lisboa's long-established choral tradition. Today, its ensembles perform regularly both independently and in collaboration with Portugal's leading orchestras. Committed to promoting Portuguese contemporary music, the choir has premiered works by several renowned Portuguese composers.



Guizhou Village Choir, China

Founded amid Guizhou's vibrant rural cultural renaissance, the Guizhou Village Choir is a youth ensemble dedicated to preserving and promoting the Kam Grand Choirs (Grand Song of the Dong Ethnic Group), inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Through its performances, the choir combines cultural preservation with artistic innovation, celebrating the rich traditions of the region's ethnic communities.

Bringing together local folk singers, university students, and cultural enthusiasts, the ensemble plays a leading role in the planning and promotion of Guizhou's village music culture while serving as an important ambassador for the authentic voices and musical heritage of the region.



Kyoto Youth Choir, Japan

Based in Kyoto, Japan's ancient capital, the Kyoto Youth Choir was founded in 2022 at the initiative of conductor Keishi Ito. Bringing together university students and young singers, the choir fosters artistic growth through workshops, training programmes, and regular performances. With around 30 active members, the ensemble presents a diverse repertoire that includes sacred music, folk song arrangements, contemporary works—particularly by Japanese composers—and choral arrangements of popular music.



Over the Rainbow Children's Choir, Shenzhen, China

"Ancient and Earth-Over: The Rainbow Multiethnic Children's Choir Concert" is a signature project for multi-ethnic children's choirs. It is hosted by the Shenzhen Green Pine Foundation, the Shenzhen Futian Over-the-Rainbow Ethnic Cultural Exchange Center, and the Shenzhen Concert Hall. The concert invites multi-ethnic children's choirs and ethnic cultural heritage groups from border areas. Traditional folk songs are arranged as children's choir pieces by conductor Hu Manxue, artistic director of the Shenzhen Over-the-Rainbow Children's Choir and conductor of the Shenzhen Golden Tree Multi-Ethnic Children's Choir.



South China Normal University Choir, Guangzhou, China

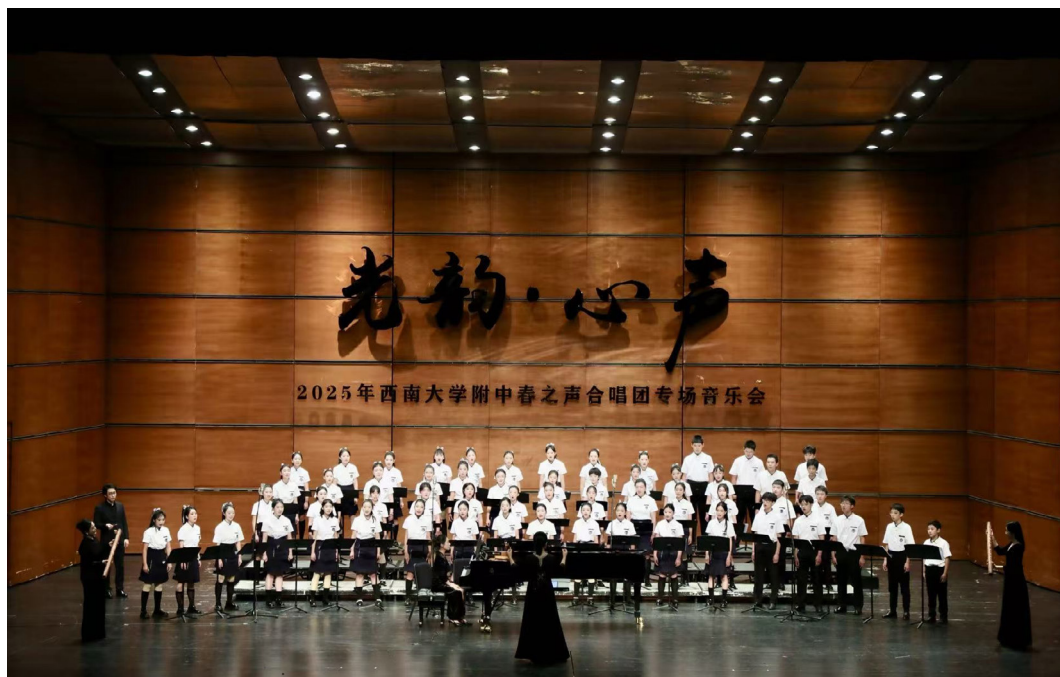
Founded in 1988 by the renowned composer Lei Yusheng, the South China Normal University (SCNU) Choir was initially led by conductor Lai Guangyi and is currently under the direction of Professor Su Yanhui. Over the years, the SCNU Choir has gradually developed a distinctive artistic style characterised by rigour, refinement, delicacy and passion. It has become increasingly outstanding thanks to its accumulated artistic achievements, rich expressiveness and innovative team spirit. In recognition of its high standard, the choir is acclaimed as "the representative of the highest level of choral art education" in Guangdong Province.



Spring Voice Choir of the High School Affiliated to Southwest University, Chongqing, China

The Spring Voice Choir of the High School Affiliated to Southwest University is an award-winning youth choir and a designated Municipal Student Arts Ensemble of Chongqing.

In 2023, the choir was recognised as a National First-Class Ensemble at the National Youth Choral Festival for its performances of *Red, Yellow, Blue and Green* and *Time*. The following year, it won First Prize at the Hong Kong International World Youth Choir Festival and later received First Prize in the Senior High School Division at the 10th Chongqing Secondary School Arts Festival.



Wuhan Renwen Philharmonic Choir, Wuhan, China

The Renwen Philharmonic Choir was founded in autumn 1999 as the school choir of Wuhan University's School of Humanities. Since then, it has grown into a tiered system spanning from preschool to elite choral ensembles. Dr. Zhou Kai is the Artistic Director and Dr. Mao Yong is the Choral Academic and Pedagogical Director. The Renwen Philharmonic Treble Choir (RPTC) was founded in 2013. Since then, it has focused on choral music, teaching young choristers self-directed learning, teamwork, performance, artistic appreciation, and personal cultivation.



The **Liping County Village Song Choir** will perform the Dong ethnic group's Grand Song in the reception hall of Macau Cultural Centre before the Opening Ceremony. Don't miss it!

Come and join us in Macau, 23-28 August 2026.

More presentations... And a masterclass!

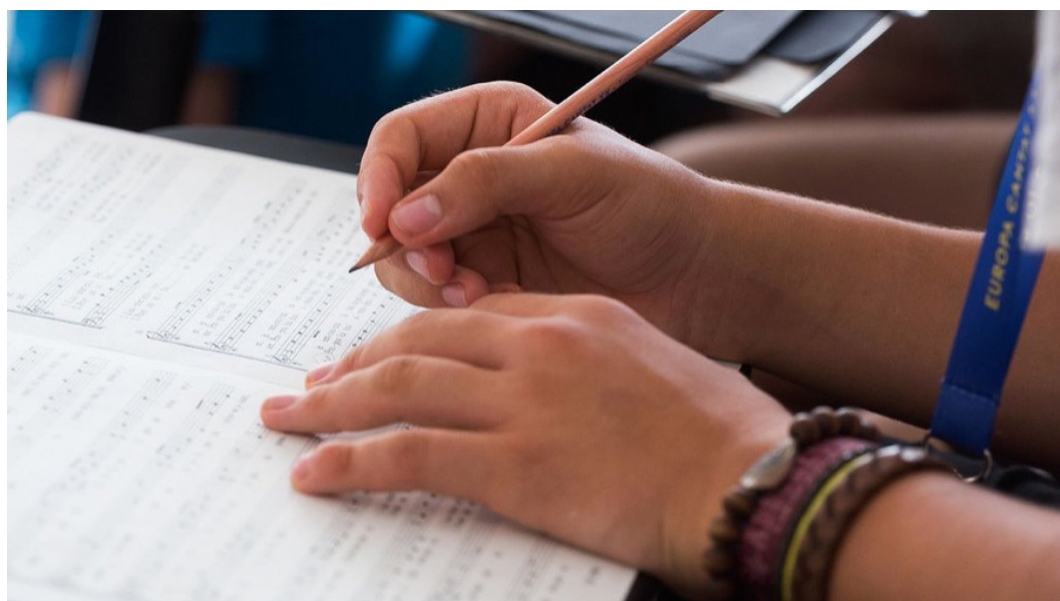
From groundbreaking research and innovative rehearsal techniques to inspiring musical ideas, 58 presenters from around the world and a masterclass in choral conducting will fill every day with opportunities for learning and discovery.

You can still register as a passive participant to the WSCM 2026 International Masterclass with Howard Arman (23-25 August) until **15 August!** The choir of the masterclass is The Mad Singers from Hong Kong China. The registration fee includes all WSCM 2026 activities. Register on <https://www.wscm2026.com/>



European Choral Association (ECA): EUROPA CANTAT 2027 unveils its international atelier programme

From **9–15 August 2027**, around **3,000 singers** will gather in **Liepāja, Latvia**, for the EUROPA CANTAT 2027 International Choral Festival, featuring **more than 35 ateliers** for singers and choirs of all experience levels.



Led by renowned conductors, the ateliers will explore a broad spectrum of choral music, from Renaissance and Classical repertoire to contemporary works, opera, jazz, pop, rock, and choreographed vocal performances.

The programme includes internationally acclaimed choral leaders such as **Sofi Jeannin**, **Jim Daus Hjernøe**, **Elisenda Carrasco i Ribot**, **Jaan-Eik Tulve**, **Petra Grassi**, the vocal ensemble **Rajaton**, and Latvian composer **Ēriks Ešņvalds**, one of today's most performed contemporary choral composers.

Registration opens in **October 2026**. More information is available on the [festival website](#).

Japan Choral Association (JCA) is Looking for Singers to Join the JCA Youth Choir 2027 Session

10-14 March 2027, Takamatsu Kagawa, Japan

The 16th JCA Youth Choir, a signature programme of the Japan Choral Association (JCA) consisting of a four-day rehearsal and final concert, will be held in Takamatsu Kagawa, Japan, in March 2027. The guest conductor for the 2027 session is Anthony Trecek-King from the USA. JCA is recruiting singers 18-28 years old from the Asia-Pacific region.

Applications are now open [here!](#)

Application Deadline: **31 August 2026**.



Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals: Catalunya Prizes for Choral Compositions 2027

The call for the **11th International Prizes Catalunya for Choral Composition** of the [Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals](#) (FCEC) is now open, for compositions based on Catalan text and harmonizations of traditional Catalan songs of medium difficulty, in two categories: mixed voices and equal voices, and which awards prizes worth 1,000 for each category. At



the same time, the [Orfeó Català](#) is also holding its **6th International Choral Composition Competition**. The winners will be announced in July 2027. The winning pieces will be published by the FCEC and distributed to members of choirs and to others by request. These works will also be performed at the Choral Music Fest on 1 March 2026 at the Palau de la Música Catalana.

Register [here](#) Before 31 January 2027.

Carus' J. S. Bach: Complete Edition in 23 Volumes

What weighs an impressive 70 pounds, brims with content and is guaranteed never to gather dust? Unlike typical gym weights, it presents not only a physical challenge but, most importantly, an intellectual and spiritual one!

The complete edition of Bach's sacred vocal music weighs over 70 pounds and spans 23 volumes – that's 12,000 pages of printed music on Carus' finest quality paper.

Does that sound appealing? Carus's Bach box set is now available at the special price of just €299. This offer is valid until 15 November 2026, after which the price will return to €349.

More information [here](#).



Eurotreff 2027, Wolfenbüttel, Germany, 8-12 September 2027

From **8–12 September 2027**, **Wolfenbüttel, Germany**, will host the **22nd EUROTREFF**, one of Europe's leading international festivals for young choirs. Around **600 young singers** from across the world will gather for workshops, concerts, and cultural exchange through music.

The 2027 edition features an outstanding international faculty, with **Josep Vila Jover** (Spain) and **Elena Szuczies** (Germany) leading children's choirs; **Tori Longdon** (United Kingdom) and **Marleen de Boo** (Belgium) working with mixed youth choirs; and **Maud Hamon-Loisance** (France) and **Laura Jēkabsons** (Latvia) directing girls' choir workshops.

Alongside the musical programme, participants will enjoy concerts, international encounters, and opportunities to build lasting friendships across borders.

The deadline for applications is 31 October 2026.



Mozart Requiem Festival 2026 & 2027 in Vienna

The [Mozart Requiem Festival Vienna](#) is part of the Singcation Festival series, combining a passion for choral music with the joy of travel.

Singers from around the world come together in Vienna to rehearse and perform Mozart's *Requiem* in a large international festival choir, accompanied by a professional orchestra and led by acclaimed conductors.

Rehearsals and concerts take place in some of Vienna's historic and prestigious venues, while participants enjoy the city's rich musical heritage, culture, and atmosphere.

Open to amateur and semi-professional singers, the festival offers unforgettable musical experiences together with like-minded participants from across the globe.

Next dates:

- 22-25 October 2026
- 21-24 October 2027



72nd Cork International Choral Festival, Ireland, 28 April – 2 May 2027

The [Cork International Choral Festival](#) looks forward to welcoming choirs from across Ireland and around the world for our competitions and non-competitive participation programmes. With outstanding choral performances, a warm festival atmosphere, and the best of Irish hospitality, now is the perfect time to start planning your Cork Choral experience.

Registrations are now open for their [2027 International Choral Conducting Course](#), led by the **Patrick Russill** (UK), and their [Choral Composition Course](#) led by Irish composer **Seán Doherty**.



Be sure to mark the dates in your diary and remember that international registration deadlines are:

- **31 October 2026** for the [Fleischmann International Trophy Competition](#)
- **30 November 2026** for the [international non-competitive groups](#).

HarbourVOICES! International Festival of Collective Singing Traditions (2-7 July 2027), St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada

[HarbourVOICES!](#) is an international festival dedicated to showcasing diverse singing practices while emphasizing collaboration, reciprocal learning, and cultural exchange. The festival places equal value on artistic excellence and cultural connection, inviting participants and audiences alike to engage with musical traditions from across the globe. Over six days, singers, cultural leaders, and audiences from around the world will gather to experience a dynamic celebration of collective singing through performances, workshops, shared experiences, and community events.

Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis through 15 October 2026. Don't delay and risk being disappointed.

Visit [Festival Pathways](#) for full details about how participating choirs, groups, individuals can chart their own course!

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.