



World Youth Choir  
**Auditions 2019**

*France | 14 July - 4 Aug 2019*

*Stichting (Foundation) World Youth Choir*  
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## *Information about the 2019 session*

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the World Youth Choir (WYC), France will host the 2019 WYC Summer Session in the southern region of Occitanie, from mid-July to early August. The Session will be a unique experience for the 60 young singers from around the world and for the audiences who will attend their high-quality concerts. Presented by Plate-forme interrégionale, the 2019 WYC session partners are working together to provide the best venues and performance opportunities for an unforgettable event.

While the Occitanie region is recognised for its own celebrated musical traditions with numerous prestigious festivals, it also offers a rich culture of gastronomy, diversified natural landscape, and captivating history. This stimulating and inspiring setting will enable the 2019 WYC singers to explore and experience French culture as they rehearse and make music together.



The ten days of rehearsals will take place in Millau or Saint Affrique. The concert tour will take the 2019 WYC to the International Festival of Sacred Music/World Music at Sylvanès Abbey, Lisbon (Portugal) and will end at the Choralies festival in Vaison-la-romaine

### **Dates**

- Arrival day: 14th or 15th of July 2019 (to be confirmed shortly)
- Departure: 4th of August 2019

### **Size of the choir**

The World Youth Choir 2019 will consist of a maximum of 60 singers.

### **Working language**

Events are conducted in English. Intermediate level of English is required.

### **Conditions provided**

For the selected singers, from arrival at a host country until departure, all accommodation, transportation, meals and music materials are provided by the organization, and a certificate of participation (diploma) is issued to each singer.

#### **Selected participants are responsible for:**

- Travel to and from the host country/final concert tour destination
- Preparation of the chosen repertoire in advance, at home (music material in a digital package will be sent to all selected singers by email)
- Visas and all other official documents as well as health and travel insurance, etc.
- Pocket money

### **Participation fee**

The participation fee for singers is 100€, to be paid to the World Youth Choir Foundation after the results of the international jury by the selected singers. There will also be a possibility to apply for a scholarship (in the form of exemption of the participation fee) to be able to join the project.

In addition, each participant is granted a free, one-year membership in the **European Choral Association - Europa Cantat** and the **International Federation for Choral Music**.

### **Organisers and partners of the 2019 World Youth Choir Session**

- Centre culturel de rencontre de L'Abbaye de Sylvanès
- Plate-forme interrégionale
- Atelier Régional des Pratiques Amateurs (ARPA)
- JM France
- DRAC Occitanie
- The departmental council of Aveyron
- The region of Occitanie
- The City of Millau

### **WYC Patrons**

- International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM); [www.ifcm.net](http://www.ifcm.net)
- Jeunesses Musicales International (JMI); [www.jmi.net](http://www.jmi.net)
- European Choral Association - Europa Cantat (ECA-EC); [www.eca-ec.org](http://www.eca-ec.org)

## Conductor



### Josep Vila i Casañas

Conductor, composer and pedagogue, Josep Vila i Casañas was born in Sabadell, Spain, in 1966. His specialism is the a cappella repertoire, as well as choral and orchestral literature down the ages.

He conducts the Lieder Càmera Chamber Choir from Sabadell and collaborates often as guest conductor with the Frances Valls Chamber Choir from Barcelona. He has served as the resident conductor of the Orfeó Català choral society (1998-2016), the Cor de Cambra of the Palau de la Música Catalana (2011-2016), the Radiotelevisión Española Choir (2007-2010) and the Lieder Càmera Choir (1990-2006). He has made recordings for the Ficta, Columna Música, La Mà de Guido, Ars Harmonica, Solfa Recordings, Anacrusi, TVC Disc and RTVE record labels.

He has worked as a guest conductor with choirs and orchestras such as the Spanish National Choir, the Swedish Radio Choir, the Orfeón Donostiarra choral society, the Choir of the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, the Venezuelan Simón Bolívar National

Youth Choir, the Radiotelevisión Española Orchestra, the Catalan Baroque Orchestra, the Andorran National Classical Orchestra, the 1750 Academy, the El Vallès Symphonic Orchestra and the Malaga Symphonic Orchestra.

In his role as a choral conductor, he has worked alongside leading orchestral conductors on the international music scene, among them Daniel Barenboim, Daniele Gatti, Simon Rattle, Gustavo Dudamel, Marc Minkowski, Jean-Christophe Spinosi, René Jacobs, Lorin Maazel, Helmuth Rilling and Franz Brüggen.

As a composer, his main area of interest is music for voice and instruments, and he has written an extensive body of works for children's and youth choirs, for mixed a cappella choirs and for choir and orchestra. Sanctus-Benedictus (1992) and Salve Regina (2001) are his works most frequently performed around the world.

Other recent works by him include Te Deum (2010), for mezzo-soprano, choir and orchestra; Missa Sanctus-Benedictus (2015), for two a cappella choirs; and the oratorio Veni Creator Spiritus, for four soloists, choir and orchestra, first performed at the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona in 2016.

Since 2005, he has taught choir conducting at the Catalonia Music Highschool. He also teaches workshops, seminars and masterclasses on a regular basis in a number of cities in Europe and Latin America.

## *Repertoire*

The repertoire for the World Youth Choir 2019 session will consist of:

- Some works representative of the top XXth and XXIst centuries classic literature;
- A commissioned new piece;
- One of the present conductor's pieces (Josep Vila i Casañas is also a well-known composer);
- Some highlights of the history of the WYC since we celebrate its 30st anniversary;
- Folk songs arrangements representatives of the five continents.

## Auditions

The applicants' audition should be recorded with the support of a recruiter and the candidate should perform/record in the following order:

1. **Range test:** One scale sung forte a cappella on an open vowel presenting the entire voice-range, not exceeding 1'20" in total.
2. **Sight-reading:** Applicants should record the melody as a piece of sight-reading. They should use up to 10 minutes to look the exercise through (not using a piano, except for pitch) and record the first attempt in front of the jury/recruiter. The exercise must be sung a cappella.
  - a. The sight-reading melody is provided to the candidate by the recruiter/jury on the day of the audition, and it should not be prepared in advance. A prepared exercise can be noticed in the recording and will be disqualified.
3. **Prepared score:** One obligatory choral excerpt: O Crux, Nystedt (it should be sung from bar 1 to bar 24 and from bar 44 with upbeat to 52 2nd beat). National recruiters should provide the obligatory choral excerpt in advance to all candidates in order to let them demonstrate their best ability in preparing at home. The candidate should prepare at home and, at the audition, record their part, while an accompanying person plays the other parts. The voice part sung by the applicant should not be doubled by the piano.
4. **Aria of choice:** Singers must prepare and sing an aria of their choice, to be performed at their audition and submitted with their application.

The singers selected at national audition(s) are qualified for the final international selection scheduled by World Youth Choir International Jury in the spring (March 2019). The audition materials of those selected should be digitally submitted to the World Youth Choir management through the online application form only and by the national recruiter or a national recruiting institution/organization providing all information requested.

World Youth Choir alumni can apply directly to the international selection through a direct application. Singers who participated in the 2018 session should only submit the prepared score and aria of choice. Alumni who participated in previous sessions should also submit the vocal range exercise.

### Documents and information necessary to successfully submit an application:

- **Singer information** required by the international application form

- Singers should provide the information requested by the recruiter
- **Singer photo**
  - The singer's face should be clearly visible
  - JPEG file, preferably
- **Colour scan of singers' passport.** For singers who are residents of the European Union and/or can travel to France and Portugal using their national Identity Document (ID), the passport scan can be substituted by an ID scan.
  - First page. Front and back, in case of ID scan.
  - JPEG file, preferably
- **4 mp3 audition files**
  - Vocal range
  - Sight reading
  - The obligatory choral excerpt
  - An aria of the singer's choice

**Deadline for submissions to the international jury: February 28th, 2019.**

Recruiters might define an earlier deadline, in order to be able to process and submit the applicant's information.

**Please consult your recruiter to confirm the deadline to receive your application.**