

FIPC News & Events



Foederatio Internationalis Pueri Cantores | July 2023 | Issue 018

Goulven Airault President Pueri Cantores France - A profile



Early beginnings with Pueri Cantores:

My first connection with Pueri Cantores was in 2009 when I arrived in Saint Brieuc (Brittany) to conduct the choir Petits Chanteurs de Saint Brieuc. This choir is 600 years old and is very invested in the French Federation since its foundation in 1947.

Early years – schooling, music, professional track record.

I come from Brittany which has a very strong identity, and culture. I was born into this culture, where faith has a central place. I played violin, (my first job was violin teacher) and I used to play traditional music with a band. I began choir conducting with friends, in a choir that sang Sacred Breton music. I learned conducting in a conservatory and this has been my job since 2003. I have also worked for music school, opera, before I arrived in Saint Brieuc in 2009. I am Capel master of the Cathedral. I also compose music, sacred, liturgical and also operas for children.

Family life:

I am married and my wife and I have a 9-year-old child.

Choirs from Brittany:

In Saint Brieuc, we have choirs for every age group. I work a lot in primary school (starting with children who are 2-3 yrs old)

My Vision for PC France:

I would like help French choirs in 5 ways:

- protection of children.
- reinforce meetings between singers and conductors.
- help conductors in their formation (musical, liturgical).
- reinforce and create partnership with Church, and State musical institutions.
- propose a pastoral and pedagogic dynamic especially to help new choirs.

PC France in the next 5 years.

I hope we will grow from 67 choirs that exist today to 90 -100 choirs. I also hope we will be able to say, 'Our house is very safe'. Finally I hope our relationship with all our partners in the Church, and Civil Society will be rich and constructive.

Thoughts on PC – as an integral part of the Church in enhancing Liturgical Celebrations.

Évangélisation is a priority! We must speak to our young singers with Jesus' words! We are Pueri Cantores, and for me, that means servants of God and his people! So we have to be humble and persevering in our mission. We are heirs of Sacred Music and it is our duty to make it come alive through the liturgy.

Some advice to young members of Pueri Cantores who can be future leaders of the FIPC.

With the beauty of your voices, the unity you practice every day, not only in your music but also in your life, you are witnesses of The Gospel.

You can change the world!

News Update - Congo



It is with deep regret that I inform you of the death of François LWANZO KATSUVA, Little Singer of the Choeur des Anges Watoto wa Caraccolo of the Parish of Notre Dame d'Afrique, Diocese of Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Coming from a Catholic Christian family, François LWANZO KATSUVA chose to glorify and serve Christ through songs from his childhood until his death following a short period of illness. Through his dedication to the activities of the Choir, his seriousness, his discipline, his helpfulness, his ambition and his commitment to Christ despite his age, this 8-year-old boy leaves a void as well as sorrow in the hearts of those who knew him during his lifetime.

The funeral was held at the parish of Notre Dame d'Afrique with the accompaniment of all the choirs of Pueri Cantores of the Diocese of Goma and those elsewhere in the DRC.

Rest in peace François LWANZO KATSUVA!

Prince Ermès BIGABWA
Président National de la FCPC



Mise à jour des nouvelles du Congo.

C'est avec un profond regret que je vous informe du décès de François LWANZO KATSUVA, Petit Chanteur du Choeur des Anges Watoto wa Caraccolo de la Paroisse Notre Dame d'Afrique, Diocèse de Goma en République Démocratique du Congo.

Issu d'une famille chrétienne catholique, François LWANZO KATSUVA a choisi de glorifier et de servir le Christ à travers des chants depuis son enfance jusqu'à sa mort suite à une courte période de maladie. Par son dévouement aux activités de la Chorale, son sérieux, sa discipline, sa serviabilité, son ambition et son engagement envers le Christ malgré son âge, ce garçon de 8 ans laisse un vide ainsi que de la peine dans le cœur de ceux qui l'a connu de son vivant.

Les obsèques ont eu lieu à la paroisse Notre Dame d'Afrique avec l'accompagnement de toutes les chorales des Pueri Cantores du Diocèse de Goma et celles d'ailleurs en RDC.

Repose en paix François LWANZO KATSUVA !

Prince Ermès BIGABWA
Président National de la FCPC

Preparing for the Congress in Rome.

The Congo Fédération of Pueri Cantores has launched a fundraising campaign to support the delegation that will represent the Democratic Republic of Congo (RDC) to Rome International Congress of December 2023 with the Holy Father. The event was launched on Sunday May 28 during the mass at the Sacré cœur parish in Kinshasa, with hundreds of little singers from the Archdiocese of Kinshasa.

According to Prince Ermès Bigabwa, National President of the Pueri Cantores, the aim is to raise the necessary means to finance travel, accommodation, catering, registration fees and equipment for the 20-strong delegation representing the DRC at the Congress. To date, RDC has 121 choirs in all the country's dioceses.

Préparation du Congrès de Rome.

La Fédération Congolaise de Petits Chanteurs a lancé la collecte de fonds pour soutenir la délégation qui va représenter la République démocratique du Congo (RDC) au Congrès international Pueri Cantores de Rome de décembre 2023 auprès du Saint Père. L'évènement a eu lieu dimanche 28 mai lors de la messe à la Paroisse Sacré cœur de Kinshasa, avec des centaines de Petits Chanteurs de l'Archidiocèse de Kinshasa.

D'après Prince Ermès Bigabwa, Président National des Pueri Cantores, l'objectif est de réunir les moyens nécessaires pour financer le voyage, l'hébergement, la restauration, les frais d'inscription et les équipements pour la délégation de 20 personnes qui vont représenter la RDC au Congrès. A ce jour, la RDC compte 121 chœurs répartis dans tous les diocèses du pays.

Josep Maria Torrents honored

Last May, the city of La Garriga (Catalonia), and the local church, honored Josep Maria Torrents, former president of the FIPC, by making him an honorary citizen of the city in which he has been living for a long time. This well-deserved distinction was solemnized by a mass led by a large choir of current and former Pueri Cantores conducted by Marta, JM Torrents' daughter. The President of the FIPC, Jean Henric, and the President of the Catalunya Pueri Cantores, Ester Lara, were present to express their friendship and gratitude to Josep Torrents.

Josep Maria Torrents honoré

En mai dernier, la ville de La Garriga (Catalogne) ainsi que l'Eglise locale, ont rendu hommage à Josep Maria Torrents, ancien président de la FIPC en le nommant citoyen d'honneur de la ville dans laquelle il vit depuis très longtemps. Cette distinction très méritée a été solennisée par une messe animée par un grand chœur d'actuels et anciens Pueri Cantores dirigés par Marta, fille de M. Torrents. Le président de la FIPC, Jean Henric, la présidente Pueri Cantores de Catalogne Ester Lara étaient présents pour manifester à Josep Torrents de leur amitié et de leur gratitude.

Austrian Pueri Cantores Congress in Salzburg



JH and MB with Archbishop of Salzburg



J. Doeller, président Pueri Cantores Austria



JH and Ester Lara with JM Torrents



Marta Torrents during the mass

From May 18th to 20th, the city of Salzburg welcomed 7 Pueri Cantores choirs from the Austrian Federation and a guest choir from Veszprem in Hungary. The congress, perfectly organized by President Josef Doeller, allowed 200 young people and their leaders to meet, to sing together, to pray together and to have a marvelous concert in Salzburg Cathedral. Jean Henric, FIPC President, and Matthias Balzer, First Vice-President, who were present all through the congress, could talk with the choirmasters and thank Josef Doeller and all the participants for their commitment. They also met the leaders of the Hungarian choir, who are preparing an important Pueri Cantores event for the end of September in their country.

Congrès Pueri Cantores autrichien à Salzburg.

Du 18 au 20 mai, Salzbourg a accueilli 7 chœurs Pueri Cantores de la fédération Autrichienne ainsi qu'un chœur invité venu de Veszprem, en Hongrie. Ce congrès parfaitement organisé par le président Josef Doeller, a permis, comme c'est le cas pour chaque congrès, à 200 jeunes et leurs dirigeants, de se rencontrer, de chanter ensemble, de prier ensemble et de donner un magnifique concert dans la Cathédrale. Jean Henric, président FIPC et Matthias Balzer, 1er vice-président, présents pendant tout le congrès, ont pu échanger avec les chefs de chœurs, remercier Josef Doeller et l'ensemble des participants pour leur engagement. Ils ont aussi échangé avec les responsables du chœur Hongrois qui prépare un grand événement Pueri Cantores fin septembre.

News from America

Greetings Pueri Cantores family!

Our March 25th grades 4-12 Festival in Houston marked the conclusion of our very robust and inspiring [2023 Festival Season](#). We held 14 festivals this February and March across the country - from Southern California to Boston- which involved more than 2,000 young singers from 130 different schools and parishes.

After a tumultuous few years due to COVID, I'm thrilled to say that AFPC is finally graduating from a state of survival and moving toward a state of thriving. With the addition of four new festival locations to our 2023 schedule (San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Milwaukee, and a High School Festival in Houston), we'll also be adding several new festivals to our roster in 2024. Our goal to expand our services, festivals, and resources and reach more Catholic youth across the U.S is becoming a reality!

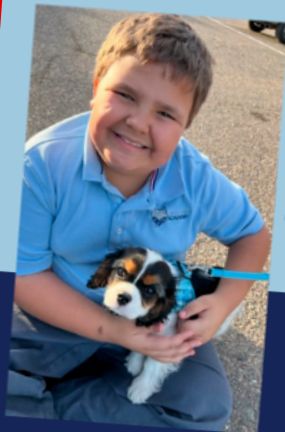
The mission of Pueri Cantores and our Festivals is, through Sacred Music, to educate and engage young people in their faith and in the arts, and through them, enrich the lives of their families and communities. AFPC believes that young people are the future of Our Church, and in order to keep them engaged in their Catholic faith, we must nourish their souls and wellbeing through enriching experiences within the Church.

Singing and music is one of the most enjoyable and effective ways to participate in the Mass and become more deeply involved in the faith for years to come. It not only fosters personal holiness and promotes individual faith formation, but it also evangelizes and catechizes our audiences. At our Festivals, the 'Pueri Cantores' or 'young singers' that participate in the event become evangelizers. They not only catechize themselves, but they also evangelize their peers, families, choir directors and music teachers, congregations, schools, churches, and communities, uniting us all as one family of faith.

We are working diligently to create an exciting and meaningful 2024 Festival Season for our members and singers. I hope we can look forward to having your choirs join us next year! Dates and locations will be announced soon.

God Bless,

Paul French, President
American Federation Pueri Cantores



Hayden H.

Age: 11 Years in Choir: 1

St. Bernard of Clairvaux Youth Choir
Scottsdale, AZ

What do you love about singing and being in choir?
I love singing in the childrens choir because it helps me grow more with Christ, and I get to sing for Him.

Why do you enjoy participating in Pueri Cantores Festivals?

I went to the 2023 Phoenix Festival where we sang for Bishop Olmsted at the Mass. I loved participating in the festival because I got to meet some new friends and I got to see some friends I had not seen for a while too.

What else would you like to share about yourself and your choir experience?

Being in choir helps me make new friends and my singing is improving all of the time. There are lots of kids at choir and we all sing and praise God...and He loves us all.

My choir and I at the 2023 Phoenix Festival!



Carol U.

Age: 10 Months in Choir: 7

St. Vincent de Paul Choir
Phoenix, AZ



What do you love about singing and being in choir?
I like to sing and it makes me feel closer to God.

How has singing and being in choir strengthened your faith?
Because the songs we sing are dedicated to God and I feel them from my heart and I share my Catholic faith with my family and friends.

Why do you enjoy participating in Pueri Cantores Festivals?

My choir participated in the 2023 Phoenix Festival. It was my first experience at a Pueri Cantores Festival and the first time I sang with more choirs than just my own. Everyone was very friendly and sang very good. I want to keep practicing the music and sing better so I can participate again next year.



My choir and I at the 2023 Phoenix Festival!

Webinar “Canteremo la tua Gloria” - 2nd edition

The Italian Federation organized the 2nd edition of the webinar “Canteremo la tua Gloria” (We will sing Your Glory) from May 2 to June 4.

For 2000 years, choral music in the Catholic liturgy is a treasure that lives on in our musical research and spiritual enrichment. On the occasion of the new Missal of the Italian Church, the Federation organized this webinar with the purpose of highlighting the styles, the forms and the aims of liturgical music, from Gregorian Chant to contemporary experiences.

The 2nd edition looked into the practice of liturgical music: from the analysis of musical forms after Vatican Council II to the vocal training of liturgical choirs, the use of the Gregorian Chant in today’s services and a look into liturgical music around the world.

The webinar ended with a meeting in person in Terlizzi (BA), where two choirs of the Italian Federation, the Pueri et Juvenes Cantores of Torrespaccata (Rome) and the Pueri Cantores Apulia Terlicium (Terlizzi, BA) met and were involved in the final Solemn Celebration.

Daniele Perri
Pueri Cantores Italy



Sharing spiritually inspired choral music

A discussion panel at the World Symposium of Choral Music (WSCM) in Istanbul

April 26, Istanbul was the venue for the World Symposium of Choral Music. Initiated by our Vice president Matthias Balzer it was a very well attended panel discussion with participants from various countries and with varied spiritual backgrounds:

- Ki Adams (Canada), IFCM and moderator of the discussion
- Matthias Balzer (Germany), Pueri Cantores
- Gábor Móczár (Hungary), IFCM
- Ramona Wegenast (Germany), Marktoberdorf Music Sacra
- Naomi Faran (Israel), Moran Choir
- Hussein Janmohamed (Canada), composer and independent scholar

The focus was on the opportunities a conscious exchange of spiritually inspired choral music from different cultural and religious communities can offer choristers and audiences, a better understanding of each other and ultimately to help build a more peaceful world.

It became clear that already 70% of the compositions performed at international choir meetings have a spiritual origin. There are good examples of implementation in the choral world, for example at the music festival “Musica Sacra International” in Marktoberdorf / Germany or in the Fahya Choir / Beirut and in the Vancouver Youth Choir / Canada.

All participants and audiences were unanimous in their opinion that exchange should be pursued more intensively not only in future choir festivals and competitions but also in choral compositions.

Matthias Balzer
Vice-president FIPC



Do you believe what you sing?

- an initiative by Pueri Cantores Germany



We provide our choirs with a range of materials that can serve as inspiration for choral work on spirituality. "Do you believe what you sing?" can be one of many questions that offer an introduction to the topic. We look forward to the exchange at all association levels and cordially invite you all to participate!

Dear Choir Directors,

About two weeks ago you received a "digital postcard" as a prelude to the conversation process on questions about spirituality in choir life, with the request that you forward it to choir members and families through your digital channels. Thank you very much for your support in this.

Today you are now receiving two additional materials that are intended to stimulate and support the exchange in your choir and with the families and leaders in your parish: a paper with impulses and suggestions, and a graphic that puts the issues in perspective. The questions formulated in it do not all have to be "worked through" individually and can gladly be supplemented by your own thoughts.

An exchange on these topics could perhaps take place after a service over a cup of coffee, as part of a rehearsal day or weekend, at the end of a choir rehearsal, to which the parents are then also invited, or also in a relaxed zoom round. It may also be easier for you to bring individual questions into the conversation at suitable times over the next few weeks.

We are looking forward to your feedback. You can submit your thoughts directly on [our website](#) using the online form or send us an e-mail.

We look forward to engaging in this way in our choral association at all levels with the important questions about spirituality, faith, and being church.

Marius Linnenborn
SPIRITUAL ADVISORY BOARD

Children's & Youth Choir Day in Aschaffenburg

More than 400 children and young people from 23 choirs, lots of music, colorful activities and bright sunshine: these were the elements of the Diocesan Children's and Youth Choir Day of the Pueri-Cantores Association of Würzburg on Saturday, June 17, in Aschaffenburg. The boys and girls of the Abbey Choir, who are celebrating their 50th (boys) and 40th (girls) anniversaries this year, had invited them. Abbey cantor Caroline Roth had organized the day together with representatives of the Pueri Cantores Association and the Diocese of Würzburg.

The day began with a prayer for peace. The choirs had rehearsed the songs at home beforehand and all joined in. The song "How can I keep from singing" by Greg Gilpin got the crowd snapping and bobbing along for the first time. Many more opportunities for this were to follow. To conclude, the children and young people placed a peace sign on the Stiftsplatz, which was photographed by a drone. With this they wanted to express their longing for peace.



Pictures © Burkhard Vogt / POW
Peace sign (drone picture) © Aschaffenburg Stiftemusik

44th International Congress of Pueri Cantores, Rome

Dec 28, 2023 to Jan 1, 2024



3365 participants... 100 choirs... representing 20 countries

will be present at the next International Pueri Cantores Congress in Rome.

After a gap of 8 years, the world of Pueri Cantores returns to the Holy City!

Participating in this Congress is an important milestone in the life of a cantor - visiting St. Peter's Basilica and meeting our Holy Father Papa Francesco!

After the difficult years of the Pandemic, the tradition of the Congress in the cradle of Christianity is renewed. This year choristers from four continents: Africa, Asia, North and South America, and Europe will come together to sing, pray and proclaim a message of peace for the whole world - Et in terra pax.

Alberto Veggiotti
Secretary FIPC

<https://www.puericongress.info>

Waiting for the Congress in Rome

I am eagerly waiting to go to Rome with my choir. We're going to meet the Pope and that for me is very exciting. Also, the experience of time shared with other choirs will be new for me. I hope there will be some evening parties, and visits to the town and of course eating pizza!

Théodore, age 11

J'ai hâte de partir à Rome avec la manécanterie. On va rencontrer le Pape et chanter devant lui. Cela va être une expérience que je ne vais pas oublier. Il va y avoir aussi des moments partagés avec d'autres chœurs, ce sera nouveau pour moi. J'espère qu'il y aura des veillées. On va aussi visiter la ville et manger des pizzas !

Théodore, 11 ans

Ever since my first congress in Rome child alto, in the time of Pope John Paul II, I've been delighted to meet up with Pueri Cantores from all over the world at our Federation's major gatherings. As choirmaster today, I take pleasure in preparing these days of meeting, singing, prayer, art and history, because I know that, as I was, my little singers will be filled with wonder for life.

Régis de LA ROCHE

Director of the Petits Chanteurs Franciliens (Paris)

Depuis mon premier congrès à Rome comme alto, du temps du pape Jean-Paul II, c'est toujours avec autant de joie que je retrouve les Pueri Cantores du monde lors des grands rassemblements de notre Fédération. Comme chef de chœur aujourd'hui, je prends plaisir à préparer avec soin ces journées de rencontre, de chant, de prière, d'art et d'histoire, car je sais que, comme je le fus, mes petits chanteurs en seront émerveillés pour la vie.

Régis de LA ROCHE, directeur des Petits Chanteurs Franciliens (Paris)



Foederatio Internationalis
Pueri Cantores

A Newsletter published by the
FIPC Communications Team

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2. Contribute news from your Federations or articles/short essays written by your choir members; photographs of events with a caption of not more than one sentence; upcoming events; and anything newsworthy and of interest to the FIPC Family on the above-mentioned email address.
3. The FIPC Newsletter will be published once every 3 months. The next release will be in October.
4. The FIPC Communications Team reserves the right to publish and edit articles sent by contributors.