

Meet the World Symposium on Choral Music 2026 Composers

As part of the WSCM tradition, six World Symposium on Choral Music 2026 invited choirs will be paired with six commissioned composers, culminating in world premieres at their gala concerts at the Macau Cultural Centre. Reflecting the symposium's theme, each choir will perform a newly created work by a composer from a different country, creating a dynamic space for cultural exchange and musical dialogue.

Introducing... **Beatriz Bilbao**, *Venezuela*

Beatriz Bilbao, Venezuelan composer and performer, is known for her versatile writing and innovative repertoires. Having founded several choral and chamber ensembles, she conducted the Venezuelan premiere of *Ancient Voices of Children*, music by George Crumb and texts by Federico García Lorca, with the Simón Bolívar Orchestra Contemporary Music Ensemble in 1989.

Cultural diversity and research are part of Beatriz's compositional interests. Her music has been performed internationally, and she has received several international and Venezuelan composition prizes. Her works often incorporate indigenous Venezuelan elements, reflecting her cultural background.

Beatriz works with both electronic media and acoustic instruments, composing for orchestra, chamber ensembles, electroacoustics, electronics, and vocal and piano performance. Her music has been recorded and issued on CDs, showcasing her versatility and talent as a composer.

Beatriz Bilbao's note on *Sancora*

Sancora, angel of unified minds or Saint of Choirs

Five elements of nature inherent to distinct cultures and languages, geographically located in Asia, Africa, North & South America, and Europe, are voiced through the ideas of Earth, Wood, Metal, Water, and Fire. Exploring cultural diversity as a contemporary reality has taken the languages as the greatest indicators of idiosyncrasy, building the future with balance and peace.

Introducing... **Jude Bautista Roldan**, *Philippines*

Jude Bautista Roldan (Philippines) holds the multifaceted position of artistic director, pianist, and resident composer for the Young Voices of the Philippines. His works have been showcased globally, including the Pacific International Choral Festival, Oregon Bach Festival, Tolosa Choral Competitions, Seghizzi Choral Competitions, Cantemus International Choral Festival, Summa Cum Laude Youth Music Festival, and the International Kodály Symposium. Jude's recent extended work for choir and orchestra, *Missa Virtutum*, has been performed in Carnegie Hall's Isaac Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Dekelboun Auditorium, and Roy Thomson Hall (Toronto). Hal Leonard, Pavane Music, Cypress Choral Music, and Muziksea publish his works.

With his wife, Maria Theresa Vizconde-Roldan, their choral program has achieved milestones, including the first choir from the Philippines to perform at Carnegie Hall's Isaac Stern Auditorium Perelman Stage, world winner at Llangollen International Choral Eisteddfod, World Choir Games Champion, historic four first prizes at the Golden Gate International Choral Festival, and a performance at Piazza San Pietro in Rome for Pope Francis. Jude teaches piano, composition, music theory, score reading, and analysis at the Centro Escolar Conservatory of Music.

Jude Roldan's Note on *Pumailanglang! (Soar!)*

The text of ***Pumailanglang!*** or ***Soar!*** revolves around the idea of reimagining the future by rising above current limitations and fears. The future is shaped by those who dare to take flight and envision a better tomorrow. Just as the text speaks to the courage needed to envision a better tomorrow, the music mirrors this sentiment with its driving rhythms, soaring melodies, and vocal

stacking. Together, they invite the audience to experience a sense of liberation and possibility, encouraging all to take flight in pursuit of their aspirations.

Introducing... **Xia Yanbin**, *China*

Xia Yanbin (China) is Associate Professor and Vice Dean of the School of Music and Dance, Zhuhai College of Science and Technology, where he teaches composition and conducting. He has received the China National Arts Fund five times and been selected as a Young Artistic Creation Talent and a Young Literary and Art Creation Grantee by the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles. Xia has given four solo concerts in Guangzhou and beyond, with scores published by People's Music Publishing House and recordings by China Record Corporation. He led a workshop on *Night and the Starry Sky* in Chinese poetry at the 13th World Choir Games in Auckland. Commissions include Tsinghua University and conductors Tian Xiaobao, André van der Merwe, and Lim Ai Hooi. Xia is described as one who "navigates between tradition and modernity, balancing melodic elegance with a restless exploration of the contemporary Chinese choral idiom."

Xia Yanbin's note on ***Lu Zhai***

Wang Wei's *twenty characters* have waited 13 centuries to be heard again - not read but sung. This setting does not interpret the poem so much as inhabit it: the empty mountain, the unseen voice, the last light catching on moss. Chan aesthetics and choral sound share a quiet kinship; both ask the listener to attend to what is almost not there. To reimagine the future, we must first learn to hear silence. Wang Wei (699–761) was a Chinese musician, painter, poet, and politician.

Nadine ROBIN