

The inaugural concert at the Istanbul Convention in 2012, conducted by Iclal Kardicali (IIW Board Director 2023-2024), is something that members still remember fondly and quite vividly. Iclal has contacted PIIW President Phyllis Charter to suggest contributing musically in some way during the May 2024 Convention in Manchester. This idea was welcomed by the Convention Organising Committee.

Iclal suggests that the International Choir could be made up of:

- a choir of Inner Wheel Singers who have registered to attend the Convention, perhaps some who might dance to some of the songs.
- 7 or 8 members from each group of “musical clusters”, at most 50 choristers. “Musical Clusters” represent different continents where there are Inner Wheel Members representing different cultures.

They will have

- rehearsals **online**: once a month – dates and times to be determined together
- each **Zoom** rehearsal lasting 60 -75 minutes, depending on the need. Probably longer ones will be towards the end, as the performance date gets closer.
- One last rehearsal (Tuesday 7th May)– **in person** – the day before the Opening Ceremony in the Convention Hall (a short “sound rehearsal”, so the choristers will be there the day before the Opening Ceremony)

Plans

- singers to get acquainted by October 2023 and to finalize the repertoire so that monthly rehearsals can begin by the end of October/beginning of November 2023.
- songs will be one-part harmony only.
- Songs will NOTE be A Capella, instead Iclal will prepare the accompanying music and record it, to play it during rehearsals and also during the performance.
- A What’sApp group will be set up where all can get acquainted, discuss the repertoire and organizational matters.
- Since this is going to be a potpourri/medley, not the whole song will be sung or danced, but one song will flow into the next one.

It would be preferable if volunteers

- have previous musical experience, sing in a choir, play an instrument, conduct a musical ensemble or play/sing/dance in such an ensemble.
- Be inclined to sing and dance and have a musical ear and rhythmic skills.
- Love singing and dancing.

The repertoire will be chosen from popular/well known/folk songs, so that the audience can sing/hum along with the choir. The choristers may wear their national costumes during the performance.

It is hoped that this whole event will bring us together in this very special and precious Centennial Year; singing, dancing, making music together, in harmony and joy and having fun in Inner Wheel friendship.

Any IW member, attending the Convention, who is interested in being considered for one of the possible 50 places in the choir should email Iclal, ikardicali@yahoo.com giving their IW details (country, district etc.), short musical background if any, a mobile telephone number and an email address. (Please also copy your email to pam.mcconnell@talktalk.net and to eliznorris@btinternet.com)

Love and best wishes, many hugs,
Iclal