

# WORLD YOUTH ALLIANCE FILM LIST

## Les Choristes (2004)

Directed by Christophe Barratier

After a series of failures, M. Clement Mathieu arrives at an unruly boy's orphanage built on a tradition of heavy disciplinarian leadership. At first the boys continue to cause trouble, but as Mathieu moves away from the tradition of discipline and teaches the boys music, he discovers a completely different encounter with the boys. This film portrays the transformative journey of discovering intrinsic dignity and the vitality of artistic expression in animating this sense of self-worth.

### Guide questions for discussion groups

- Try to recall the effect of music in this film. Give one example of why you feel music is important to the film's story?
- We see two systems used to discipline and educate the pupils. 1) The strict autocratic approach of headmaster, Monsieur Rachin. 2) Mathieu's humanistic approach of focusing on the boy's hidden singing talent. Identify three reasons why Mathieu's approach is more successful than Rachin's.
- Name three other factors besides music that contribute to the education and transformation of the pupils.
- Mathieu teaches the pupils how to be disciplined in music. How does this discipline affect their interaction with each other?
- Mathieu does not achieve the fame he wishes for through his musical excellence. Should we consider him a failure? Does he consider himself a failure? Discuss.
- Outline the overall effect of the film's message concerning the way we should apply our talents in everyday life.