

SUMMARY OF THE MEMBERSHIP WEEKEND 2019

Between 15 and 16 November 2019

116 PARTICIPANTS

from 26 countries

gathered in Ljubljana and...



INTERACTED

Choral lovers, professionals and managers gathered for 2 full days in Ljubljana, Slovenia for the Membership Weekend of 2019. They had the chance to interact with each other, share time and meals together, sing along with a mandolina orchester, share a train ride through the fascinating Postojna cave, chatting about last year's concerts and events and looking forward to exciting upcoming events.

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

During the 'project presentation' sessions, participants gathered to exchange on their projects in short and entertaining 5 minutes slots. Our members from all over Europe presented 16 projects, ranging from how to organize stage-less concerts, to ways to build stronger singing communities, new educational publications, and more.

Beethoven Anniversary Year

To celebrate 250 years since the birth of Beethoven, BTHVN 2020 is an year filled with music and performances to celebrate the life and work of Ludwig van Beethoven.

Singing in regions of conflict
Emotion, adventure, excitement and courage, all given by singing in regions of conflict, as a sign of peace.

More projects
www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org/activities/conferences/ga-2019/pp/

Learnings as a choir traveller

The journey of Flannery through a country with a sole focus: to meet and stay with choirs wherever she goes. New choir structures and insights.

Sing Slovakia !
Due to the incredible work of people in love with choral music, Slovakia is now ready to present its heritage internationally.

MEMBERSHIP DAY

ECA-EC gathered its members to work on hot topics of the sector, contribute to the future development of the network's activities and orientations, and provided a structured feedback to the General Assembly and the Board.

The participants had two slots for interactions, having to choose among five working groups, where they had a chance to exchange experiences and contribute on certain issues, relevant for the association.

Themes of the Membership Day:

- 2021 and beyond
- Low budget events
- ECA - EC and the environment
- The future of festival and competitions
- The 'Benefits of singing' campaign

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ECA-EC members met to discuss and approve the activity and financial report of the last years, the budget and strategy for the coming years, the work of the team and the board in 2019, asked questions and interacted with the Board, discussed and decided on the strategy of the association, proposed ideas and changes.

The General Assembly is the main deliberative body of the European Choral Association, composed of the members and representatives of member organisations. It takes place once a year around November, co-organised every time with a different ECA-EC member organisation in a different country.

LEARNED

We introduced a new format this year: The Capacity Building Workshop, where the participants get some input on a topic of interest for the organisations and have a 'hands-on' approach, where the participants have the chance to apply what they've learned on the spot.

HOW TO TELL YOUR STORIES

Being a storyteller takes time, takes a spark of inspiration and a lot of practice. What's for sure is that we all have a story to tell and quite impressive ones. Luckily, after the time spent with Yvette van den Berg, we think the participants just might find their way better now, with the tools and guidance Yvette gave us.

After a tiny break, with all the information settling, the participants started to do some hands-on work, transforming regular stories into the ones people will want to listen to, witnessing how small changes can sometimes make a big difference.

Special thanks to Sonja Greiner, for sharing powerful stories and to Gerhard Sammer for his input on impact evaluation.



See the recording on:
www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org/activities/conferences/ga-2019/storytelling/



SING WITH SlovENIA & more

Bordering to Germanic, Slavic and Roman world is a perfect recipe for... a messy or rich musical heritage? Together with the Europa Cantat 2021 team, the participants went a journey through Slovenian music - from folk songs to modern jazzy arrangements and spiced it all up with bold ideas on how to impact today's choral world.

LJUBLJANA

The second part of the musical workshop, was dedicated to a short guided walk through Ljubljana's charming old city centre and feel its vibration. Participants learned about the capital's rich history, cultural diversity and have a taste of the next Europa Cantat Festival. Smaller in size, yet so rich in aroma and feelings. We don't know if it was the hospitality of the Slovenian team, or the city itself, but we are sure people are wanting to go back.

EXPERIENCED

SLOVENIAN MUSIC

Participants had the unique chance to discover the incredible richness and of Slovenian music and were delighted with many performances, giving them only a small teaser for the future Europa Cantat Festival.



- Children's choir of Elementary School Ledina
- Children's choir of Cvetko Golar Elementary School
- Volk Folk
- Janez Jocif
- Chamber Choir of the Ljubljana Conservatory for Music and Ballet

POSTOJNA JAMA

'Rays of Underworld' was the closing concert of the weekend, following an incredible train ride through the Postojna Jama, the world's most captivating cave with magnificent cave formations and diverse fauna, a subterranean paradise shaped by droplets over millions of years.

In the home of the olms, known as the 'dragons', we've enjoyed the concert of St. Nicholas Choir Litija, conducted by Helena Fojkar Zupančič. It was magic!



"We sat on the train on our way out of the Postojna Cave we visited on Saturday evening and I noticed my neighbour was breathing in deeply. He said: "I want to breathe in as much air of this place as possible." I understood him perfectly. Not only was the magic of this cave worth keeping with us in our body: that was the exact feeling I had of the entire membership weekend.

I breathed in the coming together with passionate people, the shared love of collective singing, the impactful stories that were being exchanged during and after the workshop on Storytelling, the music we got to experience, the beautiful locations in Slovenia that we visited, the driven young members and their exciting new ideas, and above all the importance of coming together in song, in whatever way possible..

I breathed it all in, now let's sing it out! :)

Yvette van den Berg - workshop facilitator

We are a network of organisations, choirs and individuals in the field of collective singing in Europe.

Through our membership, we directly represent more than 2,5 million singers, conductors, composers and managers in over 40 European countries, and reach out to more than 37 million people in continental Europe active in the field of collective singing.

We organise activities in partnership all across Europe

- Festivals
- International choirs
- European Academies for conductors and composers
- International Competition for conductors
- Study Tours for conductors
- Activities for choirs, young singers and conductors
- Conferences

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SAVE THE DATE!

**We meet for the
Membership Weekend 2020
in Galway, Ireland**



SUMMARY OF THE MEMBERSHIP WEEKEND 2019



Welcome to the new members:

- Pan-Ukrainian choral society named after Mykola Leontovych & NGO Osnova Society
- 7 new choirs from Azerbaijan, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Slovenia
- 37 individual members
- 2 members from Georgia

THANK YOU !

Thank you to everybody who participated to 2019's Membership Weekend! Thank you for being so open, spreading your good energy, sharing your experiences and knowledge and contributing to the development of the association and its projects and events. You motivate us to go even further.

Thank you to the entire team behind ECA-EC and the tireless work they've done for the success of this weekend. A big thank you goes to the Board, for their vision and courage to dream, to the Youth Committee for their valuable contribution, to the Advisory Bodies sharing their expertise and the Regional Centers, contributing to the growth of the association!

Also, our gratitude and a huge thank you goes to the Europa Cantat Festival Team, for hosting us and all the help they've offered into preparing an unforgettable weekend, for their good attitude and smiles they relentlessly offered to us all! We are now sure: we love Slovenia and can't wait to be back!

in cooperation with:

JSKD
Choral Culture Association
Ljubljana, Slovenia
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www.jskd.si
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We are touched and delighted to have received the honorary patronage from Borut Pahor, the President of Slovenia for the Europa Cantat Festival, taking place in Ljubljana, in the summer 2021.

This is a moment of great significance and support for the work of choral organisations all around Europe to encourage and develop this wonderful art form, where people of all ages come together and unite their voices, preserving the cultural traditions through music.