## European Choral Association – Europa Cantat (ECA-EC)

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We are

CONDUCTORS | VOCAL LEADERS
SINGERS
COMPOSERS | CREATORS
MANAGERS

cooperating across borders in the field of collective singing since 1963.

Through our membership, we directly represent 2.5 million people, amateurs and professionals and reach out to more than 37 million in continental Europe active in the field of collective singing.

Our members are actively involved through:

• Membership Days
• Working groups
• Consultations
• Online voting

Did you know?

4.5% of the European population are actively involved in collective singing

We connect people through

EDUCATIONAL SINGING ACTIVITIES
FESTIVALS • TRAININGS • PROJECTS
MEETINGS • COMPETITIONS
AWARDS • CONFERENCES
all over continental Europe.

Why?

• We love collective singing, we want to share it!
• We promote peace and solidarity
• We want to exchange and learn from each other
Welcome to this third edition of our Annual Report with which we are looking back at the year 2019 to share with you what happened during that year, both within and outside the network project “Upgrade – Connect- Reach Out: Raising Awareness for Collective Singing in Europe.”

We will take you back to special moments such as the sessions of the EuroChoir and the World Youth Choir (which celebrated its 30th anniversary), which both ended with concerts in the frame of the impressive Choralies Festival and our Membership Weekend in Ljubljana which gave us a taste of what we can look forward to for the festival in 2021. If you were there you will think back with pleasure, if you were not you will hopefully feel encouraged to join next time. For us, 2019 will be remembered as the year in which we welcomed two new team members, Estera Mihaila as Communication and Marketing Manager (who, among others, created this wonderful Annual Report) and Sophie Dowden as Project and Fundraising Manager (who immediately launched into preparing a major project application). We were sad to see Giulia Lodi and Côme Ferrand-Cooper go, and we would like to thank them for all they did for our association over the years – it was great to meet both of them again in Ljubljana last November. When your association is over 50 years old, unfortunately you regularly lose important personalities from your past. In 2019 Michaël Scheck, last President of AGEC and one of the motors of the merger with Europa Cantat, passed away. We honoured him with a minute of silence at our General Assembly in Ljubljana.

Next to the network project mentioned above, we started two new projects in 2019 – the EPIC project dealing with auditioned youth music ensembles and SHIFT which aims at helping cultural organisations train their teams and boards on how to integrate some of the important UN Sustainable Development Goals into the work and the activities of the association.

Enjoy revisiting what happened in 2019 and taking a glimpse at what lies ahead.

Sonja Greiner
Secretary General
our network

2019
Collective singing as an international tool to connect people and countries after World War II:
A group of conductors from different European countries many of whom had been soldiers during the war, met during a youth event at Loreley (Germany) and discussed what would be the best way to make sure that their young singers would not want to go to war with each other.

On the model of the French festival Choralies in Vaison-la-Romaine (France) they decided to create a festival in which the singers would not only sing for each other, but also participate together in different workshops. They would be sleeping in the same accommodation, eating together and spending their free time together, thus making friends for life.

1952
During the Tiroler Sängерfest in Innsbruck representatives of choir associations in Austria, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland established the idea to promote choir singing by exchanging compositions, choirs and other initiatives throughout Europe, followed by official foundation of AGEC in 1955.

1960
Informal founding meeting of the European Federation of Young Choirs in Geneva (Switzerland).

1961
First EUROPA CANTAT festival in Passau (Germany) ending just a few days before August 13th, 1961, when the wall between Western and Eastern Germany was closed. Since then, we have been organising the festival every 3 years in a different country.

1963
Signing of the Élysée Treaty and foundation of the "European Federation of Young Choirs" in Bonn (later renamed "Europa Cantat")

2011

2014
Incorporation of the archives and the history of IDOCO (Internationale des Organisations Culturelles Ouvrières) which dissolved at the end of 2013.
**our values**

**CONNECT PEOPLE AND CULTURES**

**FOSTER**

International cooperation and mutual understanding between cultures, nations and individuals across social and political borders

**SUPPORT**

Youth involvement

**PROMOTE**

Arts

Culture

Collective singing as tool for education and community building

Tolerance

International thinking & understanding

**REPRESENT**

Interests of the singing community

We endorse the five music rights, formulated by the European / International Music Council:

- The right for all children and adults to express themselves musically in all freedom
- The right for all children and adults to learn musical languages and skills
- The right for all children and adults to have access to musical involvement through participation, listening, creation and information.
- The right for musical artists to develop their artistry and communicate through all media, with proper facilities
- The right for musical artists to obtain just recognition and fair remuneration.

www.imc-cim.org

**our vision**

**FOR COLLECTIVE SINGING IN EUROPE**

Being the pan-European non-profit organisation dedicated to EDUCATION and CULTURAL EXCHANGE in the field of collective singing among singers, conductors, composers and managers of all ages, with a focus on children and young people.

**STRATEGY**

- Strengthen the network and its members
- Facilitate peer-to-peer approach
- Invest in capacity-building and training
- Reach out to people who do not sing (yet)
- Raise awareness for collective singing in Europe

The strategy has been implemented and developed in tight cooperation with the membership thanks to the project “Upgrade-Connect-Reach Out: raise awareness for collective singing in Europe” (see page 30), co-funded by the European Union Creative Europe Programme.

The project aims also to connect and cooperate with other players in the field of Collective Singing and beyond, and promote the benefits of singing for the individual and society.

**ACTION PLAN**

Offering information and services about collective Singing in Europe

Networking

Cooperation projects

Setting up and participating

Collecting, publishing and disseminating repertoire, good practices and inspiring examples
We gather members representing the broad diversity of choral stakeholders in Europe. In addition, we have associate members in 16 countries worldwide.

- Country with organisations and member choirs and individual members
- Country with choirs and individual members
NEW MEMBERS 2019

Association of National Pan-Ukrainian Music Community “Leontovich”
The National All-Ukrainian Music Union is one of the oldest and the largest professional creative associations of Ukrainian artists, contributing to the development of Ukrainian music, supporting breakthroughs to high professionalism of universality of genres and means of expression.

www.muzunion.com | contact: muzunion@i.ua

NGO Osnova Society
Established in 2016 in Lviv, Ukraine, to help amateur choirs to participate in international festivals and competitions, organize workshops for conductors and raise the visibility of scores among choirs.

contact: office@osnovasociety.org

Interregional Conductors Association of Children and Youth Choirs of North-West
Founded by Irina Roganova in 2010 to unite choral conductors who are interested in development and learning new world choral achievements. Now it consists of around 100 members who represent about 250 choirs and vocal ensembles. The main activities of the Association are concerts, festivals, international choral competitions and summer schools for choirmasters, composers and concert masters.

www.choirlab.ru | contact: nw.choir.association@gmail.com
Join us

AS A MEMBER

CHOIRS
Not-for-profit choral and conductors’ organisations in Europe and other not-for-profit organisations working for the development and promotion of vocal music

FAMILIES
1 or 2 adults and their children under 27 living at the same address

INDIVIDUALS

ADVANTAGES
SAVE MONEY
- Reduced participation fees at activities of ECA-EC
- Reduced advertising fees for the website and brochures

ACCESS TRAINING AND INFORMATION
- Peer-to-peer training and workshops
- Access to a password-protected section of the website reserved for members with documents for the General Assemblies
- Privileged access to the Musica International database (database of the world’s choral music) through the password-protected section of the website
- Regular publications (annual report and brochures)

GET INVOLVED IN THE EUROPEAN CHORAL LIFE
- Participate in our General Assembly
- Vote to elect the board (remote voting for individual, family and choir members)
- Be a candidate for our board
- Participate in our General Assembly
- Membership Day: share your visions with the other members
- Network with your peers
- Get in touch with international contacts with the help of the general secretariat
- Use the logo and mention that you are a member of ECA-EC

HOW TO JOIN?
Download the form on www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org
Write to info@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org

people

BOARD 2019

CARLO PAVESE (Italy) | President
MIHELA JAGODIC (Slovenia) | 1st Vice-President
JEAN-CLAUDE WILKENS (France) | 2nd, Artistic Vice-President
DERMOT O’CALLAGHAN (Ireland) | 3rd Vice-President
MARTINE SPANJERS (The Netherlands) | Treasurer
BURAK ONUR ERDEM (Turkey)
FLANNERY RYAN (Germany)
MARTI FERRER (Spain)
RAUL TALMAR (Estonia)
LOTI PIRIS NIÑO (Belgium)
MARTIN WILDHABER (Switzerland)

ECA-EC ARTISTIC STRATEGIC GROUP

JEAN-CLAUDE WILKENS (FR) | RAUL TALMAR (EE) |
Chair and ECA-EC Vice-President
ECA-EC Board

MIHELA JAGODIC (SI) | MARTIN WILDHABER (CH) |
ECA-EC Vice-President
ECA-EC Board

BURAK ONUR ERDEM (TR) | ZEYNEP EREN KOVANKAYA (TR) |
ECA-EC Board
ECA-EC Youth Committee

The governing body of the association elected by and representing the membership.
YOUTH COMMITTEE 2019

YOUTH COMMITTEE 2019

youthcommittee@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org

EUROPA CANTAT 2021 FESTIVAL MUSIC COMMISSION

Responsible for the artistic contents of the EUROPA CANTAT Festival XX and other activities.

JEAN-CLAUDE WILKENS (FR) | Chair
JEROEN BECKERS (BE)
JULIA BLANK (DE)
BURAK ONUR ERDEM (TR)
DÓRA HALAS (HU)

KATHARINA HENRYSSON (SE)
DAMIJAN MOČNIK (SI)
SIMONA ROŽMAN STRNAD (SI)
RAUL TALMAR (EE)
JOSEP VILA I CASAÑAS (ES)

MUSIC CONSULTANTS

Help the organisation to reach out to countries otherwise not (well) represented in the different bodies of the association and/or among its member organisations.

Zejla Andric (BA)  Consultant for cooperation with the Russian Federation:
Margret Bóasdottir (IS)  Pavel Brochin, Bonn (DE/RU)
Joseph Lia (MT)  Dominika Semañáková (SK)  Sergio Mari (ES)
Angelina Nicolaidou (CY)  Krzysztof Sydrysz (PL)
Dominika Semañáková (SK)  Sasho Tatarchevski (MK)

Former Board members of Europa Cantat, AGEC and ECA-EC, former members of the Music Commission who wish to stay in touch with the association.

Kjetil Aamann (NO)  Guido Helling (CH)
Kari Ala-Pöllänen (FI)  Rainer Held (CH)
Marleen Annemans (BE)  Volker Hempting (DE)
Urbain van Asch (BE)  Hans Hierck (BE/NL)
Xavier Baulies (ES)  Mihaela Jagodic (SI)
Barbara Bieri (DE)  Hansruedi Kämpfen (CH)
Inessa Bodyako (BY)  Reijo Kekkonen (FI)
Filippo Maria Bressan (IT)  Éva Kollár (HU)
Nicola Campogrande (IT)  Tamás Lakner (HU)
Elsa Carrasco (ES)  Harold Lenselink (NL)
Darina Chakarova (BG)  Erwin List (FR)
Jim Aas Hjernøe (DK)  Victoria Liedbergius (NO)
Séverine Delforge (BE)  Cecilia Martin-Löf (SE)
Julien Dubois (FR/NL)  Koenraad de Meulder (BE)
Ágnes Erdélyi (HU)  Noël Minet (BE)
Tomáš Faganel (SI)  Donka Miteva (BG/DE)
Sante Fornasier (IT)  Gábor Móczár (HU)
Llúis Gómez i Roldán (ES)  Erik van Nevel (BE)
Montserrat Gual (ES)  Maria van Nieukerken (NL)
Maud Hamon-Loisance (FR)  Margaret O’Sullivan (IE)

ADVISORS

People

Former Board members of Europa Cantat, AGEC and ECA-EC, former members of the Music Commission who wish to stay in touch with the association.

Jeffrey Parrott (GB)  Theodora Pavlovitch (BG)
Josef Prats (ES)  Jonathan Rathbone (GB)
Jan Schumacher (DE)  Michael Scheck (BE)
Jeroen Schrijnere (CH/NL)  Patrick Secchiari (CH)
Christopher Simmons (GB)  Frédéric Sijé (SE)
Jean Smeets (BE)  Dan-Olof Stenlund (SE)
Katie Tanner (EE)  Thierry Thiebaut (FR)
Alexander Vacek (UA)  Aleksandar Vujic (RS)
Daphne Wassink (NL)  Anneliese Zeh (AT)

SILVIJA PROČKYTĖ (LT) | Chair
RUBEN TIMMER (NL) | Vice chair and treasurer
ZEYNEP ERGEN KOVANKAYA (TR) | Secretary
MATHILDE SANCHEZ (FR) | Communication

BARBARA BARAČ (SI) – from November 2019
ANNA BOBRIKOVA (RU/DE)
ALBERTO PALACÍN FERNANDEZ (ES)
MAŠA MEDVED (SI) – until November 2019

They ensure a better contact with the growing membership and offer activities more easily accessible for interested conductors, singers, composers or managers from the region.

Central – Eastern European Centre (CEEC) in Pécs, Hungary
Mediterranean Office for Choral Singing (MOCS) – Mediterranean centre in Barcelona, Spain

REGIONAL CENTRES

people
Permanent staff

SONJA GREINER (DE)
Secretary General
SecretaryGeneral@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org

SYLVIA KERUTT (DE)
Office Manager
Sylia.Kerutt@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org

ALFRED JÜRGENS (DE)
Local Project Management
Alfred.Jurgens@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org

SOPHIE DOWDEN (GB) – from September 2019
Project and Fundraising Manager
Sophie.Dowden@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org

ESTERA MIHAILA (RO) – from September 2019
Communication and Marketing Manager
Estera.Mihaila@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org

GIULIA LODI (IT) – until June 2019
Communication Manager

COME FERRAND COOPER (FR) – until August 2019
Project Manager

Volunteer Translators

Bernadette Haury (DE)
Alfred Jürgens (DE)
Alice Laroussi (FR/MA)
Geneviève van Noyen (BE)
Alexander Oertel (DE)
Carla Riquelme (FR)
Thea Winterburn (DE)

Volunteers in Bonn (Germany)

The volunteers for Youth Choirs in Movement 2019, in Bonn, Germany:

Anna Bobrikova
Barbara van Dorp
Mechthild Kaluc
Wolfgang Pomp
Henrike Schauerte
Adelheid Sodermann

International Music Council (IMC)
The world’s leading membership-based professional organisation dedicated to the promotion of the value of music in the lives of all peoples.
IMC’s mission is to develop sustainable music sectors worldwide, to create awareness about the value of music, to make music matter throughout the fabric of society and to uphold basic music rights in all countries.
www.imc-cim.org

European Music Council (EMC)
The umbrella organisation for musical life in Europe.
It is a platform for National Music Councils and organisations involved in various fields of music from many European countries.
www.emc-imc.org

International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM)
Founded in 1982 for the purpose of facilitating communication and exchange between choral musicians throughout the world.
ECA-EC is a founding member and regional office.
www.ifcm.net
Culture Action Europe (CAE)
European network of cultural organisations and individuals dedicated to promote culture as a necessary condition for sustainable development both at local and European scale.
www.cultureactioneurope.org

Musica International
MUSICA has amassed data on almost 200,000 musical scores becoming an invaluable and powerful search tool and a teaching resource for conductors, musicologists, schools, conservatoires and associations, libraries, music stockists and retailers.
www.musicanet.org

Choral Festival Network (CFN)
Network of qualified international festivals and competitions, whose intention is to give fair and transparent participants’ conditions to choirs and individuals.
www.choralfestivalnetwork.org

Amateo
Network for enhancing information flow, especially about the socio-cultural activities of the member organisations, political support for the importance of active participation in cultural activities and the exchange of information and practice among the member organisations.
www.amateo.info

European Association for Music in Schools (EAS)
Music education network. It brings together all those concerned with music education to share and exchange knowledge and experience in professional fields and to advocate for high quality music education accessible to all.
www.eas-music.org

European Theatre Convention (ETC-ECT)
Network of European public theatres founded in 1988 to promote contemporary drama theatre, to support the mobility of artists and to develop artistic exchange throughout Europe and beyond.
www.etc-cte.org

Jeunesses Musicales International (JMI)
Global network of NGOs that provides opportunities for young people and children to develop through music across all boundaries.
Partners of ECA-EC and IFCM in the World Youth Choir Foundation.
www.jmi.net

European Alliance for Culture and the Arts
Gathers 37 European networks urging policy makers to rethink the European approach and include culture and arts in the long-term strategic goals of the European project.
www.allianceforculture.com

We have representatives on the Boards of IMC, EMC and IFCM.
Network of European Museum Organisations (NEMO)

Founded in 1992 as an independent network of national museum organisations represents the museum community of the member states of the Council of Europe. Together, NEMO’s members speak for over 30,000 museums across Europe.

www.ne-mo.org

Trans Europe Halles (TEH)

A Europe-based network of cultural centres initiated by citizens and artists. TEH has been at the forefront of repurposing Europe’s industrial buildings for arts, culture and activism since 1983. As of 2017, TEH has brought together nearly 90 multidisciplinary cultural centres and other cultural organisations from across Europe.

www.teh.net

University of Music Würzburg

The Music university of Würzburg is one of Germany’s oldest universities of music located in the city center of Würzburg in the north of Bavaria. Around 250 instructors from all over the world, including numerous world famous artists, prepare about 700 students each year for artistic, academic and pedagogical careers in the field of music.

www.uni-wuerzburg.de

World Youth Choir Foundation

A remarkable educational and social experience at the highest artistic level, aimed at talented young singers (17-26) from all over the world. Each year a session is organised in different countries under the direction of renowned conductors.

www.worldyouthchoir.org

Network of Cantat festivals

We have an advisory role and cooperate with local and regional organisers of the AMERICA CANTAT and AFRICA CANTAT festivals.

www.america-cantat.org
www.AfricaCantat.org

The German National Youth Orchestra and the German National Youth Choir of the German Music Council

The German Music Council represents the interests of about 14 million people who make music and it is the biggest umbrella organisation for music in the world. With its more than 100 member associations and institutions, countless personalities from the music world, projects and promotional measures, the organisation serves as an advisor and competence centre for politics and civil society.
multiannual projects
2019
The project aims at strengthening the network of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat, offering capacity-building and developing new (digital) tools under the keyword “Upgrade”, cooperating with other players in the sector of collective singing, enlarging the scope of the network under the keyword “Connect”, and reaching out beyond the sector under the keyword “Reach Out”.

In 2019, we:

- Continued the new activities developed in 2018
- Increased membership involvement further
- Continued upgrading the communication tools of the association in order to reach new aim groups

Activities:

- The Peer-to-Peer learning programme for staff members and conductors was developed further and adapted to the needs of the sector
- Further research on the benefits of collective singing was collected and the PhD student chosen started working on the meta-study that will be published in 2021
- We offered a workshop on membership issues for the staff of member organisations and other culture networks and a workshop on storytelling for the participants of our Membership Weekend
- We commissioned new choral works for several activities under the label of ECA-EC in 2019

Increased membership involvement in different ways:

- Membership Day in November 2019, where the members discussed ideas for 2020 and reacted on the first proposal for a future strategy presented by the Board
- Grants offered to (potential) members with reduced budgets, and new members were welcomed from countries previously not represented

Increased communication tools and methods:

- Upgraded Website
- a second, improved edition of printed annual report
- Further increase in social media outreach
- Webstreaming of the capacity building workshop on storytelling during our 2019 ECA-EC Membership Weekend
- Three webinars presenting the outcomes of the ‘Sing Me In’ project

New tools and resources:

- A new section on our website presenting guidelines and handbooks on different topics (how to organise a low-budget event / how to include thinking about environmental issues into the work of an association or a choir / how to organise a Young Event Management Programme etc.)
- A new section promoting composers

The association also reached out to many new partners in the choral sector and beyond and worked on a strategy for 2021-2030:

- Attending different conferences and events of other associations
- Discussing concrete cooperation with a number of choral and non-choral associations for the coming years
- Organising a strategy retreat for the board and team and sharing the results with the membership as first step for the development of a strategy for the years until 2030

In 2020, most of the activities of 2019 will be continued, new webinars will be designed, a new database for membership management will be developed and we will start designing the campaign on the benefits of singing.

Raising Awareness for Collective Singing in Europe

2017 – 2021 co-funded by the EU Creative Europe Programme under the strand for network projects with up to 250.000 EUR per year.

The project aims at strengthening the network of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat, offering capacity-building and developing new (digital) tools under the keyword “Upgrade”, cooperating with other players in the sector of collective singing, enlarging the scope of the network under the keyword “Connect”, and reaching out beyond the sector under the keyword “Reach Out”.

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www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org
Contact: info@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org
Financial Support for Peer-to-Peer Training

Grants were given to five conductors and staff members from Norway, the Netherlands, Germany, United Kingdom and Turkey to facilitate their peer-to-peer exchanges in Russia, Belgium, Germany and Slovenia. Grants may be awarded to staff, board or youth committee members of choral or conductors’ organisations or to individual conductors for international peer-to-peer learning exchanges with other organisations, conductors or choirs.

This programme offers participants the chance to spend some days learning from each other, sharing experiences, and getting an insight into a foreign (working) culture.

Peer-to-Peer training is an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about similarities and differences between two organisations. While Norsk Sangerforum mainly is an organisation that focuses on creating frameworks for local activities in choirs, the Conductors Association of North-West Russia is an organisation that focuses on producing activities, such as festivals, competitions and, of course, summer academies. A lot of what I learned from the week in Russia, I can use in my daily work at home in Norway. The international network that make up ECA-EC is important for their members. Both the Interregional Conductors Association of North-West Russia and Norsk Sangerforum have developed activities for their members based on ideas picked up from other organisations in the network, and given them their own regional flavour.

Kjetil Aamann, Norsk Sangerforum

Workshop on Membership Issues | May 2019 in Bonn (DE)

Two-days workshop with organisations’ managers and staff of choral and non-choral associations

Workshop on Storytelling | November 2019 in Ljubljana (SI)

Workshop on Storytelling and Evaluation with Yvette van den Berg and Gerhard Sammer with the support of Sonja Greiner.

We sat on the train on our way out of the Postojna Cave we visited on Saturday evening and I noticed my neighbor 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 visited Ljubljana for three days from Tuesday to Friday and was able to watch almost every choir of the school. In addition to that, I was invited to visit a concert of three choirs and orchestra under the leadership of Damian Mocnic. [...] It was an extraordinary experience to visit St. Stanislav’s Institutions. My big big thank you goes to Helena Zupančič who organized my visit and took so much of her precious time to show me around. In 2020 Helena will come to Germany as a follow-up to my visit this year in Ljubljana.

Stephan Lutermann, Vokalconsort Osnabrück

© Kjetil Aamann
The “Sing Me In” project ran from October 2016 to September 2018. Its aim was to provide children and youth choir conductors and music teachers with pedagogical approaches and tools that allow collective singing activities to play a positive role in the integration process of young people with a migrant background.

The three handbooks, available in eleven languages, plus the repertoire guide in English, with full indexation in the Musica International database, and 35 pedagogical videos are still available on the “Sing Me In” Website.

We have continued to inform about the project and promote the project results at different conferences in 2019, also pointing out that many of the tips and tricks can be applied to the world of adult migrants.

www.SingMeIn.eu

The “Sing Outside the Box” project, funded by the European Union Creative Europe scheme of the European Union, ran from May 2017 to April 2019.

How can collective singing get out of conventional choral venues and reach out to new audiences? How can collective singing appeal to younger generations? What aspects of the rehearsal process, of the repertoire, and the performance could be upgraded to better answer the expectations of millennials and of the following generation?

The project included two sessions of the EuroChoir, activities and ateliers during the EUROPA CANTAT festival in Tallinn as well as two conferences.

In 2019, the report about the project was submitted and approved by the European Commission. The project results can be found on the website.

www.SingOutsideTheBox.eu
new cooperation projects

2019 – 2021  co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union

Project coordinator  European Choral Association – Europa Cantat

The vision of EP:IC is to improve the training of emerging professionals, foster the creation of new ensembles across Europe, prove the value and impact of auditioned youth music ensembles for the professionalisation and internationalisation of careers and provide advocacy material for those who need to ensure ongoing support for existing ensembles or new ensembles to be created.

The project aims will be reached through the following activities running from November 2019 to the end of 2021:

• A data collection, mapping the career path of former members of auditioned youth ensembles (orchestras and choirs)
• An involvement of the Euro Choir and the World Youth Choir as transnational laboratories for providing networking opportunities and the training of new skills
• The networking of existing and potential National Youth Choirs’ organisers, to exchange best practices and cooperation opportunities
• Specific ateliers with preferential conditions for national youth choirs at the EUROPA CANTAT Festival in Ljubljana in 2021.
• Gathering the singers themselves in an international context
• Online training / Webinars for emerging artists on topics such as how to prepare good audition material / how to build a portfolio / how to find market opportunities
• Dissemination of the results through the network of partners and associate partners

Partners

Jeunesses Musicales International  www.jmi.net

JSKD Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities  www.jskd.si

Sing Ireland  www.singireland.ie

www.europeanchoralassociation.org/epic

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STAMP – SHARED TRAINING

2016 – 2018  co-funded by the EU Erasmus+ Programme

Project coordinator  European Music Council

Shared Training Activities for Music Professionals

The ‘STAMP’ project was coordinated by the European Music Council (www.emc-imc.org) and co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union.

The project’s aims were to promote and offer training and lifelong learning opportunities for music professionals.

It aimed to answer a need voiced by professionals in the music sector for greater VET (vocation, education and training) and the related process of lifelong learning.

The results of the project including guidelines on how to organise a Young Event Management Programme ‘YEMP’ and the toolbox for (young) conductors, gathered by ECA-EC, are shared on the project website.

www.stamp-music.org

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Europa Cantal - Europa Cantat  Annual Report 2019
Climate change, gender equality and inclusion are key challenges for our rapidly changing world. Arts and culture have a recognised role in shaping societies and have the potential to significantly contribute to a better and more sustainable future for all, as recognised in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The project SHIFT will provide training initiatives for cultural leaders, working together and creating paths to face such global challenges. The key targets of the are implementing changes where needed and passing on the gained knowledge to leaders and staff members of cultural networks and the broader cultural sector.

The partners will produce online manuals and guidelines during the two next years (December 2019-December 2021) on the following themes:
- Cultural Leadership
- Climate Change
- Inclusion
- Gender and Power Relations

**Partners**

As partners of the project, ECA-EC will be leading on the inclusion intellectual output.

- ECA-EC – European Choral Association – Europa Cantat
- ELIA – European League of Institutes of the Arts
- EMCY – European Union of Music Competitions for Youth
- FACE – Fresh Arts Coalition Europe
- IETM – International network for contemporary performing arts
- International Music Council
- On the Move
- Trans-Europe Hall

www.shift-culture.eu

**TRAINING LEADING VOICES**

2020 – 2023

Application submitted to the EU Creative Europe Programme in autumn 2019

Project coordinator

ZIMIHC

Co coordinator

European Choral Association – Europa Cantat

In late 2019 the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat joined forces with ZIMIHC as coordinators to submit an application for funding under the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union. If successful, the project will focus on the professionalisation and internationalisation of the careers of vocal and choral leaders.

**Partners**

- A Cœur Joie France
- Feniarco
- JSKD Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities

Find them all on our website under Projects.

www.europeanchoralassociation.org/cooperation-projects
activities
2019
**THIS WAS 2019: ACTIVITIES**

### JANUARY
- 15-16/01 Database meeting with A Cœur Joie | Lyon (FR)
- 18-20/01 Choir weekend with Brady Allred and Nicolas Fink | Schaffhausen (CH)
- 18-20/01 Steering Committee meeting for evaluation of EC Festival | Tallinn (EE)
- 18-20/01 Meeting President, Treasurer and team | Bonn (DE)

### FEBRUARY
- 10-12/02 Malta meeting of European Network Coordinators | Valletta (MT)
- 13-15/02 IFCM Board meeting | Lisbon (PT)
- 18-19/02 EMC reception at European Parliament | Brussels (BE)
- 22-04/02 Chor@Berlin | Berlin (DE)
- 27/02-03 ACDA Convention | Kansas City (US)

### MARCH
- 20/03 ECA-EC Executive Board meeting | Utrecht (NL)
- 21-22/03 Culture Action Europe members forum | Brussels (BE)
- 29-30/04 World Youth Choir Board meeting | Brussels (BE)

### APRIL
- 4-6 + 10-13/04 17th Festival di Primavera | Montecatini Terme (IT)
- 4/04 | Musikmesse Frankfurt | Frankfurt (DE)
- 6-13/04 America Cantat 9 | Ciudad de Panamá (PA)
- 18/04 Meeting with EUROPA CANTAT 2021 organisation team | Terme Olimia (SI)
- 24-26/04 ECA-EC Board meeting | Bonn (DE)
- 27/04 ECA-EC Youth Committee meeting | Bonn (DE)

### MAY
- 4/05 | EuropaTag | Bonn (DE)
- 15-17/05 Workshop on Membership Management | Bonn (DE)
- 16-18/05 EAS Conference | Malmö (SE)
- 24-26/04 Meeting of EC Festival Music Commission and Steering Committee | Ljubljana (SI)
- 23/05 Sing Me In webinar 1
- 24/05 Sing Me In webinar 2
- 27/05 Sing Me In webinar 3
## THIS WAS 2019: ACTIVITIES

### JUNE
- **5-9/06**
  - Study Tour / Tampere Vocal Music Festival | Tampere (FI)
- **9-12/06**
  - International Choir Competition Marktoberdorf | Marktoberdorf (DE)
- **12-13/06**
  - EMC Agenda for music follow-up | Warsaw (PL)
- **17/06**
  - EU Creative Europe Networks – meeting | Brussels (BE)
- **21-24/06**
  - Mediterranean Choral Forum | Lisbon (PT)
- **26-30/06**
  - Youth Choirs in Movement | Bonn (DE)
- **26-30/06**
  - XVII Nordklang | Helsingborg (SE)

### JULY
- **1/07**
  - Friends of Choral Music meeting | Amsterdam (NL)
- **2/07**
  - Working Group Leading Voices 2022 | Utrecht (NL)
- **9-10/07**
  - Meeting Communication Managers of European Networks | Bonn (DE)
- **8-14/07**
  - 54th International Choral Festival | Barcelona (ES)
- **8-15/07**
  - Singing Week Flanders | Ghent (BE)
- **8-15/07**
  - Course for Young Choral Conductors | Ghent (BE)

### AUGUST
- **18/07 - 3/08**
  - World Youth Choir | 30th Anniversary Session and Tour (FR/PT)
- **28-29/07**
  - World Choral Expo and IFCM GA and Board Meeting | Lisbon (PT)

### ACTIVITIES OF ECA-EC
- 5-9/06
  - Study Tour / Tampere Vocal Music Festival | Tampere (FI)
- 9-12/06
  - International Choir Competition Marktoberdorf | Marktoberdorf (DE)
- 12-13/06
  - EMC Agenda for music follow-up | Warsaw (PL)
- 17/06
  - EU Creative Europe Networks – meeting | Brussels (BE)
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  - Mediterranean Choral Forum | Lisbon (PT)
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  - Youth Choirs in Movement | Bonn (DE)
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### ACTIVITIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ECA-EC

### ACTIVITIES PROMOTED BY ECA-EC

### NETWORKING AND DISSEMINATION

### ACTIVITIES ECA-EC TEAM AND BOARD

### ACTIVITIES OF ECA-EC
- 5-9/06
  - Study Tour / Tampere Vocal Music Festival | Tampere (FI)
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### ACTIVITIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ECA-EC

### ACTIVITIES PROMOTED BY ECA-EC

### NETWORKING AND DISSEMINATION

### ACTIVITIES ECA-EC TEAM AND BOARD

### ACTIVITIES OF ECA-EC
**NOVEMBER**

- 15-17/11 ECA-EC Membership Weekend 2019 & capacity-building workshop on Storytelling | Ljubljana (SI)
- 27-29/11 EUROPA CANTAT Festival Music Commission and Steering Committee | Ljubljana (SI)
- 6-7/12 IFCM Executive Board meeting | Lisbon (PT)

**OCTOBER**

- 4-6/10 ECA-EC Strategy Meeting | Girona (ES)
- 11-12/10 World Youth Choir Board meeting | Manresa (ES)
- 12-13/10 Let the Peoples Sing | Barcelona (ES)
- 16/10 Committee meeting German National Youth Choir | Bonn (DE)
- 17-18/10 Preparatory Meeting BTHVN 2020 | Bonn (DE)
- 18-20/10 9th International Competition for Young Conductors | Paris & Versailles (FR)
- 21-22/10 EU Creative Europe Kick-off meeting | Brussels (BE)
- 23-25/10 Culture Action Europe General Assembly + BTO Conference | Konstanz (DE) & Kreuzlingen (CH)
- 28/10 Meeting for EC Junior 2020 | Vilnius (LT)

**SEPTEMBER**

- 11/09 Eurotreff opening ceremony | Wolfenbüttel (DE)
- 12-15/09 chor.com | Hannover (DE)
- 23/09 Culture Action Europe event at European Parliament | Brussels (BE)
- 27/09-1/10 European / International Music Council General Assembly | Paris (FR)
- 27/09-1/10 6th World Forum on Music | Paris (FR)

**DECEMBER**

- 6-7/12 IFCM Executive Board meeting | Lisbon (PT)
More than 7000 participants from 58 countries

Argentina
Austria
Belgium
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
China
Congo
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Gabon
Germany
Ghana

Greece
Guatemala
Hungary
Indonesia
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Kazakhstan
Lebanon
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malaysia
Malta
Mexico
Morocco
Netherlands
Niger
Norway
Peru

Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Russia
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Korea
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom
USA
Venezuela

Once upon a time, I was pretty much convinced I could tell a story worth listening to, turn an idea into enthusiasm and support through mere play on words. I was convinced, but not always convincing; building an emotional bond, and triggering adhesion through words takes some training. That I discovered during the exciting workshop on Storytelling I was lucky to attend during the Membership Weekend of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat. The afternoon provided us with invaluable tools to build up a story, capturing the attention of an audience and taking them along a journey towards a resolution in a systemic way. Of course, mastering this art would likely require more input and training, but it was a lively and motivating introduction to a new way to communicate.

Côme Ferrand-Cooper, France

“Once upon a time, I was pretty much convinced I could tell a story worth listening to, turn an idea into enthusiasm and support through mere play on words. I was convinced, but not always convincing; building an emotional bond, and triggering adhesion through words takes some training. That I discovered during the exciting workshop on Storytelling I was lucky to attend during the Membership Weekend of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat. The afternoon provided us with invaluable tools to build up a story, capturing the attention of an audience and taking them along a journey towards a resolution in a systemic way. Of course, mastering this art would likely require more input and training, but it was a lively and motivating introduction to a new way to communicate.”

“We felt deeply the new perspective on music we studied before. By the end of the practice the singing room was filled with Turkish melodies and good vibes. The positive spirit continued into the night and the merry singing did not cease when the singers and our conductor for the day moved into a nearby bar and sang our hearts away. We shall cherish this wonderful international and multicultural experience and hope to meet Burak again soon. Next time perhaps in Istanbul.”

Chamber Choir Ljubljanski Madrigalisti
Peer-to-Peer learning
These are activities that are designed by the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat which travelling between different countries. They have a typical structure which remains the same with some aspects adapted each time.

ECA-EC is involved in the artistic design and the most important decision-making processes of these events. The participation fees include reduced fees for direct and indirect member of ECA-EC and for participants from specific country groups (based on a solidarity system).
5TH EDITION OF YOUTH CHOIRS IN MOVEMENT

26–30 June 2019 | Bonn, Germany
Organisers: European Choral Association — Europa Cantat in cooperation with Arbeitkreis Musik in der Jugend (AMJ)

Festival for equal voice children’s and youth choirs, boys’ choirs, mixed youth choirs, with workshops, concerts and offers for conductors.

664 participants from 7 countries
Russia, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands

9TH INTERN. COMPETITION FOR YOUNG CONDUCTORS

18–20 October 2019 | Paris and Versailles, France
Organisers: European Choral Association — Europa Cantat in cooperation with IFAC — Institut Français d’Art Choral Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles Chœur de l’Orchestre de Paris

1ST PRIZE: Ingrid Roose (EE)
2ND PRIZE: Justus Barleben (DE)
3RD PRIZE: Jonas Rasmussen (DK)

SPECIAL PRIZES
SPECIAL PRIZE OF THE NOËL MINET FUNDS
Yeonju Lee (KR)
SPECIAL PRIZE OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTH CHOIR FESTIVAL BASEL
Tanguy Bouvet (FR)
SPECIAL PRIZE OF THE EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION – EUROPA CANTAT
Kristina Bogataj (SI)

www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org/Kinderchorfestival

www.europeanchoralassociation.org/activities/awards-and-competitions/
www.artchoral.org
www.cmbv.fr
www.orchestredeparis.com/fr/accueil

EUROCHOIR

1–9 August 2019 | Vaison-la-Romaine, France
Organisers: European Choral Association – Europa Cantat in cooperation with À Cœur Joie France

WORLD YOUTH CHOIR

18 July–3 August 2019 | France and Portugal
Organisers: World Youth Choir Foundation in cooperation with Plate-Forme Interrégionale, ARPA – Occitanie Centre culturel de Sylvanès and JM France

The 2019 session celebrated the World Youth Choir’s 30th anniversary, hosting an emotional reception in Palacete dos Condes de Monte Real, in Lisbon, Portugal. Among the guests were alumni singers from the previous choirs dating back to the very first one, in 1989, and a 2nd reception after the final concert at Choralies in Vaison-la-Romaine.

58 singers from 28 countries
Argentina, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, China, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA, Venezuela.

The World Youth Choir offers a remarkable educational and social experience at the highest artistic level, aimed at talented young choir singers (17-26), from all over the world. Every year a session is organised in a different country that takes the young musical talents that compose the WYC touring in selected locations, under the direction of renowned conductors.

The feelings I had in my first session was unbelievable. The high level of the musicians and at the same time the humanity we developed in the session fulfilled me. The feelings I had in the rehearsals and concerts are so deep that I cannot explain now in just few sentences. I really hope that many others could have this opportunity to grow up as a better singer and as a better citizen of the world.

Emanuele Petracco, Italy | singer

EUROCHOIR

A unique choral event organised every year in a different country that offers the opportunity to young singers to get together for 8 days to rehearse a challenging programme and improve their vocal skills with a vocal trainer, presenting the results of their work in public concerts. This special choir aims to promote European choral music among young singers and to encourage cultural exchange within Europe.

42 participants from 19 countries
Austria, Belgium, Brazil, China, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and United States. Conductor: Yuval Weinberg

All the singers from all the choirs that participated in this festival were in one place. We all together were singing the same music pieces as one single person. The concept of open singing is to share the energy, the enthusiasm and the love for music.

Jovana Jankovic

www.TheEurochoir.org
activities

MEMBERSHIP WEEKEND

15–17 November 2019 | Ljubljana, Slovenia
Organisers: European Choral Association – Europa Cantat
with JSKD Republic of Slovenia

Choral lovers, professionals and managers gathered for two full days in Ljubljana, Slovenia for the Membership Weekend of 2019.

The members had the chance to interact with each other, share time and meals together, sing along with a mandolin orchestra, share a train ride through the fascinating Postojna Cave, chatting about last year’s concerts and events and looking forward to exciting news of the choral world.

MEMBERSHIP WEEKEND

116 participants from 26 countries

NETWORKED

Our members presented 16 projects from all over Europe on: stage-less concerts, stronger singing communities, new educational publications and much more.

CONTRIBUTED

ECA-EC gathered its members to work on hot topics of the sector, contribute to the future development of the network’s activities and orientation and provide a structured feedback to the Board, presented in the General Assembly.

LEARNED

A practical workshop on showcasing the power and value of well told story, with guidance from Yvette van den Berg and external input on impact evaluation (Gerhard Sammer) and inspiring storytelling examples (Sonja Greiner).

EXPERIENCED

The participants experienced the incredible richness of Slovenian music through the performances of: Children’s Choir of Elementary School Ledina, Children’s choir of Cvetko Golar Elementary School, Volk Folk, Janez Jocif, the Chamber Choir of the Ljubljana Conservatory for Music and Ballet and Orchestra Mandolina.

MEMBERSHIP DAY

HOW TO TELL THEIR STORIES

A practical workshop on showcasing the power and value of well told story, with guidance from Yvette van den Berg and external input on impact evaluation (Gerhard Sammer) and inspiring storytelling examples (Sonja Greiner).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EUROPA CANTAT FESTIVAL RECEIVES HONORARY PATRONAGE

We are touched to have received the honorary patronage from Borut Pahor, the President of Slovenia for the EUROPA CANTAT Festival, a moment of great significance and support for the work choral organisations do all over Europe to encourage and develop this wonderful artform.

SLOVENIAN MUSIC

The participants experienced the incredible richness of Slovenian music through the performances of: Children’s Choir of Elementary School Ledina, Children’s choir of Cvetko Golar Elementary School, Volk Folk, Janez Jocif, the Chamber Choir of the Ljubljana Conservatory for Music and Ballet and Orchestra Mandolina.

ABOUT SLOVENIAN MUSIC

BACKGROUND AND THE NEXT EUROPA CANTAT FESTIVAL CITY

The participants were guided through the rich musical heritage of Slovenia, followed by a tour of Ljubljana, the host city of EUROPA CANTAT 2021.

LIUBLJANA

One of the smallest capitals of Europe, Ljubljana is a delight to the eyes and has something to offer for every taste, filled with beauty and mystery.

POSTOJNA JAMA CAVE

A majestic ending to the Membership Weekend was the train ride through the Postojna Cave, meeting the ‘dragons’ and enjoying the ‘Rays of Underworld’ concert of St. Nicholas Choir Litija, conducted by Helena Fojkar Zupancic.

NEXT EDITION: Membership Weekend ECA-EC 2020 > 20-22 Nov. 2020 | Galway, Ireland

activities

GRANTS NOËL MINET FUND

for participation in the

Course for Young Choral Conductors
July 2019 | Ghent, Belgium

• Anabella Svajko (SK)
• Jovana Jankovic (RS)

GRANTS

for organisations bringing an additional representative attending the

Capacity–Building “Workshop on Membership Management”
May 2019 | Bonn, Germany

• Marco Fornasier (IT)
• Kjetil Aamann (NO)
• Thomas Hessels (NL)
• Lisa Mechlin (FR)
• Lilly Lacey (IE)
• Borbála Pribay (HU)

Capacity–Building “Workshop on Storytelling”
November 2019 | Ljubljana

• Côme Ferrand-Cooper (FR)
• Çağlar Tosunoğlu (TR)

for representatives of Choral Organisations from Central- and South-Eastern Europe attending our

Membership Weekend
November 2019 | Ljubljana

• Dominika Semanakova (SK)
• Kristina Gotthardty (SK)
• Andriy Onyskiv (UA)

EUROCHOIR | August 2019 | Vaison la Romaine, France

• Anabella Svajko, Slovakia

Our teacher of conducting, Dieter Staelens, was really helpful and motivating. He is really professional, knows how to pass on knowledge. “I like the way you conduct.” This is the phrase that all of us remember because he never said, we aren’t good enough to become a conductor. This course taught me something: If you don’t dare to try it, you won’t know what you can do.

Anabella Svajko, Slovakia

The main impressions for me from these days were the high level of preparation of the GA from the ECA-EC staff, very interesting discussions during membership days and high enthusiasm from the Slovenian team, who try to represent their country and the choral association of their country the best they can. I need to learn this from them.

Andriy Onyskiv, Ukraine

All the members of EuroChoir 2019 family were very friendly, gentle, caring and can empathize. Of course, the most important thing was that all of us were united by our common passion – choral art. I was very curious to see how all these people, independently of being professional musicians or coming from different countries are able to sound so beautifully together.

Aleksandra Galinka, Estonia

The main impressions for me from these days were the high level of preparation of the GA from the ECA-EC staff, very interesting discussions during membership days and high enthusiasm from the Slovenian team, who try to represent their country and the choral association of their country the best they can. I need to learn this from them.

Andriy Onyskiv, Ukraine

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17TH FESTIVAL DI PRIMAVERA
4-6 and 10-13 April 2019 | Montecatini Terme, Tuscany, Italy
Organised by FENIARCO, in collaboration with Tuscany Regional Choral Association for Choirs (ACT)

The Festival di Primavera is an international choral festival that has reached now the 17th edition. The beautiful Tuscany hosts a festival where children and young people study together, perform in concerts, know each other and share happy times. Renowned Italian and foreign lecturers lead the ateliers with a high-quality proposal addressed to the young participants and their conductors. The repertoire was addressed towards a multiplicity of genres enriched by exciting performances and by the great involvement of the singers and the audience of the concerts.

NEXT EDITION: 8-16 and 22-25/04/2020 > Montecatini Terme, Tuscany, Italy

www.feniarco.it

CHORALIES
1-9 August 2019 | Vaison-la-Romaine, France
Organised by À Cœur Joie France

A unique rendez-vous happening every three years in France, where choral music lovers met to discover and exchange all kinds of music and practices and enjoy listening to or joining in singing over 3000 pieces of repertoire. The days passed with over 3000 people exploring the South of France, finding likeminded people, networking, developing new cooperations and keeping up with the current trends of choirs. This festival edition also hosted the EuroChoir.

www.choralies.fr

MEDITERRANEAN CHORAL FORUM
21-24 June 2019 | Lisbon, Portugal
Organised by Coros Portugal – Portuguese Association for Choral Music, Movement Coral Català and the Mediterranean Office for Choral Singing (MOCS)

This edition of the Mediterranean Choral Forum was a fantastic platform that allowed choral specialists from all over the Mediterranean area to meet, to share information, to experience and create new visions for the choral life, focusing on the actors in Lisbon and Portugal (composers, conductors, choirs, festivals, organisations, etc.).

www.mcc.cat

SINGING WEEK FLANDERS
8-15 July 2019 | Ghent, Belgium
Organised by Koor & Stem in cooperation with VFJK

The heart of the beautiful city of Ghent hosted the Singing week with inspiring ateliers for youth and adults and a special atelier ‘singing outside the box’, teaching the participants to break the norm. Daily open singing, choir – to – choir concerts, innovative contents and exciting repertoires made it a week to remember.

www.koorenstem.be/singingweek

COUSE FOR YOUNG CHORAL CONDUCTORS
8-15 July 2019 | Ghent, Belgium
Organised by Koor & Stem in cooperation with VFJK

During the Singing Week, 15 young choral conductors had the chance to experience new techniques and methods and improve their conducting skills through a week-long course, under the guidance of Dieter Staelens (BE) and Annick Desair (BE).

www.koorenstem.be/singingweek

10TH EUROPEAN ACADEMY FOR YOUNG CONDUCTORS
25 August – 1 September 2019 | Fano, Italy
Organised by Feniarc in collaboration with ARCOM, Coro Polifonico Malatestiano and Incontro Internazionale Polifonico Città di Fano

A professional masterclass open to experienced choral conducts who had the chance to practise with a high-level pilot choir, which was at their disposal for the duration of the course. Choral conductors were also able to learn new methods and improve their skills with the help of Virginia Bono (AR), the lecturer.

At the end of the week, the best participants conducted a concert comprising a repertoire focusing on composers from South America from Renaissance to the present day.

www.koorenstem.be/singingweek
Activities that ECA-EC promotes if they have to following three principles: mostly non-competitive, educational and international, defined for their purpose. The concept, structure and artistic programme are developed by the local organisers alone and ECA-EC has no responsibility for the quality of these activities.

CHOIR WEEKEND WITH BRADY ALLRED AND NICOLAS FINK
Schaffhausen, Switzerland | 18-20 January 2019
Organised by Swiss Federation Europa Cantat (SFEC)
www.europa-cantat.ch

AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Kansas City, Missouri, United States | 27 February – 2 March 2019
Organised by American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)
www.acda.org

AMERICA CANTAT 9
Ciudad de Panamá, Panamá | 6-13 April 2019
Organised by Organización America cantat in collaboration with Asociación Música Viva
www.americacantat.org

STUDY TOUR – TAMPERE VOCAL MUSIC FESTIVAL
Tampere, Finland | 5-9 June 2019
Organised by Tampere Vocal Music Festival
www.tamperemusicfestivals.fi/vocal

 XVII NORDKLÄNG
Helsingborg, Sweden | 26-30 June 2019
Organised by Sveriges Körförbund
www.nordklang.org

54TH INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL
Barcelona, Spain | 8-14 July 2019
Organised by Federació Catalana d’Entitats Corals (FCEC)
www.fcec.cat

34TH ANNUAL CONVENTION ABCD
Birmingham, United Kingdom | 22-25 August 2019
Organised by the Association of British Choral Directors (ABCD)
www.abcd.org.uk

CHOR.COM
Hanover, Germany | 12-15 September 2019
Organised by: Deutsche Chorverband e.V. (DCV)
www.chor.com

LET THE PEOPLE SING
Barcelona, Spain | 12-13 October 2019
Organised by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and the Catalunya Radio
www.ebu.ch/radio/projects/let-the-peoples-sing

CONDUCTORS STUDY TOUR
Derry, Ireland | 19-25 October 2019
Organised by Association of Irish Choirs (AOIC) in partnership with the City of Derry International Choir Festival
www.singireland.ie

In 2019 we continued with our advocacy work with the aim of promoting collective singing and its benefits on the individual and society and promoting the importance of amateur music making.

• We continued spreading the Singing Europe study and presenting it at different occasions, stressing the fact that 37 million people are practicing collective singing in continental Europe, representing 4.5% of the population which cannot so easily be neglected

• The PhD Student of the Music University in Würzburg continued collecting research on the benefits of collective singing for a meta-study to be published in 2021

• We brainstormed with our members at the Membership Day on how to design the campaign on the benefits of singing that we are planning for 2021

• By presenting three webinars on the project ‘Sing Me In’ (see page 34) and presenting the project results at different conferences, we continued promoting collective singing as a tool to support the integration process of (young) migrants

• We joined a follow-up meeting on the European Agenda for Music coordinated by the European Music Council, and gave examples of how specialised music organisations can “translate” its contents to their own realities and contexts and can integrate elements into their own strategies

• We participated in several meetings and exchanges on the new Creative Europe programme (2021 to 2027) and we promoted the development of the pilot programme “Music Moves Europe”

• We promoted/advertised for the different calls of Music Moves Europe as well as the pilot mobility calls and shared information about the call for Cultural Cooperation Projects in the Western Balkans

• We participated in a survey for the European Music Observatory and provided information and data

• We joined a campaign, initiated by organisations from the music industry sector, concerning the new Copyright Directive

• We joined the Culture Action Europe event in Brussels to welcome new Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) interested in culture

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• We attended the conference of EAS, the European Association of Music in Schools, to promote singing in music education and present examples of advocacy work

• We contributed to and co-signed a number of advocacy documents sent out by Culture Action Europe, the European Alliance for Culture and the Arts and a group of music organisations including Creative Industries.

• We supported the European Parliament Election campaign of Culture Action Europe and the European Music Council to encourage people to vote and to ask their MEPs about their vision for culture in Europe

• We advocated and will continue to advocate for an increase of the budget for the Culture strand of the next cycle of the Creative Europe programme, with the aim of doubling this budget.
WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN 2020 AND BEYOND?

This list represents the events planned for 2020 at the time this report went to press. Dates may be subject to change due to the impacts of the Covid-19 outbreak worldwide. Please check our website or the website of organisers for the latest updates.

**2020**

**March**
- 26-29/03 RelaxSing Mallorca Mallorca (ES)

**April**
- 16-18 + 22-25/04 Festival di Primavera Montecatini Terni (IT)

**May**
- 19-24/05 12th European Festival Youth Choirs Basel (CH)

**July**
- 11-16/07 IFCM World Symposium for Choral Music Auckland (NZ)
- 6-12/07 International Choir Festival Barcelona (ES)
- 17-24/07 International Singing Week Tarragona (ES)
- 18-25/07 Choralp Briançon (FR)
- 19-26/07 European Seminar for choral composers Aosta (IT)
- 24/07-4/08 EuroChoir Limerick (IE)
- 30/07-20/08 World Youth Choir Bonn (DE)

**August**
- 5-12/08 EUROPA CANTAT junior 2020 Vilnius (LT)
- 22-29/08 AFRICA CANTAT Nairobi (KE)

**September**
- 11-13/09 (Inter)national congress for choirs conductors Paris (FR)
- 28/09-4/10 In the footsteps of Ludwig van Beethoven Bonn (DE)

**November**
- 20-22/11 ECA-EC General Assembly Galway (IE)

**December**
- 11-19/12 European Youth Choir for final concert of Ludwig van Beethoven Bonn (DE)

**2021**

**July**
- 16-25/07 EUROPA CANTAT Festival 2021 Ljubljana (SI)

The list of events includes:

- **Activities of ECA-EC**
- **Activities in partnership with ECA-EC**
- **Activities promoted by ECA-EC**

**What are your plans for Summer 2021?**

**EUROPA CANTAT FESTIVAL 2021**

**LJUBLJANA SLOVENIJA**

16–25 JULY

europacantat.org/ljubljana2021

info@ecljubljana2021.si

Europa Cantat Festival

**January**
- January 16-25/07 EUROPA CANTAT Festival 2021 Ljubljana (SI)

and further activities announced in July 2020
“I have learned what love is from everyone of this choir. Every moment during the session, my heart was warmed by the kindness. And I have been saved countless times by the beaming smile of the people. I finally understand the meaning of these words: “Do you speak music?” Music connects the world. This experience changed my life.”

Mayuko Tsuchida, Japan
World Youth Choir