



2019

ANNUAL REPORT

” One Voice for
Collective Singing! “

European Choral Association – Europa Cantat (ECA-EC)

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welcome.

TO THE EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION – EUROPA CANTAT



We are

CONDUCTORS | VOCAL LEADERS
SINGERS

COMPOSERS | CREATORS
MANAGERS

ORGANISATIONS EVENT
ORGANISERS

CHOIRS

TEACHERS | EDUCATORS

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

62
MEMBER
ORGANISATIONS

187
CHOIRS

202
INDIVIDUALS

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

www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org

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

Did you know?

4,5% of the European population are actively involved in collective singing

www.singingeurope.org

Dear readers, members and friends of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat,

I'm glad to write some welcoming words from the pages of our Annual Report. It is an important and valuable document, because it tells us who we are and what we do, representing also for ourselves a tool of awareness of all the activities, musical, creative, strategic, relational, that the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat develops over the course of a year. The Annual Report not only gives a lot of information about what has been concluded, but also stimulates new ideas and a look at what is to come. The year after the EUROPA CANTAT festival is for ECA-EC the first year of work of the new Board (this time very renewed) that has focused on its visions of the future in a three-day Strategic Retreat in Girona. It is the year in which most of the contents of the next EUROA CANTAT Junior (2020 in Vilnius) and the next EUROPA CANTAT Festival (2021 Ljubljana) are developed. Moreover in 2019 the new Leading Voices event (taking place in Utrecht in 2022) officially started its path. In short, it was a year of sowing, whose fruits we will reap in the years to come. So I take this opportunity to thank the Board, the Youth Committee, the steering committees and music commissions, the Music Consultants and Advisors, for their work and the passion that always animates it. On page 11 you will find the picture of someone who sowed seeds in the choral field all his life. Michaël Scheck – the last President of AGECE and one of the motors behind the merger with Europa Cantat – passed away in 2019, but what he planted is still blooming. Thank you, Michaël.

2019 was also a year of successful activities, recounted in these pages. I would like to thank all the members and partners who organised them and created their contents, and all the participants who are the recipients and at the same time the nourishment of our work. Finally, I would like to thank our Secretary General and all the staff in our office, a physically rather small place, a concentration of competence and passion that flows from Bonn to the choral world.

I wish you all an inspiring reading!

Carlo Pavese
President



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 AGECE 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



Chris Marchal



Singing Week Flanders © RoosDevos

our network

2019

our history

HOW IT ALL BEGAN



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 Sängerkongress 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 AGEK 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

Merger between Europa Cantat – European Federation of Young Choirs (EFCY), founded in 1960/1963 and the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Europäischer Chorverbände (AGEK), founded in 1955.

2014

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

our values

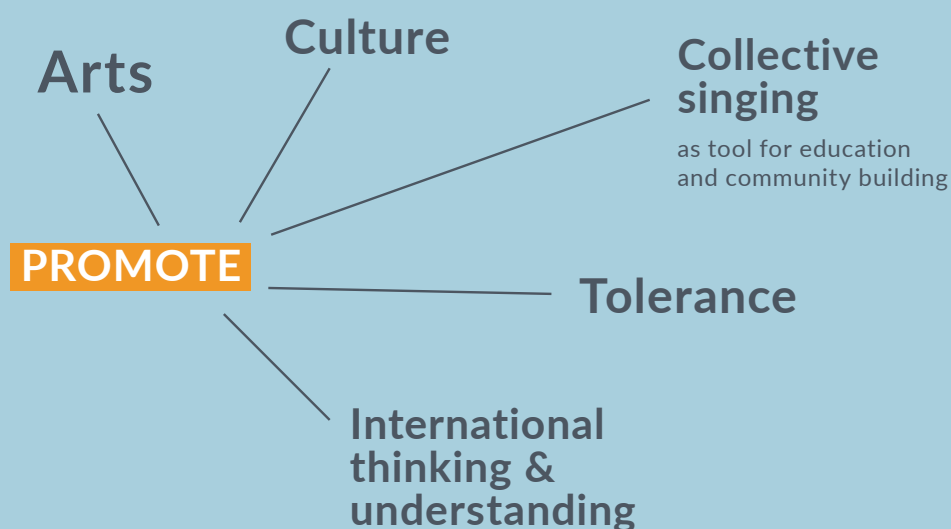
CONNECT PEOPLE AND CULTURES

FOSTER

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

SUPPORT

Youth involvement



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

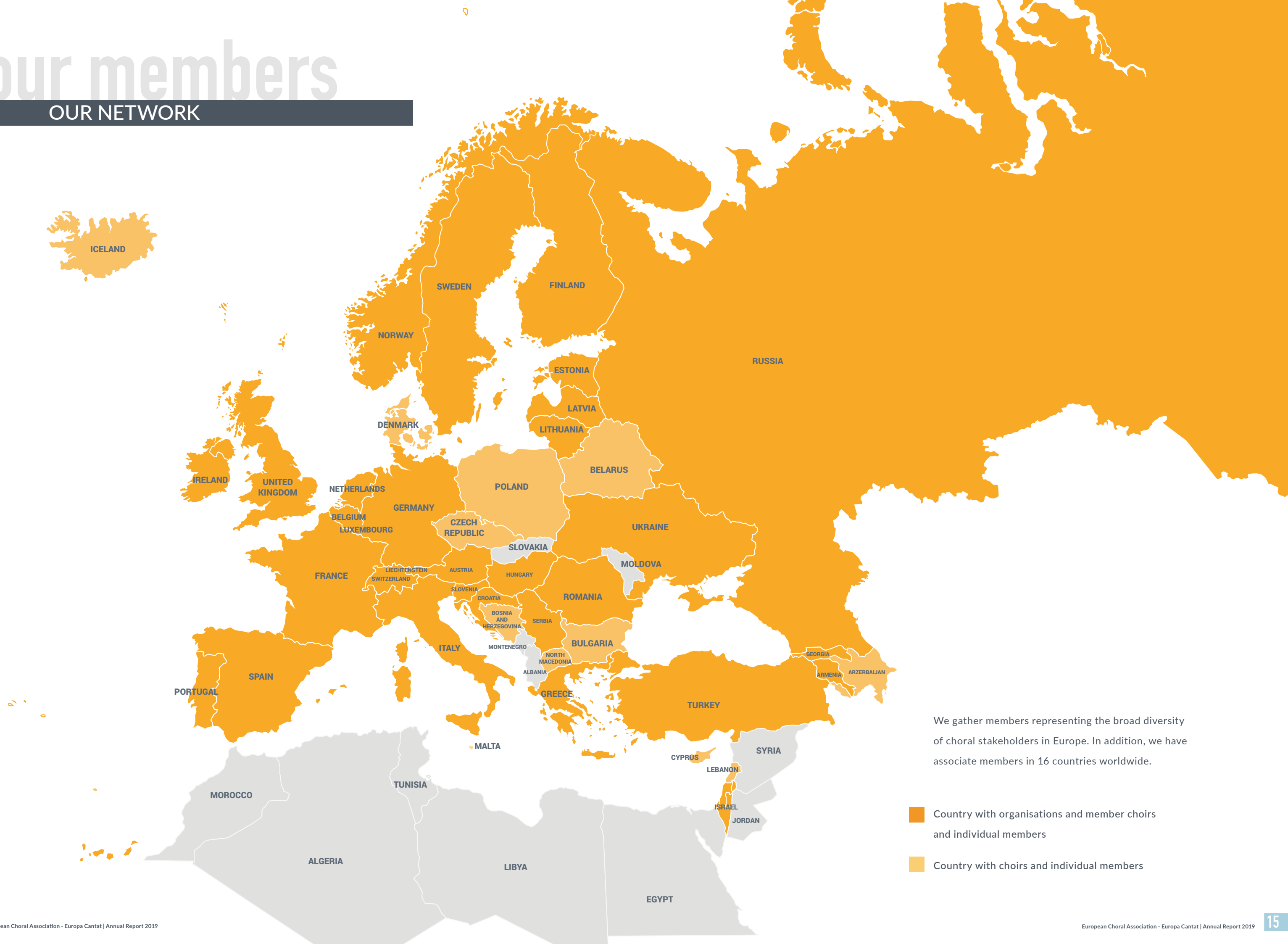
- Strengthen the network and its members
- Facilitate peer-to-peer approach
- Invest in capacity-building and training
- Reach out to people who do not sing (yet)
- Raise awareness for collective singing in Europe

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.



our members

OUR NETWORK



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

our members

62 MEMBER ORGANISATIONS BY END OF 2019

ARMENIA

- Armenian Little Singers

AUSTRIA

- Chorverband Österreich (ChVÖ)

BELGIUM

- European Music Festival for young people Neerpelt
- Fédération Chorale Wallonie – Bruxelles – (À Cœur Joie ASBL)
- Koor&Stem
- Vlaamse Federatie van Jonge Koren (VFJK)

CROATIA

- Croatian Choral Directors Association
- Hrvatski sabor kulture-glazba (Croatian Cultural Association HRSK)

ESTONIA

- Eesti Kooriühing (Estonian Choral Association)

FINLAND

- SULASOL (Finnish Amateur Musicians' Association)
- Tampere Vocal Music Festival

FRANCE

- À Cœur Joie (ACJ)
- Confédération Musicale de France (CMF)
- Institut Français d'Art Choral (IFAC)
- Plate-Forme Interrégionale
- Polyfolia International

GEORGIA

- Georgian Choral Society

GERMANY

- Arbeitskreis Musik in der Jugend (AMJ)
- Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Chorverbände e.V. (BDC)
- Deutsche Chorjugend e.V.
- Deutscher Chorverband e.V.
- Internationaler Chorleiterverband (ICV)

GREECE

- Hellenic Choirs Association

HUNGARY

- KÓTA – Association of Hungarian Choirs and Orchestras

IRELAND

- Association of Irish Choirs (since 2019: Sing Ireland)

ISRAEL

- Hallel – Israelian Choral Organisation

ITALY

- Federazione Nazionale Italiana Associazioni Regionali Corali (FENIARCO)
- Südtiroler Chorverband

LATVIA

- Latvian Song Celebrations Society

LIECHTENSTEIN

- Fürstlich Liechtensteinischer Sängerbund

LITHUANIA

- Lietuvos Choru Sajunga

LUXEMBOURG

- INECC Luxembourg (Institut Européen de Chant Choral)

THE NETHERLANDS

- Dutch Choir Festival
- Landelijk Kennisinstituut Cultuureducatie en Amateurkunst (LKCA)
- Koornetwerk Nederland
- ZIMIHC

NORWAY

- Norges Korforbund
- Ung i Kor
- Norsk Sangerforum
- Ung kirkesang

PORTUGAL

- Coros Portugal - Associação Portuguesa de Música Coral

ROMANIA

- Asociația National Coral din Romania – (ANCR)

RUSSIA

- Non-profit partnership "All-Russian Choral Society"
- Regional public organization Moscow Music Society
- The Centre for the Creative Development and Musical Aesthetic Education of Children and Youth "Radost"

- The Centre of International Cooperation "Inter Aspect"

SERBIA

- Serbian Choral Association

SLOVENIA

- Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities – (JSKD)

SPAIN

- Confederación de Coros del País Vasco/ Euskal Herriko Abesbatzen Elkarte (EAE)
- Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals (FCEC)
- Moviment Coral Català – (MCC)
- Secretariat de Corals Infants de Catalunya (SCIC)

SWEDEN

- Eric Ericson International Choral Centre
- Sveriges Körförbund
- UNGIKÖR

SWITZERLAND

- Schweizerische Chorvereinigung / Union Suisse des chorales (SCV/USC/UCS)
- Schweizerische Föderation Europa Cantat (SFEC)

TURKEY

- Koro Kültürü Derneği (Choral Culture Association)

UNITED KINGDOM

- Association of British Choral Directors (ABCD)

UKRAINE

- All-Ukrainian Choral Society "Leontovich"
- Association of National Pan-Ukrainian Music Community
- NGO Osnova Society

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

CHORAL ORGANISATION

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

CHOIRS

4 TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP


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



The governing body of the association elected by, and representing the membership.

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)

MARTÍ FERRER (Spain)

RAUL TALMAR (Estonia)

LOTI PIRIS NIÑO (Belgium)

MARTIN WILDHABER (Switzerland)

ECA-EC ARTISTIC STRATEGIC GROUP

JEAN-CLAUDE WILKENS (FR) |
Chair and ECA-EC Vice-President

MIHELA JAGODIC (SI) |
ECA-EC Vice-President

BURAK ONUR ERDEM (TR) |
ECA-EC Board

RAUL TALMAR (EE) |
ECA-EC Board

MARTIN WILDHABER (CH) |
ECA-EC Board

ZEYNEP EREN KOVANKAYA (TR) |
ECA-EC Youth Committee

YOUTH COMMITTEE 2019



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

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

REGIONAL CENTRES

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



people

ADVISORS

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

Kjetil Aamann (NO)	Guido Helbling (CH)	Andrew Parrott (GB)
Kari Ala-Pöllänen (FI)	Rainer Held (CH)	Theodora Pavlovitch (BG)
Marleen Annemans (BE)	Volker Hempfling (DE)	Josep Prats (ES)
Urbain van Asch (BE)	Hans Hierck (BE/NL)	Jonathan Rathbone (GB)
Xavier Baulies (ES)	Mihela Jagodic (SI)	Aarne Saluveer (EE)
Barbara Bieri (DE)	Hansruedi Kämpfen (CH)	Michaël Scheck (BE)
Inessa Bodyako (BY)	Reijo Kekkonen (FI)	Jeroen Schrijner (CH/NL)
Filippo Maria Bressan (IT)	Éva Kollár (HU)	Jan Schumacher (DE)
Nicola Campogrande (IT)	Tamás Lakner (HU)	Patrick Secchiari (CH)
Elisenda Carrasco (ES)	Harold Lenselink (NL)	Christopher Simmons (GB)
Darina Chakarova (BG)	Erwin List (FR)	Fred Sjöberg (SE)
Jim Daus Hjærnøe (DK)	Victoria Liedbergius (NO)	Jean Smeets (BE)
Séverine Delforge (BE)	Cecilia Martin-Löf (SE)	Dan-Olof Stenlund (SE)
Julien Dubois (FR/NL)	Koenraad de Meulder (BE)	Kaie Tanner (EE)
Ágnes Erdélyi (HU)	Noël Minet (BE)	Thierry Thiebaut (FR)
Tomaž Faganel (SI)	Donka Miteva (BG/DE)	Alexander Vacek (UA)
Sante Fornasier (IT)	Gábor Móczár (HU)	Aleksandar Vujic (RS)
Lluís Gómez i Roldan (ES)	Erik van Nevel (BE)	Daphne Wassink (NL)
Montserrat Gual (ES)	Maria van Nieuwerkerken (NL)	Anneliese Zeh (AT)
Maud Hamon-Loisance (FR)	Margaret O'Sullivan (IE)	

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.

Zeljka Andric (BA)	Consultant for cooperation with the Russian Federation: Pavel Brochin, Bonn (DE/RU)
Margrét Bóasdóttir (IS)	
Joseph Lia (MT)	
Angelina Nicolaidou (CY)	
Dominika Semaňáková (SK)	
Krzysztof Szydzisz (PL)	
Sasho Tatarchevski (MK)	

team

STAFF

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

networking

WE ARE MEMBERS OF



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

networking

IN 2019 WE COOPERATED WITH



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

We cooperate with other European networks for common advocacy statements:



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



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

We have representatives on the Boards of IMC, EMC and IFCM.

networking

IN 2019 WE COOPERATED WITH



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



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.

bundesjugendorchester
National Youth Orchestra of Germany



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



multiannual projects

2019



UPGRADE – CONNECT – REACH OUT

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”.

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

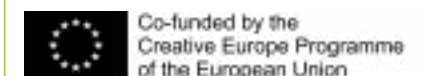
The association also reached out to many new partners in the choral sector and beyond and worked on a strategy for 2021–2030:

- 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.

www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org

Contact: info@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org



cooperation projects

UPGRADE – CONNECT – REACH OUT

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, these 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

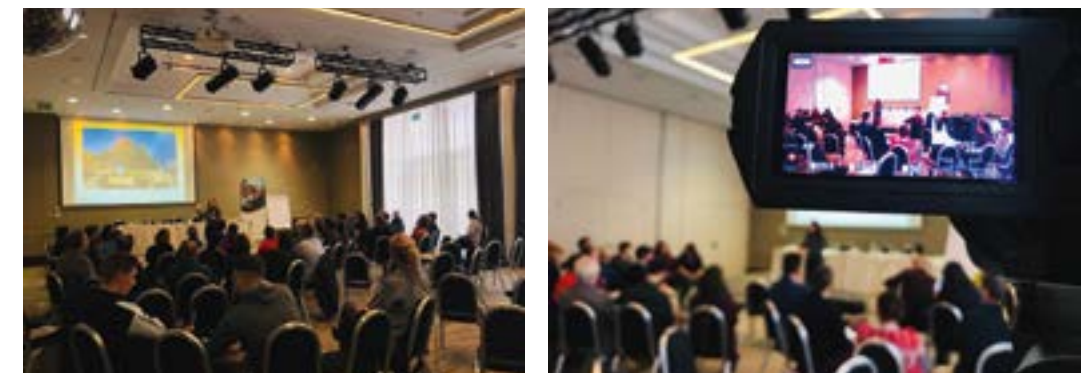


Workshop on on Storytelling | November 2019 in Ljubljana (SI)

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

I 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



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



SING ME IN

2016 -2018

Project coordinator

Partners

supported by

EU Erasmus+ Programme
European Choral Association –
Europa Cantat (ECA-EC)

Estonian Choral Association (EE) www.kooriyhing.ee
A Coeur Joie (FR) www.choralies.org | Sulasol (FI) www.sulasol.fi
Musica International (FR) www.musicanet.org
Ung i Kor (NO) www.ungikor.no | ZIMIHC (NL) www.zimihc.nl
Moviment Coral Català (CAT/ES) www.mcc.cat
Koro Kulturu Dernegi (TR) www.korokulturu.org
Koor&Stem (BE) www.koorenstem.be
Fayha Choir (LB) www.fayhachoir.org

sing me in
collective singing in the integration process of young migrants.

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

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



SING OUTSIDE THE BOX

2017 – 2019

Project coordinator

Partners

co-funded by the EU Creative Europe
Programme

Estonian Choral Association

Estonian Choral Association (EE) www.kooriyhing.ee
Sulasol (FI) www.sulasol.fi
ZIMIHC (NL) www.zimihc.nl

sing
outside
the box

This cooperation 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.



© Ahn Viukseid

www.SingOutsideTheBox.eu

Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union





STAMP – SHARED TRAINING

2016 – 2018 co-funded by the EU Erasmus+ Programme
Project coordinator European Music Council



Shared Training Activities for Music Professionals

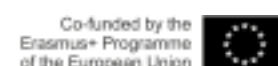
The 'STAMP' project was coordinated by the European Music Council (www.emc-imc.org) and co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union.

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



new cooperation projects

EP:IC



2019 – 2021 co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union
Project coordinator European Choral Association – Europa Cantat

The vision of EPIC 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 EuroChoir 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





SHIFT SHARED INITIATIVES FOR TRAINING

2019 – 2021

co-funded by the EU Erasmus+ Programme

Project coordinator

European Music Council



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

www.europeanchoralassociation.org

ELIA – European League of Institutes of the Arts

www.elia-artschools.org

EMCY – European Union of Music Competitions for Youth

www.emcy.org

FACE – Fresh Arts Coalition Europe

www.fresh-europe.org

IETM – International network for contemporary performing arts

www.ietm.org

International Music Council

www.imc-cim.org

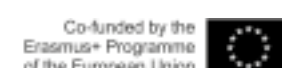
On the Move

www.on-the-move.org

Trans-Europe Hall

www.teh.net

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

www.choralies.fr



Feniarco

www.feniarco.it/en



JSKD Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities

www.jskd.si

Find them all on our website under Projects.

www.europeanchoralassociation.org/cooperation-projects





activities

2019

THIS WAS 2019: ACTIVITIES



Study tour Tampere/Maarit Kyröharju



ACDA Convention



Festival di Primavera



America Cantat



Workshop on membership Management

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)
- 22-24/02 Chor@Berlin | Berlin (DE)
- 27/02-2/03 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)

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)
- 29-30/04 World Youth Choir Board meeting | Brussels (BE)

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



ACTIVITIES OF ECA-EC

Designed by ECA-EC with a typical structure adapted each time for a different country. ECA-EC is involved in the artistic aspects and in the decisions making process. Participation fee includes reductions for ECA-EC members.



ACTIVITIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ECA-EC

Artistic programme developed in partnership with ECA-EC. Participation fees are based on the ECA-EC solidarity system.



ACTIVITIES PROMOTED BY ECA-EC

Choral activities that follow the 3 principles [non-competitive, educational, international]. ECA-EC has no responsibility for the quality of these events.



NETWORKING AND DISSEMINATION



ACTIVITIES ECA-EC TEAM AND BOARD

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)
- 1-9/08
Choralies | Vaison-la-Romaine (FR)
- 1-9/08
EuroChoir | Vaison-la-Romaine (FR)
- 22-25/08
abcd Choral Leader's Festival | Birmingham (GB)
- 25/08 – 1/09
10th European Academy for Young Conductors | Fano (IT)

- ACTIVITIES OF ECA-EC
- ACTIVITIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ECA-EC
- ACTIVITIES PROMOTED BY ECA-EC
- NETWORKING AND DISSEMINATION
- ACTIVITIES ECA-EC TEAM AND BOARD

THIS WAS 2019: ACTIVITIES



ECA-EC



Let the people sing



World Youth Choir © Claire Kidwel



ECA-EC












© Nika

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)


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)

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)

DECEMBER

-  6-7/12
IFCM Executive Board meeting |
Lisbon (PT)

-  ACTIVITIES OF ECA-EC
-  ACTIVITIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ECA-EC
-  ACTIVITIES PROMOTED BY ECA-EC
-  NETWORKING AND DISSEMINATION
-  ACTIVITIES ECA-EC TEAM AND BOARD

activities

IN 2019

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



“ 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

ECA-EC

© Maliga

activities

OF ECA-EC

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).



Chorales, Concerto Atelier, EuroChoir, YCIM, Let the people sing



activities

OF ECA-EC



Chorales, Concerto Atelier, EuroChoir, YCIM, Let the people sing

activities

5TH EDITION OF YOUTH CHOIRS IN MOVEMENT

26–30 June 2019 | Bonn, Germany

Organisers: European Choral Association – Europa Cantat
in cooperation with
Arbeitskreis Musik in der Jugend (AMJ)

Youth Choirs in
Movement
2019



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



Ateliers

THE GROOVE OF CLASSICAL MUSIC

Conductor: Alessandro Cadario (IT)

MULTICULTURAL MUSIC

Conductor: Ken Wakia (KE)

MOUNTAIN NIGHTS

Conductor: Friederike Stahmer (DE)

REVOLTING KIDS

Conductors: Irina Brochin & Karina Schwarz (RU/DE)

MOVE AROUND THE WORLD

Conductor: Marleen de Boo (BE)

MUSIC FOR BOYS' CHOIR AND ROCK BAND

Conductor: Hans-Joachim Lustig (DE)

Choreographer: Anne Weyler (DE)

CHORAL THEATRE

Conductor: Basilio Astulez (ES)

FOLK SONGS WITH MOVEMENT

Conductor: Silvere van Lieshout (NL)

www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org/Kinderchorfestival



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)

BEST INTERPRETATION OF A FRENCH

BAROQUE PIECE

Quintin Beer (GB)

BEST INTERPRETATION OF THE

COMMISSIONED WORK «BRIGHTEST STAR»

Jonas Rasmussen (DK)

PRIZE OF THE CHOIR OF PARIS ORCHESTRA

Ingrid Roose (EE)

AUDIENCE PRIZE

Justus Barleben (DE)

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



EuroChoir © ECA-EC, Choralies © Feniarco



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

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

Patrons: Jeunesses Musicales International, International Federation for Choral Music, European Choral Association – Europa Cantat



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 different country that takes the young musical talents that compose the WYC touring in selected locations, under the direction of renowned conductors.



WYC © Claire Kidwel, WYC Foundation



“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

NEXT EDITION: 30 JULY – 20 AUGUST 2020
TOURING WITH THE NATIONAL YOUTH
ORCHESTRA OF GERMANY

info@worldyouthchoir.org
www.worldyouthchoir.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.



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.

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

www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org/activities/conferences/ga-2019



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

MEMBERSHIP DAY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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).

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.

EXPERIENCED

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 Jocič, the Chamber Choir of the Ljubljana Conservatory for Music and Ballet and Orchestra Mandolina.

LJUBLJANA

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.



activities

GRANTS NOËL MINET FUND

for participation in the

Course for Young Choral Conductors July 2019 | Ghent, Belgium

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



for participation in

EUROCHOIR | August 2019 | Vaison la Romaine, France

- Bilge Nur (TR)
- Aleksandra Galkina (EE)
- Oleksandra Polytsia (UA)

” 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

” 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



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 Mechin (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 Gotthardt (SK)
- Andriy Onyskiv (UA)



” 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

activities

ACTIVITIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ECA-EC

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.

feniarco
la voce dei cori

festival di
primavera
spring, joy and singing together

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 1000 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.

Choralies
Une Initiative À Cœur Joie

www.choralies.fr

MEDITERRANEAN CHORAL FORUM

21-24 June 2019 | Lisbon, Portugal

Organised by Coros Portugal – Portuguese Association for Choral Music,

Moviment 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.).

MCC
MOVIMENT CORAL
CATALÀ

www.mcc.cat

activities

ACTIVITIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ECA-EC



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.

KOOR &
STEM

www.koorenstem.be/singingweek

COURSE 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

Festival di Primavera, Singing week
Flanders, Choralies



10TH EUROPEAN ACADEMY FOR YOUNG CONDUCTORS

25 August – 1 September 2019 | Fano, Italy

Organised by Feniarcò in collaboration with ARCOM, Coro Polifonico Malatestiano and Incontro Internazionale Polifonico Città di Fano

feniarco
la voce dei cori

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

FROM THE NETWORK | PROMOTED BY ECA-EC



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.



ACDA Convention, Nordklang, Study tour Tampere

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, Panama | 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 NORDKLING

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

Hannover, 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 Ràdio
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

ADVOCACY WORK IN 2019

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
- We joined the successful campaign of Culture Action Europe on bringing back culture into the title of the corresponding commissioner
- We joined forces with Culture Action Europe, the European Music Council and others to stress the importance of supporting non-profit associations in the field of culture and to adapt the system of evaluation of the financial capacity of applicants to the Creative Europe programme to the reality of organisations that receive public funding and cannot build reserves
- 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.

2020-2021

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 Terzi (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)	
Dezember	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)	
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and further activities announced in July 2020

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



Sing with
Slovenia

WHAT ARE
YOUR PLANS
FOR SUMMER
2021?

EUROPA
CANTAT
FESTIVAL

2021
LJUBLJANA
SLOVENIA
16-25 JULY

Festival programme:
SUMMER 2020

Applications:
OCTOBER 2020

 europacantat.org/ljubljana2021 
info@ecljubljana2021.si 
 Europa Cantat Festival  



**” 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 Tsushida, Japan
World Youth Choir

IMPRINT



EUROPEAN
CHORAL
ASSOCIATION

European Choral Association

Haus der Kultur, Weberstrasse 59/a
53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel: +49 228 91 25 663
Fax: +49 228 91 25 658
www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org
info@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org



@EuropeanChoralAssociation



@ECA_EC



@europeanchoralassociation



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JOIE.
BONN.



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Titelphoto: Matic Dolenc