

(traduction page 3/ Übersetzung Seite 3)

European Choral Association – Europa Cantat Weberstr. 59A – DE 53113 Bonn

Invitation to our online Membership Meeting and General Assembly 2020 November 18th to 21st 2020

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

It is our pleasure to invite you to the ECA-EC annual Membership Meeting and General Assembly 2020. Due to the special circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic it has been a challenge for us to plan this year's membership meeting. In the survey we sent out in June, a number of members expressed the wish to plan for a physical meeting in Galway, Ireland, as planned, others preferred an online event.

Together with **Sing Ireland**, whom we would like to thank for kindly offering to host our membership Weekend 2020, we evaluated the different possibilities and came to the conclusion that it will, unfortunately, not be possible to gather our membership physically this year. Ireland being an Island, the travel restrictions are stricter than for most other EU member countries and already now, in summer, travelers from a number of EU countries still would have to go into a 2-week-quarantine upon reaching Ireland. In addition the cancellation policy of the hotel we had reserved would mean a substantial loss for Sing Ireland, ECA-EC and our members if we had to cancel the event 1 month in advance, which can never be excluded.

We have therefore **decided to plan a purely online Membership meeting**, and we hope that this will also allow members who can usually not attend to join this year. During the past months we have all joined numerous online meetings and events and we learned that those cannot be organised the same way as physical meetings. In order to make sure to turn our Membership meeting into a good experience for everybody, we have decided to adapt the schedule accordingly and to start with Membership Discussion rounds already on Wednesday, November 18th.

Activities of online event – NEW CALENDER

-)] Membership discussion rounds (with breakout groups to also allow smaller group discussions. Members can also comment on google docs or send a message to the office with their comments on the topics below)
 -)] **Wednesday 18/11/20, 17:00 -19.00 CET**
2st discussion round on the updated strategy including new membership structure
 -)] **Thursday 19/11/20, 18:00 - 19:30 CET:** 2nd discussion round on the name of the association and branding - with input from a communication expert
-)] Board meeting 1: Friday 20/11/20 full day
-)] Membership project presentations (will also be recorded and shared as video later)
 -)] **Saturday 21/11/20, 11:00 - 12.00 CET**
-)] General Assembly (see agenda in this document, page 4)
 -)] **Saturday 21/11/20, 14.30 - 16.00 and 16.30 - 18.00 CET**
-)] Board meeting 2: Sunday 22/11/20, 11.00 - 12.30 CET

Postponed, to be organised at other dates:

- Capacity Building Workshop on Storytelling part 2, “How to use your stories in advocacy work” with Julie Ward, former MEP (UK) - dates to be confirmed in October 2020
- SHIFT Multiplier event – possibly postponed to EC Festival in Ljubljana, to be confirmed
- 2nd Round Table for organisers of national youth choirs – postponed to January or February to be able to answer questions about Ljubljana, too

Registration / voting

Since the online event will have to be organised in a different way, we will send you further information about registration in September 2020 and the **deadline for applications will be October 15th 2020**.

Members will be asked to register for the event through an online application form, indicating their membership number and in the case of member choirs and member organisations, defining who should be allowed to vote. Details on the voting procedure will be communicated in October.

Project presentations

In September we will also send out a call for project presentations. Members will have the opportunity to present:

- Activities 2021/22 under the label of ECA-EC
- Inclusion activities, especially those dealing with the inclusion of people with disabilities
- Projects relating to the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Projects highlighting the benefits of singing

Project presentations have to be submitted **by September 30th 2020**, a separate call / reminder for presentations will be sent out before. Each project has to be presented in 2-5 minutes (video or oral input), followed by Questions and Answers, and the session will be recorded.

Preparations

At our General Assembly as usual, we will look back on the last year, report on the third year of our project Upgrade – Connect – Reach Out, co-funded by the European Union Creative Europe Programme and other activities during the past 12 months. But most of all we will look ahead, presenting the plan for the last year of our network funding project and the planned activities in 2021-23, and asking the membership to approve the document with the new Vision, Mission Statement, Strategy and Action Plan as well as the suggested new membership structure and the new Regional Development Strategy. **We would like to encourage our members to actively join the preparatory process for these last points by:**

- **Commenting on the google docs (links shared in the invitation e-mail)**
- **Sending comments by E-mail if they prefer (PDFs of the documents attached)**
- **Joining the Membership Discussion Rounds on November 18th and 19th (see page 1)**

Please note that English will be the main working language during the online meetings will be English, though we can offer breakout rooms in other languages such as French, Spanish, Italian and German during the membership discussion rounds on November 18th and 19th if needed.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to this year's online Membership Meeting
With best wishes



Carlo Pavese
President of the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat

Résumé en français: Invitation à notre rencontre avec nos membres et l'assemblée générale 2020 – en ligne, du 18 au 21 novembre 2020

Chers amis,

Nous avons le plaisir de vous inviter à la rencontre de nos membres et l'assemblée générale 2020. Malheureusement nous ne serons pas capables de vous inviter avec Sing Ireland à Galway, en Irlande. Les règles de voyages en Irlande et les règles d'annulation de l'hôtel ne le permettent pas. Nous avons donc décidé d'organiser tout en ligne, malgré le fait qu'une partie de nos membres aurait préféré une rencontre personnelle. Sur la base de notre expérience avec les réunions en ligne ces derniers mois, nous avons décidé de ne pas tout organiser sur deux jours. Nous vous prions donc de prendre note du calendrier suivant :

- **Mercredi, 18 novembre, 17 – 19h CET**, discussion sur la nouvelle stratégie, y inclut la nouvelle structure de membres (avec une partie de la discussion en petits groupes)
- **Jeudi, 19 novembre, 18 – 19 .30h CET**, discussion sur le possible changement de nom
- **Samedi, 21 novembre, 11 – 12h CET**, présentation de projets de nos membres
- **Samedi, 21 novembre, 14.30 – 16 et 16.30 – 18 h CET**, assemblée générale

La date limite pour inscriptions sera le **15 octobre 2020** et nous vous informerons en septembre comment le faire. Les membres devront se registrer avec leur numéro d'adhésion et dans le cas des chorales et organisations membres, indiquer qui peut voter. En septembre nous enverrons un appel pour la **présentation des projets de nos membres**, la date limite sera le 30 septembre 2020, chaque projet sera présenté dans 2 à 5 minutes par zoom, ou avec un vidéo.

L'**agenda** pour l'assemblée générale se trouve dans ce document, page 4 (prochaine page).

Nous voudrions encourager nos membres de **préparer quelques discussions et décisions** concernant la stratégie, la nouvelle structure de membres, et la nouvelle stratégie pour le développement régional. Vous pourrez le faire en ajoutant vos commentaires aux documents google (voir liens dans le message mail), en nous envoyant un message (vous trouverez les versions PDF des documents ci-joint) et en participant aux discussions le 18 et 19 novembre.

La langue de travail pendant les réunions en ligne sera l'**anglais**, mais nous pouvons offrir des petits discussions en groupe en français, espagnol, italien et allemand le 18 et 19 novembre si vous le désirez.

Deutsche Zusammenfassung: Einladung zu unserem Mitgliedertreffen und unsere Mitgliederversammlung 2020 – Online, vom 18. bis 21. November 2020

Liebe Freunde,

hiermit laden wir Sie / Euch herzlich zu unserem Mitgliedertreffen und zur Mitgliederversammlung 2020 ein. Leider werden wir unsere Mitglieder nicht wie geplant mit Sing Ireland in Galway, Irland empfangen können. Die Einreiseregulungen in Irland und die Stornierungsbedingungen des Hotels erlauben dies nicht. Wir haben uns deshalb dafür entschieden, alles online zu organisieren, obwohl ein Teil unserer Mitglieder ein physisches Treffen bevorzugt hätte. Aufgrund unserer Erfahrungen mit online-meetings in den letzten Monaten, haben wir uns entschlossen, nicht alles an zwei Tagen anzubieten sondern die Aktivitäten etwas zu entzerren. Wir möchten unsere Mitglieder deshalb bitten, folgende Termine zu notieren:

- **Mittwoch, 18. November 17 – 19 Uhr CET**, Diskussion über die neue Strategie inklusive der neuen Mitglieder-Struktur (ein Teil der Diskussion findet in kleinen Gruppen statt)
- **Donnerstag, 19. November 18 – 19 .30 Uhr CET**, Diskussion über mögliche Namensänderung
- **Samstag, 21. November, 11 – 12 Uhr CET**, Projekt-Präsentationen unserer Mitglieder
- **Samstag, 21 November, 14.30 – 16 und 16.30 – 18 Uhr CET**, Generalversammlung

Die Anmeldefrist wird der **15. Oktober 2020** sein und wir schicken im September weitere Informationen zum Anmeldeprozess. Mitglieder werden sich mit ihrer Mitgliedsnummer anmelden und im Fall von Chören und Verbänden angeben, wer wählen darf. Im September schicken wir auch weitere Informationen zur Möglichkeit Projekte für die **Projektpräsentation** einzuschicken. Die Frist zur Einsendung von Projekten wird der 30. September sein, jedes Projekt kann in 2-5 Minuten vorgestellt werden, per Zoom oder mit einem Video.

Die **Tagesordnung** für die Mitgliederversammlung befindet sich in diesem Dokument auf Seite 4 (nächste Seite).

Wir möchten unsere Mitglieder dazu ermunter, **einige Diskussionen und Entscheidungen vorzubereiten**, insbesondere die neue Strategie, die neue Mitgliedsstruktur, und die neue Regional-Entwicklungs-Strategie. Mitglieder können dazu in den google Dokumenten Kommentare einfügen (für Links siehe E-Mail), uns eine Nachricht schicken (PDFs der Dokumente anbei) und an den Diskussionsrunden am 18. Und 19. November teilnehmen.

Die Arbeitssprache bei den Online Veranstaltungen ist **Englisch**, wir können aber am 18. Und 19. November kleine Diskussions-Gruppen auf Deutsch, Französisch, Italienisch und Spanisch anbieten falls Interesse besteht.

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General Assembly 2020 - AGENDA

Saturday, 21/11/2022, 14.30 – 16.00 and 16.30 – 18.00 CET

0. Opening

1. Approval of the agenda -> [document: This agenda](#)

2. Approval of Minutes General Assembly 2019 -> [document: Minutes 2019](#)

3. Report of the President -> [document: Annual Report, to be sent in October](#)

4. Activities' reports 2020, including report from the Membership Day -> [document: Annual Report](#)

4.1 Artistic Vice-President on behalf of Artistic Strategy Group

4.2 Regional Centers

4.3 Year 3 of the project "Upgrade – Connect – Reach Out" including training offers for members and new communication tools

4.4 Other activities in 2020 including report from Membership Day

5. Report of the Treasurer: Finances 2019 - 2020, Preliminary Budget for 2021

-> [Documents to be sent in October](#)

6. Financial Audit 2019 -> [Documents to be sent in October](#)

7. Discharge of the Board of Directors

8. Welcome to new members

9. Strategy for the years 2021 to 2030 -> [Documents attached to the invitation](#)

9.1 Approval of new description of Vision, Mission, Strategy and Action Plan -> [new strategy](#)

9.2 Decision about suggested new Membership System -> [New membership structure](#)

9.3 Decision about suggested new Regional Development Strategy -> [New regional strategy](#)

9.4 Process for decision on possible change of name -> [Change of name doc with comments](#)

10. Vision for the future of the "Friends of Choral Music in Europe" -> [Documents to be sent in October](#)

11. A look into the future: Activities 2021 – 2022, possible impact of Covid-19 pandemic

11.1 year 4 of the project "Upgrade – Connect – Reach Out"

11.2 European cooperation projects EPIC / Leading Voices / SHIFT

11.3 EC Festival 2021 in Ljubljana

11.4 other activities in 2021

11.5 Activities 2022/23 (Leading Voices, EC junior, Choralies and others)

12. Presentation by the Youth Committee

13. Invitation to General Assembly 2021 in France

14. Presenting other European and International networks

14.1 European Music Council (coordinators of the SHIFT project)

14.2 International Music Council

15. Miscellaneous

15.1 Capacity Building Workshop:

How to use your stories in advocacy work with Julie Ward (UK) - dates

15.2 Other topics