

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



To
Members and friends of the European Choral Association

Invitation to our 2021 Membership Weekend with Membership Day, presentation of EPIC data collection & General Assembly Friday 19 to Sunday 21 November 2021 – Lyon/France

Dear members and friends of the European Choral Association,

It is our pleasure to invite you to our annual Membership Weekend consisting of a Membership Day, the formal General Assembly, a conference on enhancing the careers of emerging singers, a meeting of the “Friends” and much more! After all the online meetings in 2020, we are planning a live Membership Weekend - if the Covid-19 pandemic situation will allow - in Lyon, France, hosted by À Cœur Joie, our French founding member organisation.

For three days, you will have a unique chance to interact, learn, sing and meet with your fellow choral enthusiasts. You can discover Lyon, where the À Cœur Joie offices are based, home to many excellent choirs, and the city that welcomed Europa Cantat Junior in 2017. This is also your opportunity to contribute to the future of the European Choral Association.

Planned Activities

Save the Date: Online Project Presentation session on 10/11/2021 at 17.00 CEST

After the success of the online project presentation session in 2020, our board decided to keep this online format in future. We are looking for interesting and inspiring projects that deal with the effects of the pandemic on collective singing, with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as well as other projects that can serve as models for your peers. You can also present a future project for which you are looking for partners. Project presentations have to be submitted **by 30/09/21**. A separate call for presentations will be sent out in September 2021, so please already mark the date of the session in your calendar!

Membership Day / Friday, 19/11/2021 morning

Members of the European Choral Association and others are invited to attend the 6th edition of our “Membership Day”. This is an exciting opportunity for our members to talk about the future of our association, bring in new ideas and develop new models with their peers.

We will offer **6 discussion groups in 2 slots**, inviting members to discuss our new Regional Development Strategy, see opportunities for membership involvement in the activities planned during the next round of EU Network Funding for which the team will submit an application in August, and discover the results of the SHIFT project with tips and guidelines on how to decrease the carbon footprint of your organisations and events, how to become more inclusive and improve the accessibility of choral events, and how to set up guidelines and procedures concerning diversity, inclusion and sexual harassment.

EPIC Conference on Enhancing the Careers of Emerging Singers / Friday, 19/11/21 afternoon

In the afternoon we will present to you the results of the project **EP:IC: Emerging Professionals – Internationalisation of Music Careers**, which will come to an end in December 2021. Despite the Covid-19 challenges, the project has reached out to emerging musicians across Europe through online training sessions, brought together the managers of national youth choirs, supported a session of EuroChoir in 2021 and helped promoting the World Youth Choir through a global online reception. It also included a mapping of the career paths of former members of auditioned youth ensembles (orchestras and choirs). Join us to understand the value of auditioned youth ensembles and how to tell that story for fundraising and advocacy!



Before dinner, we'll welcome our guest for a musical aperitif with selected ensembles from the À Coeur Joie network.

General Assembly / Saturday, 20/11/21, morning

As usual, we will look back on the last year, report on the final 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. We will also decide about the membership fees 2022 – 2024, and we will look ahead at our plans for the years 2022 and beyond. (See Agenda on page 5).

IMPORTANT: Elections – Call for Candidates – see details on page 6

The members will have the opportunity to elect a new Board for the years 2021 – 2024.

- **11 positions will be up for election**, with some current board members not being able to be candidates again as they have reached their maximum of 3 mandates.
- individual members, families and member choirs will be able to make use of their voting powers through **remote voting** (member organisations can only vote with a direct representative personally present at the General Assembly).

Shaping the future of the “Friends” association, Saturday, 20/11/21, afternoon

Music, networking and discovering Lyon

On Saturday afternoon we will host some project meetings of EU-funded cooperation projects as well as a General Assembly of the “Friends” association in which current and potential future members as well as anybody who is interested and would like to support the Friends will talk about the future of the association based on new statutes and a stronger link to the European Choral Association.

In the evening you will have a chance to enjoy concerts of the *Jeune Chœur Symphonique – Spirito* as well as performances of the current promotion of the conducting class of the *Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse*, delivering the highest conducting degree in France. During meals and breaks you will have opportunities to network with your peers, and on Saturday those who are not involved in meetings will have the opportunity to discover the historical centre of Lyon.

How to register? Deadline 30 September 2021

To attend the event, please fill in the online application form under <https://bit.ly/ECA21GA-Reg> before 30/9/2021.



The detailed programme, practical information for your stay and necessary documents for the General Assembly will be sent out to registered delegates beginning of October 2021.

Please note that English will be the main working language of the General Assembly, Membership Day and Conference, but individual or group translation into French and German may be provided if needed and possible.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the beautiful city of Lyon!

With best wishes



Carlo Pavese
President of the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat

Attachments:

- Practical information & schedule (p. 3)
- Participation fees (p. 4)
- Details on elections (p. 4)
- Agenda of General Assembly (p. 5)
- Information on elections (p.6)

Important practical information

Location:

The accommodation and main activities will be held at Hotel Saphir in Lyon where we will have sufficient space to organise the event also under Covid-19 distancing rules. Some parts of the programme will be organised in the Espace Jean Couty, a few minutes' walk from the hotel.

Hotel Saphir*** 18 rue Loucheur, 69009 Lyon [Metro station : Gorge de Loup]

How to reach Lyon:

Lyon has an airport connected to several European cities.

Please also think about the environment and check if it might be possible for you to travel to Lyon by long-distance bus or train. There are good and fast train connections from Paris.

Schedule of the weekend: Lyon, France - 19 to 21 November 2021

Wednesday, 17/11/2021

Arrival of the Board of the European Choral Association

Thursday, 18/11/2021

Board meeting all day / Meeting of the Youth Committee in the afternoon/evening

Arrival of members who wish to participate in the Membership Day

No dinner arranged - enjoy restaurants in the beautiful old town of Lyon or book a dinner at the hotel

Friday, 19/11/2021 09:00 - 12:00 - Membership Day at Hotel Saphir

09:00 Short plenary to introduce the topics

09:30 - 12:00 Interactive sessions: elaborate the future of the choral sector and of your network

Our new regional development strategy - plans & ideas	IGNITE - new Network Funding project. Opportunities for members	SHIFT guidelines - how to develop guidelines on inclusion & sexual harassment
Free discussion round - members' wishes for the future	SHIFT - how to reduce the carbon footprint of organisations & events	SHIFT - how to make your communication and events more inclusive

12:30 Lunch in Hotel Saphir / Arrival of those not attending the "Membership Day" / Registration in the hotel

Friday, 19/11/2021 14:30 - 16:30 - EPIC Conference and welcome at Espace Jean Couty

14:30 - 16:30: Presentation of the EPIC project and the data-collection on the careers of young musicians involved in auditioned youth music ensembles.

16:30 - 18:00 Official welcome and "musical aperitif"

20:00 Dinner in Hotel Saphir

Saturday, 20/11/2021 09:30 - 12:30 - General Assembly at Espace Jean Couty

(only for members of ECA-EC or invited observers/guests)

- Including a presentation of the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM)
- Including elections of the Board and financial auditors
- See agenda on page 5

13:00 Lunch in Hotel Saphir

Saturday, 20/11/2021 afternoon and evening

14:30 - 15:30 Open General Assembly of the "Friends of the European Choral Association" (former Friends of Choral Music in Europe) / project meetings / counting of election results / time for networking in Hotel Saphir / Time to visit historical Lyon

17:30 *Bus transportation from Hotel Saphir to Concert for those who are not in town*

18:00 *Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse*: Announcement of election results / Concert (conducting class followed by the *Jeune Chœur Symphonique -Spirito*)

20:00 *Bus transportation back to Hotel Saphir*

20:30 Dinner in Hotel Saphir

Sunday, 21/11/2021

09:30 - 12:30 Board Meeting of the European Choral Association with elections of Executive Board

The schedule is subject to changes!

Participation fees

Price per participant for members (non-members pay 20 € in addition)

The fee includes accommodation with breakfast and meals as described below, as well as all coffee breaks, the performance on Friday evening and the concert on Saturday evening, and participation in the different events.

Depending on your possibilities and interests, you can choose between two different packages.

- **Full package** – 3 hotel nights from Thursday to Sunday, musical aperitif, meals from lunch on Friday until breakfast on Sunday, as well as musical performances
- **Small package** – 2 hotel nights from Friday to Sunday, musical aperitif, meals from dinner on Friday until breakfast on Sunday, as well as musical performances

You will receive an invoice with payment modalities sometime after your online registration.

Costs for Single Rooms	Country Group1	Country Group 2	Country Group 3
Full package	375 EUR	325 EUR	275 EUR
Small package	285 EUR	235 EUR	185 EUR
Costs for Double Rooms	Country Group1	Country Group 2	Country Group 3
Full package	295 EUR	245 EUR	195 EUR
Small package	235 EUR	185 EUR	135 EUR
Costs without accommodation	All country groups		
Full package	95 EUR		
Small package	75 EUR		
Countries by country group	AT, AW, BE, CA, CY, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, HK, IE, IL, IS, IT, JP, LU, NL, NO, SE, SG, UK, US	CG, CN, CZ, EE, GR, MT, PE, PT, SI, SK, TW and some other overseas countries, see below*	AL, AM, BA, BG, BY, GE, HR, HU, KZ, LT, LV, MD, ME, MK, PL, RO, RS, RU, TR, UA
* For countries outside Europe the rule is that countries belong to group 1 according to the HDI index used by IFCM (see http://ifcm.net/membership-fees), countries belonging to HDI groups 2 and 3 are in country group 2. Country group 3 is only reserved for European countries. If you are not sure which country group you belong to, write to info@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org			

Special grants for organizations from Central-Eastern and South-Eastern Europe

In order to increase the involvement of member organizations of ECA-EC in Central-Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in the activities of the association we have the opportunity, within the frame of our network project, to offer grants for representatives of different member organizations to cover or contribute to travel expenses and participation fees. The exact number of grants available will be decided in September 2021. If you are interested in such a grant, please contact us before September 15th, 2021, at info@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org

Prolonging your stay

If you need to arrive a day early or stay a day longer, we can reserve the additional hotel nights for you, and you will pay them directly at Hotel Saphir (80,65 € /night in a single room & 49,15 €/night costs per person in twin room if you will share the room with somebody you know).

For local conference-participants and others who don't need a hotel, separate fees apply (see above). If you need another arrangement, please contact us directly so we can try and find a solution.

Cancellation rules

Please note that you will have to pay the participation fee as well as additional hotel nights if you cancel your participation short-term! **The exact cancellation terms also in relation to possible travel restrictions connected to the Covid-19 pandemic will be published in September 2021**



Agenda of the General Assembly 2021

Saturday, 21/11/2021, 9.30 – 12:30 in Espace Jean Couty, Lyon (FR)



0. Opening
1. Approval of the agenda
2. Minutes General Assembly 2020
3. Report of the President
4. **Activities' reports 2021, including report from the Membership Day**
 - 4.1 Artistic Vice-President on behalf of Artistic Strategy Group
 - 4.2 Regional Centers
 - 4.3 Year 4 of the project "Upgrade – Connect – Reach Out" including training offers for members and new communication tools
 - 4.4 Other activities in 2021
5. **Report of the Treasurer: Finances 2020 - 2021, Preliminary Budget for 2022**
6. **Discharge of the Board of Directors**
7. **Welcome to new members**
8. **Decision about Membership Fees and Country Groups for 2022 - 2024**
9. **Presentation of new Network Funding project "IGNITE"**
10. **Presentation of the "Friends of the European Choral Association" with the new statutes, and the advantages of their members as indirect members of the European Choral Association**
11. **A look into the future: Activities 2022 – 2024**
 - 11.1 Europa Cantat junior 2022 in Vilnius and 2023 in Ghent
 - 11.2 Leading Voices 2022 in Utrecht
 - 11.3 other activities in 2022
 - 11.4 Europa Cantat Festival 2024
12. **Presentation by the Youth Committee – call for future Youth Committee Members**
13. **Invitation to General Assembly 2022 (place and date to be confirmed)**
14. **Presenting other European and International networks**
 - 14.1 International Federation for Choral Music
15. **Miscellaneous**

Subject to changes!

We look forward to seeing you in Lyon in November 2021!



European Choral Association Elections 2021 – General Explanations

Board elections

- **Candidates:** Any individual member, representative of a member family, a member choir or a member organisation of the European Choral Association can be a candidate to the Board or can be nominated by others. Once a person has been elected to the Board, they are Board members as persons, not as representatives of member choirs or member associations, even if their candidatures were supported by such members. This also means that they may remain Board members even if they should lose their position within a member association or member choir during the course of a mandate. Candidates are elected for a mandate of 3 years (November 2021 to autumn 2024), which is renewable twice (maximum duration on the Board = 9 years).
- All candidatures (including those of present Board members) must reach the General Secretariat in written form as soon as possible, but **no later than September 30th 2021**. Late candidatures will not be accepted since the membership must have the possibility to review candidatures in advance.
- Submissions should include the **motivation** for being a candidate (including a possible field of focus while on the Board), a personal **biography**, a photo and the candidate's **answers to questions** (see separate document for candidates, available on the Website or from info@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org)
Important: Since the General Assembly 2017 decided that individual and family members as well as member choirs will be able to participate in the elections through remote voting, candidates will also have to submit **a presentation video of maximum 2 minutes** for the online campaign which will run from October 15th to November 14th 2021. Please provide a link to a youtube or vimeo video.
- Once a candidate has been elected, **the travel expenses to the meetings and food and hotel accommodation** during the meetings will be covered by the European Choral Association, if the budget allows; economic difficulties should not prevent anyone from presenting their candidature!
- Candidates to the Board must be prepared to **attend at least two or three Board meetings per year** of 4 days each (including arrival and departure day), one of which is in connection with the annual General Assembly. They must be prepared **to work between the meetings** by e-mail, video-conferencing and other online communication tools and to represent ECA-EC at other events from time to time. The working language of the Board is English. **For further details of what is expected from Board members please see separate document.**
- **Candidates to the Board of the European Choral Association** should be aware that they will not be allowed to conduct at any of the "Activities of the European Choral Association" for which the programme is (partly) decided by the Music Commissions during their term of office, e.g. the Europa Cantat Festival, EC junior, EuroChoir and World Youth Choir (conducting at "Activities under the label of the European Choral Association" is possible). Also they will not be able to get fees for any work done for or during one of these activities (exceptions to be approved by the Executive Board).
- Candidates to the Board must **plan to stay in Lyon** until Sunday, November 22nd afternoon since the **new Board will have its first meeting on November 22nd from 9.30 – 12.30**, during which they will also elect the new Executive Board (President, 2-3 Vice-Presidents, treasurer)
- **Proxies:** Due to the change of statutes decided in 2017 which grants individual and family members as well as member choirs the right to remote voting, proxies are no longer possible!
- **Membership fees:** Members who wish to be candidates to the Board and members who wish to vote at the General Assembly need to have paid their 2021 membership fee (and for previous years) before September 15th 2021 (individual members, families and choirs) or September 30th 2021 (member organisations)! Members who have not paid their membership fee may attend the General Assembly and speak but will not have active or passive voting rights.

Financial auditors: In addition, two financial auditors will be elected by the General Assembly among its members or other competent persons (see Art. VIII of the statutes) - candidatures may be sent in advance or presented in Lyon.

Youth Committee: For the next Youth Committee a call will be published and presented at the General Assembly in Lyon. Proposals from the membership will be accepted until 31/12/2021, then the Board will appoint the new Youth Committee for the years 2022 – 2024.