

Côme Ferrand-Cooper

Candidate to the board of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat

GA 2021 - Lyon

Dear members, dear friends,

After a career in other musical fields, I dedicated the last decade to serving the choral community, first as project manager for the European Choral Association, and since 2019 as director of A Coeur Joie France, one of the founding members of our network. Today, I'm offering to put my skills and knowledge of our sector at the service of the board of ECA-EC.

The last 20 months have been quite difficult on all of us. Singers, conductors, choirs and organisations have struggled to deal with an incredible situation. We have all experienced how much we needed one another, at every level of our sector. Singers missed their friends, conductors and choir managers needed to share and solve new problems, organisations exchanged on solutions and offered meeting places and activities. Out of this crisis, a new light shone on an old idea: together we are stronger.

Our world, our continent is facing new challenges: energy crisis, climate change, economic crisis, limits on the circulation of ideas and persons, cultural changes, etc. The choral sector is of course impacted. I believe that the European Choral Association is the place where we can collectively try to develop clever solutions to these challenges, leveraging the incredible potential of this art form.

Our job will be to make your voices heard, to make sure our societies recognise the importance of choral singing. Our job will be to create opportunities for people to gather, sing, learn and exchange. Our job, of course, will also be to secure the future of the European Choral Association for the next decades.

If you think I can be useful for its development, I'll be honoured to join the board of the association, and I'll do my best to help our network of like-minded organisations and choirs.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about my candidacy.

Hoping to meet you in Lyon, please receive my best regards.



Côme Ferrand-Cooper

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Questions to be answered by Candidates

1. Why are you interested in becoming a Board member of the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat? What makes you a good Board member?

First of all, I strongly believe that we have to make Europe a reality. Not only as a political construction, but as an effective network of human beings, organisations and projects. Our ecological, political and economic environments are, and will remain, under heavy stress. This will have consequences on the cultural landscape of our continent, and we can only address these challenges collectively. I worked as a team member for the association for seven years, and I'm now volunteering to give back to this very important organisation, to its members and to serve choral music to the best of my abilities.

I sat at the board table as ECA team member on many occasions, and I was impressed by the incredibly talented persons involved in the board. If you elect me, I'll do my best to contribute to this collective effort with my managing and creative skills.

2. How can you contribute to the development of the federation and what would you like to focus on during the period on board?

I'm not a professional musician, so please also elect talented and well-connected conductors, composers or singers in the board, to make sure that we keep our focus on music at the highest possible level. For my part, I'm willing to get involved in strategic elaboration and planning, to make sure that our sector, as well as ECA, is able to take on the upcoming challenges, through projects, activities and communication tools.

3. What is your vision about the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat and its activities?

I believe that ECA-EC has a mission to create opportunities for people, choirs and organisations to meet and discover that they have a lot to share and learn from each other. We should work to foster a network of choral organisations and activists who know they can find resources and support whenever needed, and are ready to support their colleagues' projects. Beyond the musical and cultural impact, I believe that the activities organised by ECA and its partners shall always aim at bringing European people together, especially in times where we see mental and physical borders closing again.

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Short biography

Born in France, I'm 47 years old, father of two boys.

After studying philosophy and cultural management, I managed projects and teams for about 15 years for theatres, music festival and cultural venues in a wide variety of musical styles (jazz, contemporary music, pop and of course, classical music). I moved to Germany and joined the team of European Choral Association – Europa Cantat in 2012 where I managed different European cooperation projects such as VOICE, Sing Me In, Sing Outside the Box or EPIC. I was also involved in the running of the association, boards and general assembly organisation, communication, etc.

I've learned so much during these years that I felt ready when I was offered to take over the A Coeur Joie French Choral association in 2019.

As the leading choral organisation in France, our federation coordinates the work of volunteers and professionals serving choirs, conductors and singers. We are offering trainings, conferences and activities across the country, including, of course, the Choralies festival. Finally, in coordination with other French organisations, we are advocating for a better recognition and support of the choral activity by the authorities. I'm managing a team of about 10 persons in our office located in Lyon, France.

European Choral Association – Europa Cantat
Election of the board of directors – November 2021

Endorsement letter

Lyon, 15 September 2021

To whom it may concern

Dear members of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat

In 1961, the A Cœur Joie movement was a founding member of the European Federation of Young Choirs – Europa Cantat, one of the two organisations that merged to become the European Choral Association.

Our organisation has always believed in the power of collective singing to bring together people from all over continental Europe. Over the decades, A Cœur Joie tried to contribute to the work of the association, through its musical activities and regular participation to its governance.

Our board therefore decided to endorse the candidacy of our current director, **Côme Ferrand-Cooper**, to the board of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat.

Our association will keep on doing its best to support the development of the European network, and we fully trust that Côme Ferrand-Cooper can make a positive contribution to the development of our beloved art form.

Sincerely yours



Alain Louisot
President



Paris, 30 September 2021

**CONFEDERATION
MUSICALE DE FRANCE**

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Ladies and gentlemen of the assembly,

I, the undersigned Ludovic Laurent-Testoris, Vice-President of the CMF in charge of suprastructures, hereby certify that the CMF supports the candidacy of Mr. Côme Ferrand-Cooper, to join the office of the European Choral Association.

Indeed, former member of the salaried team of this structure, he has a detailed knowledge of both the internal functioning and the legal and physical members, but also of the problems and the stakes of the European network of choirs and choral to which the European Association of Choral must respond.

Moreover, in France, the CMF and A cœur Joie, of which he is director and which together represent the two largest choral federations, have begun to implement a new dynamic of cooperation for a better articulation and pooling of their actions. It will thus be able to broaden in a global level the strategic and prospective orientations specifically French.

Please accept, ladies and gentlemen, the expression of my best consideration.

To assert what is right.

Ludovic Laurent-Testoris
Vice-President of CMF