

Dear members of the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat,

My name is Jeroen Beckers. I am a Belgian choral conductor, teacher and organiser. Growing up in my parents choral environment and becoming a choral conductor myself, I got in touch with the Flemish Federation of Young Choirs (VFJK, of which I am currently Vice-President) and Koor&Stem.

For conductors, the actual conducting is a goal, but getting inspired by visiting Europa Cantat and other festivals (Choralies, Festival di Primavera,...), encouraged me to get even more involved in organizing within the choral world. This resulted in becoming a member of the Music Commission of the latest Europa Cantat Festival in Ljubljana.

If elected into the Board of ECA-EC, my experience as a conductor of youth choirs and as organizer, can be a source of input for the association.

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

Being part of the organization of the EC Festival in Ljubljana during the last 3 years, was a really nice 'first look' into the association. Working and discussing with colleagues from all over Europe, together creating a festival for all people involved in the choral world, enlarged my view on the international choral world.

This experience, being board member of the VFJK and being part of the organization of several international singing weeks in Ghent (including the Europa Cantat Junior Festival 2023 in Ghent), give me a good background to be a Board member of ECA-EC.

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

As a conductor I work with children, youth and adults. But with a focus on youth. This would also be my focus on the Board: not only working for the singing youth (not forgetting the endangered species that young male singers are becoming), but also on keeping and getting youth involved in the association.

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

While growing up, I crossed Europe on concert tours with Cantitare from Maaseik. Later on the choir started to go to festivals (EC and EC junior) where I said: why didn't we do this when we were young?

For me, ECA-EC is in the first place a living social medium where singing people can and will meet. Connecting the choral world on festivals, assemblies, from the local primary school choir to the renowned professional choirs, from the kindergarten teacher to the most experienced conductor: at some point we can all do the same: sing together, sing collective.

Kind regards,

Jeroen Beckers

Jeroen Beckers

Jeroen (1980) studied at the Violin and Theory of Music 'Maastricht Conservatory' (NL), Viola at the 'Lemmensinstituut – Leuven' (B) and the 'Zuid-Nederlandse Hogeschool voor Muziek' (NL) and Choral Conducting at 'Utrecht Conservatory'.

Jeroen participated in choral conducting masterclasses by Anne-Marie Cabut (F), Kari Ala-Pöllänen (FI), Michael Gohl (CH) and Dénes Szabó (H).



As **freelance violist** he used to play in the orchestra of 'La Monnaie – Brussels', the 'Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra', the 'Brabant Orchestra' (NL) and the 'Opéra Royal de Wallonie – Liège'.

From 2006 until 2009 he was co-principal of the 'Magogo Chamberorchestra Tilburg' (NL) and from 2008 until 2009 he was member of the 'iPalpiti Orchestra of International artists – Los Angeles' (with concerts in Carnegie Hall, NY and Kimmel Center, Philadelphia).

Jeroen grew up and sang in the choirs of his father. From the age of 15 he was accompanist of both the Children's Choir and the Mixed Choir Cantitare.

In 2007 he co-founded the **Girls' Choir Artemis Maaseik** which visited **EC Junior** editions in Nevers (F) and Pärnu (EE) and gave concerts in Switzerland, Czech Republic and Holland and participated at WIFYS (Worcester 2013). In 2015 they gave concerts during a tour in China.

In November 2010 he became conductor of the **Cantitare choirs** (children, youth, adult) with received several First Prizes at the European Festival for Young Singers in Neerpelt.

In 2013 they premiered a cantate from Jan Coeck and in April 2014 the children were conducted by John Rutter himself in the performance of his 'Mass of the Children'.

In 2015 all choirs Cantitare celebrated their 30th anniversary with the Stabat Mater of Karl Jenkins, performed by 165 singers and conducted by Jeroen.

In 2018 they participated at the **EC Festival** in Tallinn (EE).

He is often asked as a guest conductor and workshop leader.

Nowadays, Jeroen is **teacher** at the 'Academy of Arts – Maaseik' (B), conductor of Cantitare (all choirs), and conductor of youth choir **De Piccolo's** (Neerpelt).

He is also **vice-president** of the 'Flemish Federation for Young Choirs' (VFJK) and member of the Steering Committee of the 'Europa Cantat Junior Festival 2023' in Ghent .



Vlaamse Federatie van Jonge Koren vzw

Leuven, 20 September 2021.

European Choral Association – Europa Cantat
Weberstrasse 59a
D-53113 BONN

Dear Secretary General,
Dear Sonja,

Hereonby you will find the candidature of Mr. Jeroen Beckers to the Board of ECA-EC.

The VFJK supports this candidate for his approved abilities and dynamics, not only focused on the Belgian horizons, but also for his broad view at the international choral scenes. As Vice-President of the VFJK and member of the Music Commission of the Europa Cantat Festival 2021, Mr. Beckers has shown not only his skills in decision making, but also his flexibility.

Therefore, the VFJK strongly recommends Mr. Jeroen Beckers to the General Assembly, and supports him in his intention to contribute positively at the further development of the association.

With kind regards,

Dr. Jean SMEETS
President VFJK



Candidacy Jeroen Beckers (B)

Dear,

With this letter, Koor&Stem would like to endorse the candidacy of Jeroen Beckers for the ECA Board of Directors.

The organisation knows Jeroen as a dedicated, motivated and enthusiastic person, who can always offer added value in many areas. Jeroen was, for instance, a member of the Music Committee and helped to draw up our current policy plan. In addition, he is involved in various practical organisations, which makes him happy to roll up his sleeves.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jeroen Keymeulen'.

Jeroen Keymeulen
General manager Koor&Stem

