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European Choral Association Europa Cantat
General Secretariat
Haus der Kultur
Weberstrasse 59a
53113 Bonn, Germany

Subject nomination board ECA-EC
Our reference ZIM-1900-MS
Attachments several documents and links
Date 15 September 2021

Dear General Secretary, dear Sonja,

With this letter, I inform you that I again would like to be candidate for the upcoming elections of the Board of ECA-EC.

If elected, I would like to bring my experience as a professional event organizer and my experience in the field of communication and marketing to the board. I would like to work on strengthening the brand of ECA-EC, on the further development of existing projects like EuroChoir or new international events and projects that support the visibility and network of ECA-EC. And of course, I will, both as a board member and a employee of ZIMIHC, try to make a success out of Leading Voices 2022, the new event by ECA-EC.

Included you will find the requested documents and links. If you have any questions or are not able to accept me as a candidate, please let me know.

Kind regards,



Martine Spanjers
Coordinator ZIMIHC Maatwerk

Answers by Martine Spanjers to obligatory questions, September 2021

Why are you interested in becoming a Board member of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat?

Currently, I am a board member and I would be really happy to do another term to work on the same topics I've been dealing with last years (except Covid-19, if possible, of course). I know the organisation of ECA-EC since 2010 and have working with members, board members and staff on several projects, I have a good idea of what ECA-EC is about. I've been cooperating with the EUROPA CANTAT Festival organisations of 2015 and 2018, I've been involved in the GA 2016, I've been working on the Sing Outside the box project including the production of EuroChoir 2017 and lately I contributed to the Sing Me In project.

I find it a pleasure to be not only part of the projects of ECA-EC but also be able to support the organization from the perspective of the board in their aim to create instruments for international exchange and cooperation. Singing is not only the biggest art form in Europa but als a great support to mental and physical health and a great way to make friends and gain happiness. Being able to contribute to that would be a privilege.

Above all, I love being part of the choral family of Europe.

What makes you a good Board member?

I've been at the ECA board for three years now. Besides that, I'm an experienced board member if it comes to Dutch art organisations and therefore aware of the tasks and responsibilities needed. I've been working as a professional organizer in the choral community now for 4 years. Since then I've contributed to a new choral movement in the Netherlands that has started with the Holland House project in 2015 in Pécs, followed by the manifesto "Singing together 2020" and resulting in a new national choral federation Koornetwerk Nederland. I've been working with amateur singers as well as with professionals. I'm aware of the challenges while working on an international scale and I like to work on concrete targets and goals together with motivated people. I am used to work in collaboration with other individuals and organisations and are able to communicate on different levels. Also I am sensitive for political issues and strategies.

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

I am only a very modest amateur singer since I was six but for about 20 years, I am also a professional organizer of cultural events. Therefore, I think I have shown in the last three years I can contribute on several issues. First of all to the development of organizational matters of projects within ECA-EC. This would be my focus as a board member. I also bring in experience concerning communication and marketing and it would be my pleasure to be able to contribute to the development of the brand ECA-EC is. I also would like to pass my experience from other art fields to ECA-EC. This can help to develop projects in a new and fresh way. I've been working in the professional visual art world nearly 15 years and have been in charge of several (inter)national wind music events for the past 8 years.

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

I have been in contact with other European organisations dealing with amateur art like EBBA (European Brass Band Association) and ECWO (European Championships for Wind Orchestras) and Amateo and I have been a board member of the European funded professional Dutch based art organization If I can't dance. This puts my experiences with ECA-EC and its projects in a broad perspective. I think ECA-EC is a firm organization with well-executed and relevant projects. I think there are still possibilities to develop and strengthen the current projects and events and to add new items to the agenda. I also feel more Europeans should know about the organization and its projects.

Resume of drs. M. (Martine) Spanjers

Martine Spanjers (1972) works with ZIMIHC since 2009. She studied Art History in the city of Utrecht and worked for several years in museums of contemporary art on international projects as project leader, fundraiser and head of public affairs.

Currently, Martine is manager of ZIMIHC Maatwerk, the project and event department of ZIMIHC, a platform for amateur arts based in Utrecht, the Netherlands. She is used to work in an international context and in setting up projects with artists and musicians in many ways.

She was responsible for the realisation of many international events and projects, most of them related to contemporary visual arts, singing or wind music. Most of them in partnership with international organisations like ECA, WASBE and EBBA.

For each project, Martine creates a team of freelancers to develop and execute the project.

In the coming months Martine is also responsible for the Utrecht Zingt festival Leading Voices in 2022, an event by the European Choral Association-Europa Cantat.

Besides the international events, Martine has set up different programmes for ZIMIHC each connected to a different artform, for example 'Utrecht Sings', 'Utrecht Brass' and 'Utrechts Dance'. With this, she has created a strong network in Utrecht that to develop new ideas and projects for amateur artists and to put amateur arts in the spotlight in many ways. These programmes also help ZIMIHC to connect in an easy way to other (inter)national organisations.

Besides her professional work, Martine has gained a lot of experience as a board member of different art organisations.

Currently, Martine is treasurer of the board of ECA (2018-2021) and both chair of the dance organisation DC1II High of choreographer M.E. Brands based in Utrecht and the Art Lease Foundation in Utrecht. She is also a board member of "Dirigenten Werkplaats Utrecht" (Conductors Working Place Utrecht) and she is on the advisory board of the Turkish choir Rezonans.

Before she was a member of the board of the international operating and Amsterdam based organisation on performance art If I can't dance and a member of the board of the Museum for Light based in Eindhoven.

Martine has been an amateur singer since she was 6 years old and also used to play the classical guitar. She lives in Utrecht together with the love of her life for nearly 30 years.

For more information about Martine, please check <https://www.linkedin.com/in/martinespanjers>

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To whom it may concern

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Subject Letter of support
Our reference ZIM-1853-AA
Date 15 September 2021

Dear reader,

ZIMIHC has been a member of ECA-EC since 2015, although ZIMIHC is involved with ECA-EC since 2005 already. ZIMIHC is a non profit organization that in different ways provides a stage to amateur arts but is not specialized in choral arts. Therefore, it took a long time to become a member.

Since Martine Spanjers joined our organization as head of ZIMIHC Maatwerk, the project office of ZIMIHC, ZIMIHC has become a member of ECA-EC. It is because of her vision and strategic thinking, that ZIMIHC is now developing the programme Utrecht Sings. Utrecht Sings is a programme that is supporting and promoting the choral scene in Utrecht. It connects amateurs and professionals and underlines the position of Utrecht as choral capital of the Netherlands. A position that made it possible to develop, in close connection with EAC-EC, the new choral event Leading Voices.

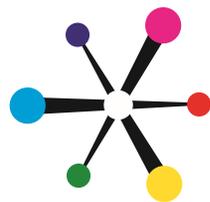
Because of the work of Martine, the connection between ECA-EC and ZIMIHC is becoming stronger and stronger. She is also a strong force in connecting the Dutch choral world.

I again fully support Martine as a candidate for the board of ECA-EC. Not only because of the ambitions of ZIMIHC in connection to projects in cooperation with ECA-EC, but also because of her personal qualities and experience.

Warm regards,



Appie Alferink
Managing director ZIMIHC



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Dear members of the European Choral Association -Europa Cantat

Proud and with pleasure we again recommend Martine Spanjers as candidate to the board of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat.

For many years Martine Spanjers has been a key person in connecting the close-knitted Dutch choral life with the network and activities of ECA-EC. She (co-)initiated and coordinated concrete projects that made this connection real, visible and impactful. Next summer, the Utrecht Zingt festival Leading Voices is one of the key events in the Netherlands. Martine has an important and valuable position in this event as chair of the project team and the production team. Her connection to ECA-EC is therefore unmissable.

Martine brings the talent to think and act strategic on organisation, personal and 'sectors' matters, to bring together people with both high and diverse qualities together and to develop innovative though realistic approach to the new contemporary challenges of our choral sector. We believe, and we think after having Martine three years in the board of ECA-EC others will do as well, she is a great added value to the board ECA-EC and can contribute greatly to the ongoing (strategic) development of the association and its activities.

Koornetwerk Nederland is the renewed national Choral Association in The Netherlands. 'Network' is in our new name, because we believe in sharing and connecting to make the choral world stronger, more relevant and even more attractive. We are very happy we can do this as part of the membership of ECA-EC and with partners in The Netherlands as ZIMIHC. That is why we recommend Martine Spanjers wholeheartedly as candidate to the board of ECA-EC for 2021-2024.

Daphne Wassink
President Koornetwerk Nederland