

Friends of the European Choral Association Statutes

– Decided on 12/11/2021



§1 Name and seat

1. The association is named "Friends of the European Choral Association" (in short "Friends"). It has its seat in Bonn, Germany and is registered at the Register of Associations of the Bonn District Court. (The association carries the letters "e.V." for "eingetragener Verein" in its name, which means that it is a registered association according to German law.)
2. The financial year is the calendar year.

§2 Purpose of the association

1. The purpose of the association is the promotion of intercultural dialogue and of arts and culture, especially of choral music by giving moral and financial support to the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat. The association is registered at the *Amtsgericht Bonn* under the Nr. 9446 and has been free from paying association taxes.
2. The purpose is mostly reached by raising funds for the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat for the fulfilling of its tax-privileged non-profit aims.
3. In addition the association supports aims of the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat through funded scholarships or activities, among others supporting young musicians through scholarships of the Noel Minet Fund which was integrated into the Friends in 2021.

§3 non-profit status

1. The association is a non-profit organisation as described in the German „Abgabenverordnung“ (tax law regulations) in the paragraph "tax privileged non-profit purposes"
2. The association works selflessly and does not primarily aim at providing income for the association itself.
3. Financial resources of the association may only be used to further its objectives as specified in these statutes. Members may not receive any financial support from the association in their function as members.
4. No person is allowed to be refunded expenses which are not in line with the objectives of the association as stated in these statutes or which are unreasonably high.
5. All functions in the association are done on a voluntary basis.

§ 4 Membership

1. The association has three categories of members:
 - a. **Active members** are persons and institutions who wish to support the aims of the association on a long-term basis and pay the membership fee.
All members of the association are considered "indirect members" of the European Choral Association Europa Cantat.
A1: natural persons pay a membership fee per person and have 1 vote in the General Assembly. At events under the label of the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat these members pay a reduced participation as indirect members if they have paid their fee for the current year before a certain date.
A2: Legal persons (choirs as well as other institutions or choral organisations that deal with choral / vocal music) pay a membership fee per institution and have 1 vote in the General Assembly. At events under the label of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat a maximum of 2 representatives of each institution will pay a reduced participation as

indirect members if the institution has paid their fee for the current year before a certain date.

Membership must be applied for in a written way. The Board decides about the admission of members

The sum of all active members constitutes the General Assembly of the Association.

- b. The association can have **honorary members**. They **do not have to** pay a membership fee and have no voting rights. Honorary members support the association in its public relations and give the association moral support.
 - c. All members of the Friends, as indirect members of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat without voting rights, have the possibility to join the General Assemblies, Membership Days and other networking activities of the association.
2. Membership ends by written withdrawal, exclusion, death of a person or dissolution of an association.
 3. Members can be excluded if they disrespect the statutes, the aims or the interests of the association or do not pay their membership fee. The Board decides about the exclusions.
 4. Members have the right to participate in all events of the association. Voting rights of members of category A1 in the General Assembly are personal rights. Members of category A2 have to confirm in writing before the General Assembly who should represent them at the General Assembly at decisions and votes. Further representatives of the same member can join without voting rights. No proxies are possible.
 5. Members should support the association and its aims, also publicly.

§ 5 Membership fees

1. Members have to pay an annual membership fee for which they can decide the sum themselves. The **minimum** annual fee will be decided by the General Assembly. Members can increase their membership fee if they wish to offer additional support to the association

§ 6 Bodies of the association

Bodies of the association are

1. the Board
2. the General Assembly (Assembly of members)

§7 Board

1. The Board consists of
 - a. Chair
 - b. Deputy Chair
 - c. 2nd Deputy Chair (optional)
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. optional: up to two further Board members. If there were not sufficient candidates at the election, the Board may co-opt one Board member in this category.
2. Two (2) members of the Board are appointed for a period of 3 years by the Board of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat. A renewal of the appointment is possible. All other Board members are elected by the General Assembly of the Friends.
3. The Board takes its decisions by telephone and mail and only meets when necessary, at least once every three years. Decisions are minuted.
4. Decisions of the Board are taken with a simple majority.
5. The Chair, Deputy Chair and Treasurer act on behalf of the association „Friends of the European Choral Association“ as executive Board within the meaning of § 26 of the German Code of Civil Law. Each of them may represent the association individually. Together they constitute the Executive Committee.

6. At least one of the Board members appointed by the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat must belong to the Executive Committee.

7. If a Board member drops out before the end of the period:

7.1 In case it is a candidate originally nominated by the European Choral Association, the Board of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat can nominate another person until the end of the mandate.

7.2 In case it is a candidate originally elected by the membership of the Friends, the Board can co-opt a person until the next General Assembly (in case there were more candidates than places at the previous election, they can but do not have to co-opt the first non-elected candidate).

§ 8 The General Assembly

1. Members of the General Assembly are the members according to paragraph 4.1.a.
2. The General Assembly is the highest organ of the association. It has the following tasks:
 - a. elect the Board members (see paragraph 7) except the 2 appointed by the Board of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat
 - b. decide who should represent the Friends as co-opted member of the Board of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat. This person can be a former Board member of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat, but not somebody who has been on the Board of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat for the last 3 years.
 - c. decide on membership fees and payment delays
 - d. adopt the annual reports
 - e. discharge of the Board
 - f. changes of statutes and dissolution of the association
 - g. appointment of honorary members
3. The General Assembly meets whenever necessary, at least once a year, with the possibility of organising electronic meetings (via e-mail, online fora, skype, zoom etc.). The General Assembly must meet physically at least once every three years, preferably at the EUROPA CANTAT Festival or the General Assembly of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat with elections (2021, 2024, 2027, etc.). The invitation with the agenda is sent out at least 4 weeks in advance. The results of the meeting are documented in minutes.
4. The General Assembly always has a quorum with the members present
5. Decisions are taken with a simple majority of all voting members present.
6. Changes of statutes and the dissolution of the association are only possible with a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of present voting members.
7. The Board has to call for a Meeting of Members if a minimum of 40% of the members (according to paragraph 4) demand this.
8. The chair or a Board member nominated by the chair presides over the General Assembly meetings and decides on somebody to draw the statutes.

§ 9 Dissolution of the Association

In case of the dissolution of the association or should its tax-privileged non-profit purpose no longer exist, the assets of the association go to “European Choral Association – Europa Cantat” which has to use the money only for non-profit purposes. Should that association no longer exist, the existing assets shall be transferred to a legal entity or a tax relieved body, with the aim of being used for music (especially choral music). The organisations to which the assets will be transferred at the time of the dissolution must have been recognised by the competent financial authority as non-profit-making organisations.

The original statutes were decided unanimously by the founding Meeting of Members on March 19th 2011. The current version of the statutes was decided on 11/11/2021 by the members of the Council of the Friends of Choral Music in Europe.

The legally binding version is the German version