

Noël Minet Fund  
European Choral Association  
Haus der Kultur  
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## REPORT OF ATTENDANCE

Between 25th and 30th April I attended The World Symposium for Choral Music in Istanbul along with 2500 other choral lovers from all over the world. This year's gathering of experts was held in a city of more than 15 million people, a multicultural crossroads of the world's East and West. In this respect, the central theme of the symposium "Changing Horizons" was an invitation to explore all the world's musical cultures, to look for new developments and directions in choral music and, above all, to question all the existing (re)creative practices.

The festival's rich programme consisted mainly of morning keynote presentations, lectures, workshops, meet-the-composer sessions, reading sessions, panels, roundtables, lounges, and the EXPO during the first half of the day, while the afternoons and evenings were dedicated to the concerts. The morning educational sessions offered a concise insight into a wide range of new developments in the field of choral music, but above all they provided an opportunity to learn about foreign musical cultures and their choral literature, and this is definitely where the greatest charm of this year's international gathering lay.

In total, more than 55 choirs performed at the festival, which were presented at the afternoon concerts, while eleven selected ensembles also performed at the evening gala concerts in the newly renovated Atatürk Cultural Centre. The organisers made sure that the participating choirs represented all continents as equally as possible, so that this year's line-up was truly vibrant.

I believe positive short- and long-term effects of such large cultural projects make them indispensable in the current globalised choral world. Various platforms, festivals, symposia, and expos foster the development of the entire choral landscape, both locally and globally, and above all they enable all those who create it to maintain old and make new contacts, besides encouraging an open exchange of opinions and views, thus creating the harmony of our beautiful (musical) world.

Ljubljana, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Tisa Mrhar