



EUROPEAN
CHORAL
ASSOCIATION

MEMBER SHIP WEEKEND

2023

VILNIUS | LITHUANIA
17-19 NOVEMBER

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Witness a
choir of 12
thousand
singing as
one



Study Tour to the 100 Anniversary of the Lithuanian Song Celebration

2 - 7 July 2024



Learn how to
make miracles
happen on
and off stage



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open
NOW
until 1 April:

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EUROPEAN
CHORAL
ASSOCIATION

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WELCOME

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Vilnius - a city that is eager to be discovered and enjoyed by guests from around the world.

Choral music plays a special role here, as Vilnius citizens regularly enjoy concerts at inspiring venues and sing in dozens of choirs.

The Lithuanian identity is closely related to singing: it was through common song that our ancestors expressed their respect for our nature, it was through common song that we preserved our identity during the Soviet occupation, and with common song that we regained our Independence.

Today, mass singing is one of the ways that we express and appreciate our Freedom, and this is especially apparent at the Lithuanian Song Celebration, a UNESCO-acclaimed tradition where 12 thousand singers perform at a special outdoor stage.

This tradition is turning 100 years old in 2024, and I hope that the Lithuanian Song Celebration dedicated to the occasion will be when we meet next.

Have a productive Membership Weekend and enjoy Vilnius!



Saulius Liausa

Director of the Lithuanian National Culture Centre

TO VILNIUS!

Welcome to Vilnius for our 2023 Membership Weekend!

It is a great pleasure for us to be in Vilnius for this year's membership weekend, in the city that hosted the Europa Cantat *Junior* event in 2022, against the backdrop of challenges due to the war in Ukraine and given the geographical location of the city. Even though the festival was smaller than expected, it was a wonderful event and it had a clear impact on choral life in Lithuania. As a result, impressive delegations from Lithuania attended the Leading Voices event in Utrecht in 2022 and the World Symposium on Choral Music in Istanbul in 2023. In addition, our Lithuanian partners were interested in offering events under the label of the European Choral Association - the Membership Weekend 2023 and a Study Tour to the Lithuanian Song Celebration in 2024. We would like to thank the Lithuanian National Culture Centre and the Lithuanian Choral Association for inviting us to Vilnius, and the municipality of Vilnius for their financial support.

Our Membership Weekend will offer a lot of options to our members and friends, including enough time for networking and bilateral talks, or time to sing together in the evenings. We look forward to meeting you at the hybrid project presentation session on Friday morning where you can get inspired by the different projects and initiatives from across Europe. On Friday afternoon we will discuss important topics in parallel groups before going to the first concert together. As usual, we will hold our annual General Assembly for members on Saturday morning before moving to the Lithuanian National Culture Centre for the workshops in the afternoon, where you will be able to choose between two different workshops. We will end the weekend with a reception and the second concert, and some more time to deepen friendships or develop new projects.

We look forward to sharing wonderful days with you in Vilnius!



Dermot O'Callaghan and Sonja Greiner
President and Secretary-General
of the European Choral Association

DISCOVER



© GO VILNIUS

Vilnius is the capital of Lithuania, located along the Neris and Vilnelė rivers. It is a beautiful and bustling city with a unique Old Town that combines the heritage of many cultures. Centuries-old architecture, modern buildings and untouched nature right in the city are what make Vilnius special. It is one of the greenest capitals in Europe, where the contemporary atmosphere of the city goes hand-in-hand with the stories and legends of the Old Town.

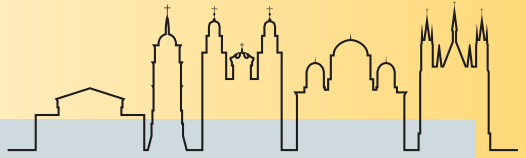
Vilnius is turning 700 this year, which means it is full of special festivities. The magical Old Town of Vilnius, where our Membership Weekend takes place, holds many secrets and a long history.

The cobblestone streets lead you on a romantic walk through the UNESCO World Heritage site. Vilnius is home to many talented contemporary artists, and every month there's a theatre, film, dance, or a culture festival going on.

At night, Vilnius turns into a different city where people dance until sunrise amid a booming club and bar culture.

There is a lot to explore in your free time in Vilnius, and you can find the best recommendations here:

www.govilnius.lt/visit-vilnius



THE CITY

TERRITORY	The City of Vilnius occupies an area of about 400 sq. km, of which approximately 20.2% is developed and the remainder is a greenbelt (43.9% approx.) and water (2.1% approx.)
POPULATION	569,700 inhabitants
LANGUAGE	Lithuanian
RELIGION	Roman Catholic 77.2%, Russian Orthodox 4.1%, Old Believer 0.8%, Evangelical Lutheran 0.6%, Evangelical Reformist 0.2%, other 0.8%
ETHNICITY	Lithuanians 67%, Poles 15%, Russians 10%, Belarusians 3%, Other 5%



MUST SEE



► THE GEDIMINAS TOWER

The unquestionable symbol of Vilnius is well visible from many spots in the Old Town, but it is also very worth a climb or a funicular ride. The hill is one of the best places to see the magnificent panoramas of Vilnius: the red roofs of the church towers, and the narrow streets of the Medieval Old Town.

► THE PALACE OF THE GRAND DUKES OF LITHUANIA

A political, diplomatic, administrative and cultural centre of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 15th, 16th and the first half of the 17th century, the palace was restored in 2013 and is now a National Museum offering beautiful interiors with restored representations of late Gothic, Renaissance and early Baroque.



► PILIES STREET

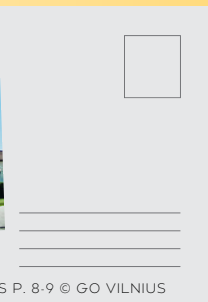
The oldest and most ornate street in the Old Town, it was the main road to the castle, of which only the Gediminas Tower remains. The street is distinguished for its architectural variety: Pilies 12 and 14 are Gothic, Pilies 4 is a Renaissance building of an episcopate college, and the pediment of the Church St. John is Baroque.

IN VILNIUS



► GLASS QUARTER

A 600-year-old square that once was a Jewish neighbourhood of goldsmiths, glassblowers, artisans and financiers. As if hidden among the bigger streets of the city, the quarter is still surrounded by jewellers, local artists, artisan shops and workshops, cosy restaurants, the headquarters of the chamber orchestra, art galleries.



PICTURES P. 8-9 © GO VILNIUS

► ST ANNE'S AND BERNARDINE CHURCHES

St Anne's church has remained almost unchanged over the last five centuries and is one of the most beautiful and probably the most famous buildings in Vilnius. It is a masterpiece of late Gothic architecture and is surrounded by many legends. The most famous of them recounts how Napoleon wanted to take the church back with him to Paris in his palm.



PRACTICAL

CURRENCY

EURO

LOCAL TIME

GMT + 2 hours | EET

HOW TO GET AROUND

Apps for getting around:

- Trafi (public transport routes and tickets)
- Bolt (taxi)
- City Bee (no-contact car rental)

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

112 (local emergency services)

19000 (E-taxi, takes both cards and cash)

If you have any problem while in Vilnius, please try to get help from one of the following numbers (and please remember that calling a foreign number may produce high costs):

Sonja (European Choral Association): +49 170 489 4444

Ieva (Lithuanian National Culture Centre): +370 629 68060



INFORMATION



WORKING HOURS

- Shops are usually open from 10 AM to 6 PM or 7 PM on weekdays and until 3 PM or 4 PM on Saturdays.
- Shopping malls are open all week from 10 AM to 10 PM
- Supermarkets are usually open between 8 AM and 10 PM, and some supermarkets are open until midnight.



TIPS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

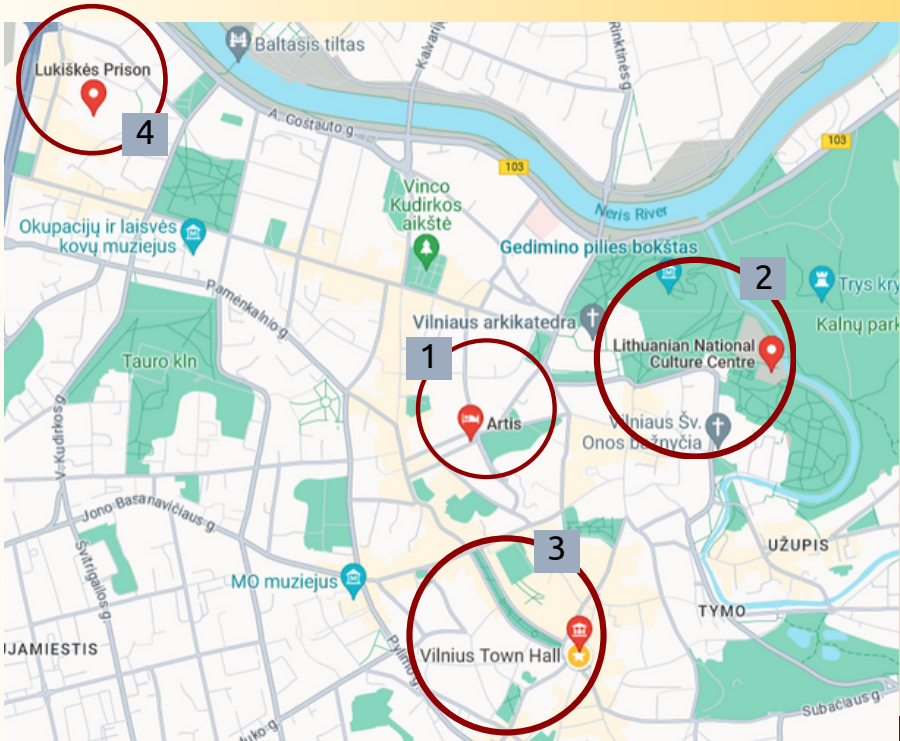
- If you know in advance, please let us know if you are planning NOT to attend a meal so that we do not need to waste so much food.
- Please try to walk, cycle or use public transport to move around within Vilnius and avoid using your own car.
- Artis Hotel does not have an official eco-label. However, you can contribute to reducing your carbon footprint by asking the reception not to clean your room every day or use the “do not disturb” sign to signal this, and by giving preference to vegetarian food over meat

SPEAK LITHUANIAN



Hello (familiar)	LABAS
Hello (formal)	LABA DIENA
Goodbye (familiar)	ATE
Goodbye (official)	VISO GERO
Thank you	AČIŪ
Sorry/excuse me	ATSIPRAŠAU
Please	PRAŠAU
Let's sing	PADAINUOKIM
Red wine	RAUDONAS VYNAS
White wine	BALTAS VYNAS
Beer	ALUS
Coffee	KAVA
Tea	ARBATA
Cheers	Į SVEIKATĄ
Help	PADĖKIT
Doctor	GYDYTOJAS
Ambulance	GREITOJI PAGALBA

EVENT'S VENUES



1. HOTEL ARTIS
2. LITHUANIAN NATIONAL CULTURE CENTRE
3. VILNIUS TOWN HALL
4. LUKIŠKĖS PRISON AND ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

HOTEL ARTIS

1



Totorių street 23

The hotel is situated in a renovated 19th-century building and will be our main venue for the weekend!

The Membership Day on Friday as well as the General Assembly on Saturday will be here, and we will have lunch on Friday and Saturday as well as dinner on Friday at the hotel. We can also meet in the evening to discuss the day's events, talk and sing together!

LITHUANIAN NATIONAL CULTURE CENTRE

2




B. Radvilaitės street 8

The institution operates under the Ministry of Culture of Lithuania and plays an important role within the national cultural institution system, helping society acknowledge and preserve its cultural identity and representing Lithuanian ethnic and amateur culture abroad. This role is realised through numerous events the Centre organizes, such as Lithuanian Song Celebration, international folk festivals, Lithuanian national costume presentations, choir festivals. The Centre also publishes books and recordings, analyses cultural situation and tendencies, provides methodical guidance for art groups, and organizes professional trainings.

The two parallel workshops on Saturday afternoon will take place in this venue.

VILNIUS TOWN HALL

3


 Didžioji street 31

Vilnius Town Hall was first mentioned in 1432. It was last rebuilt by architect Laurynas Gucevičius at the end of the 18th century in the neoclassical style. Today, the Town Hall hosts various events, exhibitions and charity fairs, as well as official Vilnius city ceremonies.

The Town hall will host the concert and reception on Saturday evening.

LUKIŠKĖS PRISON AND ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

4

 Lukiškių alley 6

For 115 years, Lukiškės Prison was guarded by high walls and barbed wire, but today the site is open to the public. From prison to artistic venue, a new version – Lukiškės Prison 2.0 – is home to 250 creators and artists, and a place where curious spirits can learn and explore. Visitors can sit down for a refreshing drink, attend a concert or take a tour to get a glimpse of life in the former prison. This unique space has become a star on the silver screen as well, serving as the backdrop for the TV series Stranger Things season 4.

An optional visit to the Prison is foreseen on Friday evening after the concert that takes place in the Prison's Church of St. Nicholas

SCHEDULE IN SHORT

THURSDAY 16.11.

WELCOME!

Time to discover Vilnius and meet your peers!

FRIDAY 17.11.

MEMBERSHIP DAY

PROJECT PRESENTATION SESSION

Hotel Artis / online | 10:00

Introduction to Discussion Rounds

Hotel Artis | 11:30

DISCUSSION ROUNDS

Hotel Artis | 14:00

Two one-hour slots, each giving you a choice between three topics.

MODERATED NETWORKING TIME

Hotel Artis | 16:30

CONCERT BY JAUNA MUZIKA

Church of St. Nicholas Lukiškės | 20.00

VISIT OF THE LUKIŠKĖS PRISON 2.0*

Lukiškės prison 2.0 | 21:30

*Optional

SATURDAY 18.11.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Hotel Artis | 09:30

Reporting on the projects and activities in 2023 and looking ahead!

WORKSHOPS

Lithuanian Cultural Centre | 15:00

Two parallel workshops:

- Making your events more environmentally sustainable and inclusive
- Ancient melodies: a workshop of traditional Lithuanian multipart singing

RECEPTION AND CONCERT BY LIEPAITĖS GIRLS CHOIR

Town Hall | 18:30

Concert and reception to end the weekend in a festive mood!

SUNDAY 19.11.

DEPARTURES

DETAILED SCHEDULE

THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER

Arrival

Arrival day - Discover the city if you have time!

Dinner not organised , there are many restaurants in the city centre nearby

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER

Membership Day

10:00 Project Presentation session | Hotel Artis

11:30 Introduction to discussion rounds | Hotel Artis

12.30 Lunch | Hotel Artis

14.00 First slot Discussion Rounds | Hotel Artis

15:15 Second slot Discussion Rounds | Hotel Artis

16.30 Moderated networking time & coffee | Hotel Artis

18:30 Dinner | Hotel Artis

20:00 Concert with with Jauna Muzika | Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas Lukiškės

21:30 *(Optional)* Visit of the artistic centre "Lukiškės prison 2.0"

SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER

09:00 Registration opens for General Assembly | Hotel Artis

09:30 General Assembly (including coffee break) | Hotel Artis

12.30 Lunch | Hotel Artis

15:00 Parallel workshops | Lithuanian National Culture Centre

18:30 Concert by Liepaitės Girls Choir and reception w/drinks and snacks | Town Hall

SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER

Departure

Departure day - See you next year!

****Please note that no organised transportation is provided. All venues are within walking distance but you can also use taxi or Bolt in case you do not want to walk (see p.10).*

PROJECT PRESENTATION SESSION

During this sessions you will be able to get to know several interesting, innovative and inspiring projects from our members and target countries of our Regional Development Strategy

PRESENTER

PROJECT

Escola de Música Nossa
Senhora do Cabo (PT)

OFICINA CORAL (CHOIR LAB)

Deutsche Chorjugend e.V. (DE)

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS AS SAFE SPACES

ZIMIHC (NL)

THE YOUTH IS THE FUTURE

Silesian Association of Choirs
and Orchestras (PO)

NIGHT OF CHOIRS

Cultural Movement Epilogi (CY)

CYPRUS CHORAL MEETING

Choral Culture Association
Türkiye (TK)

CHORAL PROSPECTS OF MICROTONAL
SINGING IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

Kutaisi Song and Dance State
Academic Ensemble (GE)

VIDEO OF THE ENSEMBLE

Montenegrin Choral
Association (MO)

PRESENTING THE FESTIVAL AND ASSOCIATION

Feniarco (IT)

TOCC ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSITION
CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INSTITUTIONS

AEDCORO (ES)

SYMPOSIUM IN MADRID: WOMEN AS CHORAL
CONDUCTORS

Tutarchela Youth Choir (GE) &
International Association of the
Armenian Culture (AR)

STUDY TOUR TO GEORGIA AND/OR ARMENIA
IN 2024

Serbian Choral Association (RS)

SINGING BRIDGES FESTIVAL IN 2024

MEMBERSHIP DAY

Discuss the future of our association, bring in new ideas and develop new models with your peers. During each session you can decide in which discussions take part

SESSION 1: 14-15H

THE EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION IN A NUTSHELL

1.a

Learn more about our history, strategy & activities
(recommended for newcomers)

FOSTERING COOPERATION WITHIN OUR SECTOR

1.b

Discuss how can we “break down walls” between different genres, between professionals and amateurs or between performers and the audience

BRAINSTORMING ON (OUR) FUTURE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

1.c

Become creative and imagine you were founding the European Choral Association today and designing its main events and activities – what would this be?

SESSION 2: 15.15-16.15H

GENDER DIVERSITY IN THE CHORAL SECTOR

2.a

Learn about and discuss gender diversity in the choral sector with our Youth Committee

CHOIRS' AND EVENT ORGANISERS' WISHES AND CHALLENGES

2.b

Find out what choirs and event organisers wrote about their wishes and challenges and contribute with your own experience

BRAINSTORMING ON NEEDS OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CHOIR ASSOCIATIONS

2.c

Brainstorm on topics that national and regional choir associations could talk about with their members or train them on, and on possible solutions

CONCERT JAUNA MUZIKA

conductor: Vaclovas Augustinas



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Vilnius municipal choir Jauna Muzika is one of the most prominent and most versatile vocal groups in Lithuania. Founded in 1989 at the initiative of the conductor and composer Remigijus Merkelys and its first director Algimantas Gurevičius, it has been led by conductor and composer Vaclovas Augustinas since 1992. He is recognised in Lithuania for both popular and academic music, and was honoured with the National Culture and Art Prize in 2010. The members of the choir are students and graduates of the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre.

The choir's repertoire covers music of all periods, including a cappella works, vocal-instrumental works, and opuses by contemporary foreign and Lithuanian composers. Jauna Muzika gives over 30 concerts abroad and in Lithuania every year. Thanks to its professionalism, the choir has won international recognition.

The choir has been conducted by Pinchas Steinberg, Wolfgang Gönnerwein, Noam Sheriff, Frieder Bernius, David Shallon,

Nicholas McGegan, Anders Eby, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Vladimir Spivakov, Werner Pfaff, Simon Halsey, Hermann Max, Rinaldo Alessandrini, Manfred Honeck, William Boughton, Murry Sidlin, Avner Biron, Johannes Prinz, Bo Holten, Bob Chillcot.

Jauna Muzika has appeared in world-famous halls such as the Munich Philharmonic, the Suzan Dellal Center in Tel Aviv, the Fredric R. Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, the Haifa Auditorium, the Bimot in Jerusalem, the Grand Hall of the Dresden Palace of Culture, the Ludwigsburg Theatre, the Matthias Church in Budapest, Alte Oper in Frankfurt, the S. Rachmaninov Hall in Moscow, Berlin Philharmonic Chamber Hall, Berlin Festspiele Theatre, and Shanghai Opera House.

Jauna Muzika has won first prizes or Grand Prix in 15 international choir competitions, and the Grand Prix Europeo (1993), Golden Disc (2002) and Vilnius Sound (2003) awards. Music performed by the choir is featured on 19 CDs.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

0. OPENING
1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
2. MINUTES GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022
3. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
4. ACTIVITIES' REPORTS 2023, INCLUDING REPORT FROM MEMBERSHIP DAY
 - 4.1 Artistic Vice-President on behalf of Artistic Strategy Group
 - 4.2 Year 2 of the IGNITE project - including regional development and new strategies and policies on inclusion and environmental sustainability
 - 4.3 Cooperation agreement with EAS signed in 2023
 - 4.4 Other activities and events in 2023
5. REPORT OF THE TREASURER
 - 5.1 Final Accounts 2022
 - 5.2 Finances 2023 - oral update
 - 5.3 Budget 2024
 - 5.4 Auditors' Report
6. DISCHARGE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
7. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS
8. PRESENTATION OF THE "FRIENDS OF THE EUROPEAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION"
9. A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE:
 - 9.1 Proposal for network funding application 2025 - 2028
 - 9.2 Activities 2024 - 2026
 - Programme of events 2024
 - Leading Voices 2025
 - Europa Cantat Junior 2026
 - Other activities in 2024, 2025
10. PRESENTATION BY THE YOUTH COMMITTEE
11. INVITATION TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024: 15-17/11/24, FLANDERS, BELGIUM
12. PRESENTING OTHER EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS
13. MISCELLANEOUS

Subject to changes!

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

HOW TO MAKE YOUR EVENTS MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE & INCLUSIVE

Led by

Sophie Dowden (FR/UK)

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion &
Belonging Consultant

Linnéa E. Vågen Svensson (NO),
Greener Events

Whether your event is big or small, local or international, there is always something you can do to make it more environmentally sustainable and inclusive!

Join us to dive into sustainability practices, from eco-conscious event planning to reducing your event's carbon footprint.

We will learn together how to integrate accessibility in event management and why prioritising diversity matters both on and off-stage. When you take the lead on sustainability and inclusion, you can make a lasting difference towards a greener future and a more equitable world.

ANCIENT MELODIES: A WORKSHOP OF TRADITIONAL LITHUANIAN MULTIPART SINGING

Led by

Damilė Bagdonavičienė (LT)

Intangible Cultural Heritage
Specialist at the Lithuanian
National Culture Centre

In this practical workshop, the participants will learn to sing traditional Lithuanian music. Sutartinės ("sutarti" means to be in accord) is a phenomenon of Lithuanian traditional music representing an archaic form of two and three voiced polyphony.

The participants will learn some melodies that will be performed at the evening's concert by Liepaitės choir and will be able to join their performance from their seats.

Sutartinės, Lithuanian multipart songs were inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2010.

Saturday 18 November | 18:30 | Town Hall

CONCERT

LIEPAITĖS GIRLS CHOIR

conductor: Jolita Vaitkevičienė

Vilnius choir singing school Liepaitės firmly took root in the cultural life of Lithuania. Liepaitės performs in the biggest concert halls, conducted by the most celebrated conductors of Lithuania. The school's choirs have broad repertoire – from Lithuanian folklore songs to large-scale works with an orchestra. Concert tour routes are widely spread throughout Europe.

The school has 40 highly qualified teachers and concertmasters. Every year, they teach about four hundred students divided into six choirs: first, second, third grade choirs, junior choir (grades 4-5), junior choir (grades 6-7) and girls' choir (grades 8-12). The last group, conducted by Jolita Vaitkevičienė, is performing at our event.

14-17 year-old girls who have finished 7 years of basic music school education sing in the girls' choir. The choir specializes in academic singing. Its repertoire consists of many choir compositions from various epochs created by foreign and Lithuanian composers as well as folk music arrangements. The choir has performed with the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, Kaunas Chamber Orchestra, Baroque Opera Orchestra, Estonian Chamber Orchestra, Latvian Television Chamber Choir. The choir takes part in many national and foreign artistic projects and festivals and has sung in Belarus, Belgium, Czech Republic, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Ukraine, Germany and Spain.



Save the Date

NEXT STOP FOR 2024
FLANDERS, BELGIUM
15-17 november 2024

www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org

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FREUDE.
JOY.
JOIE.
BONN.

