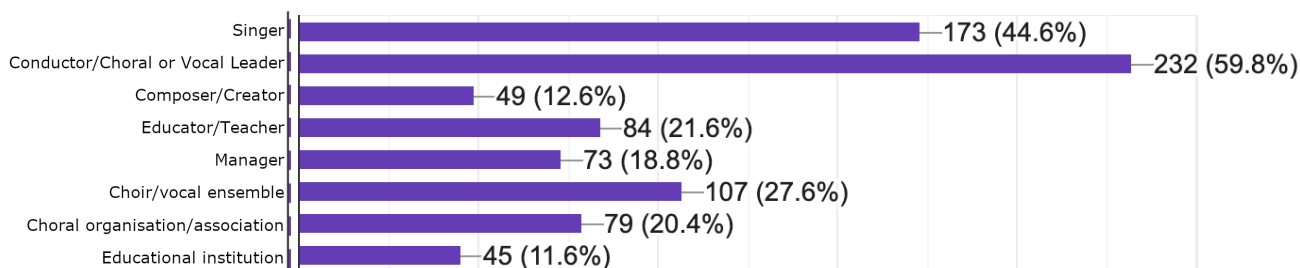


# Summary of ECA-EC COVID Survey Results 3 June 2020 (388 Responses)

## In what capacity are you involved with the choral sector?

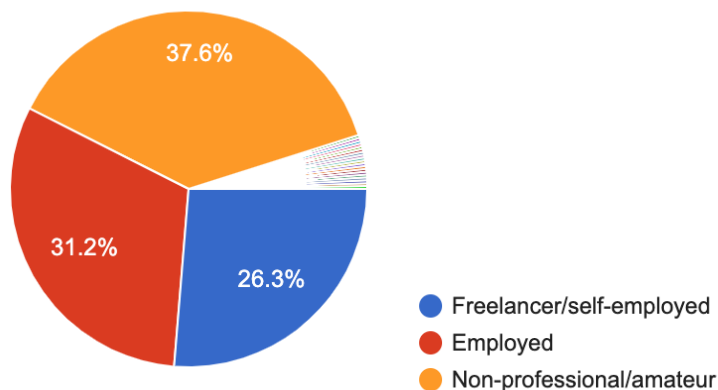
388 responses



Others (1-2 responses) include: professional fixer, music publisher, event organiser, organist, administrative support, artistic director, distributor of music folders, research centre.)

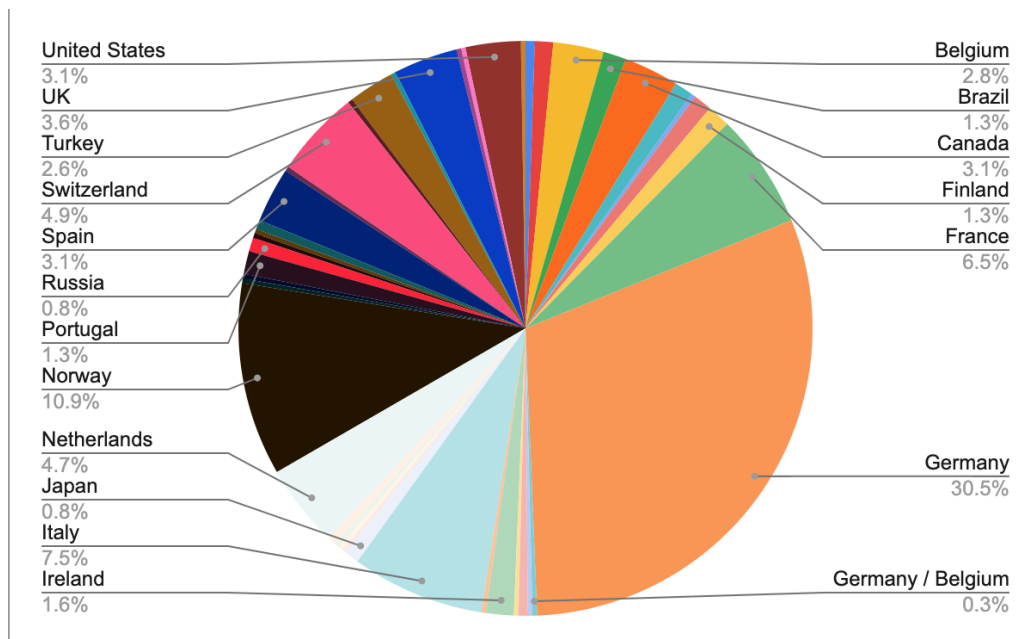
## Which of the following best describes your professional status relative to the choral sector?

388 responses



## Which country are you based in?

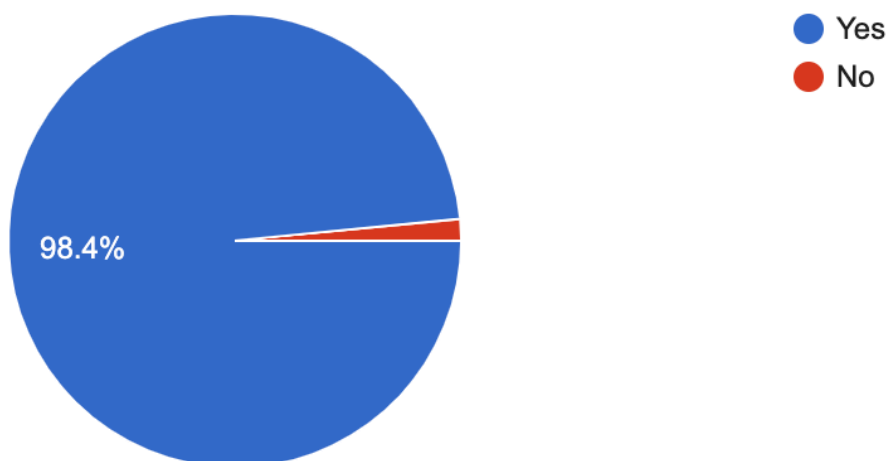
387 responses



## Impacts on rehearsals, lessons, concerts, events etc.

Have you been impacted or do you anticipate being impacted by the cancellation/postponing of rehearsals, lessons, concerts, events etc.?

387 responses



## How have you been impacted?

385 responses



### Response Options Provided in Survey

#### Cancellation:

April 1st half:	115	(of 135)
April 2nd half:	115	(of 123)
May 1st half:	60	(of 67)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	55	(of 63)

#### Postponing:

April 1st half:	79	(of 135)
April 2nd half:	62	(of 123)
May 1st half:	35	(of 67)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	34	(of 63)

#### Online Methods:

April 1st half:	61	(of 135)
April 2nd half:	41	(of 123)
May 1st half:	37	(of 67)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	34	(of 63)

### Other Responses Written In By Respondents

#### Loss of Ability to Rehearse/Difficulties Rehearsing Online

April 1st half:	29	(of 135)
April 2nd half:	39	(of 123)
May 1st half:	17	(of 67)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	28	(of 63)

#### Loss of Skills/Quality/Educational Development

April 1st half:	21	(of 135)
April 2nd half:	29	(of 123)
May 1st half:	15	(of 67)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	12	(of 63)

#### Loss of Social Connection/Cohesion/Psychological Challenges

April 1st half:	25	(of 135)
April 2nd half:	29	(of 123)
May 1st half:	10	(of 67)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	20	(of 63)

#### Uncertainty

April 1st half:	19	(of 135)
April 2nd half:	19	(of 123)
May 1st half:	10	(of 67)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	12	(of 63)

**Loss of Sales/Commissions/Funding Opportunities/Sponsors/Other Financial**

April 1st half:	20	(of 135)
April 2nd half:	22	(of 123)
May 1st half:	11	(of 67)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	9	(of 63)

**Long Time Before Restarting**

April 1st half:	13	(of 135)
April 2nd half:	21	(of 123)
May 1st half:	33	(of 67)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	21	(of 63)

**Loss of Members/Loss of Motivation**

April 1st half:	17	(of 135)
April 2nd half:	26	(of 123)
May 1st half:	19	(of 67)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	21	(of 63)

**Crowded Calendars**

April 1st half:	14	(of 135)
April 2nd half:	16	(of 123)
May 1st half:	1	(of 67)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	2	(of 63)

**Health/Members in High Risk Group**

April 1st half:	4	(of 135)
April 2nd half:	18	(of 123)
May 1st half:	13	(of 67)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	11	(of 63)

**Fear for Future of Choir**

April 1st half:	3	(of 135)
April 2nd half:	10	(of 123)
May 1st half:	10	(of 67)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	11	(of 63)

**Complications in Restarting (including finding appropriate venues for social distancing)**

April 1st half:	1	(of 135)
April 2nd half:	19	(of 123)
May 1st half:	15	(of 67)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	6	(of 63)

**Fears of Audience Not Returning/Low Turn-Out**

April 1st half:	4	(of 135)
April 2nd half:	11	(of 123)
May 1st half:	7	(of 67)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	2	(of 63)

**Loss of Opportunities for Exchange and Cooperation/(International) Travel**

April 1st half:	5	(of 135)
April 2nd half:	3	(of 123)
May 1st half:	3	(of 67)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	1	(of 63)

**Loss of Conductor/Staff/Other Professionals from the Field**

April 1st half:	5	(of 135)
April 2nd half:	2	(of 123)
May 1st half:	3	(of 67)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	1	(of 63)

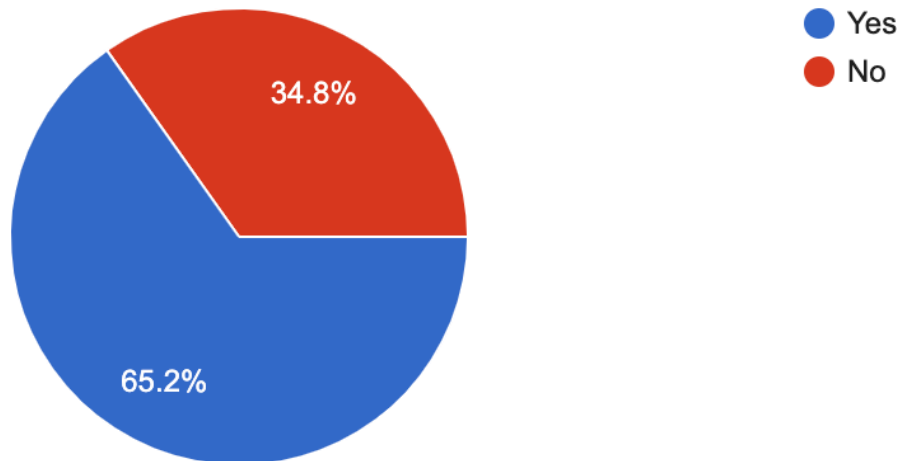
## Financial Impacts

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Have you been impacted or do you anticipate being impacted financially?

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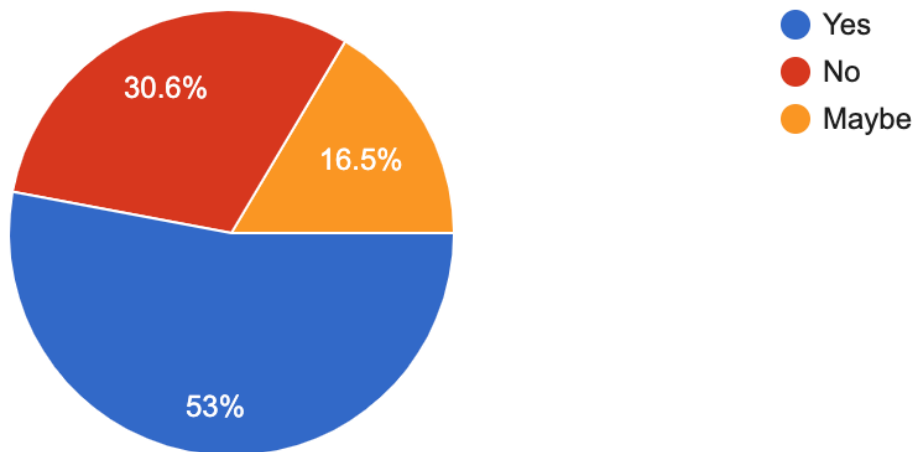
387 responses



Have you lost income or do you anticipate losing income?

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388 responses



a) If you are able to quantify your financial loss as a result of the impacts of COVID-19 for February-April 2020, please share this with us here (in euros)

b) Approximately, how much financial loss do you anticipate in the months to come as a result of the impacts of COVID-19 (in euros)?

---

a) 247 responses

b) 245 responses

Depends on size of operation, but:

- a): From 100s to several thousand, many around 5000, event-organising bodies more  
 b): From 100s to tens of thousands

E.g. some of the worst cases from choral organisations:

- a): At least € 70.000; b): From € 100.000 to € 150.000  
 a): €100.000; b): €400.000

Freelancers, conductors/choral leaders in general, thousands of euros, usually €1000-2000 per month

## Do you anticipate long-term financial challenges as a result of the impacts of COVID-19? If so, in what way?

255 responses

Valid Responses:	Yes	No	Don't Know/Not Sure
April 1st half:	48	30	14
April 2nd half:	48	15	4
May 1st half:	23	10	10
May 2nd half to 3 June:	29	5	4

### Members explicitly report:

#### Loss of Income

April 1st half:	16	(of 93)
April 2nd half:	29	(of 70)
May 1st half:	17	(of 41)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	21	(of 37)

#### Facing Unemployment/Career Change

April 1st half:	5	(of 93)
April 2nd half:	3	(of 70)
May 1st half:	-	(of 41)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	-	(of 37)

#### Loss of (Public) Funding

April 1st half:	11	(of 93)
April 2nd half:	8	(of 70)
May 1st half:	2	(of 41)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	4	(of 37)

#### Losses due to Non-Refundable Outgoings

April 1st half:	2	(of 93)
April 2nd half:	1	(of 70)
May 1st half:	-	(of 41)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	-	(of 37)

In more detail:

- Government support
  - Delays to government support placing them in a difficult situation
  - Fears of loss of financial support due to economic recession (national, regional, local levels)
  - Fears of lack of state investment in/attention to culture as focus of financial resources goes exclusively on rebuilding the economy and helping the vulnerable, as essential as these things are
  - Losing official statuses
- Will impact ability to pay membership fees at all levels (from choirs to networks)
  - And thus impacting employment (from freelancers, vocal and choral leaders to network staff)
  - Choir administrations cannot pay conductor even if they want to as no membership fees, ticket sales coming in
- Fears relating to unemployment and inability to find work, insecure income
  - Fears of work/funding contracts being terminated

- Fears of having no salary at all
- Fears of savings running out as no idea how long this will go on for
- Fears of needing to find a new line of work (leave the sector)
- Fears relating to financial outgoings
  - Fears of inability to pay for rent, both professionally and personally
  - Fears of rising costs for living and goods
  - Fears of needing to “furlough” employees (Workers are told to stop coming in to work or that their hours will be cut back in order to save money, usually with the government paying the employee at least a percentage of the income they would otherwise have had)
- Fears relating to loss of income-generating opportunities, sources of income (events) no longer available, both at present and in future
  - Concerts, festivals, rehearsals etc. both now and in the year to come
  - Physical distancing requirements also mean many occasions where choirs would be asked to perform are not happening (e.g. marriages, celebrations, funerals, religious services etc.)
  - Accompanists paid by the hour are losing income
  - Future decline in number of choir members
    - Fear that the number of choirs will drop, i.e. many choirs will not survive this
  - Fears that online activity is not sustainable long-term
  - Loss of sales

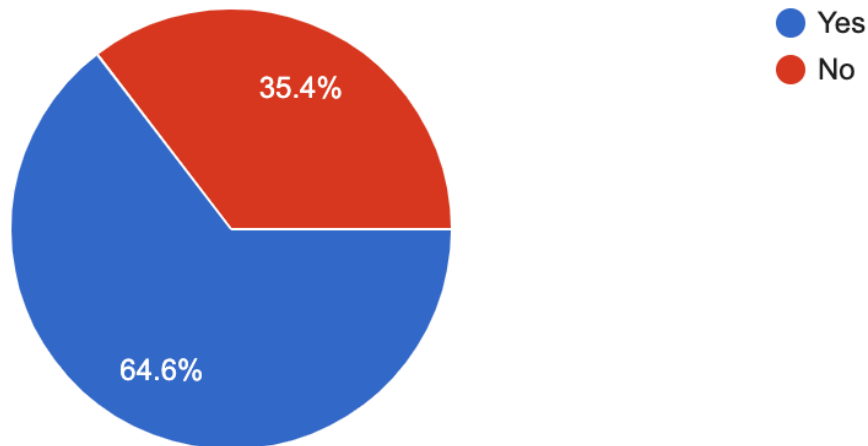
## Other and Ongoing Impacts

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Have you been impacted or do you anticipate being impacted in any other way?

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370 responses



## If so, please tell us more:

224 responses

### Emotional/Social/Psychological Impact

April 1st half:	22	(of 68)
April 2nd half:	23	(of 65)
May 1st half:	23	(of 46)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	20	(of 43)

### Fear of Loss of Interest in/Low Prioritisation of Collective Singing

April 1st half:	7	(of 68)
April 2nd half:	9	(of 65)
May 1st half:	7	(of 46)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	7	(of 43)

### Impact on the Focus of One's Work or Work Ability/Quality

April 1st half:	22	(of 68)
April 2nd half:	31	(of 65)
May 1st half:	14	(of 46)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	19	(of 43)

In more detail:

- Emotional/psychological/social impact
  - Loss of contact with singers
  - Loss of contact with audience
  - Loss of choir as social support
  - Loss of the fun we had in the choir
  - Loss of sense of purpose, lack of reason to train voice
  - Loss of skills/quality/competitiveness
  - Loss of opportunity to perform, have their works performed
    - Even with online methods, a severe reduction in opportunities to sing
  - Loss of contact with family and friends
  - Anxiety and stress
  - Fear of becoming depressed, especially if this goes on into autumn and winter
  - Panic at potential of becoming ill
  - Lack of freedom
  - Worries for choir members that do not have good homes
  - Emotional trauma for members, questioning of the relevance of a network
  - Social alienation, future impacts on social behaviour
- Physical impact
  - Loss of health benefits from singing
- Employment, Work, Activities
  - Technical replacements for rehearsals are inferior, latency problems, cannot really sing together, unsatisfying
  - Working online from home
    - Too much time on the telephone and looking at a screen
    - Zoom is exhausting
  - Lack of ability to plan, uncertainty, lack of continuity and its potential impacts on restarting
  - Loss of motivation and interest
    - Some already losing singers and students
  - Having to invent a new job
  - Not knowing how or when they will be able to return to work
  - Radical change to existing job
  - Have had to lay off conductor temporarily, and worried they will not get them back
  - Difficult to find work, difficult to rely on any work that they have found
  - Feeling that all the work that has been done for a project was for nothing
  - Anticipation of preparation, rescheduling activities, renegotiating funding, relations with public bodies etc.
  - Loss of planned choir exchange activities
    - E.g. a Hungarian choir was due to do an exchange with a choir in Catalonia
  - Difficult to motivate choir members, especially children
    - E.g. "Der persönliche Kontakt unter den Kindern und zwischen den Kindern und mir wird immer schwieriger. Es antworten immer weniger Kinder auf meine Anregungen."

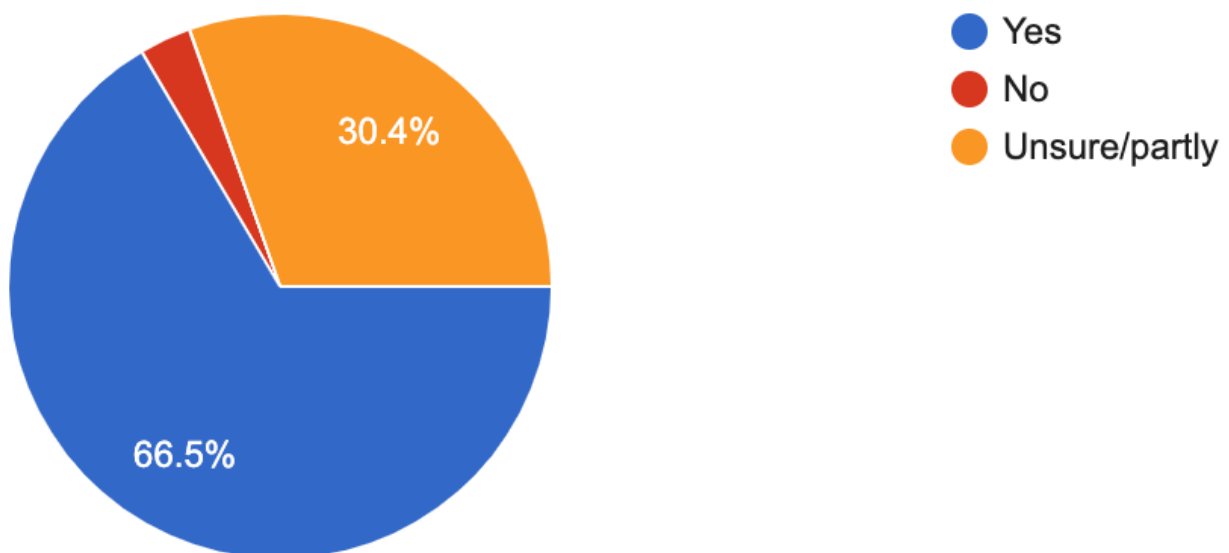


- *Translation: "Personal contact among the children and between the children and me is getting more and more difficult. Fewer and fewer children respond to my suggestions."*
        - Shorter working hours, social security, cancellation policies...
- Interest and Awareness
  - Reduction in local awareness of community and potential singers
    - E.g. "whether we will find our choir members and supporters when we open again"
    - Particularly older audience members who may not come out of fear of the virus
  - Reduction in interest in buying sheet music
- Other fears and impacts
  - Impact on children's education
  - Availability of childcare will make starting again difficult
  - Also no access to other leisure activities
- Also some positive examples:
  - E.g. "Some positive, some negative. I see the current crisis as an opportunity to reflect on my work and to take some time to think creatively about future projects. However, I also fear the loss of connection to musicians and audiences if this goes on too long. Some days I just have no motivation, although other days I feel inspired. It is a very weird time." (Freelancer, working as Singer, Conductor/choral or vocal leader and with Choir/vocal ensemble, Choral organisation/association)
  - E.g. "Strangely, the impact is positive and negative at the same time: I do not have the need to prepare a choir rehearsal once a week and be in good spirits and jolly. But of course I miss the social contact, and I miss the possibility of sharing my musical ideas with others." (Non-professional conductor/choral or vocal leader)
  - E.g. "The administration has had to adapt to dealing with shorter working hours, social security, cancellation policies and other such things to a much greater extent than usual. On the other hand, the lack of performances allows us to dive into our archives and produce video productions that we would not have had time for otherwise. Also, we are looking into ways of bringing together smaller sections of our choir and working with them." (Administration of a professional choir)

**When restrictions are lifted at a later date, will you (or your team) be willing to participate in choral life again as normal straight away? (e.g. attending rehearsals, events, travelling nationally/internationally)**

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388 responses



## If not, or if you are unsure, what concerns would make you (or your team) hesitant to participate in choral life again as normal?

146 responses

There is a general feeling that choral life will not return to normal for a long time, being "on hold" until at least 2021, and with no chance of going back to normal until a vaccine is found. Respondents are not willing to risk the health and lives of their singers, even though they feel a substantial loss in the ways listed above.

### Health

April 1st half:	17	(of 45)
April 2nd half:	22	(of 38)
May 1st half:	18	(of 21)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	23	(of 31)

### Other Impacts of COVID-19 (examples below)

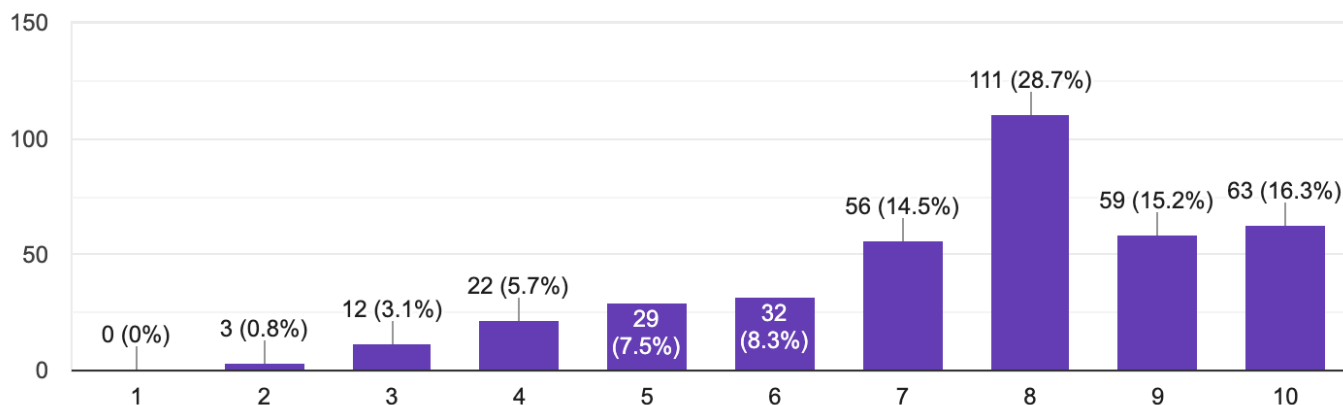
April 1st half:	17	(of 45)
April 2nd half:	22	(of 38)
May 1st half:	18	(of 21)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	23	(of 31)

- Health
  - NEED MORE RESEARCH: depends what the research says about the safety of singing, need more information
  - Fear of spreading the virus through singing, choral singing is too dangerous at the moment
  - Members in risk category, especially older singers
    - Also risk of picking up the virus and bringing it back to vulnerable family and friends
  - Not until there is a vaccine and can be sure that singers are safe
  - First priority is protection of singers - conductors do not want to endanger their singers/students
  - Fear of new outbreaks of COVID19
  - Depends on measures we can take to sing safely
  - Risks of activities with many people
  - Audience may be more cautious
  - Singers too
  - Concerns about
- Other Impacts of COVID-19
  - No conductor
  - Choir cannot afford to travel
  - Loss of motivation, singers dropping out
  - Uncertainty of any concert to perform at
  - People getting used to social distancing
  - Nowhere to rehearse
  - Quality will have dropped too much
  - Singers have other responsibilities
- Travelling
  - Foreign travels may be postponed and handled with caution also in a later phase.
  - "I already feel differently about travel. I also think that we will not be able to just immediately resume 'normal' activities as before."

## Overall Impact and Support Measures

### How would you rate the severity of all impacts related to COVID-19 on you/your organisation?

387 responses



### What could the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat or your national association do that would be helpful to you now and/or as the situation progresses?

270 responses

#### Advocacy

April 1st half:	19	(of 98)
April 2nd half:	24	(of 76)
May 1st half:	15	(of 46)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	13	(of 45)

#### Online Tool for Rehearsals

April 1st half:	13	(of 98)
April 2nd half:	12	(of 76)
May 1st half:	7	(of 46)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	5	(of 45)

#### Collate Information/Research

April 1st half:	18	(of 98)
April 2nd half:	13	(of 76)
May 1st half:	12	(of 46)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	20	(of 45)

#### Help with Financial Issues

April 1st half:	14	(of 98)
April 2nd half:	11	(of 76)
May 1st half:	6	(of 46)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	8	(of 45)

#### Help with Ideas How to Work

April 1st half:	8	(of 98)
April 2nd half:	16	(of 76)
May 1st half:	12	(of 46)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	12	(of 45)

#### Nothing/Don't Know

April 1st half:	16	(of 98)
April 2nd half:	12	(of 76)
May 1st half:	6	(of 46)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	3	(of 45)

## Organise Online Activities

April 1st half:	7	(of 98)
April 2nd half:	8	(of 76)
May 1st half:	5	(of 46)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	2	(of 45)

## Bring Community Together to Discuss

April 1st half:	11	(of 98)
April 2nd half:	4	(of 76)
May 1st half:	1	(of 46)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	1	(of 45)

## Communications

April 1st half:	8	(of 98)
April 2nd half:	6	(of 76)
May 1st half:	7	(of 46)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	7	(of 45)

## Raise the Profile of Choral Singing Publicly

April 1st half:	3	(of 98)
April 2nd half:	6	(of 76)
May 1st half:	2	(of 46)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	4	(of 45)

- General information and help
  - Make videos, webinars
  - Provide information about restrictions and possibilities
  - Investigate safe singing
  - Information on how choirs could restart in the coming months (using face masks? Singing at a physical distance? Singing outside?)
  - Help individuals in the field stay in touch with each other.
- Communication
  - More communication
  - Inform about EU level advocacy
  - Share ideas and opportunities
  - Gather and share research related to COVID and singing
  - Keep informing how we can survive after this crisis
- Rehearsals
  - Tools for online rehearsals and tutorials on how to use them
  - Sharing online rehearsal experiences
  - Validate side activities that enhance choir development, besides rehearsals online.
- Conductors
  - Build network/platform for conductors to help each other
  - Organise workshops and meetings for conductors
- Financial
  - Help with financial issues/questions
  - How to access financial support
  - Share opportunities
  - Reduce fees for advertising/participating in festivals
- Advocacy + Raising Profile
  - At EU level
  - National level
    - “Maybe help our government understand that self-employed musical directors have a complex work situation” (Norway)
    - “Raise your voice in politics. Money is given to all the big firms etc. but us they tell to get "Hartz 4" in Germany. I am not jobless, I just cannot work because of the restrictions enforced upon us.”
  - “Start a discussion about the relevance of cultural life in general and how minor and major institutions could be supported financially and ideologically in times of restrictions like this”
  - “Ask government/public/private funding organizations to commit to a generous policy with regard to project cancellations, contingencies, and missed goals”
  - Campaign for better connectivity in Europe (high-speed internet in little villages)
- Festivals
  - Make sure Europa Cantat can take place! (even if with fewer people and social distancing measures)
  - Organize online festivals based on Amateur recordings, and reduce the prices for participation in subsequent ones if possible
  - Maybe lower the price of registrations for ECA-EC festivals
- Positive Attitude (only appears first half April)
  - Give us encouragement, keep in touch, share positivity
  - “Stay firm and never give up on Choirs. In the near future I want to participate with you.”

## Please describe any measures being taken in your country that should help alleviate the effects on the choral sector, providing links where possible:

208 responses

Please see [this Google document](#) for measures at EU and national level. Please comment with any support measures you are aware of in your country if not listed. Throughout, some have not been aware of measures that others in their country knew about.

## What measures would you regard as helpful to you/the choral sector? Do you have any concrete political demands?

214 responses

### Financial Support

April 1st half:	28	(of 63)
April 2nd half:	19	(of 55)
May 1st half:	12	(of 32)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	7	(of 28)

### Access to Funding/Less Bureaucracy

April 1st half:	10	(of 63)
April 2nd half:	4	(of 55)
May 1st half:	1	(of 32)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	-	(of 28)

### Recognition of Importance of Culture/Singing

April 1st half:	8	(of 63)
April 2nd half:	7	(of 55)
May 1st half:	6	(of 32)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	5	(of 28)

### Support in Alternative Rehearsal Arrangements

April 1st half:	1	(of 63)
April 2nd half:	21	(of 55)
May 1st half:	6	(of 32)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	12	(of 28)

### Clear Scientific Information, Rules and Vaccine Development

April 1st half:	-	(of 63)
April 2nd half:	2	(of 55)
May 1st half:	11	(of 32)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	8	(of 28)

### Don't Know/Not Sure

April 1st half:	15	(of 63)
April 2nd half:	6	(of 55)
May 1st half:	5	(of 32)
May 2nd half to 3 June:	3	(of 28)

- **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

- Universal Basic Income
- Tax relief
- Special support schemes
  - With support from different levels: EU, national, regional, local
  - Without unnecessary bureaucracy and form-filling
  - Flexible conditions to access
- Recuperating losses
  - Making it easier for musicians to access compensation
  - Financial guarantees for projects impacted by COVID
- Ensure that conductors and musicians are paid
- Ensure funding reaches freelancers
  - "government support is only applicable if you have business costs like shop rent or employee wages. We don't have that, so all that's left for us is basic welfare with all the stigma and potential legal dangers that come with that...I'm part of a petition to amend that..." (Germany)
- Modification of requirements for special statuses/subsidies

- “For France, a reduction of the global amount of hours to qualify the intermittence status.”
    - “Official bodies should help. Official subsidies and allowances in our country are unfortunately linked to the choirs' activities: the more activities the higher possibilities of obtaining funds.” (Spain)
  - Retrospective changes to insurance policy regards cancellations
- Recognise the role of culture/choral singing in society
  - Do not cut culture funding
  - Increase funding for culture
- **Clear Information**
  - What safety measures should be taken
  - More information on safety of choral singing
  - Vaccine development
  - Research on aerosols
  - What is and what is not possible
  - Schedule for re-opening
  - Create a central contact point for the choral sector at regional or departmental level (France)
- **Re-opening/Alternative Rehearsal Measures**
  - Support development of online tools to allow choirs to rehearse and perform together
  - Facilitate rehearsals carried out with appropriate safety measures, e.g. provide venues
  - Allow the sector to get back to normal:
    - Allow concerts by the end of the year, especially for the Christmas season
    - Allow small rehearsal groups
    - Allow concerts
    - Open the churches for choirs
    - Help older people to be able to go out and sing
- **Nothing**
  - “The most important thing for me and my choirs is being able to get back to the rehearsal room together, and I don't think there is anything the government can do to make that happen faster. Possibly provide big enough rehearsal rooms for us if that can even be done.”