

European Choral Association

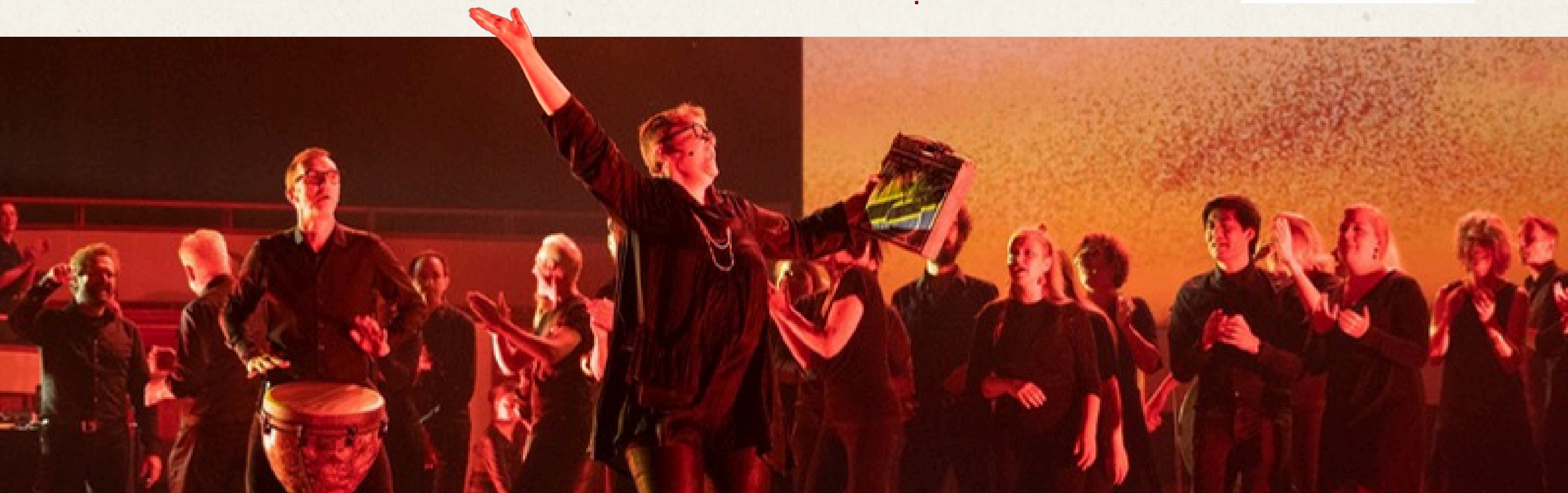
The voice for collective singing in Europe and beyond

www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org

Support us in making that voice
even stronger!



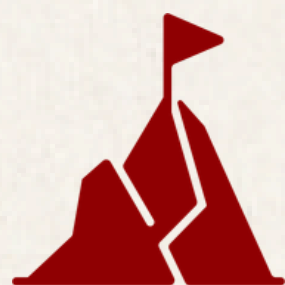
EUROPEAN
CHORAL
ASSOCIATION





WHO ARE WE AND WHY DO WE EXIST

The European Choral Association is the voice for collective singing in Europe and beyond.



Our mission is to inspire through the power of collective singing, and foster collaboration throughout Europe and reaching beyond.

We are a network of organisations in the field of collective singing, active since **1955**. Through our membership, we directly represent more than **2.5 million people in about 35 countries and reach over 37 million singers** who sing together with others experiencing the benefits of singing.

Did you know that  -----
4.5% of the European population is actively involved in **collective singing?**

----- Now we want to make -----
this percentage even greater!

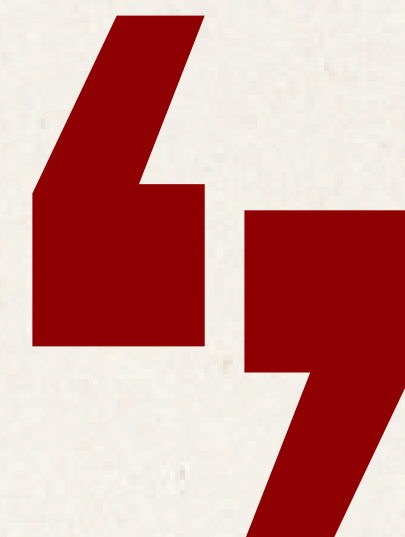


THE
37
MILLION

People singing in Europe make up one million choirs. Assuming each choir gives two concerts a year with 200 listeners each, this means a total audience of **400 million** people every year.

“The European Choral Association is a vibrant network – a family that stands for collective singing as intangible cultural heritage. It promotes vocal activities that are much more than just the creation of acoustic waves.”

- *Kamil Gojowy* Silesian Association of Choirs and Orchestras, Poland



“The European Choral Association has brought together thousands of singers year after year. Its role has been extremely important in developing the choral music sector in Europe and beyond.”

- *Minnakaisa Kuivalainen*

-Tampere Vocal Music Festival, Finland

WHAT DO WE DO, WHY AND HOW

We bring people together through singing to increase mutual understanding across borders by offering activities for the collective singing community.



WE DO ALL
THIS ACCORDING TO OUR VALUES:

**DIVERSITY,
INCLUSIVITY,
BELONGING, LIFELONG
LEARNING, AND**

joy

“The European Choral Association has meant a lot to me over the past three decades. It feels like a family or like a choir. **A family in the sense that the community is safe, friendly, and open to discussion.** A choir in the sense that everyone in the community works and lives for the same passion: choral music. It brings together singers, conductors, composers, organisers, and enthusiasts from all over Europe and even from other parts of the world.”

- *Reijo Kekkonen*
Sulasol, Finland





WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

In the late 1950s, conductors from across Europe – many of them former soldiers – gathered at a youth event in Loreley, Germany. Their vision was clear: **young singers should never again wish to go to war with one another.**

Inspired by the French festival Choralies, they imagined a festival where singers from different nations would not only perform, but **learn, rehearse, eat, and live together**, forming lasting friendships.

Collective singing as a bridge between people and nations after World War II

This vision became reality **in 1961** with the first **EUROPA CANTAT festival** in Passau, Germany.

Two years later, **the European Federation of Young Choirs** was founded, evolving over time into the organisation we know today. **In 2011**, a historic merger led to the creation of **the European Choral Association.**

With 70 years of experience, we remain true to our origins while looking boldly to the future.

WHERE ARE WE GOING

Our vision is to create a future where everybody experiences the benefits of singing.



We pursue this vision through four strategic focus areas:



Broadening our network
through regional development



Organising non-competitive activities that connect people from different countries



Facilitating cooperation and partnerships between members of the network



Raising awareness of the benefits of collective singing.

**The roadmap is ready. The experience is there.
Your support turns ambition into impact.**

Scientific research confirms:
the benefits of singing are *social, physical, psychological, and educational.*



“Successful singing is likely to be associated with a more positive sense of self because of perceived competence and singing self-efficacy which supports general self-esteem and the feeling of being socially included.”



“There is a clear tendency toward an entrainment effect between singers in terms of HR acceleration and deceleration as soon as they sing a simple structure in unison.”



“Both singing and listening to singing can alter mood immediately after participation in a short singing session and that some of these effects were evident even one week later.”



“The effects observed for the singing group were that the children scored higher on creativity, had higher levels of abstraction, and showed greater creativity in improvised puppet play. They also demonstrated better motor development.”

SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES



Our four strategic focus areas have been shaped into concrete packages – ready for your support. Together, we can move toward a world where everyone can experience the benefits of singing – a world of harmony and mutual understanding.

Our goal: increase our annual budget by €300,000 over the next three years.

1. Connecting Europe and beyond

In the 1950s, our founders saw the power of singing together to create lifelong friendships across Europe. Today, this is more essential than ever – yet meaningful connections don't happen by chance.

The European Choral Association has the distinctive experience and expertise to build and strengthen these connections. We aim especially to engage underrepresented regions in **South and Central Eastern Europe**, ensuring that the European choral community truly reflects all of Europe. A broader network also means more opportunities to foster understanding through singing, and a stronger voice to advocate for its value in society.

Building on the success of the EU-funded IGNITE project (2021–2024), our next step is to deepen and expand our network – but this requires resources.





With **your support**

We can hire a part-time freelancer and cover travel costs to strengthen regional connections. Even small contributions make a difference – for example, helping us invite representatives from these regions to our events to experience the power of our network first-hand.

“Besides the fantastic network that the European Choral Association offers us, **the target groups of our own organisation have also greatly benefited from its events: Flemish choirs have gained international visibility,** and (young) conductors and composers have been able to share their work and knowledge.

– *Jeroen Beckers*
Flemish Federation of Young Choirs, Belgium

2. Bringing Our Network to Life: The Membership Weekend

A true community is more than a network – it's an active, vibrant space for meeting, exchanging, and cooperating. **That's what our Membership Weekend offers each year: a two-day gathering hosted with a local member organisation, bringing together 80–120 participants from over 25 countries.**

These weekends are the lifeblood of our network. They spark new collaborations, strengthen relationships, and provide fertile ground for creativity and joint initiatives. In short, they connect people across borders through singing.

With **70 years** of experience and a network representing **2.5 million people**, we are uniquely placed to mobilise and nurture **multilateral friendships in Europe and beyond.**

We **invite you**



*to support us in **keeping Membership Weekend inclusive and accessible.** Your contribution helps us **maintain affordable fees** – and enables us to invite representatives from underrepresented countries to experience the power of our community first-hand.*

3. Shaping the Future with Youth



Youth has been at the heart of our work since the 1950s. We know that the ecosystem for choral singing in Europe and the world needs continued investment in young people and the promotion of youth singing. **Through three flagship initiatives, we give young people platforms to be heard, learn, and shape the world of collective singing:**

- **European Youth Choir (EYC):** Each year, talented young singers gather in a different European city to make high-level music with renowned conductors, explore international careers, and form lifelong friendships. **For over 40 years, the EYC (f.k.a. EuroChoir) has been a gateway to the international choral scene.**

- **Young Event Management Programme (YEMP):** This unique training immerses young choral managers and organisers in the real-world running of major events, combining hands-on experience with mentoring from leading professionals.
- **Youth Committee (YC):** Eight young people under 28 collaborate for three years to provide a youth perspective to our board, contribute to decision-making, and shape the future of collective singing.

We aim to continue offering these life-changing experiences, which are vital to nurturing the next generation of singers, conductors, vocal leaders, as well as managers and organisers.



Your support **helps us**



Keep EYC participation fees accessible and allow more young singers to join.

Cover staff costs for YEMP.



Fund YC travel so members can meet face-to-face and engage in choral events.



Being in such a **MUSICAL NETWORK** is so *great* that it makes me **FEEL ALIVE**



Firat Bilen, Noël Minet scholarship recipient and EuroChoir participant, Turkey

4. Letting the world know why singing together matters

Singing together is proven to improve social, physical, psychological, and educational well-being. **Millions of Europeans already experience these benefits through collective singing—and we want even more people to join in.**





To do this, we aim to raise awareness about collective singing and provide opportunities to experience it in person in supportive environments. This includes **renewing our website, leveraging social media, engaging the media, producing webinars, sharing knowledge with our members, and encouraging open singing sessions for the public at events.**

With more awareness and access, more people will sing—and the world will be better for it.

We have the network, materials in 24 languages, and the commitment.



Play a key role in making this happen by supporting the position of a dedicated communication specialist

Make a donation to the European Choral Association through our support organisation the Friends of the European Choral Association

europeanchoralassociation.org/friendsofecaf/

If you want to know more before contributing, please, contact our Secretary General Sonja Greiner



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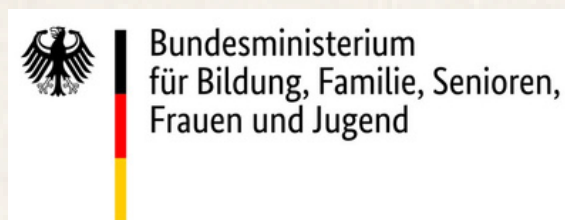
SecretaryGeneral@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org



Be part of *turning our vision* **into reality!**

**Join your voice with ours to make
an impact that will be heard
throughout Europe and beyond!**

SUPPORTED BY



MEMBER OF

