

HUNG(A)RY FOR NEWS

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www.ecpecs2015.hu

europa
cantat



EUROPA CANTAT XIX
Hungary, Pécs 2015
24 July - 2 August

Dear friends and members of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat, dear participants of the EUROPA CANTAT festival,



this is a special issue of our European Choral magazine, and at the same time the first of a series of "festival newspapers" distributed at the EUROPA CANTAT Festival in Pécs. When you will be holding this in your hand, thousands of singers, conductors, composers and managers from all over Europe and beyond will be on their way or will just have arrived in the city of Pécs to join the festival EUROPA CANTAT XIX, to sing in workshops, to learn from conductors, lecturers and experts – and from each other, to present their choirs in concert, to listen to numerous performances with music from around the Globe, including performances of some of the best choirs from Hungary and its neighboring countries as well as some special invited groups and choirs, to meet a lot of people from different countries and cultures, and to make new friends. While the choirs and singers will be rehearsing new repertoire in more than 40 parallel workshops, conductors and composers will be able to choose from a rich programme of lectures, workshops, repertoire sessions and round tables covering today's "hot topics", and representatives of national and international choir and music organizations, festivals and competitions will gather for a series of international meetings. And on August 1st we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Europäischer Chorverbände (AGEC), the association that merged with Europa Cantat – European Federation of Young Choirs in 2011. The city of Pécs will be filled with singing and music for 10 days, and this choral feast will bring back memories of the festival EUROPA CANTAT X in 1988, the first and only EUROPA CANTAT festival behind the iron curtain, as well as of Pécs Cantat in 2010, when Pécs was European Capital of Culture. Together with our fantastic international team I am happy to welcome the festival and its participants, musicians and guests here in Pécs and in Hungary.

Gábor Móczár

President of European Choral Association –
Europa Cantat / Executive Manager of the Festival

EN

Issue 2/2015 of Ecmagazine comes to you "in disguise" – fulfilling the double function of welcoming the participants of the festival EUROPA CANTAT XIX in Pécs, July 24th to August 1st 2015 as "number 0" of the daily festival journal, and sharing some information about the festival with those who will not be able to come to Pécs. You will find some statistics about the festival, a text about the daily Open Singing with Michael Gohl, memories of the 1988 festival, a youth page, a glimpse at the 2016 programme of ECA-EC, a summary of the Singing Europe research result and last but not least a presentation of the "Friends of Choral Music in Europe" on the back cover.

This issue is only the first of our daily festival newspaper, Hung(a)ry for News.

Look for Hung(a)ry for News everyday at your lodgings and at the program locations for useful informations and interesting articles!

Important information regarding the rain locations!

Contrary to the festival guide there is no rain location for the Opening Ceremony! The organizers would like to ask everyone to consult the info screens and info towers in the town centre, our website and Facebook page about updated information on what will happen with concerts and especially the Opening Ceremony on Saturday in case of rain.

HU

Az Ecmagazin 2015/2 száma kettős funkciót tölt be; egyrészt üdvözi a XIX. EUROPA CANTAT résztvevőit a fesztiválúság nulladik számaként, emellett pedig azokat is informálja, akik nem tudnak velünk lenni eme 10 nap alatt. A következő oldalakon megtaláljátok a fesztivál legfontosabb adatait, olvashattok egy cikket a Közös Éneklésekről, felidézünk az 1988-as EUROPA CANTAT emlékeit, beletekinthettek fiataljaink munkájába és az ECA-EC jövő évben várható programjaiba. Végül, de nem utolsósorban beavatunk benneteket a "Kóruszene Európai Barátai" kezdeményezésébe.

Ez a szám csupán az első fesztiválúságunk, a Hung(a)ry for News számainak sorában.

Keressétek a Hung(a)ry for News példányait a szállásotokon és a programhelyszíneken, hogy folyamatosan naprakész információkat és izgalmas cikkeket olvashassatok!

Fontos információ az esőhelyszínekkel kapcsolatban!

Szomben a programfüzetben megjelentekkel, a július 25. nyitóünnepségnek nincs esőhelyszíne! Az EUROPA CANTAT ideje alatt mindenkit arra kérünk, hogy az esetleges esőhelyszínekről honlapunkról, Facebook oldalunkról és információs tornyainkról ájékozzádjon!

DE

Das Ecmagazine 2/2015 ist außergewöhnlich: als "Ausgabe 0" der Festivalzeitung, heißt es die Teilnehmer des EUROPA CANTAT Festivals XIX herzlich willkommen, welches in Pécs vom 24. Juli bis zum 1. August 2015 stattfindet. Außerdem enthält diese Ausgabe Informationen über das Festival, für diejenigen, die nicht nach Pécs kommen können. Hier finden Sie einige Zahlen über das Festival, einen Text über das Offene Singen mit Michael Gohl, Erinnerungen an das Festival im Jahr 1988, eine Seite von und für die Jugend, einen Einblick in das Programm von ECA-EC für das Jahr 2016, eine Zusammenfassung der Ergebnisse der Singing Europe Studie, und zu guter Letzt eine Vorstellung der „Freunde der europäischen Chormusik e.V.“ auf der Rückseite des Magazins.

Diese Ausgabe ist die erste unserer täglich erscheinenden Festivalzeitung, "Hung(a)ry for News".

Holen Sie sich jeden Tag Ihr persönliches Exemplar von Hung(a)ry for News in Ihrer Unterkunft, in den Standorten der Ateliers oder Konzerte für nützliche Informationen und interessante Artikel!

Wichtige Information bezüglich der Rückzugshalle im Falle von Regen!

Im Gegensatz zu dem, was im Festivalguide steht, gibt es für die Eröffnungsveranstaltung keine Rückzugsmöglichkeit im Falle von Regen! Die Teilnehmer werden darum gebeten, sich über die Anzeigetafeln und die Info-Säulen in der Innenstadt, über unsere Website und über unsere Facebook-Seite zu informieren. Aktuelle Informationen zu wetterbedingten Änderungen bei Konzerten, insbesondere bei der Eröffnungsveranstaltung am Samstag, werden dort veröffentlicht.

FR

Ce numéro 2/2015 du Ecmagazine s'est déguisé... en « numéro 0 » du journal du Festival! Il rempli en effet une double fonction: ce numéro souhaite la bienvenue à tous les participants au Festival EUROPA CANTAT XIX qui se tient à Pécs du 24 juillet au 1er août 2015. En même temps il délivre à nos lecteurs qui ne peuvent être présents à Pécs des informations intéressantes sur le Festival. Vous y trouverez quelques statistiques sur le Festival, un article sur le Chant Commun avec Michael Gohl, des souvenirs du Festival 1988, une page « jeunes », un coup d'œil au programme 2016 d'ECA-EC, un résumé des résultats de l'étude Singing Europe, et enfin une présentation des « Amis de la musique chorale européenne » en dernière page.

Ceci n'est que le premier numéro du quotidien du festival : Hung(a)ry for News.

Ne manquez aucun numéro de Hung(a)ry for News: il est disponible dans votre hébergement, sur les lieux de concerts et d'atelier et vous fournira des informations utiles et des articles intéressants

Information importante concernant les solutions de repli en cas de pluie!

Contrairement à ce qu'il a été indiqué dans le guide du festival, il n'existe pas de solution de repli en cas de pluie pour la soirée d'ouverture ! Les participants sont priés de consulter les écrans d'affichages et les colonnes d'informations, ou bien notre site Internet ou notre page Facebook afin de se tenir informés des éventuelles modifications de concerts en cas de mauvais temps, en particulier concernant la soirée d'ouverture de samedi.

A festival in numbers and beyond

More than 4000 participants, 1500 musical contributors, 300 volunteers, more than 130 concerts, numerous venues throughout Pécs and the region, a Night of Choirs... There is no doubt, the XIX EUROPA CANTAT is going to be a gigantic festival.

Many people will fill the streets and squares of Pécs from July 24th until August 2nd, when — after 27 years — EUROPA CANTAT returns to the city of choirs. The numbers are dazzling, let's see what we've got:

4050 singers and professionals have registered to the programmes of EUROPA CANTAT, 1500 will be here to participate in the musical ateliers, 300 volunteers will be, or are already helping the 150 organisers and 300 protocol guests. All this adds up to almost 6500 singing people in 10 days. And that is without counting the numerous spontaneous Hungarians who might stop for the free concerts around town or just to hear all of us sing on the streets.

But even without the locals of Pécs it's not over exaggerated to say that we people of EUROPA CANTAT are a small city on our own. A real cosmopolitan city might we add since people will be coming from 50 different countries from all over the World. Our common language: music.

With the inexhaustible number of programmes nobody has the slightest chance to get bored. In 10 days there will be more than 130 concerts, 40 extensive ateliers, 50 discovery ateliers, 80 ateliers for conductors and composers and all of them offering unique experiences for everyone. In case that's still not enough action, there will be touristic programmes for those who would like to discover Pécs and its surroundings.

EUROPA CANTAT Pécs gives you a chance not only to get to know Pécs but the region as well. Besides the 28 concert and ateliers venues in Pécs there are also 16 venues in surrounding towns and villages embracing the CANTAT experience during the festival.

But the topping on our musical festival cocktail will be the Night of Choirs on July 26th, when the entire city center will be filled with singing during more than 50 concerts in 11 venues with an open singing on Széchenyi Square. Can you wish for more?

We could go on for hours writing down the numbers of XIX EUROPA CANTAT but in the end it's not the numbers that define the festival but all of us. We will make the most out of these 10 days. The experience of community and common singing can not be measured. It can only be absorbed and taken home with us for ever.

Open Singing: Sing along — sing together!

Are you hungry for meeting all festival participants? For making friends by singing and dancing together?

Hung(a)ry for

- Discovering the most beautiful songs from around the world?
- Enjoying easy to learn, jolly songs that make you move and dance together?
- Enjoying some jewels of the classic tradition as well as the popular tradition?
- Digging in the vast treasures of the EC- Festival Songbook?
- Becoming inspired by new ideas of repertoire, interpretation and choreography?
- Meeting guest conductors and guest choirs?

Then you will enjoy the daily Open Singing!

Important note: Please bring the festival Songbook also to every concert. In each concert you will also find a "Sing together"-song!

The repertoire

In every Open Singing you will sing one or two songs from each of the four main chapters of the Festival Songbook.

1. "Canons and Movements" offers a tasty selection of easy to learn canons both humoresque and sacred, some of them with movement, others with depth and charisma.
2. "Countries and Cultures" is a collection of jewels from the majority of countries represented in the festival.
3. "Classics and Sacred Music" contains treasures of the classical repertoire, many of them originating from the traditions of the countries represented in the festival.
4. "Gospel, Jazz and Popular" lets us dive into the grooves of the Gospel and Jazz tradition as well as worldwide popular songs of our time.

Some of the songs will be rehearsed directly with you; others will be performed for you by the pilot choir, or a guest choir, and just repeated once with everybody — may you be inspired to take those songs home with you. Other songs will most probably become the new festival repertoire — you, the festival visitors, will decide!

The Songbook

It is the tradition of Europa Cantat festivals that the Open Singing Songbook is a mirror of the most beloved songs of conductors and singers around the world in the present time. It always contains traditional songs, bridges to the previous festivals, as well as new songs. Obviously, the host country always receives a preferential amount of space in the collection.

We'd like to say

Thank you! to all conductors around the world who have added songs to this edition from their own tradition and experience. It was hard for the publishers to make a choice! Nevertheless, the Songbook still offers you more songs than can ever be covered in the Open Singing, so you have the chance to discover some of them on your own.

The Pilot Choir

We are happy to welcome this year's pilot choir: The Pécs University Choir (Dir. Prof. Dr. Tamás Lakner), a motivated group of students, has worked hard to prepare a big variety of songs for you and are eager to share them with you!

Also, Krisztián Horváth will accompany and inspire us with his art every evening at the piano.

Guest conductors and Guest Choirs

Let's be open for more surprises! Every evening, guest conductors will lead you into new fields of music, guest choirs will perform the songs from their home countries — Use the chance to hear "the original"! Read the daily magazine in order to be informed about which guest conductors and guest choirs will perform in the Open Singing on the next day.

Festival Song and Opening Ceremony

We hope you know our festival song already?! If not you will surely know it very soon! "Sing, sing!" by Szabolcs Balásy will be performed in the concert of the Opening Ceremony with you and the Voisingers + Cantissimo from Pecs, accompanied by the Pecs Philharmonic Orchestra. Also the magnificent "Verleih uns Frieden" by Mendelssohn will be performed with all participants and the orchestra. You want to study it in advance? Visit Burak Onur Erdem on Friday, 24th at Pirogranit court (Zsolnay)!

The singers of the Pilot Choir, Krisztián Horváth, Burak Onur Erdem (my assistant conductor) and myself are looking forward to singing and enjoying every evening with you in the Dóm Square!

Michael Gohl

More than 60 years of History of choral cooperation in Europe

First meetings between French and German conductors: In 1952 a group of German and French conductors met during a youth week at the German Lorelei which gathered young people from Belgium, France, Germany and Great Britain for common cultural activities.

Foundation of AGECE: In 1952 in Innsbruck representatives of choir associations in Austria, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland established the idea to promote choir singing by exchanging compositions, choirs and other initiatives throughout Europe. The Arbeitsgemeinschaft Europäischer Chorverbände AGECE was officially founded in Strasbourg on the 10th of December 1955. We are thus celebrating the 60th anniversary of AGECE in 2015.

Foundation of Europa Cantat: 5 years later, on May 5th 1960, representatives of the French association A Cœur Joie and the German association AMJ as well as conductors from France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Spain and Yugoslavia met in Geneva, Switzerland, with the idea of creating a "European Federation of Young Choirs" and organising an international festival for youth which first took place in Passau, Germany from July 28th to August 6th 1961, shortly before the wall was built. In February 1963 a non-profit association as legal body as officially created in Bonn, Germany, in the presence of the German Youth Minister. We are thus also celebrating the 55th anniversary of the "de facto" foundation of the European Federation of Young Choirs which later became Europa Cantat.

The merger – Foundation of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat (ECA-EC): On May 9th 2009 (decision by membership of AGECE) and November 14th 2009 (decision by membership of Europa Cantat – European Federation of Young Choirs) it was decided to merge the two choral organisations into one under the name of European Choral Association – Europa Cantat from January 1st 2011.

Sonja has put some historical pictures in a dropbox folder for Núria

Benefit from the Singing Community – ECA-EC today: Today the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat gathers over 50 regional and national choral organizations and institutions in 29 European countries plus Israel as well as several hundred member choirs and individual members. Under the motto "Benefit from the Singing Community" the association invests in capacity building and training, in connecting people from different communities and in raising awareness for the benefits of singing. More about the programme of the association today on page 5.

History of the Europa Cantat Festivals: The first EUROPA CANTAT Festival in 1961 gathered 69 groups from 12 countries and was organized in the spirit of peacemaking and the promotion of tolerance and intercultural understanding as well as the promotion of choral music from different parts of Europe. Gottfried Wolters (Germany) and Roger Motz (France, blinded during World War II) went on stage together to tell the young participants that they had both been fighting on opposite sides during the war but were now friends and promoters of peace. Since 1961 the festival has been taking place every three years, each time in another city and country (with the cities of Autun (FR), Nevers (FR) and Namur (BE) having hosted the festival twice:



The letter of Mme Jacqueline CORNELOUP to Mr GABOR MOCZÁR President of the International Federation EUROPA-CANTAT

Mr Chairman,

I am ever so grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak in memory of my husband, Marcel Corneloup, who organised EUROPA-CANTAT 10 in 1988. Marcel Corneloup felt that Zoltan Kodaly's homeland was a significant reference, both in terms of musical education and of polyphonic singing. I was fortunate to accompany him on his journeys, visiting colleges and meeting Mr Aurel Tillai and his marvellous Vocal Ensemble at the House of Teachers.

In 1983 Marcel Corneloup wrote: « You have to see the others' landscapes, sing their songs, read their poets, listen to their music in order to get to know them and hence, love them. » In 1985, he therefore organised a trip to Hungary with his own vocal ensemble « A Capella Lyon ». All my friends in the choir have fond memories of it. We got to know the beautiful city of Pécs: its magnificent cathedral, its earthenware factory, its little « bistros » and especially its sumptuous museums from which two prints : « the Zebras » by Vasarely and « Maria of Nazareth » by Csontvary are still in our drawing room. In 1988, the 10th Europa Cantat took place. The mayor of the city at the time, Mr Zoltan Piti, put his trust in this bold enterprise and supported it. I think with emotion of all the musicians we met, some of whom have made the beautiful history of our choral world.

These first encounters were very rewarding. Let me just recall one event. In 2001 we celebrated the millennium of Hungary in the Cathedral of Autun with a programme entirely devoted to Hungarian music, notably Kodaly's Psalmus Hungaricus and Te Deum. I wish every success to Europa Cantat 2015, lots of joy to all participants and to their hosts in Pécs. In conclusion, let me quote Marcel Corneloup again:

« We know vocal polyphony's power: by marrying different voices, it favours understanding, it unites hearts and minds, it makes souls listen to one another, it is our path for peace. »

Thank you very much
Jacqueline CORNELOUP



“WHO ARE ALL THESE YOUNG TEAM MEMBERS?”

About our young volunteers, EUROPA CANTAT's Young Event Management Programme (YEMP) and the ECA-EC's Youth Committee

After two successful sessions in Utrecht (2009) and Turin (2012) the organizing team of the EUROPA CANTAT XIX festival decided to hold the third edition of YEMP – Young Event Management Programme for choral organizers in Pécs. YEMP is a two-week training course including lectures and training on the job, open for young managers aged 18 to 30, who are motivated to learn and to develop their skills in international event management. After a selection process 25 young people from different countries are invited to participate in the programme. The young YEMPers, fully integrated in the organizing team, will be testing themselves with roles of responsibility in the various offices of the festival, under the guidance of two coaches. This year we have 6 young people from Hungary and the others are from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia and The Netherlands. ... The coaches are Katalin Daróczi, Hungary and Kjetil Aaman, Norway.

List of YEMPers:

Amarilla REGŐS (HU)
 Barbara GRZYBEK (PL)
 Bijia Lou (DE)
 Boróka Móczár (HU) -
 Franka WEBER (DE)
 Irene VIGANÓ (IT)
 Janka KUKUCSKA (HU)
 Judit NINK (HU)
 Kilian SCHMIDT (DE)
 Kristiina Veerde (EE)
 Lenka LESKÓ (HU)
 Lieselot VEYS (BE)
 Mariann NAGY (HU)
 Marina JURKOVIĆ (CR)
 Marlene MAIER (DE)
 Mateusz KOZŁOWSKI (PL)
 Nevena TRIVIC (RS)
 Petra SZALÓKI (HU)
 Rianne SCHONEVELD (NL)
 Rita TILLAI (HU)
 Sascha SOPPER (AT)
 Silvija PROCKYTE (LT)
 Siofra Nic LIAM (IE)
 Sophie COTTET (FR)
 Yohana PORMAN SILITONGA (ID)

Interview with Jesse Boere, Chair of the Youth Committee of ECA-EC:

You might have noticed already: quite a few people working for the festival are young, not only those participating in the Young Event Management Programme. Some of our heads of departments are young and are growing with their responsibilities, and we have many young staff members and volunteers. Now, “young” is a broad term of course. Anyone can be young – young in spirit – and culturally the word(s) young and/or youth have different definitions. But there seems to be a majority consensus on the age below 27-30. The European Choral Association – Europa Cantat (ECA-EC) is without a doubt active in engaging with this age group.

“ECA-EC is a frontrunner of youth empowerment in the cultural field”, says Jesse Boere, currently Chair of the Youth Committee of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat. “With the establishment of a Youth Committee back in 2002, we committed ourselves to involving more young people in decision making processes of the Association. We were one of the first international cultural NGOs taking such a step.”

A lot has changed since. The ECA-EC currently has a Board that has a better age distribution than it had in the past. Jesse: “Until the early 90ies, the Board consisted mostly of 50+ members (with just one woman among the 13 Board members). Since then, several Youth Committee members have found their way into the Board which now has members crossing many generations and an equal distribution between men and women. This has been a good development in my opinion.”

The current Youth Committee is soon finishing its three-year term. Doesn't Jesse want to carry on for another term? “When I started chairing the Youth Committee three years ago, I was in a different phase of my life”, he says. “It is time for me to move on and let others gain this amazing experience me and my fellow committee members had”.

Are you curious how to become a member of the Youth Committee of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat for the next three years? Keep an eye on the website or if you're very eager, send an email to youthcommittee@eca-ec.org so you won't miss the formal call for application.

You will also have the chance to meet some members of the Youth Committee during our festival in Pécs, where they will be working in different offices but will try to also find the time to talk to you. You can contact the booth of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat at the festival EXPO between July 28th and August 1st, 15.00 – 20.30 and ask for an appointment with one of the Youth Committee members:

Jesse Boere (NL – Chair, Festival Office, Holland House and runner)
 Burak Onur Erdem (TR – assistant to Michael Gohl for Open Singing)
 Emi Farago (HU – very busy in the Music Office)
 Iva Radulovic (RS – chair of Working Group YEMP, Staff Office)
 Flannery Ryan (DE – helping out in the Communication Office)

What's next?

The programme 2016 of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat (ECA-EC)

A recent study (see below and www.singingeurope.org) has shown that the potential of singing people in the European continent including Russia is around 37 Million. The intention of ECA-EC is to reach out to as many of these singers as possible. The activities under the label of ECA-EC in different European countries are always international and educational, and they include opportunities for meeting people from other cultures and learning from each other.

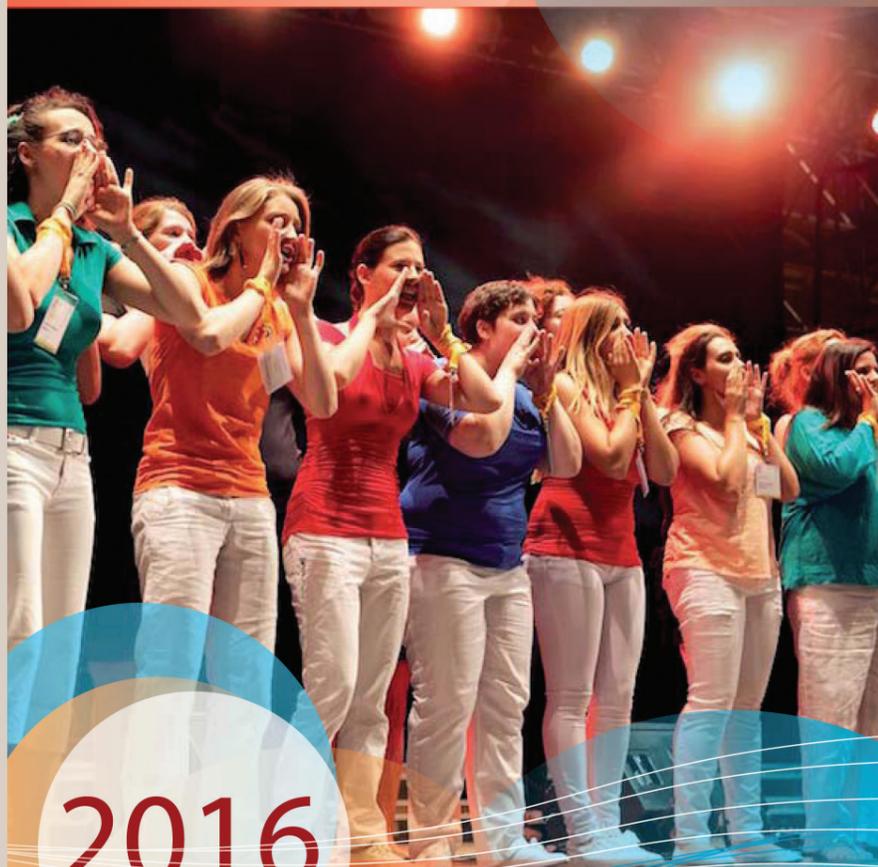
The participants of the festival will find the brochure with the 2016 programme of activities of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat in their bags – others will receive it by post in the coming weeks or can download it on www.eca-ec.org -> Events -> Events 2016. The programme also looks ahead at some activities in 2017 for which you can already mark the dates in your calendar.

The brochure contains three types of activities:

Activities of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat, designed by ECA-EC, travelling between different countries)

Eurochoir 2016, San Vito al Tagliamento (IT) 29/7 - 7/8/16
Looking ahead: Eurochoir 2017, Utrecht (NL) 8 - 15/7/17
Conference, Membership Day and GA 2015, Helsinki (FI) 12-15/11/15
Looking ahead: Conference and GA 2016, Kerkrade (NL) 10-13/11/16
Looking ahead: Festival EUROPA CANTAT XX 2018, Tallinn (EE) 27/7 - 5/8/18

BENEFIT FROM THE SINGING COMMUNITY



2016

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www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org

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The European Choral Association – Europa Cantat is a network of organisations, choirs and individuals in the choral field in Europe. It offers activities for choirs, (young) singers, conductors, composers and managers on all levels from Europe and beyond.

Calendar of Activities under the label of ECA-EC

2015

November 12 - 15/11/2015 **Conference, Membership Day, GA 2015 Helsinki (FI)**

2016

February 18 - 21/2/2016 **Eric Ericson Award 2016 Stockholm (SE)**

March 10 - 11/3/2016 **Inclusion Conference Barcelona (Cat, ES)**

April 8 - 10/4/2016 **Mediterranean Choral Forum Istanbul (TR)**

14 - 16/4/2016 & 20 - 23/4/2016 **Festival di Primavera Montecatini Terme (IT)**

May 4 - 8/5/2016 **„Start Up for Young Conductors“ (EFYC) Basel (CH)**

June 9 - 13/6/2016 **Hearts-in-Harmony event Novi Sad (RS)**

July 11 - 18/7/2016 **International Singing Week Flanders Ghent (BE)**

18 - 24/7/2016 **Le Capriccio Academy Barcelona (Cat, ES)**

17 - 24/7/2016 **European Seminar for Young Composers Aosta (IT)**

4 - 10/7/2016 **51st Int. Choral Festival Barcelona (Cat, ES)**

8 - 16/7/2016 **Kurt Thomas Cursus for choral conducting Utrecht (NL)**

11 - 18/7/2016 **Course for Starting Choral Conductors Ghent (BE)**

21 - 31/7/2016 **12th Oratorio Choir Academy Pomáz (HU)**

29/7 - 7/8/2016 **Eurochoir 2016 San Vito al Tagliamento (IT)**

August 3 - 11/8/2016 **Choralies Vaison-la-Romaine (FR)**

21 - 31/8/2016 **America Cantat 8 Nassau, The Bahamas**

24 - 29/8/2016 **Early Music Workshop Utrecht (NL)**

September 9 - 11/9/2016 **(Inter)national Congress for Conductors Paris (FR)**

November 10 - 13/11/2016 **Conference and GA 2016 Kerkrade (NL)**

Looking ahead

2017 8 - 15/7/2017 **Eurochoir 2017 Utrecht (NL)**

July/August 2017 **Africa Cantat Kinshasa (DR of Congo)**

Summer 2017 **EUROPA CANTAT Junior (to be announced)**

22 - 29/7/2017 **World Symposium on Choral Music Barcelona (Cat, ES)**

2018 27/7 - 5/8/2018 **EUROPA CANTAT XX Tallinn (EE)**

Activity of ECA-EC | Activity in Partnership with ECA-EC | no logo: Activity from the Network promoted by ECA-EC

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FREUDE.
JOY.
JOIE.
BONN.

Bundesministerium
für Familie, Senioren, Frauen
und Jugend

Layout: Beate Schmitz (DE) / Foto: Coro Academia at Open Singing in Turin © Europa Cantat XVIII Turin

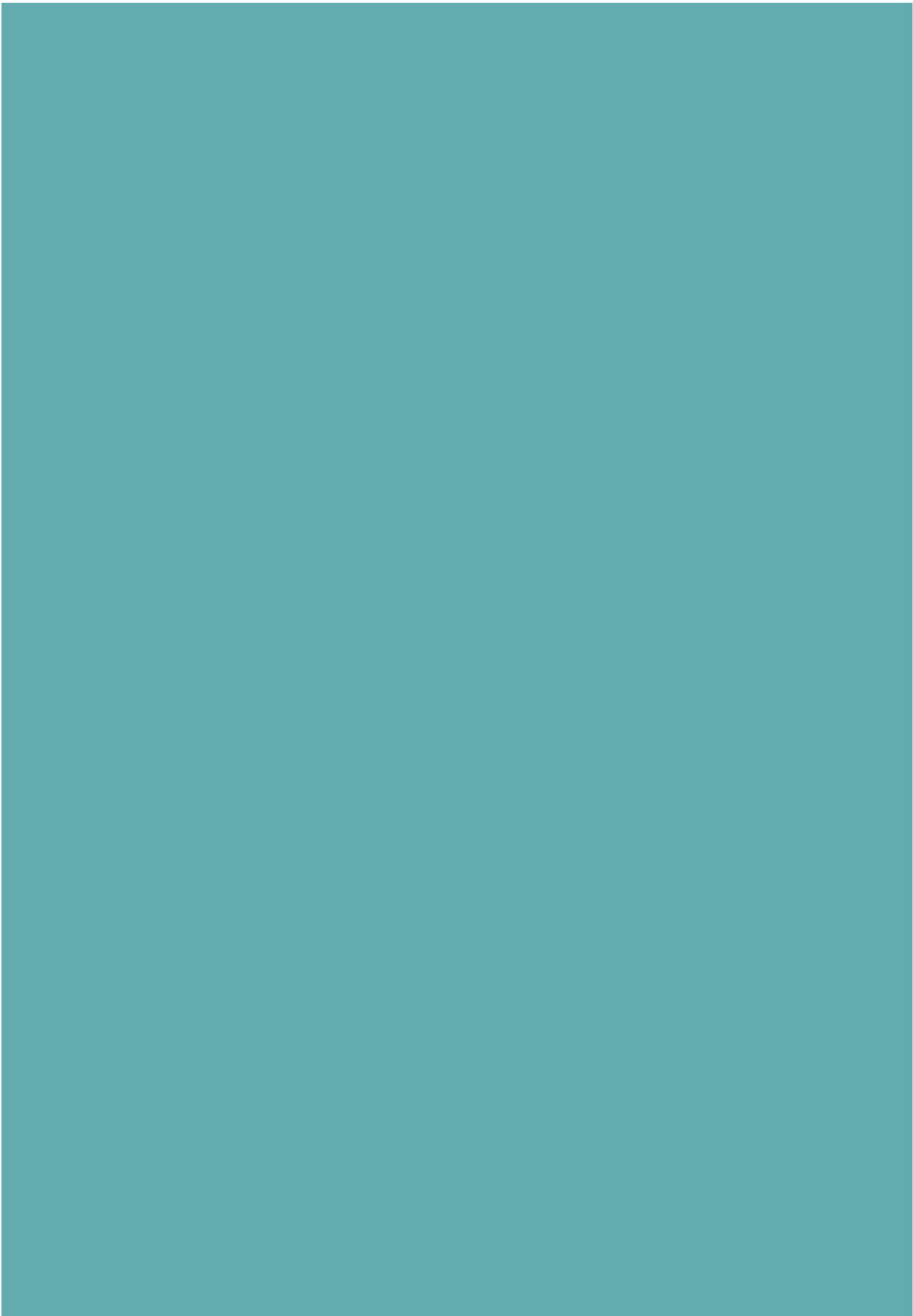
Activities in partnership with the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat with the artistic programme developed in partnership with ECA-EC

Choralies, Vaison-la-Romaine (FR) 3-11/8/16
Festival di Primavera, Montecatini Terme (IT) 14-16/4/16 & 20-23/4/16
International Singing Week, Flanders, Ghent (BE) 11-18/7/16
Early Music Workshop, Utrecht (NL) 24-29/8/16
12th Oratorio Choir Academy, Pomáz (HU) 21-31/7/16
(Inter)national Congress for Conductors, Paris (FR) 9-11/9/16
Le Capriccio Français Summer Academy, Barcelona (Cat, ES) 18-24/7/16
Course for Starting Choral Conductors, Ghent (BE) 11-18/7/16
European Seminar for Young Composers, Aosta (IT) 17-24/7/16
Mediterranean Choral Forum, Istanbul (TR) 8-10/4/16

Activities from the network, promoted by the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat

Activities for choirs and singers (International Choral Festival, Barcelona) and conductors (Eric Ericson Award, Stockholm; Start Up for Young Conductors, Basel; Kurt Thomas Cursus for Choral Conducting, Utrecht) as well as Hearts-in-Harmony events (in Barcelona and Novi Sad) promoted by ECA-EC (see brochure for details)
Including "sister festivals" América Cantat in Nassau, Bahamas (US) in August 2016 and Africa Cantat in Kinshasa (DR of Congo) in 2017.

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The place where EUROPA CANTAT comes home again



EUROPA CANTAT is returning to Pécs. Pécs was not only the city which hosted the festival in 1988, but it is also the city of choirs in every sense. The choral life of Pécs has a tradition of some hundred years and it is still alive, spreading to whole Europe.

We do not need to prove that Pécs is the citadel of choral music. It is enough to consider that hundreds of prizes and acknowledgements have been awarded to the choirs of the city and brought back to Pécs from every part of the world for the recent decades. These successes are not born from nothing, as Pécs is characterised by a lively choral life and the dedicated work of several conductors, which have made its choral music well-known and respected in Europe. The secular choral music has its origins in the rich church traditions of the mid 19th century. Aurél Tillai, the well-known Liszt Prize-winning conductor and a real living 'encyclopedia' of Pécs choral life, remembers that the ensemble Pécsi Dalárda (Singers of Pécs) founded in 1862 already received prestigious awards at their time.

As documents which date back to the turn of the 20th century certify, there were 3000 pianos in the city of 50 000 inhabitants, and music education was part of everyday life. The richness of the local choral life was enhanced by local enterprises, such as the legendary Zsolnay Factory, which maintained their own choirs. Between the two world wars, the work of Zoltán Kodály as a conductor and music pedagogue spurred Hungarian choral life, and Pécs was not excluded from development either.

The choir movement survived the dark ages of the communist oppression during the 1950s, although a number of sacrifices were needed many times - remembers Aurél Tillai, who worked as a young conductor then. The famous Pécs Chamber Choir founded in 1958 can be taken as an example:

it lost its residence after a concert in 1960, when they refused to perform a programme consisting entirely of songs which should have celebrated the labour movement. Later, the activity of the choir kept being charged with not promoting the communist ideas well enough.

Nonetheless, Pécs Chamber Choir and other choirs of the city became the ambassadors of Hungarian culture in Europe some decades later and returned home with a number of prizes. The Chamber Choir Festival in Pécs attracted more and more foreign choirs and the idea of the first EUROPA CANTAT organised behind the iron curtain was born in the city in 1984.

The EUROPA CANTAT festival in 1988 definitely placed Pécs on the map of the world choral music and opened the world to the city. 'The world came to us', recalls Tamás Lakner, former student of Aurél Tillai who is also awarded by the Liszt Prize. During the festival in Pécs he visited as many workshops as he could to absorb as much musical experience as possible. The festival organised in Pécs in 1988 had a strong influence on the choir movement of the city and the triumphs of the local choirs continued also after the regime change. Béla Bartók Male Choir conducted by Tamás Lakner is a good example, as they returned from some choir olympics as winners. Apart from the Chamber Choir Festival, Pécs has hosted a new prestigious international event called European Wine Song Festival, which attracts the best male choirs of the continent and the world.

Discover the treasures of Pécs!

Pécs will be the home of EUROPA CANTAT for the next 10 days. To make you feel truly at home, we prepared a scavenger game throughout the city. Get to know the thousand faces and several thousand years history of Pécs playfully!

The only thing you need for the game is a citymap, creativity and lust for adventure. Plunge into the city, solve 20 tasks and get to know the secrets of Pécs and the hospitality of the inhabitants. When you're done, Pécs will truly belong to the feeling of EUROPA CANTAT as much as the welcoming Open Singing, which is followed by a concert tonight at the Pirogránit Yard at 19:30.

Get your voices ready!

The Open Singings are the soul of the EUROPA CANTAT Festival. On registration day we invite you to get in the mood with us for this experience in the Zsolnay-quarter. This pre-welcoming Open Singing will be conducted by Burak Onur Erdem, the assistant of Michael Grohl.

Afterwards there's a special treat for the evening: the concert of the internationally renowned Muzsikás band. Muzsikás aims to unify the classical and folk music catching the spirit of Béla Bartók and Zoltán Kodály. To top the experience off, they will be joined by a special guest: Mária Petrás, and her crystal clear voice.

Following this, we advise you to get a little rest, because the real madness starts the next day!

Choral Friends - why?

The Association Friends of Choral Music in Europe ("Förderverein Freunde der europäischen Chormusik e.V.") was created 5 years ago with the purpose of supporting the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat (ECA-EC). I met the Founding President Jeroen Schrijner, a Dutchman residing in Switzerland and the Vice President, Markus Schuck, a German from Bonn.

Jeroen, how did you find your way to the European federation ECA-EC as an international music manager? I first met you in 1985 when we both were at EUROPA CANTAT in Strasbourg for the first time.

Yes, a long time ago. I have only missed ONE festival since then and have always been very close to the development of the federation, most recently as president of ECA-EC till 2006. I was already here in Pécs, in 1988. It is remarkable how the festivals do always assume an important place in the collective memory of the cities of EUROPA CANTAT!

Mr Schuck, I only met you a short while ago in Bonn, where you are what we call a "big shot" in the cultural field. How did you find your way to ECA-EC?

As a politician dealing with culture, and festival director in various functions, I have gained an in-depth knowledge of the pan-European work of ECA-EC and appreciated it. ECA-EC manages to do what many governing politicians do not achieve!!! Which is: to encourage young people of different nationalities and languages to make music together and promote intercultural exchange!

What led to the foundation of the Association Friends of Choral Music in Europe 5 years ago?

Jeroen Schrijner: In my opinion the Association is very important in order to offer ECA-EC continued support. The budget of the federation for its tasks is incredibly small, too small. For many years ECA-EC has been supported generously by German funds. However, from 2015 till 2017 the federation will not receive ANY structural support from the EU. Suddenly almost € 100,000 are missing! That is a lot of money, money that is needed in order to maintain this big international idea alive!

Markus Schuck: For many years ECA-EC has been contributing significantly to the cultural diversity at European level and has been promoting cultural exchange in Europe with many events, and through them the European ideal – specifically at a time in which new political borders have formed in Europe. This valuable work needs secure long-term structures at financial level. Unfortunately, the public funding bodies do increasingly not share this idea, only straightforward projects are supported short-term. We want to counter this development through the creation of the Friends of Choral Music in Europe, and support ECA-EC further.

Jeroen: Exactly, the support association offers the possibility to have a lasting effect. It allows us to calibrate the funds: we can help, when the federation needs them urgently. And when they are not needed, we can save them for a bit longer at the support association. ECA-EC on its own cannot do that: if they ever had a surplus, they would have to repay those funds to their subsidy-givers!

Markus Schuck: In the Association Schumannhaus Bonn e.V. we have set ourselves the goal to promote emerging artists, especially through singing at our festival, the Schumannfest in Bonn. It is a goal that Robert Schumann was especially committed to. Not least did he emphasize the importance of singing and the participation in a choir in his musical rules for home and life that are still valid in our days. That's why I feel that because of its work ECA-EC is a special association.

Specific ideas?

Markus Schuck: Yes. At the moment we have approached ensembles whom we would like to gain as ambassadors to our development association. We already had positive replies from Rajaton and Singer Pur who will both perform in Pécs. We hope for further ideas or groups. In 2020 we will celebrate Beethoven's 250th birthday. The anthem of Europe is the renowned "Ode to Joy" from the final movement of the Ninth Symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven.

At international level this has almost become a jingle already!

Why not? Maybe we can achieve a pan-European emphasis in the anniversary year 2020 with our support association and ECA-EC.

Jeroen, which perspectives do you have or what would you like to see for the future of the Friends of Choral Music in Europe?

More direct contacts with possible members and donors, especially in a bigger setting....! For me the collective responsibility is important, the community spirit in ECA-EC that has already achieved much and can still achieve a lot. I would like to see many people contribute directly to the European federation. If many singers share this vision then the contribution of every individual person needs to be only very small. I would like to see a healthy support association as a partner for a very lively federation.

And you, Mr Schuck?

I hope and I trust that in the future we will find more artists, politicians, persons in the society and among business people whose interests we can stimulate and capture with the pan-European work of ECA-EC. I would like to see a broad support for our support association!

**Thank you for talking to me today from Brigitte Siebenkittel.
Choral Friends - yes!**



“

A choir can be a beautiful and supportive community, which allows an individual to gain deeply moving and fulfilling experiences together with his or her fellow singers and musicians. It is an organic instrument that keeps on changing and evolving. Only singing together with open ears and hearts really makes it work. A choir offers one an opportunity to explore the art of singing and discover a wide range of music, and a safe environment to try out new things and to explore one's boundaries.”

Rajaton - the boundless Finnish vocal group
Ambassadors of the Friends of Choral Music in Europe

You can enjoy the art of Rajaton on July 31st 16:30 p.m. in the Kodály Centre.

RAJATON

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“For us as members of Singer Pur choral music is in many ways an elixir of life. As a choral ensemble it is our daily bread, but we are also convinced that choral music is one of the most beautiful forms of communication. Using a language that penetrates a human's inner being, people of all different origins can engage in an experience of mutual contact, whether they are singers or listeners. We are very grateful to the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat for providing people from the whole world with opportunities of sharing time together. We are also grateful that at workshops we have given at singing weeks and festivals, we have been able to enjoy experiences that are amongst the loveliest ones in our careers. To serve as ambassadors for the spirit of choral music which is the wind in the sails of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat is a great honour for us as an ensemble.”

Singer Pur Vocal Ensemble - Ambassadors for the Friends of Choral Music in Europe
You can enjoy the art of the Singer Pur Vocal Ensemble at the opening ceremony, and they also will perform a concert on July 26th 15 p.m. in the Dzsámi.

SINGER PUR



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