

## **PRESS RELEASE - 20.02.2013.**

## Music program planning starts for 2015

The elaboration of the music program for the next EUROPA CANTAT XIX Pécs 2015 Festival will start on 21st February. The procedure will take 2,5 years and will be coordinated by international conductors and professionals from the choral world.

EUROPA CANTAT festivals need years of preparations. One of the most challenging tasks is the construction of the music program. The workshops, discovery ateliers, concerts and the fringe program have to attract thousands of participants and involve local citizens. The offer has to cover all genres of choral and vocal music: from Gregorian to the newest trends, performers from amateur to professional level.

Just to demonstrate the complexity and size of the event: the last EUROPA CANTAT edition in Torino 2012 had around 40 workshops, 41 one day discovery ateliers, 111 concerts, more than 4000 paying participants and 7000 booked concert tickets.

The planning of the program for the next festival in Pécs is based on a special concept: next to the international Music Commission elected by the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat, a Regional Artistic Committee will play an essential role in the preparations. The international Music Commission is in charge of designing the music program of the festival by involving international conductors and professionals. The 9 elected members come from Italy, Switzerland, France, Belarus, Hungary, Germany, Estonia, Spain and The Netherlands. The Regional Artistic Committee will be responsible to represent the region's artistic values, the Hungarian, Serbian, Croatian and Slovenian choral and folklore traditions. The two groups will work in a strong cooperation and will have one joint and another separate meeting a year.

The first meeting will be held in Pécs between 21 and 24 February. The participants will principally create the main concept and invent the main themes of the festival in 2015. They will also visit future concert venues, in order to start to discover and get to know the host city of the next EUROPA CANTAT.