



Membership weekend

15-16 November 2019
Ljubljana, Slovenia

European Choral Association - Europa Cantat

- One Voice for Collective Singing -

We are a **network** of organisations, choirs and individuals in the field of collective singing in Europe. Through our membership, we directly **represent more than 2,5 million singers**, vocal leaders/conductors, creators/composers, educators/teachers and managers in over 40 European countries, and reach out to more than **37 million people in continental Europe active in the field of collective singing**.

2

Our vision is to be the **leading pan-European** nonprofit organisation dedicated to **life-long learning** and **cultural exchange** through collective singing.

Since 1955, our aims are to **promote singing** as an art form, foster **cooperation and mutual understanding** between cultures, nations and individuals across social and political borders, represent the **collective singing sector**, promote and use singing as a **tool to connect people**.

Upgrade - Connect - Reach Out

Raising Awareness for Collective Singing in Europe

In the second year, which ended in August 2019, we continued many of the activities we had started in 2017, we developed our Annual Report and our Website further, we worked on membership development, also offering grants to (potential) members from Central-Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, and we offered a second capacity building workshop, this time on Membership issues. The peer-to-peer programme which was a development of the staff exchange programme we offered in the first year was well accepted.

In addition we **commissioned 5 new works** in connection with activities under the label of ECA-EC and were very happy with the results, to be found on our website. And we started collecting a number of useful **guidelines and handbooks** which were partly developed in the frame of other EU-funded projects and partly developed as part of our network funding project during the last year. This includes a handout with questions that organisations, choirs and festival organisers can ask themselves concerning **environmental sustainability**, a topic we will discuss during our Membership day, and a guideline on how to organise a low-budget choral festival on the model of Youth Choirs in Movement 2019. Last but not least we continued our efforts to **connect** to other choral associations and **reach out** to other sectors, and to **promote collective singing** at different levels.



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union

In year 3 we will continue the **peer-to-peer programme** as well as the other regular activities. We have decided to combine this year's **capacity building workshop** on storytelling with our Membership Day and General Assembly in Ljubljana to make it easier for members to attend, and we look forward to seeing many of you there. In October our Board went on a 2-day **strategy retreat** to develop a first vision of which focus our association would like to have beyond 2021, when the network funding project will end, and you will have the opportunity to comment on it during the Membership Day. We also started working on a strategy for the **long-term financial sustainability** of the association. On our website we want to **promote all the composers** who have won prizes in one of our competitions or were commissioned new works. And we will start preparing the last year of the project, when the meta-study on the **benefits of collective singing** should be ready and we want to launch a Europe-wide campaign, culminating at our **EUROPA CANTAT Festival** in Ljubljana in 2021.

Sonja Greiner, Secretary General of the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat

3

Welcome to the Membership Weekend!

Table of contents

About the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat	2
Welcome words	4
Schedule and map of Ljubljana	6
Practical info and 'must-sees' in Ljubljana	8
Membership Day: project presentations	10
Membership Day: interactive sessions	14
Welcoming concert & musical dinner	16
General Assembly	19
Capacity building workshop: how to tell your stories	20
Musical workshop	21
Concert in the cave	22

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Dear members and friends of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat,

Welcome to Ljubljana for our 2019 Membership Day, General Assembly and Workshops!

We would like to thank our member JSKD for hosting us during these days in the town that will also host the festival EUROPA CANTAT 2021. The Festival Music Commission has already started working on the programme and many of our members, advisors and music consultants have sent in proposals that will make this creative process and interesting one. You will be able to discover the special atmosphere of the city and start imagining the festival – and of course we hope to see you all back in Ljubljana in July 2021!

Now we are looking forward to two exciting days with our members, potential members and guests. The first day will be dedicated to our membership, to your inspiring projects and your active contribution to the shaping of our association's future strategy and action plan. Two sessions are also open to non-members especially for the members of the Choral Festival Network also present. We hope that you will also use the day to network, start new connections, plan future projects together and make new friends.

On Saturday morning we will hold our annual General Assembly with reports and proposals for the future, including some changes in our statutes. We will inform you about the next activities planned in our project "Upgrade – Connect – Reach Out", co-funded by the European Union Creative Europe Programme, we will introduce the EPIC project which started on November 1st 2020 which is also co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme, and the SHIFT project coordinated by the European Music Council and co-funded by Erasmus+ in which we are partners. You will also hear about the "Training Leading Voices" project which we would like to start in 2020 and for which we will submit an application later this year. At the end we will introduce to you three international/European networks, the Choral Festival Network in which we are a member, and EAS, the European Association for music teachers in schools, with which we have started a strategic partnership partnership, and Jeunesses Musicales International who are our partners in the World Youth Choir Foundation.

On Saturday afternoon we will offer two parallel workshops meant to inspire you: In the first one you can learn how to tell the story of what you do in your association, which tools you can use and how your stories can be most effective. You will hear and see some inspiring examples and will get to practice telling your own story. You will also hear about why evaluating your activities can be important. In the second one you can discover why you must love Slovenian choral music. You will be taken on an exciting journey through Slovenian music and will get to sing and dance, too.

Last but not least we look forward to listening to diverse choirs and music ensembles from Slovenia that will be performing for us on Friday and Saturday, not only in Ljubljana but also in the famous Postojna Caves that we will be able to visit on an exclusive tour on Saturday evening.

Carlo Pavese and Sonja Greiner

President and Secretary General of the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat

photo credits: Cori Campani, ECA-EC

Dear members and friends of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat,

Welcome to our home-town Ljubljana, host of the Festival Europa Cantat 2021.

Ljubljana is a safe and charming capital of Slovenia situated between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea. It is a mid-sized European city, but it has preserved its relaxed small-town atmosphere while providing all the facilities of a modern capital. We cannot wait to fill it with varied and colourful choral music, singers from across the world, special events, and create a musical delicacy for all the participants and visitors.

We greet you in the name of the Festival organiser - Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities (JSKD), a professional network of 59 local branches for development and support of all fields of amateur arts, among them choral singing. We are extremely proud of our choral tradition, the multiplicity, quality, extraordinary choral personalities and performers.

The successful choral story of today has grown from a rich tradition: folk singing did resemble choir singing in the past as it used to be 3 – 5 part. Already centuries ago, we had people who shaped international musical happenings, we can name the bishop and founder of the court chapel in Vienna - today's Wiener Sängerknaben Jurij Slatkonja (Georg Chyssipus, 1456–1522) and composer Jacobus Handl Gallus (1550–1591). Famous music personalities were connected to Ljubljana: honorary members of the Academia philharmonicorum (1701) included Joseph Haydn, Ludwig van Beethoven, Johannes Brahms and Nicolo Paganini. Between 1881 and 1882, Gustav Mahler was its resident conductor.

And today? Choirs now represent the most numerous and successful amateur activity with approx. 100.000 singers active (schools', children's, youth choirs, adults in choral societies, and church choristers). They regularly present themselves every year at JSKD events where the choirs are professionally assisted and advised by the best Slovene conductors. For the best of the best, International choral competition Gallus – Maribor (member of the European Grand Prix for Choral Singing Association) is the place to be. We are also proud of our school system where every primary school is required by law to offer children's unison and two- or three-voices choir, and conducting a school choir is a part of music teachers' job. Operating for three decades is the professional Slovenian Philharmonic Choir (TENSO member), holding a choral season series with invited foreign conductors.

Several Slovenian Choirs have made significant international appearances: Carmina Slovenica under Karmina Šilec who developed "Choregie – Vocal Theatre" and opened new spaces to multi-form choral music events, European Grand Prix winners Akademski pevski zbor Tone Tomšič (cond. Stojan Kuret and Urša Lah), VAL – Vokalna akademija Ljubljana male choir (cond. Stojan Kuret), St. Stanislav Girls' Choir (cond. Helena Fojkar Zupančič) at WSCM 2017 and ACDA 2019, and pop/jazz choir Perpetuum Jazzile.

Come and meet Ljubljana, the cultural and political heart of Slovenia – and Sing with Slovenia. Welcome!

Urška Bittner Pipan and Mihela Jagodic

(Assistant director at JSKD and general manager of Festival EC 2021, Ljubljana and Head of choral music activities at JSKD and program manager of Festival EC 2021, Ljubljana)

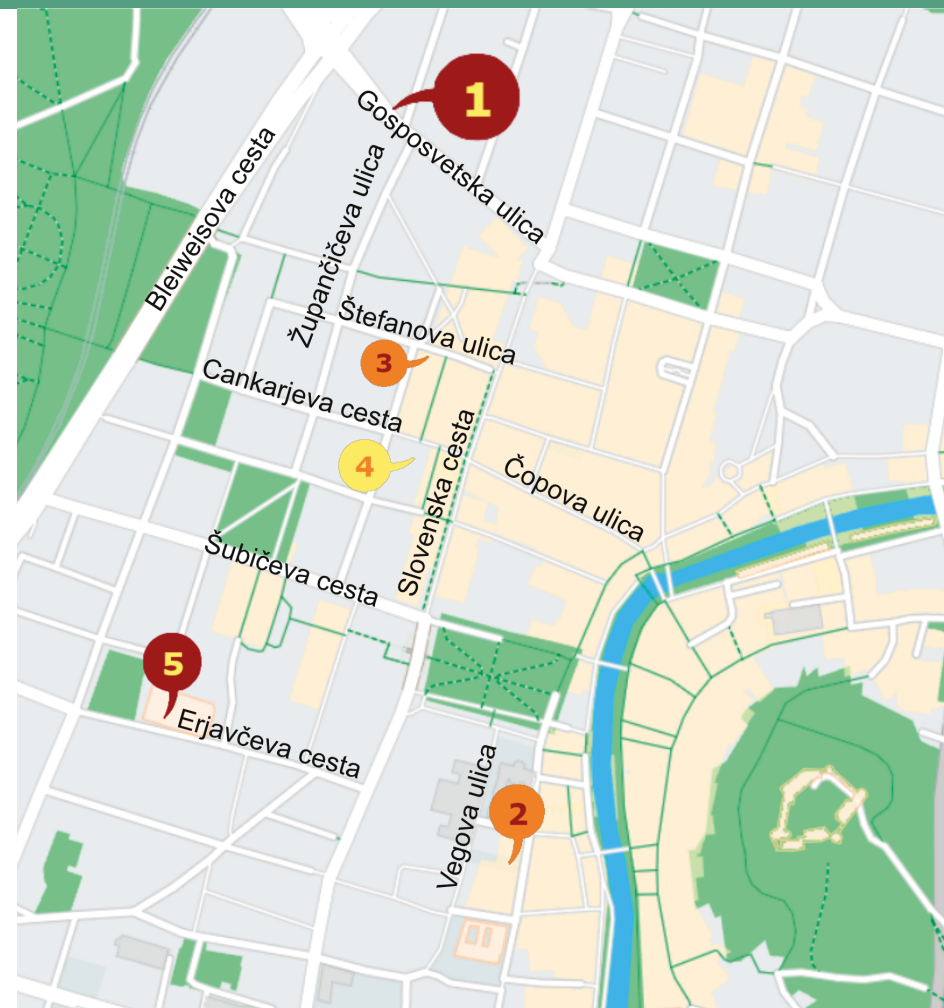


photo credits: JSKD

Schedule overview

Thursday, 15 November --- ECA EC Meetings		Venues	page
9:00 - 18:30	Board Meeting	Europa Cantat Office	
15:30 - 19:00	Youth Committee Meeting	JSKD Office	
Friday, 16 November --- Membership Day			
9:00	Registrations	Hotel Lev (HL)	
9:30 - 10:30	Membership Day: Project presentations 1	HL - Karantanija hall	10-11
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break		
11:00 - 12:00	Membership Day: Project presentations 2	HL - Karantanija hall	12-13
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Break	HL - Restaurant	
13:30 - 15:00	Membership Day: Discussion Groups 1	HL - Karantanija & Tehno Hall	14-15
15:00 - 15:30	Coffee Break		
15:30 - 17:00	Membership Day: Discussion Groups 2	HL - Karantanija & Tehno Hall	14-15
18:00	Depart the hotel		
18:30 - 19:15	Musica Noster Amor Concert	Conservatory of Music and Ballet	16-17
20:00 - 21:30	Dinner and Concert	Klub Cankarjevega doma	18
Saturday, 17 November --- General Assembly & Workshops			
8:45	Registrations	Hotel Lev (HL)	
9:00 - 10:30	General Assembly 1	HL - Karantanija hall	19
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break		
11:00 - 12:00	General Assembly 2	HL - Karantanija hall	19
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Break	HL - Restaurant	
13:30 - 15:00	Capacity Building Workshop on storytelling part 1	HL - Karantanija hall	20
15:30 - 17:00	Capacity Building Workshop on storytelling part 2		
15:00 - 15:30	Coffee Break		
13:30 - 15:00	Musical Workshop: Sing with sLOVEnia 1	HL - Tehno hall	21
15:30 - 17:00	Musical Workshop: Sing with sLOVEnia 2		
18:00	Bus leaving to Postojna Cave		
19:00 - 20:30	Dinner	Kmečki turizem Smrekarjeva domačija	
21:00 - 22:30	Visiting the Cave and Rays of Underworld Concert	Postojna Cave	22
22:45	Bus back to Ljubljana		
Sunday, 18 November --- ECA-EC Meetings			
9:30 - 12:30	Board meeting	Europa Cantat Office	
9:30 - 12:30	Choral Festival Network Meeting	JSKD Office	
15:00 - 17:00	EPIC partners meeting	Europa Cantat Office	

Map of Ljubljana



- 1** Hotel Lev
Vošnjakova ulica 2
- 2** Conservatory of Music and Ballet
Vegova ulica 7
- 3** JSKD Office
Štefanova ulica 5
- 4** Europa Cantat Office
Cankarjeva cesta 5
- 5** Cankarjev dom
Prešernova cesta 10



credit:



Practical information

Useful phone numbers:

113	Police
112	Ambulance
+386	Phone prefix to call a Slovenian number from your mobile phone
+386 080 11 90	Taxi Metro
+386 69 934 113	Contact person: JSKD Slovenia
+49 176 7312 4693	Contact person: ECA-EC

Currency:

The currency in Slovenia is **Euro**.
Credit cards are welcome in most places.

Speak Slovenian!

English	Slovenian
Hello	Zdravo/ Živjo
Good Morning	Dobro jutro
Have a nice day	Dober dan
Good evening	Dober večer
Goodbye	Nasvidenje
Thank you	Hvala
Sorry / Excuse me	Oprostite
Please	Prosim
Shall we sing together?	Bi zapeli skupaj?
Shall we dance together?	Bi zaplesali?
One beer please	Pivo, prosim
One more please	Še eno, prosim

English	Slovenian
Red Wine	Redče vino
White Wine	Belo vino
Water	Voda
Sparkling water	Mineralna
Coffee	Kava
Tea	Čaj
Cheers!	Na zdravje
I'm hungry	Lačen sem!
Police	Policija
Help!	Na pomoč!
Doctor	Zdravnik
Ambulance	Rešilec

Discover Ljubljana

One of smallest capitals of Europe, yet Ljubljana is offering a big range of things to see and do during your stay this weekend. Let your feet guide you through the beautiful city, discovering the surroundings, feeling the youthful spirit and enjoying the slovenian culture.

We've put together a short list of things you cannot miss during your stay. See how many of those you can **check off** and find your own gems around you.

☐ Majestic Ljubljana Castle

The best way to see the whole city is to climb and view it from the top! Walk up the hill or take the funicular tram and enjoy the top of Ljubljana from the castle's Outlook Tower. Enjoy the 900 years old castle and get the full historic experience visiting the chapel, the prison and the the walls.



☐ The mystical Dragon Bridge

Nothing to fear, this dragon's friendly and serves as a protector of the city since ancient times. You can find him on one of the many bridges over Ljubjanica. Could you really say you were in Ljubljana if you don't have a picture with the dragon? Let your posing smile oppose his angry appearance.

☐ Scenic Jakopič Promenade

Do you want to relax and just take in some fresh air and escape the city rush? Rush into the Tivoli Park, an oasis of peace and get lost through the chestnut tree-lined walks and the beautiful flower beds. The only thing you have to do here? Decide which statue you like best.



☐ Imposing old town of Ljubljana

Take a stroll around the historic old town and enjoy the famous works of Jože Plečnik, who positively marked the image of the city. Cross the Triple Bridge and arrive right in the central Market. This is the perfect time to have a break and enjoy a drink before you continue.

Friday, 15 November | 9:30 - 10:30

Project presentations: activities of / in partnership with ECA-EC

● Europa Cantat Junior 2021

Presented by Silvija Pročkytė



Europa Cantat Junior festival is one of the main European Choral Association events that is organised every three years in a different country. The next edition in 2020 will be organised in Vilnius, 5-13 of August.

● Beethoven Anniversary Year 2020

Presented by Alfred Jürgens

2020 marks the 250th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven. The great composer will be celebrated with numberless events throughout the whole year in his hometown, the city of Bonn, home of the ECA-EC office as well, where we coordinate the following:

(1) The World Youth Choir will meet in Bonn for their 2020-session before embarking on a tour together with the German National Youth Orchestra with concerts in venues in Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and Austria.

(2) The choral festival 'In the Footsteps of Ludwig van Beethoven' will offer choirs to combine a choral festival, with ateliers lead by Panda van Proosdij and Jan Schumacher, with Beethoven-tourism, exploring Bonn and the region in his footsteps.

(3) We're currently auditioning a European Youth Choir for the closing concert of the Beethoven Anniversary Year. The choir will be prepared by Simon Halsey and will perform Beethoven's 9th together with Danien Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra.

● EuroChoir 2020

Presented by Flannery Ryan and Dermot O'Callaghan



The opportunity for young singers to get together for 8 days to rehearse a challenging programme with two renowned conductors, improve their vocal skills with a vocal trainer and present the results of their work in public concerts. This special choir project aims to promote European choral music among young singers and to encourage cultural exchange within Europe.

● 18th Festival di Primavera

Presented by Marco Fornasier



The Festival di Primavera is a non-competitive festival. Every choir can attend one atelier on a specific repertoire and perform in a choir-to-choir concert and in the atelier concert. More than 20 ateliers will be activated with well known conductors coming from Italy and all over Europe.

● European Seminar for Choral Composers

Presented by Marco Fornasier

Aosta, Italy will host composers and choir conductors with experience in writing and composition next year. Under the guidance of Prof. Pawel Lukaszewski, Alessandro Cadario and Ivo Antognini, the active participants will improve their skills and have at their disposal a laboratory choir, performing the compositions in progress.

Presentations of European / international association

● The Choral Festival Network: International Platform for Choral Competitions & Festivals

Presented by Kaie Tanner

The Choral Festival Network (CFN), funded in 2005, is the international platform for choral competitions and festivals and connects festival lovers from Europe, Asia and America. CFN stands for fairness and transparency, communication, information, mutual advertising and international exchange in the choral festival sector. In our presentation we will give a short introduction of what CFN offers, showcasing festivals, choirs and choral directors from our network.



● European Association for Music in Schools

Presented by Gerhard Sammer

EAS is a music education network serving as platform for music educators/teachers, artists and scientists.

More info: <https://eas-music.org/>



Friday, 15 November | 11:00 - 12:00

Project presentations: inspiring projects from the network

● Healthy Collective Singing: a Transversal Approach

Presented by Côme Ferrand-Cooper



● From Marathon of Choirs to International Singing Week

Presented by Fehmi Cesur Özdemir



Giro Giro Canto & Coro Lab

Presented by Marco Fornasier



credits: Feniarco

Giro Giro Canto is the main publishing project by our Federation. It is addressed to children's and school choirs. In 2019 we presented the last two volumes: n. 6 for children aged 6 to 11 and n.7 for children aged 12-14; 45 new compositions, from 1 to 4 voices, a cappella or with piano and/or little instruments selected anonymously by Feniarco Music Commission. The official presentation of these new publications has took place in the frame of Coro Lab, an educational project for children's and school choirs conductors, a proposal that is reaching the 6th edition in 2020. Coro Lab is a 4+4 days workshop (and study tour) with the aim to offer new ideas, new repertoires, new approaches on how to conduct a choir

Choral laboratory: one step further

Presented by Marina Kireyeva



Last year the North-West Association of Youth Choir Conductors of Russia gave a talk on some of its promising projects aimed to build better bonds between choirs and contemporary composers. These were "Choral laboratory", Choral festival "Mirror of Time" and Summer school for Composers. This year we're going to give an overview of our main achievements, highlight new opportunities and present brand new tasks that to be accomplished in the long run.

What Choirtraveller taught me

Presented by Flannery Ryan



Last year at the GA I presented my project "Choirtraveler": a way to travel through a country and meet/stay with choirs wherever you go. This year I would like to share the results of my trip with you and present some great choir structures that I got to meet on the way through the US.

Alterna TEAMS: different ways to build strong communities

Presented by Zoltán Kocsis-Holper & Gábor Móczár

Due to the reduction of the number of the singing lessons in Hungary, the birthplace of the Kodály-concept, we are looking for some new ways to help the youngsters to develop their musical literacy and bring them closer to classical music. Recently, a number of alternative practices were born in our region which aim not only at music education but also at creating communities. Experimental Kodály-teaching practise, alternative choral concerts, Let the Country Sing project.



Singing in Regions of Conflict

Presented by Franziska Welti

For the past two years I have regularly led singing weeks in regions of conflict, initiated and organized by the Swiss foundation artasfoundation. From 2017 until 2019 the projects took place in Abkhazia (Georgia) and Armenia. We were supported by local conductors and music teachers, and this exchange was an integral part of the project. In October 2019 we met with the two groups (a total of 40 young people) in Abkhazia (Georgia) and performed three final concerts together. It was exciting, adventurous and very emotional – a great time.



Northern Lights - A concert without Stage

Presented by Franziska Welti

With the vocal ensemble vox feminae (12-16 women) I have been trying for some time to develop new concert formats, e.g. concerts without stage, concerts without chairs, choir and audience move freely in space or in several rooms etc. One could say that the listeners put together their own concert experience, an experience of listening not only with the ears but with the whole body. Our aim is to create space for encounters and exchanges and to involve the listeners more actively in the entire process of the concert. Nordlichter – a concert without stage is a short presentation of a concert without stage in June 2019 in Winterthur (Switzerland).

Sing Slovakia!

Presented by Dominika Semaňáková



Choral music and choral singing have relatively a long history in the Slovak Republic. Over the centuries belonged Slovakia to the countries where music and the choral singing were a significant part of the culture. In spite of this effort, Slovakia did not have an institution that would cover all the needs of Slovak choirs or that would present Slovak music and Slovak choral festivals internationally. But today we are ready to invite choirs from the whole world to Slovakia, so they can experience Slovak hospitality but mainly so they can hear and sing wonderful music from Slovakia. Together with Slovak choirmasters and the new young generation, we are finally ready to become a regular part of the international choral community

Friday, 15 November | 13:30 - 17:00

Membership Day: interactive sessions

For the fifth year, the European Choral Association is gathering its members to work on hot topics of the sector, contribute to the future development of the network's activities and orientations, and provide a structured feedback to the General Assembly and the Board.

This year, the participants can choose between five topics and they will have a chance to interact with their peers.

Time slot 13:30 - 15:00	Time slot 15:30 - 17:00
Low budget events Peer to Peer session open to non members	The future of festivals and competitions Brainstorming group open to non members
ECA-EC and the environment Brainstorming group	The benefits of singing campaign Brainstorming group
Beyond 2021 Reflection on the future strategy suggested by the board	Beyond 2021 Reflection on the future strategy suggested by the board



Low-budget festivals

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Think of all the people you ever wanted to bring together for an event, to network, to present, to develop, to brainstorm. Events bring people together and we are sure we are going to organize them in the future. And from all the barriers that could hinder the process, we want to tackle the financial aspect. How we can design more low-budget choral events in future. Do we know of good practices and examples from the network? Which decisions can help keep the budget of a choral event low? What are the main challenges that result from this? How can we identify advantages and disadvantages? And how do we spread the word?

ECA- EC and the environment

2019 will go down in history as the year of the Fridays for Future Movement, where young people all around the world demand more involvement and action in the fight against environmental threats. Also, results of the recent EU elections show a rise of awareness towards the topic. It's now up to the choir associations and institutions, as well as the singers to think about how can they contribute to climate- and in general environmental protection and in how far this is compatible with the core mission of the association. This is your chance to contribute to the discussion on what ECA-EC can and should do in this field"

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Beyond 2021

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Presenting the outcomes of the Board Strategy Retreat in October for the years 2021 and beyond, suggesting a revised mission, vision and strategic lines. We have put together some suggestions for changes in the structure and activities of ECA-EC which would allow us to focus more and communicate more efficiently on what we do. We would like to receive the feedback of our members on this first draft of a new strategy, comments, questions, proposals for change and additions to serve as a guidance to develop a concrete action plan to fit the strategy. This will also form the basis of our application for the next round of network funding, which we plan starting to work for, end of 2020 (see document with strategic proposals sent in advance).

The future of festivals and competitions

Choral festivals and competitions are facing a number of challenges based on changes in society, demands for more environmental sustainability or financial threats. On the other hand they may have something to offer to respond to these challenges and address some issues through what they do. Where do you see your festivals or competitions in 10 years from now? How can you prepare for the changes ahead? How can you capitalize the strengths of your events? We will get to the essence of what makes people attend festivals and competitions and what other ways are there to make them sustainable.

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The benefits of singing campaign

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Our current network funding project will end in August 2021, with the last few months culminating in the Europa Cantat Festival in Ljubljana. During this period, we have planned to launch a campaign on the benefits of collective singing for the individual and society. We are being supported by a PHD student at the university of Würzburg, who is working on a meta-study analysing existing studies on these benefits, with the aim of contributing to a toolbox our network can use for this kind of promotion. We would like to encourage you to share your ideas on how we can design a campaign that will reach as many people as possible beyond our own network, which channels and tools we could use and how you could get involved in the campaign. We would also like to hear what could be the benefits of this campaign for your own work at home and how we can make sure that you can easily use it at that level.

15

Friday, 15 November | 18:30 - 19:15

Musica Noster Amor | welcoming concert

Performing folk songs from seven regions of Slovenia: Potpourri for Children's choir and folk musicians put together by Damijan Močnik:



Children's choir of Elementary School Ledina, Ljubljana conducted by Dalia Beus

The pupils studying in 6th to 9th grade regularly perform at numerous festivals and competitions: the Festival of children's and youth choirs »Pomladna prepevanja« (Spring singings), the World Choral Music Day in Ljubljana, and the mass concert of children's choirs in Maribor »Zborovski BUM.« (Choral BOOM.) in the company of 7000 singers from across Slovenia.

Dalia Beus is a musical pedagogue and pianist. She leads three choirs at the elementary school and prepares with them most various concert programmes. She commissions new compositions for them and encourages the singers toward own creativeness in different musical genres and supports the musical development of her students.



Children's choir of Cvetko Golar Elementary School Škofja Loka, conducted by Klementina Tominšek

Under the supervision of Klementina Tominšek, the choir transformed from a shy 11-member ensemble to a playful choir of 30. Until now, their devotion and eagerness, wish for learning and getting to know new musical horizons, and the pretentiousness of their conductor, has rewarded them with a golden plaque and a special prize in the national competition, several successes in regional ones, and two performances at Wandering Music. Should their secret be the kilograms of cookies baked by the conductor to be enjoyed at the rehearsals?



Klementina Tominšek graduated from the Academy of Music in Ljubljana in music education and perfected her skills in masterclasses by Josep Vila i Casañas, Jerica Gregorc Bukovec and Petra Grassi. Since 2013, she leads the Children's Choir of Cvetko Golar Elementary School Škofja Loka. She used to sing in the Mixed Youth Choir of Velenje Gymnasium under the lead of Danica Pirečnik, the Chamber Choir of Academy of Music under Marko Vatovec, and currently sings in the Mixed Choir of Glasbena Matica, led by Sebastjan Vrhovnik. In her choral work, she searches for a clean sound, fulfilling it by expressive musicality.

Volk Folk, Ilirska Bistrica

The combination of violin, dulcimer and bowed string bass dominated Slovenian traditional music from at least the late 17th century to the second half of the 19th century when the dulcimer began to be replaced by the accordion. Originating from a small village around Ilirska Bistrica, the Volk family ensemble have been collecting and performing Slovenian vocal and instrumental folk music, especially that from Inner Carniola.



Janez Jocif obtained his music education at the Conservatory of Music in Ljubljana, theoretical department, and at the Academy of Education, Ljubljana, department for choral conducting. As a conductor, he worked and performed with several vocal ensembles. Recently, he is working on the implementation of early music in a relationship to a mould of music instruments on Gothic frescoes.

Performing a variety of original music by internationally known Slovenian composers **Lojze Lebič** and **Ambrož Čopi** as well as the younger generation: **Tadeja Vulc**, **Matej Makor**, **Matej Kastelic**, **Tine Bec** and **Samo Vovk**:



Chamber Choir of the Ljubljana Conservatory for Music and Ballet, Ljubljana conducted by Ambrož Čopi

The Chamber Choir of the Ljubljana Conservatory of Music and Ballet is one of its two choirs. Its members are students who look for greater challenges on the vocal front and some graduates who continue their studies at the Academy of Music or other faculties. The KGBL Chamber choir embraces a wide range of music genres and styles, from the Renaissance to modern music.

In the past three years, the choir had commissioned many prominent composers, such as **Lojze Lebič**, **Tadeja Vulc**, **Damijan Močnik**, **Črt Sojar-Voglar**, **Peter Šavli**, **Andrej Makor**, **Tine Bec**, **Matej Kastelic**, to create new compositions, which the choir successfully promotes at concerts and competitions in Slovenia and abroad. The last three years have been very prolific for the KGBL Chamber Choir, as it achieved second and third place at the International Choral competition Talinn (Estonia, 2015); won the Grand prix in Moscow (Russia, 2016); it achieved first place at the national choral competition "Naša pesem" (Our song), Maribor (Slovenia, 2016); second place at the international choral competition "Gallus" Maribor (Slovenia, 2017); first place in category Polifonia and second place in category Folklore at the International Choral competition in Tolosa (Spain, 2017) and first place at the International Choral competition in Cork (Ireland, 2019).



Ambrož Čopi studied composition with Dane Škerl and Uroš Rojko at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana. He first gained knowledge of vocal music and conducting as an assistant to the conductor Stojan Kuret. He led several Slovenian choirs with which he achieved numerous prizes at national and international competitions. He performed as a finalist at the European Grand Prix in Choral Singing in Tours (France, 2009) with the University of Primorska Academic Choir. In 2016, he received prestigious national award Prešeren Fund Prize. His music is published by Astrum and Sulasol. 4 authorial CDs contain recordings of his music. Ambrož Čopi is a teacher at the Art High School in Koper, Conservatory of Music and Ballet Ljubljana, and Associate Professor at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana.

Friday, 15 November | 20:00 - 21:30

Sing along with Mandolina | Dinner and concert

Orkester Mandolina, Ljubljana, conducted by Andrej Zupan

performing popular original music, as well as arrangements that sound great performed by mandolins. We invite the audience will be able to sing along, since we are sure you will know most of the pieces performed.

Orkester Mandolina Ljubljana is the only ensemble in Slovenia whose members have chosen the mandolin as their companion on their musical journey. In Slovenia, the mandolin has only recently been given a more significant role in various musical styles, from classical to pop. In their repertoire, there are also compositions written by classical composers, arrangements of folk tunes, film music and evergreens. They have had numerous successful appearances at home and abroad in forty-five years of our performing and have received continuous positive feedback from the audience.

Andrej Zupan graduated and finished his post-graduate studies of clarinet at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana in the class of his father Prof. Alojz Zupan. He is now playing in orchestras, giving numerous recitals and chamber concerts in Europe and USA. Since 1993 and until 2004, he performed as the first clarinetist at the National Opera and Ballet House of Ljubljana. He is regularly working as professor at the Conservatory of Music and Ballet in Ljubljana and as Associate Professor at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana. As soloist, member of chamber ensembles and conductor, he recorded 21 CDs.



photo credits: JSKD

Saturday, 16 November | 9:00 - 12:00

General Assembly

0. **Opening**
1. **Approval of the agenda**
2. **Minutes General Assembly 2018**
3. **Report of the President**
4. **Activities' reports 2019, including reports from the Membership Day**
 - 4.1 Artistic Vice-President on behalf of Artistic Strategy Group
 - 4.2 Regional Centres
 - 4.3 Year 2 of the project "Upgrade – Connect – Reach Out" including training offers for members and new communication tools
 - 4.4 Other activities in 2019, including report from Membership Day
5. **Report of the Treasurer: Finances 2018 - 2019, Preliminary Budget for 2020**
6. **Discharge of the Board of Directors**
7. **Welcome to new members**
8. **Proposal for two changes of statutes:**
 - 8.1 Concerning the new system of committees and commissions for the artistic work of the association, replacing the former Music Commission / Corresponding changes in Bylaws
 - 8.2 Concerning the change of name
9. **Presentation of the first outlines of a strategy for the years beyond 2021, including a different approach towards the "Friends of Choral Music in Europe"**
10. **A look into the future: Activities 2020 – 2022**
 - 10.1 Year 3 of the project "Upgrade – Connect – Reach Out"
 - 10.2 Other activities in 2020 including Europa Cantat junior festival
 - 10.3 EC Festival 2021 in Ljubljana
 - 10.4 Leading Voices - new event in Utrecht in 2022
11. **Presentation by the Youth Committee**
12. **Invitation to General Assembly 2020 in Ireland**
13. **Presenting other European and International networks**
 - 13.1 Choral Festival Network, in which ECA-EC is a member (Kaie Tanner)
 - 13.2 European Association of Music Teachers in schools, EAS, a ECA-EC strategic partner (Gerhard Sammer)
 - 13.3 Jeunesses Musicales International, a strategic partner (Blasko Smilevski)
14. **Miscellaneous**

Saturday, 16 November | 13:30-15:00 & 15:30 -17:00

How to tell your stories | Capacity building workshop

Join the 'hands on' workshop for representatives of choral organizations or event organisers, learning how storytelling can help you describe and sell what you do.

Storytelling helps you - you can learn how to do it! 13:30 - 15:00

PART ONE: LEARN

- **The power of a story:** What is the difference between facts and story?
- **Inspiring example:** *"Tell a story on how and why your association was founded"*
The European Federation of Young Choirs - Europa Cantat was founded by soldiers who wanted to make sure their singers would not want to go to war again ... (By Sonja Greiner)
- **Why and to whom do you want to tell your stories?** To raise awareness in the general public, to find new members/participants, to fundraise, to convince institutions to support your work, to reach the media and have them report about you, etc.
- **What do you want to tell?** Which message(s) do you want to convey with your stories?
- **Who can tell your stories?** Participants, volunteers, team members, board members
- **How can you tell your story?** - What you can use: oral stories, videos, surveys, interviews, quotes, social media, campaigns, etc., using narrative techniques
- **Inspiring example:** *"Telling your story with the help of a video"*
The Story of Dissimilis National Centre of Performing Arts / The Polifonica project in Greece (By Sonja Greiner)
- **Powertools:** how to start your own storytelling.

You need to tell success stories - tools and tips 15:30 - 17:00

PART TWO: PRACTICE

- **Inspiring story:** The story of one singer, conductor, composer, manager who felt transformed by your activity / your work: Mahmoud Mawass talks about how the Fayha choir changed his life and may be the reason why he is not a terrorist today. (By Sonja Greiner)
- **Exercise:** creating a transformative story
- **External input from Gerhard Sammer, Würzburg Music University, Germany, on:** Learning how you can measure the impact of your work and activities and turn this into stories: - Collecting data, facts and figures - what you need and how you can get this
- **Surveys as a tool for telling your stories** - why they can be useful, how you can get the best results, how you can interpret the answers given and extract quotes
- **Practice:** recognizing Storytelling elements in existing stories

Q&A and touching on the following subjects:

- How can you now adapt your stories to the different targets / audiences?
- What is the impact of your stories: on your strategy and action plan?
- On your team and board? (Do you believe your own stories? Should you?)
- On the targets / the audiences?

My name is Yvette and I am delighted to be working with you at the ECA-EC General Assembly! I remember meeting so many beautiful people and hearing many incredible stories when I was working in the Music Office of Europa Cantat Utrecht 2009. And now, ten years later it is my pleasure to contribute to these stories getting further out into the world.



Today, I am a Master Musicologist as well as a graduate of the Storytelling Academy, and as a certified Chief Storyteller I run a company specialized in the art of storytelling. As an experienced teacher, trainer and coach I've worked with hundreds of entrepreneurs and professionals in many different fields to create, tell and live their story. And now it is my pleasure to explore with you your own stories during the capacity building workshop on Saturday afternoon. I am looking forward to meeting you!

Yvette van den Berg - workshop facilitator

Gerhard Sammer studied several subjects in Teaching Education and orchestral conducting, followed by a PhD in Music Pedagogy. He taught in different school types and worked as a staff scientist before he got professor for music education at the University for Music in Würzburg (Germany), which led to numerous publications. In the function of the dean for studies he is strongly involved in quality assurance and university development as well as in several international projects; until 2019 he was the president of the European Association for Music in Schools (EAS). His successful work in orchestral conducting led to around 160 first performances of orchestra pieces and many recordings / CDs.



Saturday, 16 November | 13:30-15:00 / 15:30 -17:00

Sing with sLOVEEnia | Musical workshop

Sing with sLOVENia: Musical workshop

Slovenia is a charming small country placed right in the middle of Europe. Bordering to Germanic, Slavic and Roman world is a perfect recipe for ... a messy or rich musical heritage?

Join us on an exciting journey through Slovenian music - from folk songs to modern jazzy arrangements and finally to our ideas for spicing up the choral world.

You'll get to know (and sing and dance) a lot about the culture of the hosting country - and develop exciting new ideas!

Come to the "Sing with sLOVEEnia" workshop and see for yourself!

For the second part of the workshop, join us for a short guided walk through Ljubljana's charming old city centre and feel its vibe. Learn about its rich history, cultural diversity and already have a taste of Festival Europa Cantat 2021 venues! We are also open to your suggestions and ideas on how to make your stay with us an unforgettable experience!

Presentation by EC 2021 Festival team and guests



Saturday, 16 November | 18:00-23:30

Rays of Underworld | Final Concert

Deep beneath the surface there is a whole new world to discover. Music resonates differently there, and the shadows are even more mysterious, making the light all the more enticing. Immerse yourself in the absolute silence of the Postojna cave and feel the tranquillity calm your senses and nourish your soul.

St. Nicholas Choir Litija, conducted by Helena Fojkar Zupančič



Their home is in a small local parish in Litija that is situated about a half an hour drive from Ljubljana. It is comprised of more than fifty singers from central Slovenia. The choir has been enriching Slovenian and international choral scene with its strong creative energy for the past twenty years. Under the guidance of Helena Fojkar Zupančič, the singers have taken on genres like gospel, spiritual music, folk music, pop, chants, and others.

Their most recent notable achievements all around Europe include first places and special prizes at several competitions: Naša pesem in Maribor, Slovenia (2016), second place in the categories of polyphony and folk music, as well as the audience award in the international choir competition in Tolosa, Spain (2016), and overall first place in the international choral competition in Derry, Ireland (2015). Most recently, in May 2019, the choir performed Beethoven's 9th symphony with the RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Choir Megaron. In September 2019, they participated in the MITO choral festival, which included two full-length concerts in the Italian cities of Milan and Turin.

Helena Fojkar Zupančič completed her musical education at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana, Slovenia. She works as a choral conductor and vocal teacher at the Diocesan Classical Gymnasium of St. Stanislav's Institution. She leads the St. Stanislav Girls' Choir as well as the St. Nicolas Choir Litija and the 100-member (Re)Mixed Choir of the Diocesan Classical Gymnasium. Her choirs excel in sophisticated vocal technique, profound breadth of musical repertoire, a rich sound quality and original interpretation. She enjoys delving into a variety of music genres, researching the unknown and finding new approaches to familiar repertoire. She is very popular among singers as a conductor who knows how to inspire and find joy through music.



About Postojna Cave



We are happy to be attending the closing the Membership Weekend with a concert in a unique, fantastic location: the Postojna Cave, known as the world's most captivating cave with magnificent cave formations and diverse fauna. You will experience a fascinating subterranean paradise shaped by tiny droplets over millions of years.

Postojna Cave is the only place where you can see the most precious brilliant in the form of a cave formation. The magnificent five-metre-tall bright-white stalagmite called Brilliant is a symbol of Postojna Cave and the Slovenian Karst. Standing next to it is an ornament-rich column. The water slowly dripping down from the stalagmite deposits a thin layer of flowstone, giving the Brilliant its shiny white colour. Just like the world above the surface, Postojna Cave boasts towering mountains, murmuring rivers and vast subterranean halls. It is a real challenge for explorers and a joy to the eyes of the visitors, strolling around the passages, galleries and halls of the cave.

Meet the baby dragons!

People in the Karst were used to living surrounded by caves, intermittent rivers, lakes and unusual springs that would erupt from the ground at times of heavy rain or floods, but when the powerful currents brought to the surface some unusual "fish" with snow-white skin, a long body, a long tail and four legs, this was something extraordinary. Believing that there was a fearsome dragon living inside Postojna Cave, the local people thought these animals were in fact baby dragons.

However, those were just the innocent olms, the largest among cave-dwelling animals and the only vertebrate in Europe strictly bound to cave habitats, completely adapted to life in the dark. With has a lifespan of up to one hundred years, we might just believe that they are the remains of the famous legends.

Even C. Darwin wrote about these incredible creatures from the subterranean world of Postojna in his work *On the Origin of Species* (1859) and you are about to meet them!





Ireland will be the host of:

- EuroChoir 2020
- General Assembly 2020

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