

Including news from the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM), the European and International Music Council (EMC / IMC), CultureAction Europe (EFAH) and Musica International

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Don't forget to regularly check our ECwebsite for news: www.EuropaCantat.org

Office closed for holidays

Our office will be closed from 20/12/08 to 5/1/09. Looking back on a year full of musical activities and looking forward to the year 2009 with our Festival EUROPA CANTAT XVII in Utrecht, we wish all our members and friends a peaceful and joyful New Year! We hope to see U singing in Utrecht!

Notre bureau sera fermé du 20 décembre 08 au 5 janvier 09.
Bonnes Fêtes!

Unser Büro ist vom 20.12.08 bis 5.1.09 geschlossen.
Wir wünschen schöne Feiertage!



EUROPA CANTAT Utrecht 2009

Well over 2000 singing enthusiasts have already subscribed for the festival. This is above expectation. Subscriptions are coming in faster than expected, so hurry up if you want to join! (For places in the ateliers and low-budget accommodation applicants who applied before the deadline will be given priority, then we will give priority according to the date of application.) 32 talented young singers from all over the world have been selected to join the EUROPA CANTAT Chamber Choir, which will work during the festival week with the Latvian choir conductor Kaspars Putnins.

For more news: www.ecu2009.nl -> news

Il y a déjà bien plus de 2000 inscrits! Il est encore possible de s'inscrire, mais il faut se dépêcher et ceux qui se sont inscrits avant la date limite auront la priorité pour les places dans les ateliers et les logements universitaires. Pour toutes les nouvelles voir www.ecu2009.nl -> français -> nouvelles
Inzwischen sind schon weit über 2000 Sängerinnen und Sänger eingeschrieben. Es ist auch jetzt noch möglich, sich anzumelden, aber man sollte sich beeilen und alle, die sich vor der Anmeldefrist eingeschrieben haben werden bei der Atelierzuteilung und bei der Vergabe der günstigen Unterkünfte bevorzugt. Mehr unter www.ecu2009.nl -> deutsch -> Neuigkeiten

Europa Cantat General Assembly 2009 in Sofia

We are happy to announce that the Bulgarian Choir Union has offered to host the Europa Cantat General Assembly 2009 in Sofia, Bulgaria, from November 13th to 15th 2009.

L'Assemblée Générale 2009 aura lieu à Sofia, en Bulgarie, du 13 au 15 novembre 2009.

Die Generalversammlung 2009 findet vom 13. bis 15. November in Sofia, Bulgarien statt.

2nd meeting of Mediterranean Choral Experts

The Europa Cantat regional office for the Mediterranean Area hosted a second expert meeting in Barcelona, December 5th to 7th 2008. There were participants from different parts of Spain (Catalonia, Basque Country, Canary Islands, Mallorca), Portugal, France, Italy, Turkey, Israel, Lebanon and Latin America as well as representatives of Europa Cantat, IFCM and A Coeur Joie International. The EC Youth Committee was also represented and called for a first meeting of a regional Mediterranean Youth Committee. The experts discussed issues such as "children's choirs in the region", "religious music in the region", "the role of choral music in conflict situations" and "ethnographic and traditional music in the region" with interesting project presentations. In addition they planned possible projects for the region, including a „Voices of the Mediterranean“ conference in cooperation with IFCM. The results of the conference will be presented on the website of the centre, see

www.xtec.cat/entitats/rmcc/ Further information from: movicoralcat@telefonica.net

La deuxième réunion des experts de musique chorale en région méditerranéenne s'est déroulée à Barcelone du 5 au 7 décembre 2008. Pour plus d'informations merci d'écrire à: movicoralcat@telefonica.net

Das zweite Expertentreffen für den Mittelmeer-Raum hat vom 5. bis 7. Dezember 2008 in Barcelona stattgefunden. Für weitere Informationen kontaktieren Sie bitte movicoralcat@telefonica.net

New Concept for ECmagazine

At the end of November all members should have received their copy of Europa Cantat magazine 4/08 in the new house style. At its last Board meeting in November 2008 the Board of Europa Cantat decided to change the rhythm of ECmagazine from 4 annual issues to 3 bigger annual issues, dedicating each issue to a specific theme: Issue 1/09 will reach our readers in April and will focus on the subject of Creativity and Innovation, issue 2/09 will be ready for the festival EUROPA CANTAT XVII in Utrecht and the other summer activities and will focus on issues relevant for singers (this issue will be published online free of costs) and issue 3/09 will be ready for the General Assembly and will focus on issues interesting for conductors.

Le CA d'Europa Cantat a décidé de ne publier que 3 ECmagazine en 2009, chacun avec un thème spécifique. Der Vorstand von Europa Cantat hat beschlossen ab 2009 3 (umfangreichere) statt 4 Ausgaben von ECmagazine zu veröffentlichen, jede mit einem Thema.



Europa Cantat Activities 2009

All updated details can be found on www.EuropaCantat.org -> current projects

Participants for the 5th International Competition for Young Conductors in Ljubljana (26 - 30/3/2009) have been chosen now, applications are no longer possible.

For the European Academy for Choral Conductors and Singers in Fano (6 - 13/9/2009), the conductor has now been decided: Fred Sjöberg (Sweden) will introduce conductors to the specificities of vocal pop together with pianist Stefan Berglund.

Detailed information and the programme for the European Academy for Young Conductors in Graz (20 - 27/9/2009) as well as information on the Conference on Singing and Music Education in the frame of the Lithuanian Song Festival can also be downloaded from our website.

The selection procedures for the World Youth Choir will take place in the different countries before the end of February 2009, the international jury will meet in March 2009. The 2009 summer session will take place in Gent, Belgium, with concerts in Belgium, the Netherlands (at the EUROPA CANTAT festival in Utrecht), France and Germany (with a concert in Bonn on July 29th, the death anniversary of Robert Schumann). In October 2009 the World Youth Choir will celebrate its 20th anniversary in Örebro, Sweden, with an alumni choir, a special concert and a conducting course for children's and youth choir conductors. The International Centre for Choral Music in Namur has produced a "Best-of" selection of the World Youth Choir with recordings from the past 20 years. You can order this unique collection of 6 CDS produced in time for the 20th anniversary of the choir. Further information from iccm@ifcm.net or www.worldyouthchoir.org

Pour les dernières nouvelles concernant nos activités, voir notre site web - > current projects. Les participants du concours de jeunes chefs de chœur ont été choisis, le programme pour l'Académie pour Jeunes Chefs de Chœur a été publié sur le site et nous annonçons que l'Académie de Fano en septembre 2009 se fera avec Fred Sjöberg et Stefan Berglund sur le pop vocal. Les choristes du chœur mondial seront choisis en février/mars 2009 et le chœur fêtera son 20ème anniversaire avec un événement spécial en octobre 2009 à Örebro, et finalement le chœur mondial a produit une collection de 6 CDs avec une sélection des 20 années. Pour plus d'informations voir www.worldyouthchoir.org ou iccm@ifcm.net

Für die neuesten Nachrichten zu den Aktivitäten von Europa Cantat siehe www.EuropaCantat.org -> current projects. Die Teilnehmer/innen des Wettbewerbs für junge Chorleiter/innen wurden bereits ausgewählt, das Programm für die Akademie für Junge Chorleiter/innen in Graz findet man auf unserer Website und wir kündigen an, das die Akademie in Fano im September 2009 über Vocal Pop mit Fred Sjöberg und Stefan Berglund stattfinden wird. Die Sänger/innen für den Weltjugendchor 2009 werden im Februar/März ausgewählt und der Chor feiert seinen 20. Geburtstag im Oktober 2009 mit einer besonderen Veranstaltung in Örebro, Schweden. Schließlich wurde eine Sammlung von 6 CDs mit den besten Aufnahmen des Chores produziert. Infos unter www.worldyouthchoir.org und iccm@ifcm.net



† Sad news on Dusan Maksimovic

Dusan Maksimovic from Serbia, born in 1932 and called Dumaks by his friends, passed away in December 2008. He was a conductor, composer and professor and played an important role in the Yugoslav-German relations and in the choral world. He won many awards at different choir competitions and received a medal of honour from the chancellor of Germany. *Rest in peace!*
Nous sommes désolées de vous informer que Dusan Maksimovic est décédé en décembre 2008.
Wir haben die traurige Nachricht erhalten, dass Dusan Maksimovic aus Serbien im Dezember verstorben ist.

News from our members

Jeroen Schrijner resigned from Kunstfactor (Netherlands) and will start working in Switzerland in 2009.
The Bulgarian Choir Union has elected a new Executive Board. The new President is Ms. Elianka Mihailova. We are looking forward to meeting her at the occasion of our next General Assembly.

Jeroen Schrijner a quitté Kunstfactor au Pays-Bas et commencera un nouveau travail en Suisse en 2009.
L'Union des choeurs de Bulgarie a élu un nouveau comité exécutif avec Elianka Mihailova comme présidente.
Jeroen Schrijner hat Kunstfactor in den Niederlanden verlassen und tritt 2009 eine neue Stelle in der Schweiz an. Der bulgarische Chorverband hat einen neuen Vorstand mit Präsidentin Elianka Mihailova gewählt.

Young@Heart

In autumn 2008 another great choir film came into the cinemas. The documentary tells the touching story of a choir with senior citizens in the USA who sing rock and pop songs and became so famous that they toured to Europe several times. The film shows how important singing in the choir is for its members.

See <http://www.youngatheartchorus.com>
Si vous n'avez pas encore vu Young@Heart, ne ratez pas l'occasion de voir ce documentaire touchant sur un chœur de personnes âgées aux Etas-Unis. Wer diesen berührenden Dokumentarfilm über einen Seniorenchor in den USA noch nicht gesehen hat, sollte das nachholen.



Calendar of EC Activities 2009

Activities for choirs and singers

- Festival EUROPA CANTAT XVII in Utrecht, the Netherlands, 17 - 26/7/2009 see www.ecu2009.nl
- Europa Cantat Singing Week in Nevers, France, 5 - 12/7/2009
- Europa Cantat Singing Week in Lignano, Italy, 30/8 - 6/9/2009

Activities for talented young singers

- World Youth Choir Summer Session concerts in Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Germany, 8 - 31/7/2009
- World Youth Choir 20th anniversary with concerts and workshops in Örebro, Sweden, October 2009
- EUROPA CANTAT Chamber Choir at festival EUROPA CANTAT XVII in Utrecht, the Netherlands, 17 - 26/7/2009

For conductors and composers

- 5th International Competition for Young Conductors in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 26 - 30/3/2009
- Cantemus Open Weekend for conductors and music teachers in Nyíregyháza, Hungary, 23 - 26/4/2009
- Conference on Music Education and Singing in Vilnius, Lithuania, 2 - 7/7/2009
- European Academy for Singers and Conductors in Fano, Italy, 6-13/9/2009
- European Academy for Young Conductors in Graz, Austria, 20 - 27/9/2009
- Seminar for Children's and Youth Choir Conductors and music teachers in Yerevan, Armenia, 7 - 11/10/2009
- Conducting Course for children's choir conductors in Örebro, Sweden, October 09

For cultural managers

- Youth Event Management Programme in Utrecht, the Netherlands 11 - 27/7/2009

Events promoting the integration of handicapped children and young people

- Hearts in Harmony weekend with sight-impaired children in Budapest, Hungary, 2 - 4/10/2009

In addition Europa Cantat will organise one or two concerts in the frame of the festival "Bonner Schumannfest - Endenicher Herbst" in autumn 2009 in Bonn. Also, Europa Cantat will participate as one of the partners in the preparation and organisation of the festival Namur-en-choeurs in Namur, Belgium, November 5 - 8 2009.

Europa Cantat Statutory Meetings

- Meeting of Europa Cantat Music Commission in Utrecht (NL), 17 - 18/1/2009
- Meeting of Europa Cantat Board and Youth Committee in Bonn, 12 - 15/2/2009
- Board meeting during Festival in Utrecht between July 17th and 26th 2009
- Meeting of Europa Cantat Music Commission in Utrecht (NL), 26/7/2009
- Europa Cantat General Assembly in Sofia (BG), 11 - 13/11/2009



The IFCM Board of Directors has decided to entrust the responsibilities of the IFCM administration to the International Center for Choral Music (ICCM) in its **office in Namur**. IFCM is fortunate to have a vivacious and energetic group of employees in the form of Jean-Claude Wilkens, Véronique Bour, Nadine Robin, and Christina Kühlewein—all working together in the International Center for Choral Music in Namur—ready to help you, and preparing to take IFCM into its next 25 years.

New contact information:
ICCM

Jean-Claude Wilkens, Secretary-General
Avenue Jean 1er, 2
B-5000 Namur, Belgium
Tel.: +32-81-711600
Fax: +32-81-711609
E-mail: jcwilkens@ifcm.net

In October 2008 Jean-Claude Wilkens has presented his resignation from the position of **IFCM Secretary-General** for the middle of 2009 for personal reasons. The Executive Committee has accepted this resignation. Here you will find the official announcement made on this occasion by the ExCom.

The **9th World Symposium on Choral Music** will take place August 3rd to 10th 2011 in Puerto Madryn, Argentina. More information on www.ifcm.net

IFCM meetings calendar

WYC standing committee : Namur, 10/01/09
WYC international jury : Namur, 21-22/3/09
IFCM ExCom : Namur, 26-27/1/09
IFCM ExCom : Namur, 27/3/09
IFCM Board : Namur, 28-29/3/09
ICCM Board : Namur, 30/3/09
Musica General Assembly : Pomaz, 3-4/4/09
IFCM ExCom : Utrecht, 20-23/7/09
IFCM General Assembly: Yerevan, 7-11/10/09

IFCM activity calendar

Musica International Session:
Pomaz, Hungary, 30/3 – 4/4/09
Voices of South Africa (VoSA):
Stellenbosch, South Africa, 31/3-4/4/09
Training for Young Choral Managers,
Marktoberdorf, Germany, 28/5-3/6/09
Music Education and Singing Conference:
Vilnius, Lithuania, 3-6/7/09
Training for Young Choral Managers
EUROPA CANTAT XVII, Utrecht,
The Netherlands, 10-27/7/09
World Youth Choir Summer Session:
Gent, Belgium, 8/7-1/8/09
Komitas Festival: Armenia, 7-11/10/09

News from
Musica International
www.musicanet.org



Like every year, Musica has launched a fund drive that was called this year „Christmas 2008 Fund drive“. A call to donate has been sent to the 45 000 emails that are known as login to access musicanet.org. You will find all the necessary information when going to the website.



Reach out, Open Up, Take In Developing your skills in advocacy, networking and international cooperation Pomáz, Hungary, 27/2 – 1/3/2009

The seminar “Reach out, Open Up, Take In” addresses national music organisations (e.g. national music councils) in North, Central and South Eastern Europe, from Albania to Slovakia and from Ukraine to Estonia. The seminar will provide an insight on how to be recognised as a cultural advocacy body in your country and how to put the 2005 UNESCO Convention on cultural diversity into practice. The seminar is organised jointly by the International and European Music Council (IMC/EMC), the Hungarian Music Council, Europa Cantat, the Europa Cantat Central Eastern European Centre (ECCEEC) and the Choral Castle Pomáz.

Further information and registration are available on www.emc-imc.org.

ExTra! Exchange Traditions – EMC Annual Conference and final event of the EU funded project, 23 – 26 April 2009, Athens, Greece

In 2009 the EMC Annual Conference will be the final event of the ExTra! project, which focuses on musical traditions of migrant and minority cultures in Europe and their interaction with cultures already existing in the European countries. The conference will discuss how music can serve as a tool for integration in education as well as in a political context. What role media can play to enhance inclusion of diverse cultures will be for debate. Speakers from the EU institutions, UNESCO, European and International NGOs as well as individual experts are invited to share their vision with the participants. The conference is open to everybody interested. It is organised by the European Music Council in co-operation with the Greek ExTra! partner EnChordais and will take place at the B&M Theocharakis Foundation in Athens, Greece. Registration and updated information will be available at www.extra-project.eu in January 2009.

New contact details for the International Music Council (IMC)

The email address, website and fax-number of the International Music Council have changed. New address:
New E-mail: info@imc-cim.org
New fax number: +33 1 45 68 48 66
New website: www.imc-cim.org

3rd IMC World Forum on Music

The 3rd IMC World Forum on Music and IMC General Assembly will take place in Tunis, Tunisia, October 17th to 22nd 2009



Rainbow Platform – An important milestone and clear expectations for the future:

On June 4th 2008 around 70 civil society organisation representatives from all over Europe gathered to consider and develop the results of the on-line consultation on Rainbow Paper II. The day centred on working group sessions with expert facilitators and rapporteurs and resulted in a sharpening of the text of Rainbow Paper II. The final paper was delivered at the closing event of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

Open Method of Coordination and Structured Dialogue – latest updates

The Member States working groups, on one hand, and of the cultural sector, on the other, have had their very first meetings since the pre-summer official launch of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) and of the the Structured Dialogue platforms. Even if the working themes of the OMC and those of civil society do not always match perfectly, the representatives of the chosen cultural organisations hope that the process will allow them over time to reinforce the voice of the cultural players in Europe and lead to a better recognition of the claims of these actors by European decision makers.

As we move from **one European Year to the next**, and public attention shifts from Intercultural Dialogue to Creativity & Innovation, the truly committed will separate from the temporarily interested. Constructive engagement with cultural diversity clearly remains a key challenge for our societies; and the arguments of the arts about their contribution to Intercultural Dialogue leave scope for refinement.

Committee on Culture and Education Sessions of the 5-6 November 2008

The Parliamentary Committee meeting had four highlights: an exchange of views within the framework of the Arab Week, and another one in the context of the Youth; the adoption of several reports on education, media and youth; the examination of four draft reports, and finally a public hearing entitled ‘A bridge between culture and European regions’.

What is the European Commission planning for 2009?

The European Commission has published its work programme for 2009. The document outlines the main priorities and strategic initiatives including the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs, a European framework for recovery from the current crisis and a concomitant package of regulatory and supervision measures for financial markets. Climate change is obviously high on the agenda too and among other interesting initiatives the European Commission will publish a communication on the first five years of an enlarged EU and a statement on what the EU has achieved to build a European Union of the 21st century.

More on www.cultureactioneurope.org