

One Voice for Collective Singing in Europe

Who are we?

The European Choral Association – Europa Cantat is a network of organisations, choirs and individuals in the field of collective singing in Europe. Through its membership, it directly represents more than 2,5 million singers, conductors, composers and managers in over 40 European countries, and reaches out to more than 37 million people in continental Europe active in the field of collective singing.

The European Choral Association - Europa Cantat is the result of a merger between Europa Cantat - European Federation of Young Choirs (EFYC), founded in 1960/1963 and the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Europäischer Chorverbände (AGEC), founded in 1955. The merger was completed in January 2011. In 2014, following an intensive cooperation process, ECA-EC incorporated the archives and history of IDOCO (Internationale des Organisations Culturelles Ouvrières) which dissolved at the end of 2013.

Our values

We endorse basic five music rights

The European Choral Association – Europa Cantat endorses the five basic music- rights, formulated by the European/International Music Council:

1. The right for all children and adults to express themselves musically in all freedom.
2. The right for all children and adults to learn musical language and skills.
3. The right for all children and adults to have access to musical involvement through participation, listening, creation and information.
4. The right for musical artists to develop their artistry and communicate through all media, with proper facilities.
5. The right for musical artists to obtain just recognition and remuneration for their work.

We are a non profit association

The European Choral Association - Europa Cantat is a non-profit organisation registered according to German law under the number VR 2791 in the Vereinsregister Bonn. The non-profit status (for the promotion of arts and culture as well as the promotion of international thinking and understanding and the promotion of tolerance in the field of culture) was last confirmed in August 2016 under the fiscal number 205/5762/0967 (gemeinnützig laut Paragraph 10 des EStG).

Our vision for collective singing in Europe

A vision

The vision of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat is to be the leading pan-European nonprofit organisation dedicated to education and cultural exchange in the field of collective singing, among singers, conductors, composers and managers of all ages, with a focus on children and young people.

Since 1955, our aims are to foster cooperation and mutual understanding between cultures, nations and individuals across social and political borders, to promote collective singing as tool for education and for community building and to represent the interests of the singing community.

A Strategy and Action Plan

A Strategy until 2021 and beyond

In 2013 the members of the association approved a strategy for the years 2014 to 2017 under the title "Benefit from the singing community!" with 5 main strategic objectives:

1. Strengthen the Network
2. Facilitate Peer-to-Peer Approach
3. Invest in Capacity-Building and Training
4. Reach Out
5. Raise Awareness

This strategy is being implemented and developed further with the project "Upgrade – Connect – Reach out: Raising Awareness for Collective Singing in Europe", funded by the European Union with up to one million EUR over four years (09/2017 to 08/2021).

Developed in tight cooperation with the membership, the project aims at strengthening the network and its members, connect to and cooperate with other players in the field of Collective Singing and beyond, reach out to people who do not sing (yet) and promote the value of European cooperation.

We connect to the international cultural field

Membership and participation in activities are also open to non-Europeans.

Through our membership in the [International Federation for Choral Music](#) (IFCM), the [International and European Music Council](#) (IMC/EMC), [Musica International](#), the [Choral Festival Network](#) and [Culture Action Europe](#) we are also connected to the choral world outside Europe and to other music and culture organisations.

Our action plan

Our actions guided by the strategy include:

1. Networking and cooperation building
2. Setting up and participating in cooperation projects
3. Collecting, publishing and disseminating repertoire, good practices and inspiring examples
4. Offering information and services about collective singing in Europe
5. Promoting the benefits of collective singing, based on research

We organise and promote activities and events for choirs, singers, conductors, composers, managers and organisations

- developed by the association
- organised in partnership with members and other partners
- other activities from the network for groups and choral professionals

Types of activities offered include

- Major and smaller choral festivals
- International training activities for singers, conductors, composers and managers
- International competitions and awards as platforms for new talent
- Conferences about "hot topics" relevant to the sector of collective singing
- Activities promoting inclusion