History of EuroChoir

EuroChoir is a unique choral event organised by the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat every year in a different country. EuroChoir was first established in 1982 by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Europäischer Chorverbände (AGEC) with the goal to bring young people from all over Europe together. The first session took place in Innsbruck, Austria and the project managed to continue from there on a yearly basis. When AGEC then merged with Europa Cantat - European Federation of Young Choirs in 2009, resulting in the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat (ECA-EC) it was considered very important that this project would continue, since the EuroChoir represented the core values of the new association.

To everyone’s great satisfaction EuroChoir managed to stay a strong project and has been steadily growing in variety of participants and countries. The choir has so far visited 12 different countries (Germany, Austria, Hungary, Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Czech Republic, Serbia, Italy, France). The EuroChoir is also a way to get in touch with choral youth in Europe beyond the project itself. The participants are considered “cultural ambassadors” of their country. In return they make friends with young people from all over Europe, learn about other cultures and bring back choral music from different European countries. After San Vito (Italy) in 2016, the 2017 edition will be held in Utrecht (NL)! Both these editions, and the next in 2018, revolve around the theme water, which binds the three hosting countries (being Finland in 2018).
EuroChoir 2017

Utrecht (NL)

Home of the internationally acclaimed Nederlands Kamerkoor, Nederlands Studenten Kamerkoor, Dutch Choir Festival and more, and sitting right in the centre of the Netherlands, Utrecht is a great city for choir singers to visit. It is also home to ZIMIHC, organisers of EuroChoir 2017.

During the EuroChoir, you will get ample opportunity to discover the many views and buildings the city has to offer. For instance, we will rehearse and give concerts in multiple venues in and around Utrecht.

Of course, with the capital of Amsterdam only 30 minutes by train away, a full-day excursion to this other beautiful city will be another experience by itself!

How to get there

By plane:
You can reach the Netherlands by arriving at two airports. Both Schiphol Airport (AMS) and Eindhoven Airport (EHV) have good connections to Utrecht and Ede, be it by train or by (rental) car.

From the Eindhoven and Schiphol Airport train stations, trains for Utrecht (as well as Ede-Wageningen, where one of the rehearsal venues is located) leave every fifteen minutes during the day.

NB: you need to take a transfer bus (line 400 & 401) between Eindhoven Airport and the Eindhoven train station, which takes about 20 minutes. See below for online public transportation planners.

By train:
This is not recommended for every country, but the connections to and from Belgium and Germany are quite well arranged. See www.nsinternational.nl/en/home-5 for more information, ticket fees and train schedules.

NB: to reach the Akoesticum (first rehearsal venue), you must travel to Ede-Wageningen, instead of Utrecht. It’s only a five-minute walk from Ede-Wageningen to Akoesticum. See also below for online public transportation planners.

By car:
Both Utrecht and the rehearsal venue in Ede are reachable by car. The address of the first rehearsal venue is found below. During the EuroChoir, all other transportation will be arranged.

Akoesticum: Nieuwe Kazernelaan 2, Ede.

NB: Navigation systems do not show the complete route to the Akoesticum yet. They put their endpoint at the bend between the Eikenlaan and Nieuwe Kazernelaan:

Continue to the Akoesticum by turning into the road shown on the left of the picture – be aware that you might approach from the right.

Once on this road, follow the “Frisokazerne/Akoesticum” signs until you reach the parking lot at the back of the building. The main entrance can be found on the front.

Public Transportation Planners:
www.9292.nl – Planner for all public transport (train, bus, subway etc.).
www.ns.nl – Most up to date planner for all trains in the Netherlands.
The conductors: Maria van Nieukerken (NL) and Lorenzo Donati (IT)

**Maria van Nieukerken** is artistic director and conductor of the professional chamber choir PA’dam, Toonkunst Rotterdam and Toonkunst Rotterdam chamber choir.

Because of the combination with other disciplines during her concerts she makes strong connections between performers and public. Maria performed on several international stages with renowned choirs and orchestras, works as an international juridicator and is member of international music commissions. She offers workshops for singers and choirs and for companies.

From 2001-2012 Maria was the conductor of the Netherlands Student Chamber Choir. She was a guest conductor by f.e. The Gents, Couleur Vocale and the Amsterdam Bach Consort. Maria was and still is an assistant conductor for Collegium Vocale Gent.

Maria studied choir conducting with Daniel Reuss, Marcus Creed, Jos van Veldhoven, Paul van Nevel, Hans van den Hombergh and Mark Shapiro (NY). In 1999 she completed the Internationale Meisterkurs Chorleitung by Eric Ericson in Germany and in 2003 she followed a masterclass by Uwe Gronostay and Hartmut Haenchen. In 2004 Maria was awarded the Baerenreiter Urtext Preis during the International Competition for Young Choral Conductors in Vienna.

**Lorenzo Donati** is a composer, conductor and violonist, who studied with the most important musicians of Italy and the world (R. Mirigliano and R. Pezzati in Florence; C. Togni in Fiesole, E. Morricone in Siena, P. Dusapin. in Rome, R. Alessandrini, R. Clemencic, O. Dantone, R. Gabbiani, D. Fasolis, G. Graden, C. Hogset, P. Neumann in Arezzo). He performed at concerts with Vocale Vox Cordis, Hesperimentera Vocal Ensemble di Arezzo and Vocalia Consort di Roma winning several national and international awards (Arezzo, Gorizia, Lugano, Montorio, Montreux, Senlis, Vittorio Veneto).

In 2007 he won two first prizes at the Concorso Internazionale per Direttori di Coro “Mariele Ventre” di Bologna. 2010 to 2012 was commissioned to conduct the Italian Youth Choir.

His compositions are being performed by ensembles as well as soloists around the world and have been published by many Italian publishing houses. His choral works were asked and/or performed by the Choir of the Accademia di Santa Cecilia, Coro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Coro Giovanile Italiano, Joyfull Company of Londen, St. Jakobs Chamber Choir from Stockholm.

He won notable awards in international competitions such as Arezzo (1996 e 1999), Gorizia (1999 e 2002), Rom (1999), Avellino (2003), Vittorio Veneto (2007). He publishes with Pizzicato Verlag, Carus Verlag and others.

He collaborates with several national cultural institutes like the association Cori della Toscana, the Centro Studi Musicali F. Busoni di Empoli, FENIARCO, Festival Incontro Polifonico Città di Fano, Fondazione Guido d’Arezzo.

He holds courses on choral music and composition in Italy and abroad (France, Russia) and for important director schools (Milano Choral Academy, Fondazione Guido d’Arezzo). He often is invited to join the jury at international contests. He teaches choral conducting at the Conservatory of Trento.

**Repertoire**

TBA, it will have water as its central theme and might include pieces from the 2016 edition.
Programme: Dates, times, and concerts

1 July: Arrival between 15:00 and 18:00 at the Akoesticum. Dinner will be arranged, with plenty of time to get to know each other!
2 – 4 July: Rehearsals in the Akoesticum.
5 July: Excursion to Amsterdam.
6 – 8 July: Rehearsals in Utrecht.
8 – 10 July: Rehearsals and 3 concerts in Utrecht and Antwerp (BE).

Exact times and venues TBD.

How to apply?
Application deadline
You must apply before the 31st of March 2017 – CLICK HERE to register.

Participant criteria
EuroChoir is aimed at ambitious choral singers, aged 18 to approximately 30, who are good sight readers and will prepare the scores in advance. Since the choir is international, it’s also important to be able to speak and understand English.
Singers should as far as possible be pre-selected by member organisations of the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat, ideally in SATB quartets, or apply with a letter of support from a member association. The organisations are asked to also support as far as possible the singers financially, covering their participation fee and if possible contribute to their travel expenses. This way they can select their singers who will have priority in the selection process. Wherever this is not possible, singers can also apply directly.
The more countries represented, the more enriching the experience will be for the singers. Since we want to give as many singers as possible the opportunity to participate, singers that have already participated in more than three editions are moved down the list automatically.

Final list of participants
The list will be announced on the 1st of May.
Every applicant will receive a message, telling them if they made the EuroChoir. The complete list of singers will also be published on the ZIMIHC website.

Tuition fees (per person and country)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country groups</th>
<th>Direct Members</th>
<th>Indirect Members</th>
<th>Non-members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>€240</td>
<td>€260</td>
<td>€280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>€185</td>
<td>€200</td>
<td>€200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>€185</td>
<td>€200</td>
<td>€200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participation fee includes all the activities, accommodation, travel costs during the project and meals (except during the excursion to Amsterdam).
The travel to/from Utrecht is at participants’ charge.

Country groups are found below. In case of doubt which group your country belongs to, please contact us.
Country group 1: AT, BE, CA, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, IE, IL, IS, IT, LU, NL, NO, SE, UK, US.
Country group 2: CZ, EE, GR, LT, LV, MT, PT, SI, SK and some overseas countries.
Country group 3: AL, AM, BA, BG, BY, HR, HU, MD, ME, MK, PL, RO, RS, RU, TR, UA.
Direct members: If you or your choir are direct member of ECA-EC.
Indirect members: If you or your choir are a member of a choral organization in your country which is a member of the ECA-EC in country groups 1 and 2.

The complete list of ECA-EC member organisations is found here.
Payment
When your application is approved (after May 1st), you will receive an e-mail with further instructions on paying your tuition fee. You can check the height of your fee on page 4.

ZIMIHC account – payment details
IBAN: NL02 INGB 0000 1560 57
BIC/SWIFT: INGBNL2A

FAQ
Who can apply for EuroChoir?
Everybody who:
1. ...is between 18 and 30 years of age
2. ...is an experienced choral singer
3. ...can prepare the scores at home beforehand
4. ...is motivated to work hard during the project
5. ...can communicate in English

How can I apply for EuroChoir?
Singers should as far as possible be pre-selected by member organisations of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat, ideally in SATB quartets, or apply with a letter of support from a member association. If this is not possible, you can register on your own.
In both cases, you must fill out the application form found here.

How strict are the criteria: e.g. age and number of participations?
The EuroChoir has certain aims and wants to reach a certain target group. We want to give as many singers the chance to participate and at the same time create a good atmosphere and level of the choir. If you are over 30 or participated three times already, you still can apply, but younger and newer participants will be selected first when other qualifications are equal.

How is the selection done?
A committee consisting of EuroChoir conductors, organisers, ECA-EC Youth committee and board representatives, will take in account balance in voice, country, age, level, and times singers participated in the choir. Motivation is important and those who apply with the support of an ECA-EC member organisation have a privileged position in selection.

What is the deadline for application?
Deadline for application is 31st of March. On May 1st, the final results will be announced.

How many singers will be chosen?
The aim for the 2017 EuroChoir is to have a choir of about 50 singers. Balance between voices will be decided by the committee.

It says experienced singers who can come prepared: how do I know if I am experienced enough?
This criterion is not meant to scare you off. Previous EuroChoirs contained singers who studied music or singing, singers who participated in national youth choirs but also singers who did neither. To have an idea of the level, see a YouTube playlist of EuroChoir 2016 here.
An applicable Dutch expression is: To never shoot is to always miss. If you don’t apply, you won’t get in anyway!

Should I send in recordings or videos?
It is not an obligation to do so. But if you think it will support your application you should! It illustrates your motivation and helps the committee to estimate your level and voice type: selection committees like to be helped.
I cannot get in touch with my ECA-EC organisation: what should I do?
You should fill out the registration form here, and contact us at r.timmer@zimihc.nl. If in the end that doesn’t work, at least we know you tried.

Contact us!
If you (still) have other questions, don’t hesitate to reach out to us at ZIMIHC.

ZIMIHC theater Wittevrouwen: Bouwstraat 55 • 3572 SP Utrecht • Tel: 030-272 34 55
ZIMIHC theater Stefanus: Braziliedreef 2 • 3563 CK Utrecht • Tel: 030-410 04 42
ZIMIHC theater Zuilen: Christinalaan 1 • 3554 JL Utrecht • Tel: 030-2762527
ZIMIHC Maatwerk: Bouwstraat 55 • 3572 SP Utrecht • Tel: 030-272 34 55
www.zimihc.nl