

PRESS RELEASE

Getting Inspired in Pécs

On November 8th to 10th 2013 members and partners of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat met in Pécs for a General Assembly and Conference under the title “Inspiring cooperation through VOICE”. It was the last event of the association in 2013, an anniversary year marked by celebrations 50 years after the foundation of the “European Federation of Young Choirs” in 1963 and by a very rich and diverse programme.

Around 130 musicians and representatives of choral organisations from 22 European countries, Israel and Lebanon (including a number of people from Central-Eastern European countries for whom this was the first occasion to attend a European gathering of this kind) came together to get inspired, meet and talk and discuss future cooperation during three days.

In the formal General Assembly the Board elected in November 2012 presented a strategy for the coming years under the title “Benefit from the Singing Community!” with 5 strategic aims named “Modernize ECA-EC”, “Facilitate peer-to-peer approach”, “Invest in capacity building and training”, “Reach out” and “Raise awareness”.

The conference was a mixture of presentations of the VOICE project, examples of cooperation happening among VOICE partners and the different research projects planned in the frame of VOICE, as well as “inspirational sessions” presenting examples from the membership about peer-to-peer cooperation and methods of inspiring participation in international events. The programme was rounded off with musical sessions, concerts and open working groups offering members the possibility to discuss future possible projects among themselves.

The General Assembly and conference were hosted by the City of Pécs (Hungary) which will also host the EUROPA CANTAT Festival in 2015 (and hosted the festival in 1988, a Pécs Cantat in 2010 and a Eurochoir session in 2013) and prepared in cooperation with the Zsolnay Heritage Management LTD (ZSÖK). The wonderful facilities of the Zsolnay Cultural Quarter and the Kodály Centre, which were built at the occasion of Pécs as Cultural Capital of Europe in 2010, as well as the cathedral of Pécs, served as venues and gave the participants a wonderful outlook at the atmosphere they can expect for the festival in 2015.

For further information see

www.eca-ec.org

www.thevoiceproject.eu

www.ecpecs2015.hu