

Marko Repnik, director
Public Fund of the Republic of Slovenia for
Cultural Activities (JSKD)
Stefanova 5
Ljubljana

Slovenia

General Secretariat
c/o Haus Der Kultur
Weberstr. 59A
53113 BONN – Germany

Phone +49 228 9125663

Fax +49 228 9125658

Mail info@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org

Web www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org

Bonn, 10/10/2017

Board of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat chooses Ljubljana as host town for the festival EUROPA CANTAT XXI in 2021

Dear Marko, dear friends of JSKD,

Thank you for submitting a candidature for the EUROPA CANTAT Festival 2021. The Board of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat (ECA-EC) short listed three serious candidatures for this festival. We thus feel that the festival is very much alive and wanted in Europe, which of course makes us very proud and happy.

This summer a delegation of the board of ECA-EC visited the three candidate cities: Utrecht, Dublin and Ljubljana. With Utrecht we were familiar because of the festival in 2009, the General Assembly & Conference Cross the Line in 2016 and the EuroChoir in summer 2017. Ljubljana already was a candidate for the festival in 2009 and hosted different events of the European Choral Association in the past, therefore we were familiar with this city also. Dublin was a new experience.

The Board of ECA-EC did a thorough analysis of the three candidatures for the EC Festival and it was not an easy decision to take, since we felt that all three candidatures were really good and strong.

In the end, however, **there was a clear vote to go to Ljubljana, Slovenia, for the 2021 festival.**

One of the strong points of this candidature was the officially confirmed financial support of the government and local institutions of 1,33 million Euro. Also the fact that Slovenia will be chair of the European Union in 2021 during the festival, since ECA-EC, the festival and other activities have been strongly supported by the culture programmes of the European Union.

Further points that helped the Board take this decision were the atmosphere of Ljubljana, the compact size of the city centre, the good logistic possibilities including low-budget accommodation, and last but not least JSKD as long-standing partner of ECA-EC could be trusted to be able to organise this major event.

We would like to congratulate JSKD and the City of Ljubljana to this decision, which was announced to the membership of ECA-EC on Saturday, October 7th 2017, in the frame of the annual General Assembly. Public communication about the decision will start by the end of the month.

→ *Page 2*



During the General Assembly weekend, which was held in Tallinn, Estonia, hosts of the festival EUROPA CANTAT XX in 2018, we also had the opportunity to speak to the representatives of JSKD about the next steps to be taken as a consequence of this decision, and we are planning to meet again in Pécs in November 2017.

It is the habit and tradition of ECA-EC to announce the host of the next festival during the closing ceremony of the previous festival. For Ljubljana this means that we would like to officially announce the festival 2021 during the Closing Ceremony which will take place in the frame of the Anniversary Concert for the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia **on Friday, August 3rd 2018** in the evening, at the famous Song Celebration Grounds.

At this occasion we will be planning to have a musical greeting from Slovenia, and to **invite a delegation with representatives of the City of Ljubljana and the Slovenian Ministry of Culture as well as JSKD** receiving the flag that will be handed over by a delegation of the City of Tallinn, the Estonian Ministry of Culture and the Estonian Choral Association. It would be great if you could immediately contact the offices of the Mayor of Ljubljana and the Slovenian Minister of Culture and check if they would be able to come personally, or two whom they would like to delegate this invitation.

An official invitation will follow in early spring 2018, with **arrival in Tallinn on Friday, August 3rd and departure on Sunday, August 5th 2018**, since there will be a day full of great final concerts on Saturday, August 4th, all over the centre of Tallinn.

We will also be happy to include representatives of JSKD in the festival team and to accept one or several young Slovenians to the Young Event Management Programme – YEMP in order to pass as much expertise as possible from one festival to the next.

Last but not least, you will have the opportunity to **advertise for Ljubljana as host town for the 2021 festival** in many different ways during the festival, also before the handing over of the flag. You could have a booth at the expo, an advert in the programme book, flyers in the bags of the participants, video clips shown on central screens etc., details and costs to be discussed with the organisers of the festival in Tallinn. This means that a certain investment in communication is needed already in 2018, in order to have sufficient high-quality material to spread in Tallinn in summer.

For the long-term planning we would also like to recommend to already foresee a budget for representation of the festival and a booth at the World Symposium on Choral Music in Auckland, New Zealand, in July 2020, since this world conference for choral conductors is always an important occasion to advertise for the event.

Thanking you very much again for your efforts and looking forward to a continued cooperation.

On behalf of the Board of ECA-EC



Gábor Móczár, President



Sonja Greiner, Secretary General