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A successful Membership Weekend in Ljubljana, Slovenia, the host of the future Europa Cantat Festival 2021

Between 15th and 16th of November 2019, the members of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat gathered in Ljubljana, Slovenia for the annual Membership Weekend, a format which includes the General Assembly, workshops, discussion groups, networking opportunities and a musical programme.

The General Assembly was preceded by a day dedicated to the members, where they were offered a platform to present their latest projects and formed discussion groups on important topics for the association: the future of festivals and competitions, environmental challenges, the European campaign on Benefits of Singing, low budget events and formed feedback groups on the new strategic lines developed by the Board. The participants were offered the opportunity to attend a workshop on ‘How to tell your stories’ facilitated by Yvette van den Berg, with external input from Gerhard Sammer and Sonja Greiner, or a musical workshop on the rich musical heritage of Slovenian music, hosted by the Europa Cantat Festival Team and guests.

The weekend was complimented with a wide musical programme which included concerts of the Children’s choir of Elementary School Ledina and Cvetko Golar Elementary School Škofja Loka, accompanied by Volk Folk, Ilirska Bistrica and Janez Jocif, followed by the Chamber Choir of the Ljubljana Conservatory for Music and Ballet and Orkester Mandolina.

During the weekend, the participants were fascinated by the Postonja Cave, ending their discoveries with a concert under the magnificent cave formations, performed by St. Nicholas Choir Litija, conducted by Helena Fojkar Zupančič.

The event was hosted by the Slovenian member Association JSKD – Public Fund for Cultural Activities and gathered 116 participants from 26 different countries, who appreciated the friendly spirit, the hospitality and great organisation of the Slovenian team, discovering Slovenia’s capital, Ljubljana, the host of the future Europa Cantat Festival in 2021.

The Europa Cantat Festival is one of the largest international music festivals in Europe and the largest music event to be held in Slovenia. Singers, composers, conductors, instrumentalists and choral publishers from all over the world will participate at the eight-day festival. Approximately 50 of the world’s greatest conductors and mentors will attend this event to hold workshops adapted to the participants, who are both choral music enthusiasts and professionals. The most recent festival, Europa Cantat 2018, in Tallinn, hosted participants from 48 countries from Europe, Asia, the Americas, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. The participation of non-European choirs has been on the rise in recent years as choral singing is gaining in popularity all over the world.

We are delighted to have received the patronage of Borut Pahor, the President of Slovenia for the Europa Cantat Festival during our stay, on the 14th of November. This is a moment of great significance and support for the work of choral organisations all around Europe to

More information, not for publication:

encourage and develop this wonderful art form, where people of all ages come together and unite their voices, preserving the cultural traditions through music.

Slovenia has been chosen to host the festival in 2021, which means that the country has been recognised in the choral world as a place with a longstanding choral tradition and development and that the success and international achievements of the best Slovenian choirs have not gone unnoticed.

For further information please contact the General Secretariat of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat, Haus der Kultur, Weberstr. 59a, 53113 Bonn, Germany, Tel: +49 228 9125663, Fax: +49 228 9125658, info@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org, www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org

More information, not for publication:

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