

ECA-EC Board Candidature 2021 - Alberto Palacín Fernández (ES)
Motivation Letter

Dear members and representatives of European Choral Association- Europa Cantat,

The last year and a half has led to the biggest health, economical, and social crisis the world has faced in many decades. Consequently, the choral sector, even in the countries with less strict regulations (or more possibility to convey funds to professionals and organisations), has been impacted severely, with many choirs and organisations having difficulties to keep alive. But even in these challenging times, every singer, leader, manager, teacher, creator have found new ways of cooperation between peers to keep up-to-date with the latest information about COVID and its impact in face-to-face choral activities, to learn new skills and methodology in order to keep choral groups singing from home, or to support one another on many shared worries and uncertainties.

Now in September 2021, more than one year and a half after the arrival of the pandemic in Europe, we keep fighting for the return of all the events and activities that have been stopped, but with new tools, new knowledge, and a whole new ability to be very flexible in order to adapt to almost any scenario possible. Therefore, all the resilience that we have gained, all the colleagues that have made this journey with us, all that we have learnt through these difficult times will remain, and the spirit of collaboration lived in these past months should inspire us to bring the sector as far as possible in the recovery phase we have ahead of us.

We need to believe stronger than ever on the power of collective singing and its relevance for the current times. We have something very special to offer to every European citizen, something that can make their lives better, happier, healthier. ECA-EC shall continue leading this beautiful path, and I look forward to joining the next Board to envision the key projects, activities, and initiatives that will make the choral movement in Europe the key cultural and educational activity on the promotion of mental health and well-being, social and political integration, intercultural understanding, music education and its democratization, and artistic development.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alberto', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Alberto Palacín Fernández

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Answer to questions

1. Why are you interested in becoming a Board member of the European Choral Association -Europa Cantat? What makes you a good Board member?

I am applying for the Board after a very successful experience in the Youth Committee. In these three years I have been able to discover an amazing and vibrant organisation, being very actively involved in its different working groups and projects, as well as taking different roles in Europa Cantat Festival. Therefore, having already a good knowledge of the Association, I am up to date with most of the topics and challenges that it must face in the next years and can start contributing to them right from the beginning, providing a broader perspective to any point discussed due to my educational and professional profile (conductor with a teaching job and a both music and management educational background).

2. How can you contribute to the development of the federation and what would you like to focus on during the period on board?

I have had the opportunity to live in very different social, economical, and cultural contexts inside Spain (from big, metropolitan cities to smaller and more isolated ones), each one with very different and specific needs for further development, as well as to experience very diverse singing, conducting, or managing programmes. I think that this fact has allowed me to understand the variety of projects and work that needs to be done at a supra-national level in order to make the network and its work useful for every choral enthusiast (or even for those who are not in the sector yet).

Therefore, I would like to contribute to the federation on:

- the development of well-established education-oriented programmes (Youth Committee, YEMP, Eurochoir, EC Junior), and to the further progress of more recent (or even new) ones: EC TV, webinars, handbooks.
- the curation of activities and festivals, promoting a good balance between well-known artistic proposals and leaders with fresher faces and ideas.
- the increase of the area of influence of the Association, including new target groups and geographical areas.
- the design of a sustainability strategy for the Association and its events, from the social, economical, and environmental perspectives.

3. What is your vision about the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat and its activities?

My vision for ECA-EC is that it reinforces its position as the referent network for the collective singing sector in Europe by providing easy access to high-value educational experiences, materials, and projects; with the ability to empower both new and experienced choral leaders in the fulfilment of the artistic, educational, and/or social goals for the communities they serve. Hence ECA-EC would aspire to offer every citizen in Europe and beyond the benefits of collective singing, no matter their musical, social or economic background.

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BIO

Conductor, Professor, Culture Manager

Alberto Palacín Fernández was born in Gijón (Asturias - Spain) in 1992. He pursued studies in Conducting in [Musikene](#) (Music College of the Basque Country), where he studied with Arturo Tamayo, Manel Valdivieso and Gabriel Baltés. He has also attended conducting masterclasses with Donato Renzetti, Fabián Panisello y Mark Heron, Carlo Pavese, Gary Graden, Ambrož Čopi, Simon Halsey, Pablo Heras-Casado, Mathieu Romano, Enrique Azurza, and Marco Antonio García de Paz. He has been Artistic Director of [Baluart Vocal Group](#) (Barcelona), LUT Vocal Ensemble (San Sebastian), and choral conductor of the children choir Erresargi Txiki Abesbatza. as well as worked as guest / assistant conductor with different *ensembles*, choirs, and orchestras. In July 2016 he was Awarded an scholarship by the Swiss Festival *Ticino Musica* to conduct the Contemporary Music LAB, conducting works such as Luciano Berio's *Différences* and *Folk Songs* through the Ticino canton. As a choral singer, he has been part of [Orfeo Català](#) from *Palau de la Musica Catalana* in Barcelona, the [World Youth Choir 2019](#), as well as [el León de Oro](#), with which he has performed in many international festivals and competitions (BBC Proms, *Choralies*, Shanghai International Arts Festival, London International a cappella Competition, among others). Currently he is conductor of [Joven Coro Ciudad de Granada](#) (*Youth Choir of the Granada's City Orchestra*).

As a teacher, he has worked as Choir & Conducting Professor at the [Manuel Massotti College of Music](#) in Murcia, and he has also been invited to lead choir, instrumental and choral conducting workshops for music teachers in school and conservatoires. Presently he is Choir & Choral Conducting Professor at the [Royal Conservatory "Victoria Eugenia" of Granada](#) and is preparing a PhD dissertation in the field of Education about Choral Pedagogy at the EHU-UPV ([University of the Basque Country](#)).

As a culture manager and choral enthusiast, he is involved in different national and international cooperation activities and bodies. Since January 2019 he is a member of the European Choral Association- Europa Cantat's [Youth Committee](#), and also fellow by the [European Music Council](#) since 2020. During the pandemic, together with choral conductor Xavier García, he coordinated the Conductor's Forum of the Spanish Choral Conductors Association- [AEDCORO](#), as a tool to foster the exchange of information and collaboration among choral conductors from all over Spain. He holds a Master's Degree in Culture Management by the University of Barcelona.