

European Choral Association – Europa Cantat

Weberstr. 59A, D-53111 Bonn

Candidature for the Board of
the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat 2021

Motivation Letter

I learned a lot through EC festivals, singing weeks and other events and did my best to transfer many good things to Serbian choral life implementing good ideas in our festivals and choral events, especially the socially responsible concept of Open singing. After 30 years of conducting and teaching, I am ready to return the gift to European Choral Association with my knowledge and experience.

I have expertise or experience to all areas of the EC work, but **musical and youth aspects** could be the main field of my work in the Board. **International relations**, especially within the Balkan region and Russia, are also the areas I can manage.

Musical aspects – I would like to broaden the repertoire at EC events in several musical aspects, introduce more balanced repertoire and suggest new or less-known authors from past and present, especially from less represented regions.

International relations – Having personal and/or professional contacts with many choirs, singing societies and conductors in the region, including all countries in the Balkans (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Bulgaria...) I would promote the EC membership and participation in EC events among them.

Youth aspects – For several decades I have conducted youth choir and orchestra with 200 members aged 14-19 years: I am the founder and artistic leader of the Serbian National Youth Choir. I strongly believe that it is one of the most important things to do nowadays – to inspire young people to sing together and commit themselves to that art form.

Finances- on national level I succeeded in getting the attention of government institutions to support projects of collective singing, especially under the frame of the large project “Novi Sad - European Capital of Culture 2022”.

Strategy – I believe that **unity and cooperation** are of most importance in the choral world.

As a conductor, leader and teacher I believe that I can distinctively contribute to the prosperity of the European Choral Association.



In Novi Sad, Serbia, September 29th, 2021

Tamara Adamov Petijević, conductor

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Why are you interested in becoming a Board member of the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat?

My first contact with Europa Cantat was in 1999, when, as a young conductor, I attended the masterclass in conducting during the International Choral Competition in Marktoberdorf, Germany. I was overwhelmed with the high artistic quality of the event, but also deeply touched by the concern that the management of EC expressed towards me. It was miraculous – the efforts they did in order to enable my participation, since my country was being bombed at that time and it was almost impossible to leave the country, get a visa etc. All the festivals and singing weeks, assemblies and other events of ECA - EC enriched my professional career as a conductor. New connections with many friends and colleagues opened doors for further cooperation with choirs and conductors around the world. I learned a lot through EC and tried to transfer many good things to Serbian choral life implementing some good ideas in our festivals and choral events, especially the socially responsible concept of Open singing, which is now a part of almost all our events.

After 30 years of conducting and teaching, I am ready to return the gift to the European Choral Association; to give in return some of my knowledge and experience to this important and unique organization.

What makes you a good Board member?

I am a conductor. It means that, apart from broad musical knowledge, I also have an experience in management, organizational, social and psychological skills. As a conductor I see things both from outside and inside. In my three decades experience I have conducted a large variety of ensembles and music genres: from amateur and youth to professional choirs; from unison church chant and folk song arrangements to opera and oratorio. I think I have a broad view and insight into all aspects of collective singing.

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

I would like to contribute in all aspects, but mainly would focus on musical and youth aspects, as well as international relations, especially (if needed) within the Balkan region. Connecting people and promoting values that ECA - EC had achieved, among less represented regions would be my focus.

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

I highly appreciate all the efforts that ECA – EC does to promote the benefits of collective singing and would like to contribute to that promotion with some new ideas and strategies. Wide range of music performance (from amateur to professional), all music genres as well as different age groups, make a really large field that ECA – EC covers in its long-life mission; I think that my knowledge and experience might be useful at many points in this variety of activities.

Tamara Adamov Petijevic, conductor

Novi Sad (Serbia)

Dr Tamara Adamov Petijevic is conductor, violin player and teacher, a researcher in the field of choral music and leader and artistic director of three choirs and two symphony orchestras, with around 300 mostly young people.

She conducts the renowned Orthodox church choir *St Stephen of Dechani*, the *Isidor Bajic Music School* mixed and girls' choir and a professional vocal-instrumental oratorio studio *Orfelin*. She conducted the boys' choir of the *Karlovcı Seminary* of the Serbian Orthodox church as the first woman-conductor and teacher in the history of that institution from XVIII century.

Her choirs and orchestras won many prizes at national and international choral competitions and festivals. She was awarded the *Best Conductor Performance* at *YoungPrague* competition, the title *Ambassador of Good Will* at *Zimriya Festival* in Jerusalem and *First prize Summa Cum Laude* at the International Festival of Youth Orchestras in Neerpelt, Belgium; several high national prizes for her pedagogical work.

Her research work resulted in numerous projects, such as recording 10 CDs or editing and publishing 5 books/music collections of Serbian choral and church music.

She was a presenter and conductor at several Choral Workshops for liturgical and choral music in USA, Canada, Italy and Hungary.

She is a member of many international juries for choirs and composition and artistic director or member of the artistic committee of several national music festivals. In 2015 she acted as a member of the Regional Artistic Committee of EC Festival in Hungary.

In May 2017 she initiated and founded the *Serbian Choral Association*, with 120 choirs in membership. Today is the president of that organization.

In 2018 she completed her PhD studies in conducting at the Faculty of Music Art in Belgrade with the project: "Oratorization of the opera 'Legend of the Invisible City of Kitezh' by N. Rimsky Korsakov"

She teaches at the Music School in Novi Sad and very often does conductors' seminars and masterclasses in Serbia and abroad. In the USA she was a guest conductor and a lecturer 4 times, since 2011.

Letter of Endorsement for Tamara Adamov Petijević
candidature for new Board for 2021 – 2024

Dear choral friends,

I am writing this letter of strong support for the candidacy of Tamara Adamov Petijevic for new Board of ECA – EC. With her knowledge, abilities and experience, Tamara has been successfully realizing projects related to choral singing in Serbia and the world for many years. She is extremely committed to advancing choral singing in every possible way. As a conductor, she achieved exceptional results with her choirs and orchestras and participated in the work of many choir juries. She has a high level of organizational skills and extensive experience and successfully realizes choir festivals, seminars and professional choral trainings. In her work, I would especially like to emphasize the successful long-term organization of the Youth Choir Festival, the founding of the National Youth Choir of Serbia, the founding of the Choir of Conductors of the Serbian Choir Association and the professional seminar for choir conductors. She monitors and follows the projects and ideas of your organization and inspires the members of our organization to participate. Through her active work and participation in choir events, she gained many useful contacts and established friendly relations with conductors and choir associations. She is a visionary always full of new and creative ideas. She is an extremely communicative person, friendly, tolerant and willing to cooperate. Also, she is efficient and fast in solving all problems. Because of all her professional and personal qualities, I think she would make a great contribution to your organization and I strongly support her candidacy.

Sincerely,

Zorica Kozlovački
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