

European Choral Association | Weberstr. 59A - DE 53113 Bonn

PRESS RELEASE

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The European Choral Association elects a new Board and President and looks ahead to continuing the promotion of the benefits of collective singing

The European Choral Association is happy to announce that Dermot O’Callaghan from Ireland was elected president of the association on November 21st 2021 in Lyon, France.

On November 20th the general assembly elected a Board of 11 people from 10 European countries which in turn, following open and wide-ranging conversation within the board on the needs of the association, elected the new Executive Board:

President: Dermot O’Callaghan (Ireland)

1st Vice-President and treasurer: Martine Spanjers (The Netherlands)

2nd Artistic Vice-President: Burak Onur Erdem (Turkey)

3rd Vice-President: Raul Talmar (Estonia)

Further members of the Board are:

Tamara Adamov Petijevic (Serbia), Jeroen Beckers (Belgium), Côme Ferrand-Cooper (France), Xavier Devillers (Belgium), Marco Fornasier (Italy), Silvija Pročkytė (Lithuania), Josep Vila i Casanas (Spain) and Daphne Wassink (The Netherlands, co-opted as representative of the Friends of Choral Music in Europe).

The new Board will continue emphasizing the important role of collective singing for the well-being of people and calls on governments as well as institutions and organisations dealing with choral music that singing together, if done with precaution and following the rules in place, is not dangerous, but the Covid-19 virus is. Recent research confirms that singing compared to speaking in the same volume carries almost the same risk (we have included the link in our document with research and other Covid-19 information, see www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org/Covid-19 -> the document).

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