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A VOICE FOR VOCAL TRAINING

New pan-European research reveals the true value of singing in primary schools

Singing at school can be a valuable and fun experience for both primary school children and their teachers, but not enough is being done to ensure that all children are able to enjoy the wider benefits of singing as part of their daily education.

A new report from Koor&Stem, the Flemish organisation for vocal music, has gathered over 100 inspiring examples of singing at primary schools and teacher training colleges from all over Europe to inspire more schools to become 'singing schools'. These good practice examples demonstrate the many ways in which singing can be effectively rolled into the school day.

Carl Van Eyndhoven, Vice Dean for research at the Faculty of the Arts of the KU Leuven in Belgium, says that "singing is a fundamental part of who we are as humans – how we communicate, express emotion and learn. And yet, far too many children are being denied this opportunity.". He claims the report's case studies "are hugely important and valuable for anyone wanting to consider the future evolution of singing in primary education and the contribution that the choir world can make to this".

30 of these inspiring international examples have been described in detail in the report, presenting a wide range of successful approaches and partnerships, such as:

- Innovative training courses for primary school pupils and teachers
- The introduction of new singing methods in schools by singing professionals from the choir world
- Stimulating choir activities for teachers, student teachers and pupils alike
- Challenging vocal training programmes for schools organized by choirs – both amateur and professional – arts centres and professional orchestras

These case studies showcase not only valuable and fun activities, but also demonstrate clearly that singing has enormous added value for pupils, teachers and schools and consequently, for society in general.

The full report, as well as executive summaries in English, Dutch, French and German, links to websites, videos and relevant scientific articles and a short description of more than 110 inspiring international initiatives, is available for download on the website of Koor&Stem, www.koorenstem.be/avoicetovocaltraining, or can be purchased via www.koorenstem.be/webshop.

New singing resources

Theoretical information becomes teaching practice in the new songbook *Do you like music?*. Experts from different European countries have shared their knowledge and experience in singing with primary school children and have given useful didactic tips to children's repertoire that can be directly put into practice by teachers. This mix of international expertise allows a broad musical approach with attention for different art forms. *Do you like music?* contains 16 songs in different languages for age groups from 6 to 12 years. All didactic tips and song lyrics have been translated into English and Dutch. The additional CD is particularly useful for studying the pronunciation of the different languages. The CD also includes an instrumental sing-along version of the songs.

The songbook (with CD) costs € 20 and can be purchased via www.koorenstem.be/webshop.

VOICE – European cooperation project

'A voice for vocal training' of Koor&Stem is part of the innovative European cooperation project '**VOICE - Vision On Innovation for Choral music in Europe**', a project coordinated by European Choral Association – Europa Cantat (Germany) in cooperation with partners from 11 European countries. See also www.thevoiceproject.eu.

Do you want more information about 'A voice for vocal training'? Please contact Lucille Lamaker at Koor&Stem, E lucille.lamaker@koorenstem.be, T +32 3 237 96 43 Report and songbook can be ordered via www.koorenstem.be/webshop

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Culture

Met steun van de
Vlaamse overheid



A voice for vocal training is part of "**VOICE - Vision On Innovation for Choral music in Europe**", a project coordinated by European Choral Association – Europa Cantat (Germany) in cooperation with Chorverband Österreich (Austria), Expertisecentrum Stem (Belgium), Koor&Stem (Belgium), Epilogi (Cyprus), UCPS (Czech Republic), A Coeur Joie (France), Polyfollia (France), Moviment Coral Català and Mediterranean Office for Choral Singing (Spain), KÓTA and Central-Eastern European Centre (Hungary), the Pécs Cultural Centre (Hungary), FENIARCO (Italy), Länsmusiken with the Swedish International Choral Centre Örebro (Sweden) and the University of York (UK), as well as many other associate partners. This project has been selected under the European Union programme "Culture".

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