

ECA_ Europa Cantat_ GA 2013_ PÉCS/ HUNGARY

Session 2.1: Cooperate!

Exemplary initiatives on how to engage the membership in international activities.

Point: „Organising a Study Tour to Torino - Rainer Held (CH)“

1. why a study tour to the ECA-festival in Torino ?

As the president of the music-commission of the Swiss Choir Association (SCV; the largest choir organisation in Switzerland with over 50'000 members and about 1'7000 choirs), the situation of the association in terms of external contacts has been and still is an important aspect of my work.

I've already worked in the former AGECE and have been a member of the music-commission of the ECA-Europa Cantat since 2010.

Through this work I as a Swiss have come to realise that Switzerland lives a multisided, multilingual choral life; however, also in this regard it sometimes tends to a certain isolation.

Especially because of the economic situation (high wages and high prices) it is not so easy to always have a look on what is going on beyond the borders with a curiosity.

During my term as the president of the music-commission SCV I've already taken musical responsibility for a National Singing Event in 2008: Over 17'000 people participated in concerts, contests and other events during two times three days.

By the way: In one week the ninth Swiss Choir Contest is taking place, with about 60 choirs in 5 categories.

As you can see, the Swiss Choir Scene knows large choral events.

During a discussion with the management board of the SCV we've agreed that my active work in the music-commission for the EC-Festival Torino and the work within the SCV as a studytour should be used.

The goal: the participants shall get an insight into the European Choir-Festival and also be able to take home ideas and motivations/suggestions for their work in the association, along with personal impressions.

2. who for? cooperations?

To increase the attraction, we were able to relocate the fall-meeting of the managing board (these 21 members meet twice a year for counseling) to Torino, with the purpose to give the officials of the associations the opportunity to experience closely the atmosphere and the groove of such an event.

At the same time, we issued a tender, in cooperation with our professional travel agency, in our association's magazine „chorus“.

3. results

From August Second to Fourth about 100 people from Switzerland traveled to Turin. Amongst them were: the presidents of the associations of the cantons, representatives of the national and cantonal committees and singers, conductors and friends of choir music.

Thanks to an adjusted festival ticket the participants were able to attend following activities:

Guided final concerts of the various workshops of one's own choice/ the concert „Le Laudi“ (oratorio by Hermann Suter) in Lingotto / the visit of presentations, lectures,...

In addition there was given time to tourism and social exchange.

4. perspective

Due to very positive feedbacks from participants as well as the wonderful cooperation with the travel agency I'm planning further activities for us Swiss:

2014 Visit of the „Baltic Song and Dance Celebration“

2015 Visit of the Europa Cantat Festival in Pécs

5. conclusion

It is important for the Swiss choir scene to see, hear and experience new ideas. The connection of own experiences outside of the field of work with the usual, daily experiences is a lasting way of learning.

Rainer Held/ 6.11.2013