



Ste Marie d'Alvey, le 11.11.2013

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Dear Friends,

Our project Voices from Citizens of Europe is now on its tracks.

This year, I have been delighted to meet Artur Wrobel (Cantilena choir) in Wroclaw, Ivo Marcovic and Jossip Katavic (Pontanima choir) in Francfort, Tijana Vignjevic (Corona and Seljo choirs) in Paris, and of course Marie-Claude Hoyrup (Passacaille choir) in Chambéry.

We are still looking for partner choirs in Germany and Belgium, the process is currently underway. An association under French law has been created in Chambéry in order to bear the spirit and the organization of the VOCE project. Each participating choir will have to become a member of this association (10€ registration fees) as a legal entity. It will also be possible for individuals to become members (same fees).

We are glad to have obtained the labeling from the Mission for the Centenary of the French government for this project.

I now draw the outline of the artistic project for the first year. Then, our meetings will have to build, develop and enrich the project for the following years.

Here is a synthesis of the proposal for 2014

1. Learn to know each other through the repertoires that characterize us :
 - Each choir sends to the others 1 or 2 scores which are typical of the spirit that makes the identity and specificity of the ensemble.
 - It is important to think about how these scores are passed on: how foreign speakers can handle the text, what is the meaning of the piece (English translation), how the piece should be performed (recorded version)?
 - We could make this first step rather soon, say before Christmas 2013.

2. Each choir orders a **minute composition** :
 - A short piece (between 1 and 3 minutes)
 - From a composer in the vicinity of the choir
 - In the mother tongue(s) of the choir

- Linked to the 1914-1918 period; for example :
 - A text from that time (poem, letter...)
 - A music from that period, arranged or re-created
 - Anything that could place us at the heart of this inheritance and bring to the forefront how the different populations have lived the conflict, on the frontline, in cities or in small towns.
 - Since the pieces are very short, we can most probably ask the composers to provide us with their work before the end of February.
 - These pieces are offered to all the other choirs while bearing in mind the above-mentioned points regarding how the pieces should be passed on.
3. Various meetings will take place during spring and summer 2014 :
- A delegation from each vocal ensemble could attend to the commemoration in Sarajevo between June 20th and 30th. It might be a busy period for all of us, but that would definitely be a highly symbolic kick-off for the project.
 - A first artistic meeting in Lyon for the « Dialogues en Humanité » event (see program at <http://dialoguesenhumanite.org/>) during the week-end from July 4th to 6th 2014. We have already raised the idea that this meeting could be a workshop gathering all the choir conductors and a few singers from each ensemble (one singer per voice for instance?), in order to get to know each other from the music standpoint. We could work on the pieces and minute compositions exchanged during the year, and prepare the next artistic step. Obviously, it will be much easier to gather singers from the French side, so that we could constitute and work with a choir of large enough size. You could be all housed at our singers' places (Lyon is at one and a half hour drive from Chambéry). In order for us to organize properly these various aspects, it is important that you tell us very quickly if you can join us for this meeting and how many people will attend.
 - During the second half of July 2014, a first meeting of the choirs is planned to happen in Sarajevo. Practical aspects still have to be defined together, and we have to agree on dates that will be convenient for everyone, between July 15th and 25th. I am waiting for your feedback on this point.
4. For spring 2015, another meeting in Ypres (Belgium) is currently being prepared. It could also be possible to organize a meeting in Chambéry in the framework and in collaboration with one of our summer festivals.
5. Much later, in 2018, at the end of a process involving yet other countries, we have in mind to order a long piece to a composer, and perform it simultaneously in different European venues.

It is understood that the presence of all the participating choirs is not requested for each and every event that will take place during our human and musical route. We will give our preference to medium-scale friendly encounters, in order to be able to truly exchange and learn to know each other during the meetings.

I thank you in advance for your feedback on this proposal and for your quick reply concerning how each choir could attend and contribute to the events of this first year 2014. Please feel free to contact me if you need any complementary information on the project. As soon as we all agree on the principle, we could go further and tackle the practical aspects of the organization of these beautiful sharing moments.

With my friendly regards,
Cyrille Colombier
Artistic Director



PS :

I also join a copy of :

- A graphical summary of the project (only in French and English) allowing capturing the general idea at a glimpse.
- The founding text of the project.

