

EUROVISION
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EUROVISION

CHOIR
GOTHENBURG 2019



PRESS HANDBOOK

Dear friends,

It is with great pride and excitement that I welcome you to the second edition of Eurovision Choir, here in Gothenburg.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to be involved in the production during Latvian Television's first edition in Riga hold many fond memories of launching Eurovision's newest competition format. The show was spectacular, the choirs stunning and the music sublime.

But what remains most strongly in my memory is the unique atmosphere of the backstage area around the show. I recall a festive atmosphere, almost a party, as nine choirs traded songs across the dressing room walls. And indeed, this is a festival – a festival of the beauty and diversity of choral singing in Europe, and of what can be achieved by joining our voices. So it seems true – singing is good for the soul.

Thanks to those of you who have made the journey to attend Eurovision Choir 2019 in Gothenburg. Good luck to all the choirs taking part and enjoy the show!



Jon Ola Sand

Executive Supervisor, Eurovision Song Contest & Eurovision Live Events.



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Press Handbook

Eurovision Choir

History

Eurovision Choir (formerly Eurovision Choir of the Year) is a televised competition for amateur choirs, forming a part of the 'Eurovision Family of Events' which includes the Eurovision Song Contest, the Junior Eurovision Song Contest and Eurovision Young Musicians, all operated under the auspices of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU).



The first edition took place at Riga Arena in Latvia on 22 July 2017, host broadcast by EBU Member Latvijas Televīzija (LTV), and was won by Slovenian girls' choir *Carmen Manet*. Nine broadcasters sent choirs to this inaugural edition, which was hosted by Eric Whitacre and Eva Johansone, and adjudicated by UK composer and conductor John Rutter, Latvian mezzo-soprano Elīna Garanča and Swiss conductor Nicholas Fink.

Estonia	Estonian TV Girls' Choir
Denmark	Academic Choir of Aarhus
Belgium	Les Pastoureaux
Germany	Jazzchor Freiburg
Slovenia	Carmen Manet
Hungary	Bartók Béla Férfikar
Wales	Côr Merched Sir Gâr
Austria	Hardchor Linz
Latvia	Spīgo

The event was produced in partnership with Interkultur (organizers of the European Choir Games 2017, Riga, of which Eurovision Choir of the Year took place on the penultimate day) and Live Riga.

The 2017 edition can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ttk47ikd8ug>

Photo dossier: <https://photos.ebu.ch/galleries/251/eurovision-choir-of-the-year-2017>

2019 edition

The second edition of Eurovision Choir takes place at the Partille Arena, Gothenburg, Sweden on 3 August 2019. The event is combined with the Opening Ceremony of the European Choir Games, which take place in Gothenburg, Sweden, and is produced in partnership with Interkultur and Goteborg&Co.

<i>Belgium</i>	<i>Almakalia</i>
<i>Denmark</i>	<i>Vocal Line</i>
<i>Germany</i>	<i>BonnVoice</i>
<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Babite Municipality Mixed Choir MASKA</i>
<i>Norway</i>	<i>Volve Vokal</i>
<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Alba</i>
<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Jazzva</i>
<i>Sweden</i>	<i>Zero8</i>
<i>Switzerland</i>	<i>Cake O'Phonie</i>
<i>Wales</i>	<i>Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion</i>

The EBU acts as host broadcaster, with crew and production design supplied by NEP Sweden and TheBroadcastFamily.

The competition is hosted by UK broadcaster Petroc Trelawny (who also hosted Eurovision Young Musicians in 2018) and Ella Petersson and will be adjudicated by UK composer and conductor John Rutter (reprising his role in the 2017 jury), Swedish singer and *The Real Group*' founding member Katarina Henryson, and USA a cappella producer and arranger Deke Sharon.

EBU

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) is the world's leading alliance of public service media (PSM). We have 116 member organizations in 56 countries and have an additional 34 Associates in Asia, Africa, Australasia and the Americas. Our Members operate over 2,000 television, radio and online channels and services, and offer a wealth of content across other platforms. Together they reach an audience of more than one billion people around the world, broadcasting in more than 160 languages. The EBU operates Eurovision and Euroradio services.

Format Description

Running Order Summary

- The show opens with a VT establishing sequence, with live music underneath
- As we move inside the venue the music changes to Mamma Mia (Abba), performed by massed choir members as twelve flags process onto stage (competing countries + City of Gothenburg + Eurovision Choir logo)
- 5 choirs perform their 4' set; one juror comments after each
- VT film about the prize for the competition
- 5 choirs perform their 4' set; one juror comments after each
- (OFF AIR) European Choir Games Opening Ceremony
- Massed choir performance – Without You (Avicii)
- 3 finalist choirs return to give second 3' performance
- (OFF AIR) European Choir Games Opening Ceremony
- Performance by 2017 Eurovision Choir winners Carmen Manet
- Winner announcement & prize ceremony
- Massed choir performance: Dancing Queen (ABBA)

Set Design

- At the rear of the stage, c. 300 singers of the 'Massed Choir' are placed on banked risers.
- Above and between them are LED panels which will be used to display abstract graphics as part of the lighting design of the show.
- On stage left are seated the Bohuslan Big Band, with main presenter position in front of them
- Competing choirs may use two risers and floor space in front.
- The conductor podium raised, off the main part of the stage



Deferred Start time

- Live show begins at 20h00 CEST/Gothenburg
- Transmission begins at 20h30 CEST (30 minute deferred)
- During jury deliberations, c. 25' of off air content (European Choir Games) is cut
- At the time of the results announcement the broadcast will be c. 5' deferred

NOTE: Since the defer is small and the broadcast is simultaneous with the live event, the term 'live broadcast' is used throughout the EBU literature.

Press Accreditation

Journalists wishing to apply for accreditation to Eurovision Choir 2019 may do so via <https://ebu.accredion.com/eurovision-choir-of-the-year/2019/accreditation/records/create>.

Press accreditation is available within the EBU, Interkultur and City of Gothenburg delegations.

Kindly note that if your application is accepted you will receive a ticket to attend the live show only. No other press facilities or backstage access are provided, and interviews may be conducted in public areas of the Partille Arena. For interview requests, see 'Contact' below.

Photo Pool

Press photos from the Opening Event, General Rehearsals and Live Show will be pooled and made available via <https://photos.ebu.ch/galleries/eurovision-choir-2019>

Contact

For enquiries regarding press accreditation, photo pool and interview requests please contact Eurovision Live Events Communications Lead Mr. **Dave GOODMAN** (goodman@eurovision.net) / +41 79 634 9097 or press@eurovision.tv (+41 22 717 2500)

Electronic Press Kits

Hosts

Petroc Trelawny

Petroc Trelawny is one of the best-known voices on BBC Radio Three - where he presents the daily Breakfast programme. This summer will see his twentieth consecutive season introducing BBC Proms on radio and television. He presents the live BBC broadcast of the Vienna Philharmonic New Year's Day Concert, and in June hosts BBC Television's 'Cardiff Singer of the World' for the eleventh time. Last year he presented the international telecast of Eurovision Young Musician to more than two dozen countries from Edinburgh. Petroc has introduced TV profiles of arts figures including Dame Fanny Waterman, Julian Bream and Yehudi Menuhin. He has presented performances by the Royal Ballet shown in cinemas around the world, and last September anchored note-by-note coverage of the Leeds Piano Competition for Medici.tv. In 2015 he hosted the first ever BBC Proms Australia, a week of concerts and recitals in Melbourne broadcast live on ABC Radio; last year he presented the first BBC Proms Dubai at the new Dubai Opera, to where he will return this month.



A proud Cornishman, Petroc's early career includes broadcasting in Hong Kong, being part of the launch team for Classic FM and London News Radio and working as a presenter for RTE in Ireland. He is President of the Lennox Berkeley Society, Luton Music and the Three Spires Singers and a trustee of BZAM – a charity supporting the work of the Zimbabwe Academy of Music in Bulawayo. As well as concerts and opera he loves travel, food and wine, cinema, books and theatre.

Photo dossier:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kgedvT759y1TCtOh48stZ3xirqFGMqjr/view?usp=sharing>

Ella Petersson

Ella Petersson is since 2015 head of the music department at SVT, Swedish National Television, and responsible for concerts and music documentaries. She is also TV-host for many of those broadcast culture programmes. Prior to that, she worked many years as a producer and music editor at Swedish National Radio. Ella is educated in musicology, literature and culture at Stockholm University, as a singer at the Stockholm Opera Studio, and in radio production at the Dramatic Institute of higher education.



Photo dossier: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1w8wXZ0mBDvPyRZLgAe88hp94yjmvU7-p>

Jury

Jury Chairman – John Rutter (UK)

John Rutter was born in London and studied music at Clare College, Cambridge. He first came to notice as a composer during his student years; much of his early work consisted of church music and other choral pieces including Christmas carols. From 1975–79 he was Director of Music at his alma

mater, Clare College, and directed the college chapel choir in various recordings and broadcasts. Since 1979 he has divided his time between composition and conducting. Today his compositions, including such concert-length works as Requiem, Magnificat, Mass of the Children, The Gift of Life, and Visions are performed around the world. His music has featured in a number of British royal occasions, including the two most recent royal weddings. He edits the Oxford Choral Classics series, and, with Sir David Willcocks, co-edited four volumes of Carols for Choirs. In 1983 he formed his own choir the Cambridge Singers, with whom he has made numerous recordings, and he appears regularly in several countries as guest conductor and choral ambassador. He holds a Lambeth Doctorate in Music, and in 2007 was awarded a CBE for services to music.



Photo dossier: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1XxQlhymtk--4ceeOaoy6xixl_9p8xvS5

Katarina Henryson (Sweden)

Since 1984, she has been engaged in numerous collaborations within a broad range of music genres, from classical music to jazz and pop. She is perhaps best known to the wide audience as one of the founding members of the internationally renowned a cappella group The Real Group.

With her flexible alto voice, numerous compositions and distinctive stage presence she contributed to the group for 32 years and can be heard on about 20 albums.

Since 2016, Katarina Henryson has been focusing on her own vocal artistic work, where she explores the voice beyond genres and styles and creative vocal formats that can best be described as performance arts as well as vocal improvisation with the group "Songs of the Moment".



She also gives workshops, lectures and concerts.

In addition, Katarina Henryson works for the vocal development and accessibility as a member of the Board of Directors of the Real Group Academy, the Eric Ericsson International Choral Center and the Copyright Issues of SAMI (Svenska Artisters and Musikers Intresseorganisation)

Photo dossier: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1SHobnyRdEmLHb6jam_OWwk4Tef_N4FN

Deke Sharon (USA)

Heralded as "The Father of Contemporary A Cappella," (Entertainment Weekly), Deke Sharon is responsible for the current sound of modern a cappella, having created the dense vocal-instrumental sound in college, subsequently spreading it around the world. Deke produced "The Sing-Off" worldwide (USA, Netherlands, China, South Africa) and served as arranger, on-site music director and vocal producer for Universal's Pitch Perfect 1, 2 & 3 starring Anna Kendrick & Rebel Wilson. Deke founded the Contemporary A Cappella Society while in college and is responsible for many seminal a cappella programs. He is also contemporary a cappella's most prolific arranger, having arranged over 2,000 songs, with many of them in print worldwide with Hal Leonard/Contemporary A Cappella Publishing. He has written 5 books "A Cappella Arranging" (2012), "A Cappella" (2015) and "The Heart of Vocal Harmony" (2016) "A Cappella Warmups for Pop and Jazz Choir" (2017) and "So You Want To

Sing A Cappella” (2017). As the founder, director and arranger for the House Jacks for 24 years, the original "Rock Band Without Instruments," Deke shared the stage with countless music legends, including Ray Charles, James Brown, Crosby Stills and Nash, Run DMC, The Temptations, LL Cool J and the Four Tops, and performed for luminaries including President Bill Clinton. He has produced dozens of award winning a cappella albums (including Straight No Chaser, Committed, Nota, Street Corner Symphony, the Tufts Beelzebubs, Pitch Perfect and In Transit), created a cappella groups for Disneyland and Disneyworld, and frequently tours the world teaching students and professional singers. His voice can be heard in commercials and video games, including "Just Dance Kids 2." He is one of only 20 honorary members of the Barbershop Harmony Society since 1938, as well as an honorary member of BYU Vocal Point, received CASA's lifetime achievement award in 2016 and the Tufts Barnum award for excellence in education in 2017. You can see him on television on Lifetime’s “Pitch Slapped” and his newest show for the BBC: “Pitch Battle”



Photo dossier: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1nJCvhn1FbJ0GAlgmYCiGbCk8lSbNfJ-P>

Competing Choirs

Belgium - Almakalia

Conductor : Nicolas Dorian

ALMAKALIA is the IMEP’s brand new pop choir from Namur, Belgium. The IMEP (Institute for Music and Pedagogy) is the first francophone classical music college in Belgium to have recently opened a new pop section for voice studies. In order to teach its students the benefits of group singing and close harmony, in 2017, a pop choir was created to explore contemporary choral styles ranging from gospel, rock, pop, a cappella, to musical theatre.



Last year they focused on ensembles from Broadway musicals with excerpts from Dear Evan Hansen, Rent and The Color Purple, and this year they hosted the IMEP’s Christmas Concert with a selection of Hollywood Christmas hits accompanied by a thirty-piece orchestra.

The majority of the choir is comprised of students from the voice faculty with the addition of a few enthusiastic students from the IMEP’s other departments such as electronic music, guitar and violin. The name of the group has been chosen by the students and has a funny double meaning, ALMA in many Latin languages means “soul” and KALIA derived from the Greek καλός means “beautiful”, so “Beautiful Souls”, but in Arabic “almaqaliya” means French fry, which is actually a Belgian invention, a national food staple and, in this context, a very good example of the typical surreal Belgian sense of humour.

For their participation at the Eurovision Choir of the Year they've prepared a medley arranged for the occasion to showcase the best of Belgium's new pop scene, with songs by Tamino, Alice On The Roof, Hooverphonic, Typh Barrow and many other artists. They are accompanied by beatboxer Stijn Bearelle, member of the Belgian a cappella group Witloof Bay. The choir is directed by Nicolas Dorian, who also runs the pop voice section at the IMEP and member of Witloof Bay for 10 years. He has also worked as vocal coach and assistant musical director on The Voice Belgique for seven seasons.

Photo dossier : <https://forms.eurovision.tv/file/8dc31582-3d9d-4fbf-a658-91d8f9c9ff4b.zip>

Denmark - Vocal Line

Conductor : Jens Johansen

Vocal Line is a contemporary acapella choir from Aarhus, Denmark, consisting of 30 singers and conducted by Jens Johansen.

The choir dates back to 1991 and has as its stated goal and purpose to be the front runner in the development of rythmical acapella choir music nationally as well as internationally. Throughout the years, Vocal Line has continuously sought to challenge the limits for this genre and the choir is always aiming to reach an even higher musical level.



Vocal Line is based on the traditional Danish choir tradition. From this origin the choir has developed a highly individual style with a unique sound. Vocal Line is able to unite soaring Nordic sounds with intensity and sincerity. This ability, combined with its detailed and experimenting arrangements, makes Vocal Line able to continuously capture the attention of and touch its audience.

In 2010 Vocal Line performed with the world famous vocal equilibrist Bobby McFerrin in New York and in Aarhus. In 2014 the choir performed at The Roskilde Festival on stage with the legendary The Rolling Stones, and in 2015 the choir performed at a TV broadcasted concert at the foot of the "Christ The Redeemer" statue in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. The broadcast reached 180 million viewers.

No one sounds exactly like Vocal Line.

Photo dossier : <https://forms.eurovision.tv/file/8dc2ea8e-4227-46df-bddb-5d9dd4ec999f.zip>

Links : press their individual voices and musicality while simultaneously maintaining the immaculate blend that Vocal Line is known for.

Vocal Line has achieved great recognition in the last 28 years

- <http://www.vocalline.dk/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/vocallinedk/>
- https://www.instagram.com/vocal_line/
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPyhoFnwqG0tqC9Rxt1-CaQ>

Germany - BonnVoice

Conductor : Tono Wissing

Founded in 2009 by the choir leader Tono Wissing, BonnVoice established to be a fixed component in Bonn and the surrounding area for demanding Jazz-, Pop- and folklore arrangements. BonnVoice stands for top-class sound, pertinent grooves and eccentric, entertaining choreographies. With its program, the choir is a regular guest on various stages in the region. For special occasions BonnVoice performs in beneficiary concerts and musically contributes to theme events or private invitations.



Multiple times honored with the predicate „master choir“, BonnVoice won the televised competition „Der beste Chor im Westen“ (The best choir of western Germany) last winter and especially convinced with its profound texts, encouraging to reflect, exhilarated, sweeping rhythms and perfectly coordinated choir sound.

Photo dossier : <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1eDPVqoXAeKkq3tgnvm7-A-iSOBB6EGJK>

Links :

- <https://bonnvoice.de/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/bonnvoice/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/bonnvoice/>
- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCljieiXJTsIJ8sKStm8VI_A

Latvia - Babite Mixed Choir MASKA

Conductor : Jānis Ozols

Mixed choir “MASKA” of Babite Municipality, founded in 2000 by its conductor and artistic director Jānis Ozols is one of the best mixed choirs in Latvia. The choir is unique by its ability to perform not only in the frame of classical music, but also introduce creative innovations.

“MASKA” is proud of its success and high achievements over time. Since the early days the choir has shown itself as an ambitious and creative collective, while actively performing in Latvia and abroad as well as taking part in international choir competitions (Slovenia, Czech Republic Estonia, Finland, Germany, The Netherlands, Spain, Australia and others).



© Roberts Birze

Their greatest achievements in choral competitions are:

- 1st place at the Latvian Nationwide Singing Celebration choir competition, July 2018;
- 49th International Tolosa Choral Competition – 1st Prize at Category “Basque and Popular Music” and 2nd Prize at “Polyphony”, 2017;
- Grand Prix of the 15th International Choir Competition “Tallinn 2017”;
- 2nd prize at Gallus Maribor 2015 Choir Competition and Special Prize for the Best performance of Jacobus Gallus composition;
- Champions of the Folklore category at World Choir Games 2014, 2nd prize in Champions competition of Mixed Choirs category;
- Grand Prix at the International Harald Andersen Chamber Choir Competition in Helsinki, 2012.

The choir's repertoire covers a vast range of music – from sacral to folk, classical to contemporary music, always searching for new interpretations of choral music and enriching their performance often surprising the audience with ingenious performance solutions. The choir cooperates with beloved and world-known Latvian musicians - such like marimba virtuoso and composer Rihards Zalupe, Renate Stivrina, Janis Sipkevics (Shipsi), the world famous pianist and composer Vestards Simkus and Lithuanian composer Vytautas Miskinis, Estonian composer Part Uusberg have dedicated their compositions to choir “MASKA”.

An essential part of the choir's repertoire is compositions written by Laura Jekabsons - choir-master of “MASKA”, world-wide known as a composer and leader of the vocal group “Latvian Voices”. Her pieces composed for “MASKA” are performed worldwide in concerts and competitions.

Choir's annual tradition is organizing a concert at Christmas time “ChristMASKAs”, performing world premieres of opuses commissioned to the choir with the best Latvian musicians.

The choir has released two CDs - “7 Stories of the Gospel of Thomas” with music composed by Rihards Zalupe and performed with the instrumental group “XylemTrio” was released in 2010 and choir's 15th Anniversary year which was celebrated by several concerts and a release of a CD “WINTER” including music composed by Laura Jekabsons especially for choir “Maska”. In this project choir “Maska” performed together with the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra string group, as well as the young and talented musicians – pianist Aurelija Simkus, guitar virtuoso Gints Smukais and koksle ensemble “Balti”.

In summer 2019 the choir will release their newest CD including music commissioned by the choir. In July “Maska” will be on tour in Japan, giving concerts and participating in 35th Takarazuka International Choir Competition and 2nd Tokyo International Choir Competition.

In August 2019 the choir will be representing Latvia in the international competition “Eurovision Choir 2019” in Gothenburg, Sweden.

More about the choir and its activities:

www.korismaska.lv

<https://www.facebook.com/KorisMASKA/>

Photo dossier : <https://forms.eurovision.tv/file/8dc176cf-8ee0-4f69-9f0d-42590e76ae03.zip>

Links :

- <http://www.korismaska.lv/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/KorisMASKA/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/korismaska/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/korisMaska>
- <https://twitter.com/korismaska>

Norway - Volve Vokal

Conductor : Gro Espedal

The choir Volve Vokal is an ensemble for women's voices that was founded in 2006, from an idea of conductor Gro Espedal. The ensemble is Bergen-based and consists of 28 singers aged 20-35. Volve Vokal works purposefully to be topical, exploratory and groundbreaking, both musically and visually. The ensemble wants to create holistic and transcendent art experiences.



Volve Vokal creates art with and through choral music. The choir works systematically to maintain a high, international musical level. Volve Vokal regularly participates in competitions at home and abroad with contributions that are in line with the ensemble's artistic profile. Volve's repertoire is varied, but with a focus on recent, Nordic music.

The choir has an artistic team consisting of conductors Thea Meidell Sjule and Gro Espedal, and visual director Hild C. Vang. For the Eurovision choir of the year, Espedal is the main conductor.

Artistic team

Gro Espedal is a conductor, music teacher and teacher educator, graduated from Bergen University College, the Grieg Academy, University of Bergen and NTNU. Besides the work as conductor and artistic director of Volve Vokal, Espedal works as Associate Professor of Education at Western Norway University of Applied Science. In choral work, she is particularly concerned with the sound and the potential that lies in the choristers' voices and attaches great importance to the independence of the ensemble. Together with Volve Vokal, she wants to explore the choir as a form or genre and experiment with the choir concert's possibilities.

Photo dossier : <https://forms.eurovision.tv/file/8daf0794-b495-4a4d-af44-706b6c84be29.zip>

Links :

- <http://www.volvevokal.no/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/volvevokal>
- <http://www.instagram.com/volvevokal>

Scotland - Alba

Conductor : Joy Dunlop

Musician and television presenter Joy Dunlop from Argyll, Scotland leads the enthusiastic group of 33 singers drawn from all over the country who make up the Alba choir that will represent Scotland at Eurovision Choir 2019. Choir leader Joy is no stranger to the big occasion; crowned Traditional Singer of the Year & Traditional Dance Champion at the 2015 Pan Celtic Festival in Ireland, her singing career is the result of a life-long fascination with Scotland's traditional music and has led her all over the world; from major Celtic festivals to touring the UK, Europe, Canada, Japan and New Zealand. Through her singing, she showcases Gaelic music and song in a contemporary way that always remains true to its roots.



Joy has sung all her life and took on the task of assembling a choir with typical energy, "As a lifelong fan of Eurovision, I'm absolutely thrilled to lead a choir for such a prestigious singing competition. I've always had the secret dream of performing on a Eurovision stage and this is a real honour."

The choir sing in Scots Gaelic, the indigenous language once spoken all over Scotland and all the choir members regularly compete in the choral competitions in the Royal National Mod, the main festival of Gaelic literature, song, arts and culture. All the Alba choir members are drawn from existing Gaelic language choirs but assembling a choir from all over Scotland - an area of over 80,000 square km - ensures that rehearsals are a logistical challenge with choristers flying from remote islands, taking ferries and boarding trains in order to make practice sessions. Their destination is Glasgow, the spiritual home of Alba and the city where the choir, all veterans of choral competitions, gather to practice. Choir member Coinneach MacLeod, is an avid Eurovision fan and an old friend of Joy's. He first brought Eurovision Choir to Joy's attention, planting the seed that started Alba on their journey to Gothenburg.

Assisting Joy on the arrangement front is musician Sileas Sinclair; a conductor, singer and teacher with a proven track record in leading choirs and arranging music. Together, they have created a unique blend of Gaelic song and harmony, with an arrangement befitting a large choir in a spectacular setting. Harmony isn't the sole task that faces choristers and to get Alba stage fit, dance teacher Jade Adamson joins them to incorporate choreography and design a movement sequence to complement their music and raise their performance.

Singing in an arena in Gothenburg is the biggest challenge that Joy and Alba will face. To get an idea of the scale of the competition, Joy travelled to Tel Aviv in May to soak up the atmosphere of the Eurovision Song Contest, an event that caught her imagination as a youngster in Connel and has obsessed her ever since.

Ahead of the live Eurovision Choir broadcast in August, the journey that Joy and her choir make will be documented by BBC ALBA in a programme to be shown in the run up to the competition. The 45-minute film will chart the progress of the choir, through the trials of rehearsing, wardrobe decisions, anxiety over musical arrangements, choreography and nail-biting deadlines. She travels to Wales to chat to award-winning conductor, Islywn Evans who leads Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion, the choir representing Wales at Eurovision.

This August will see Alba setting foot on the biggest stage that any of them have performed on in a blend of spectacular staging and a live stadium ambience. Despite the magnitude of the occasion and the task ahead, Joy remains undaunted, her passion for her language and music ringing with enthusiasm: "Bringing a Gaelic Choir to Gothenburg this year is a big step. This competition provides the opportunity to introduce viewers from across Europe to our Gaelic language and heritage. I can't wait to represent Scotland in a competition of this magnitude in our native tongue. This is a priceless opportunity and one that myself and the choir are whole heartedly embracing."

Eurovision Choir will be broadcast live on BBC ALBA, with commentary from well known Scottish actor and presenter, Tony Kearney.

Photo dossier : <https://forms.eurovision.tv/file/8dc8368c-1d31-4e50-99aa-7d67910bd349.zip>

Slovenia - Jazzva

Conductor : Artistic director: Jasna Žitnik

The vocal group Jazzva is an a cappella group from Slovenia and was formed in 2005. The original members, who were at that time singing in some of the best choirs in the country, decided they needed more musical freedom and creativity, wilder beats and a louder sound of their own. In the beginning, the artistic director was Andreja Paščinski, but since 2009 the group is led by Jasna Žitnik.



@ Adrian Pregelj / RTVSLO

Jazzva's repertoire consists of many different genres; from pop, rock and jazz, to arrangements of folk songs and many more. The group is working with a number of excellent musical arrangers, from within their own ranks and beyond. They are more than successful in achieving all their little crazy ideas, which seem to find their way into the music.

The current group members have been singing together since 2018.

Jazzva won the Slovenian national pop-jazz a cappella competition Sredi zvezd in Žalec, three consecutive times. They also were awarded the prize for the best vocal arrangement of the competition on all three occasions (the last two years, the arrangements were created by the group's artistic director, Jasna Žitnik).

In July 2014, Jazzva won the title of best vocal group of the Seghizzi competition in Gorizia, Italy, where they also won the audience award in the pop category and won silver in the jazz and pop categories of the renowned international a cappella competition vokal.total in Graz, Austria. They were also invited on the concert tour in Sardinia, at the Concordia vocis festival in September 2014. In 2015, they won second place at the prestigious A cappella Wettbewerb Leipzig competition and performed in the semi-finals of Slovenia's got talent. In 2017, they qualified to perform at one of the most demanding European a cappella competitions - Tampeeren Sävel in Finland, and began to record their first CD in 2018 (to be released in the summer of 2019) and, last but not least, they were invited to represent Slovenia at the Eurovision Choir competition in 2019.

Jazzva loves to play with different sound colours and effects and wants to find its own special relationship with each-and-every song. After such a diverse amount of experiences and learning at two major European competitions, they are now trying to unearth their own musical style, sound and attitude. They are hope they are the right track.

Jazzva's members love challenges and are on a constant learning curve year after year. Their ambitions are on the rise and will blossom even further, through their performances, organization of concerts, recording and their ever willingness to attend numerous festivals. Every Autumn in Ljubljana, they organize Popjazziada, now a stalwart festival of traditional vocal groups.

Oh yes, before we forget, they are stylish, beautiful, adorable, smart, talented and cool! And, oh, so modest!

Photo dossier : <https://forms.eurovision.tv/file/8dc104de-1e05-413a-8c36-6c865d10c1cf.7z>

Links :

- <http://jazzva.si/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/JazzvaVocal/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/jazzva.vocal/>
- https://www.youtube.com/user/JazzvaVocal/videos?view=0&sort=dd&shelf_id=0
- <https://twitter.com/JazzvaVocal>

Sweden - Zero8

Conductor : Rasmus Krigström

Zero8 - A choir formed in 2007, directed by Rasmus Krigström, the Lead singer of Ringmasters, the 2012 World Champion Barbershop quartet, has since then consisted of 20-50 of Stockholm's best choir singers and shaped world-class Barbershoppers in double digits. Having merits such as placing Top 5 in the International Barbershop Chorus Competition, winning the Rimini



International Choral Competition, having produced several full-length A Capella CDs and being on Swedish National Television multiple times, Zero8 proudly stands out as one of Sweden's best and most versatile male choir. Concerts are hosted at least twice every year, and gigs are accepted on demand. Zero8 can, upon request, deliver world class quartet performances as well as the full experience of the whole powerful choir.

Zero8 is a choir for men who constantly thrive in development, both personally and as a group. We always strive to provide world class singing and an engaging showmanship to all our performances. Our goals include not only providing the best performances and entertainment, but also competing in various singing competitions and becoming the best at what we do. We look forward to inviting you to our concerts and accepting any invitations you may have for us to sing at your venues!

Photo dossier : <https://forms.eurovision.tv/file/8d992ad9-88cf-4258-8e40-224a6a328af3.zip>

Links :

- <http://www.zero8.se/>

Switzerland - Cake O'Phonie

Conductor : Antoine Krattinger

The particularity of Cake O'Phonie is that it only exists thanks to the Chorus show, the show launched at the end of 2018 on Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS). 12 choirs competed against each other under the watchful eye of a jury and the audience for two semi-finals and a final. The winner of this competition obtained their ticket to represent Switzerland at Eurovision Choir in Sweden. A small group of enthusiasts wanted to try this atypical experience : not



© RTS Philippe_Christin

having enough members, they recruited other singing enthusiasts to embark on the adventure. Thus was born Cake O'Phonie: seven men and seven women, under the direction of Antoine Krattinger, from various backgrounds but all linked by a passion for singing and a taste for challenge. Building a group within a limited time frame with new members and putting together a programme of harmonized variety songs for the whole is not an easy task. And it paid off, since the choir, against all odds, won the competition. The motivation united the group to achieve a result without a shadow of a doubt far from a cacophony...

The young choir is composed of 14 members, all between 20 and 30 years old. Cake O'Phonie will defend the colours of our country by performing a medley of Swiss songs, composed of "Chante en mon cœur", "La sera sper il lag", "Poï", "Le ranz des vaches", "La ticinella", "Beresinalied" and "Chanson d'ici." Four minutes in French, German, Italian, Romansh and even dialect! If they make it to the final, they will try to win the trophy with "Believer" by Imagine Dragons.

Links:

- [facebook.com/cakeophonie](https://www.facebook.com/cakeophonie)

Photo dossier : <https://forms.eurovision.tv/file/8dc38e94-3fbe-48bd-8052-ff8af25b28f7.jpg>

Wales - Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion

Conductor : Islwyn Evans

Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion is an innovative music school based in the picturesque Teifi Valley, West Wales, UK. It was founded in 1993 by Islwyn Evans to promote singing of the highest standard amongst the youth of the area. Children and young people attend weekly lessons and choir rehearsals in the market town of Newcastle Emlyn. Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion has established itself at the



forefront of the youth choral movement with an impressive list of achievements including 10 international trophies at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod as well as multiple awards at the Music For Youth Festival, School Proms and the National Eisteddfod. They were awarded the title 'Côr Cymru' for a record third time in S4C's bi-annual flagship choral competition earlier this year

Concert tours include visits to California, Toronto, Patagonia, Paris, Cologne, Hungary, Ireland, Scotland and a visit to Norway at the end of August.

The choir follows a rigorous schedule of concerts, recent performances include appearances at the Royal Albert Hall, London and the Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff. Other venues include concert halls and churches throughout Wales: St. David's Hall, Cardiff; Llandaff Cathedral; Brangwyn Hall, Swansea and St. David's Cathedral. Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion contributes regularly to charity events and good causes as well as performing in local homes for the elderly. It has also appeared on numerous TV and radio broadcasts and released several CD recordings as well as regularly commissioning new works from contemporary Welsh composers such as Gareth Glyn, Brian Hughes, Karl Jenkins and Héctor MacDonald from Patagonia.

ISLWYN EVANS (Director)

Islwyn studied at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff. He was awarded the British Federation of Youth Choirs Conducting Award as well as a Winston Churchill Fellowship to study the training of children's choirs in Sweden and Hungary. He has represented the Association of British Choral Directors at choral conventions organized by its American sister association, the ACDA, at Boston and at Washington DC.

In addition to Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion, Islwyn directs several other choirs. CYWAIR is an exciting mixed chamber choir whose awards include the prestigious 'Fleischmann International Trophy' at the Cork International Choral Festival, 'Choir of the World' at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod as well as twice crowned S4C 'Côr Cymru'. The male ensemble BOIS CEREDIGION, have also made a major impact on the Welsh choral scene winning several major awards. More recently, CÔR MERCHED SÎR GÂR, a female youth choir based in Carmarthenshire has enjoyed phenomenal success at home and abroad. In 2017 they were crowned S4C 'Côr Cymru' and went on to represent Wales at the inaugural Eurovision Choral Competition held in Riga, Latvia where they were runners-up. Islwyn holds a unique record in the S4C choral competition 'Côr Cymru' having won six of nine competitions held.

He has directed numerous choral courses and is often in demand further a field as a guest tutor. He was musical director of the NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR OF WALES between 2005-07.

Photo dossier : <https://forms.eurovision.tv/file/8dc182be-9d44-498f-b10d-2a32b1e25b30.jpg>

Other appearing artists

Carmen manet



© Nike Koležnik

Carmen manet is a female chamber choir founded in 2011 and is made up of the best singers of past generations of the Gimnazija Kranj Girls Choir. The singers first assembled for the 200th anniversary celebration of their alma mater and have performed together since then. The name, which means “the song remains” in Latin, signifies the singers staying together even after their high school years.

The members of Carmen manet like to speak of their profound friendship and their special musical projects, such as The Song of the Northern Winds (Pesem severnega vetra), Voice Dance (Ples glasov), On the Steps of Carmen manet (Da koder Carmen manet hodi) and I See You (Vidim te), which have been focusing on different heritage of music ranging from Scandinavian tales to Pop music, classical pieces and folk songs, and accompanied by stage choreography and costumography.

Carmen manet has been conducted by Primož Kerštanj since the choir was formed. Despite its young age, the choir has already achieved excellent results at several international competitions in Italy, Croatia, China, Switzerland and Latvia. Their international reputation has been shaped especially due to their Grand prix win at the 50th Montreaux International Choral Competition in April 2014 and their achievement of becoming Eurovision Choir of the Year 2017 at the inaugural competition in Riga 2017.

Photo dossier: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1d3Tww8CAQkodRz7MuwCtIXS24dmHKqRi>

Conductor: Fred Sjöberg

Fred Sjöberg, born 1953, is an educated singer and choral conductor at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm and Örebro. Among others he has studied with Prof. Solvig Grippe, Prof. Eric Ericson and Prof. Helmuth Rilling. He often works as choral/orchestral conductor, lecturer, workshop leader, innovator, administrator or tenor soloist and has been a member in Eric Ericson Chamber Choir for many years. He works in many various music styles and is often asked worldwide to work in the field of pop and jazz.



Fred Sjöberg has been on the international choral scene since 1990 either as guest conductor, lecturer, master class teacher, judge or as a music director.

He has been the first conductor to conduct the three major international youth choirs as World Youth Choir, World Chamber Choir and European Youth Choir touring through many of the European countries and making CD recordings with the ensembles. 2008-2011 he was the principal conductor of the French National Youth Choir. 2012 he was the principal conductor of the first edition of Japan National Youth Choir. 2015 he was the conductors of Canadian National Youth Choir. He has been the principal conductor for Örebro Chamber Choir since 1983.

1980-1995 he was a choral consultant for the county of Örebro. 1995-1997 he was the Artistic Director for the international festival Scandinavian Bach Academy and 1997-2004 he was the Music Director and conductor of the project "Tones for Millions" which includes concerts all over Sweden with a highlight at the Globe Arena in Stockholm with a mass choir with over 4.000 singers, competitions, National TV-programs etc. Since 2000-2004 he was also the Music Director of the Swedish Choral Centre at the Swedish Concert Institute.

2005-2006 he was the Artistic Director for Lund International Choral Festival. From 2008 he is Music Director for SWICCO Swedish International Choral Center in Örebro, Sweden. Since 2011 he is the principal conductor of the biggest outdoor Christmas Concert in Örebro broadcasted on National-TV in Sweden "O Helga Natt". 2011-2016 he was church musician at Betel Church in Örebro. From 2016 he has been head of culture school in Vingåker. He is able to inspire a broad constituency of artists, business leaders and scholars.

He is acting Artistic director for INTERKULTUR based in Germany. INTERKULTUR produces festivals, pedagogical programmes, competitions for choirs and choir conductors all over the world. INTERKULTUR has a network of over 80.000 conductors and over 350.000 choir singers.

Photo dossier: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=17K4X0weu0HGe25iJdrmhuPlbaYJMGEZB> Prize – World Choir Games 2020

The winning choir of Eurovision Choir 2019 will not only get a trophy and the title "Eurovision Choir 2019" but will also be offered an all-inclusive trip to the World Choir Games 2020, taking place from July 5-15, 2020 in Flanders, Belgium.

As the world's largest international choir competition, the World Choir Games – the Olympic Games of Choral Music – shall inspire people to sing together. Participation alone is important and the greatest honor.

To experience this festival of choirs from all over the world means to participate, to contribute one's own performance, to compare to others and to experience the enthusiasm of singing together. Every two years, choirs from all parts of the world come together to celebrate a great festival of music, song and joie de vivre: the World Choir Games.

From July 5 to 15, 2020 Flanders will be the stage for the 11th edition of the World Choir Games. There will be a total of more than 25,000 enthusiastic voices making up this cultural top event with 500 choirs from 70 nations expected. Antwerp and Ghent will be the first twin hosts in the history of the event, and the whole region of Flanders will be able to enjoy this gigantic choir celebration.

Detailed information about the World Choir Games 2020 can be found at www.wcg2020.com.

- EPK World Choir Games:
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZSqArh0_uRBgyJLkdX4WlJg1l_dpp29/view?usp=sharing
- Photos
 - <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1n0nklnF9whH6SbLAsE22xlEowgdjWXAG?usp=sharing>
- Video assets
 - https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wuzXnnvAiEfrF-dvpy2RbAexogBO_Zhr?usp=sharing

Broadcast Information

NB: Broadcasting at 20h30 is referred to as 'live broadcasting' in EBU literature, despite the deferred start time relative to the live broadcast.

Territory	Tx date	Tx time	TV channel	Radio channel	Online
Belgium	2019-08-03	20:30 CEST	La Trois- RTBF	Musiq3	https://www.rtb.be/auvio/ (worldwide access)
Denmark	2019-08-03	20:30 CEST	DR1		https://www.dr.dk/tv
Germany	2019-08-03	20:15 CEST (pre-programme) 20h30 CEST EC19	WDR		https://www1.wdr.de/fernsehen/startseite/index.html
Latvia	2019-08-03	20:25 CEST	LTV 1		https://ltv.lsm.lv/lv https://replay.lsm.lv/lv
Norway	2019-08-03	20:20 CEST	NRK1	NRK Klassisk - LIVE with same commentary as on TV	https://radio.nrk.no/ https://tv.nrk.no/
Scotland	2019-08-03	19h30 BST	BBC ALBA		https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer
Slovenia	2019-08-03	20:40 CEST	RTV 1		https://4d.rtv.slo.si/zivo/
Sweden	2019-08-03	20:30 CEST	SVT 2		https://www.svtplay.se/ (worldwide access)
Switzerland	2019-08-03	20:30 CEST	RTS Un		https://www.rts.ch/play/tv/direct
Wales	2019-08-03	19h00 BST programme) 19h30 BST EC19	S4C		http://www.s4c.cymru/en/ https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer
Other	2019-08-03	20:30 CEST			https://www.svtplay.se/ https://www.rtb.be/auvio/