

THE BUSAN CHORAL MUSIC RESOLUTION

The representatives of the worldwide choral community who gathered in Busan, South Korea, on the occasion of the 2nd Choir Olympics on this 20th day of October, 2002 have unanimously endorsed the following Resolution on behalf of the choristers of the world.

In the year 2000 during the 1st Choir Olympics in Linz/Austria we gave to Guy Huot, the former Secretary General of UNESCO's International Music Council, a first declaration "The Linz Choral Music Resolution". We are very thankful for the close helpful contact with the International Music Council and for its special support.

Choirs are a powerful force in this world; in some countries more than one quarter of the population sings in a choir. Choral music is an art form, comprising distinct genres reflecting the cultures of many countries throughout the world. Singers, choral conductors and those involved in all forms of group singing comprise one of the largest communities around the globe, stimulating constant and consistent international communication, social esteem and often peace-keeping activities throughout the world.

The millions of singers in organized choral groups are members of choral organizations, including the International Federation of Choral Music, the largest member organization of UNESCO's International Music Council. There is within these organizations a level of communication which overrides the political and social barriers often seen in many other world activities and communities.

This immense world-wide body of men, women and children producing such international harmony should receive greater recognition through international media, and greater financial assistance from government resources as well as private and corporate funds.

In close relationship to the friends of the world of sports, singers and choral conductors feel both attached and responsible to the historic original meaning of the olympic ideal; the name and the idea of OLYMPIA are elements of the cultural heritage of mankind.

We acknowledge the outstanding achievements in choral music in the host country of South Korea as an example of superb local and national government support and private/corporate sponsorship of choral music. This financial assistance has created a significant environment for the development of choirs and choral conductors, resulting in the establishment of more than 25 professional choirs throughout South Korea. These choirs provide professional opportunities for singers and conductors not available in any other country of the world. Thus this example of recognition of the importance and power of

choral music could be a model for financial support for choirs world-wide, and in particular, those countries where currently there is little or no support.

The great need in a large community of choirs is that of leadership and the provision of funds to train and develop sufficient choral conductors of quality and then to provide professional positions within that choral community.

Children in every country are singing in choirs, experiencing the joy of singing, communication through singing, and the atmosphere of successful internationalism. Choral singing is for children not only a possibility for easier international understanding but also an important element in their general education. These children are more concentrated than others, and need the esteem of, and for, their co-singers. They are farther than others from the dangerous disorientations that children can be exposed to everywhere in our society. Here is a direct link between UNO's UNESCO activities and the goals of UNICEF!

It is essential to convince governments and local authorities of the continuing values of world-wide choir singing. This will bring not only a cultural and political, but an important social progress to the global society in the new millennium.

The Asia/South Pacific region, with its remarkable historic background and social milieu, can provide through its choristers and choral music, as well as the structure, quality and quantity of singers, the opportunity for reconciliation in an environment where trust, mutual understanding and harmony are of the utmost importance. It is necessary to acknowledge choral music as having the potential to bridge gaps in social and cultural misunderstanding such as might occur in a world still in fear of acts of terrorism. We should be reminded of John F. Kennedy's words in his speech in New York in 1963: "This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before."

International choral events such as the 2nd Choir Olympics in Busan, South Korea, are of great significance and importance to the furthering of human values.

Historically, choral music was, still is, and will forever be one of the strongest and finest bridge-building elements available to human-kind.

Busan, Korea

20/10/2002

For the INTERKULTUR Foundation

Dr. Ronald Smart

Prof. Paul Wehrle

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Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee to discuss, take a vote on and sign the final version

Busan, Cultural Center
Sonntag, 20. Oktober 2002
Daeyon 4 Dong 848-4
Tel: 607-6061

Chairperson: Prof. Dr. Ronald Smart

List of signatories:

Prof. Dr. Ronald Smart, Sydney	Prof. Paul Wehrle, Karlsruhe
Prof. Andrea Veneracion, Manila	Prof. Jacob Chang, Taegu
Eskil Hemberg, Stockholm	Jean-Claude Wilkens, Altea/Namur
Dr. Michael Anderson, Chicago	Christopher Simmons, Hartepool/GB
Hans-Ruedi Kaempfen, Brig/Switzerland	Dr. Gene Brooks, Lawton/Oklahoma
Dr. John Haberlen, Atlanta	Ludumo Magangane, Dersley, South Africa
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Dho, Young-shim, Seoul	Won, Sung-hi, Seoul
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Steen Lindhom, Copenhagen/Denmark	Alberto Grau, Caracas/Venezuela
Jutta Tagger, Paris	Jan Szyrocki, Szczecin/Poland
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Emil Yanev, Sofia	Herbert Wild, Vienna

Frank Leenen, Rottenburg/Germany	Duhei, Dirk, Taipei
Don James, Powell River/Canada	Graham Hoffman, Auckland/NZ
Giovanni Acciai, Milano	Ana Beatriz de Briones, Salta/Argentina
Ines Reiger, Graz/Austria	Tong, Shiu-Wai Leon, Hong Kong
Wei, Gao, Beijing	Nie, Zhong-Ming, Beijing
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