

# The European Union Choir



---

*« Promoting Europe through music...*

*...and the music through Europe »*

Symphonic Choir  
BRUSSELS

**www.euSING.eu**  
because





The European Union Choir is one of the very few music ensembles that can boast about being part of the most ambitious political project of the last 60 years.

The European Union Choir and its 85 choristers of 20 different nationalities are the **human and musical incarnation of the Europe of "Brussels"**. With a contagious enthusiasm and an insatiable thirst for musical discoveries, **they spread a double message of peace and joy for Europe and the World.**

**Directed since 1990 by their ebullient Choir Director, Dirk De Moor**, the European Union Choir, founded in 1958 in the wake of the Treaty of Rome,

has acquired an established and **sound reputation of the highest musical quality and of rigor and commitment.**

Through exploring year after year varied and ambitious repertoires, **they multiply their musical cooperation with major orchestras** such as: the Belgian National Orchestra, the Symphonic Orchestra and Choir of La Monnaie Opera House, the Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra, the Brussels Orchestral Ensemble, the Philharmonia of the Nations ...to mention but a few.

Since their foundation in 1958, they have given themselves a mission: that of accompanying the construction of Europe and the promotion Europe through music.

## Artistic Director



Dirk DE MOOR

Born in Antwerp into a family of artists – his father, Bob De Moor, cartoonist, was the right hand man of Hergé -, Dirk De Moor fell, at a very young age, into the magical potion of choral singing. At 8 years old, he was noticed by Abbot Caron, he joined the Choir of the Collège St-Pierre, Uccle (Brussels), which was the Belgian equivalent of the "Petits Chanteurs à la Crois-de-Bois, directed by the latter. It was a revelation. Touched for life by music, he attended the Uccle and Saint-Gilles (Bruxelles) music academies and then entered the Brussels Royal Music Conservatory where he studied choral conducting and singing with singer Nicole

Between 1979 and 1985, he was a member of the vocal ensembles of the French and Flemish Belgian Radio-Television (RTBF) as well as the Choir of La Monnaie Royal Opera. Since 1971 he has conducted 10 mixed and male choirs. In 1974, he founded Le Petite Orgue, an ensemble of 12 male singers that he directed until 1994. With him, Le Petit Orgue explored the broad spectrum of male vocal, from Middle Age to contemporary composers and specialised in the works of Franz Schubert and the orthodox repertoire. The ensemble appeared 450 times in Belgium and abroad and made recordings. In 1983 it was awarded First prize at the 20th International Choral Encounters in Montreux. In 1987, during a recital, Dirk De Moor directed the Male Vocal Ensemble of La Monnaie Opera. In June 1988, he directed the Fêtes de La Musique in Brussels with the participation of 600 choristers. From 1986 to 1997, he led the Male Vocal Ensemble of the Great Synagogue of Brussels (e.a. recital with Joseph Malovany, cantor at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue of New York), a professional quartet ensuring, thanks to a rich, specific repertoire, the 80 great feasts and religious services that mark the Hebrew liturgical year.

Having devoted his life to music, Dirk De Moor is no less driven by a humanist ideal and a deep European conviction. In 1990, when Dirk De Moor took on the musical direction of The European Union Choir, he experienced the encounter of his convictions with his musical vocation.

Since then, with the fire that characterises him, he has never ceased to transmit to the choristers his passion and demands necessary for a high quality music programme. His efforts and his commitment have delivered results. With him, The European Union Choir is moving towards a very high quality music ensemble, exploring an ambitious and often little known repertoire and enhancing cooperation with professional ensembles.

Dirk De moor is also supervising several training courses in choral singing. He is part of national and international juries: Schubert Competition, Vienna, International Choral Encounters, Montreux, etc.

## President



**Claire  
VANHERENTHALS**

Dear readers, dear audience,

I am honored to share with you the emotion that this unique adventure of The European Union Choir arouses. With the strength of 55 years, our musical background has evolved alongside great historical changes and the artistic challenges of our time. In a perfectionist spirit, we have been able to attract the best trained musicians with the most experience during this time.

If, as the old saying goes, the language of Europe is translation, then the real European anthem is the diverse interpretation, renewed by different musical traditions in a geographical space that has produced the greatest composers in history. We had to be up to the great intergenerational epic of our continent which is why we have made the choice of vocal exchange, of the opening towards different musical traditions and of innovation when it comes to our programmes and our concerts.

Launched under the patronage of Walter Hallstein, first President of the European Commission, the European Union Choir have appeared under the direction of major orchestras such as the Belgian National Orchestra, the Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra and even the La Monnaie Opera House Orchestra. Coming from all corners of the world, the hundreds of members who have lent their voices to this ensemble of musicians have, over time, been able to influence fraternal warmth which feeds the construction of this last utopia of the western world that we call the European Union.

On behalf of The European Choir I invite you to discover our activities and my wholehearted thanks for your generous support.

See you soon, on stage!

**Claire Vanherenthals**

President of The European Union Choir



## Les Chœurs en concert

Since their creation, The European Union Choir organises each year two series of concerts within their yearly programme.

Many cooperative ventures with prestigious Belgian and international partners become part of these concerts.

### Yearly programme

Since their creation, The European Union Choir organises each year two series of concerts within their yearly programme.  
Many cooperative ventures with prestigious Belgian and international partners become part of these concerts.

### Cooperative ventures

Since their creation, The European Union Choir organises each year two series of concerts within their yearly programme.  
Many cooperative ventures with prestigious Belgian and international partners become part of these concerts.



## Our Autumn & Spring Concerts since 2011



**14 & 16.03.2014** - *Messe G-dur* – F. Schubert / *Hör mein Bitten* – F. Mendelssohn / *Alleluia* – R. Thomson / *Anamnèse* – M. Lysight

**18.10.2013** - *Stabat Mater* – P. Cornelius

**20 & 22.03.2013** - *Requiem* – W. A. Mozart



**7 & 19.10.2012** - *Requiem en do mineur* – M. Haydn

**21.03.2012** - *Les Sept Paroles du Christ sur la Croix* – C. Gounod / C. Franck / J. Haydn

**19 & 21.10.2011** - *Die erste Walpurgisnacht* – F. Mendelssohn /

## Our cooperative ventures since



**Centenary of the First World War** (World première)

**30 August 2014:** *Le Chemin des Dames*, J.A. De Zeegant

The Hulencourt Soloists Chamber Orchestra

Kinga Borowska mezzo soprano

*Direction : Benjamin Ellin. Laon cathedral, France*

**National Orchestra of Belgium**

- **January 2013** : *Prométhée*, A. Scriabine

*Direction : Stefan Blunier. Palais des Beaux - Arts, Brussels*

- **December 2012** : Christmas concert

*Direction : Dirk Brossé. Palais des Beaux - Arts, Brussels*



**Cadre Noir de Saumur**

**22 & 23 November 2013** : *Equestrian show*

Soloists of the Queen Elizabeth Chapel

*Direction : Jacques Vanherenthals. Heysel Palais 12, Brussels*

**Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra**

**June 2012** : Closing concert of the 74<sup>th</sup> Strasbourg Music Festival

:

9th Symphony, L. van Beethoven

*Direction : Claude Schnitzler. Palais de la Musique et des Congrès, Strasbourg*

**Symphonic orchestra & Chorus of La Monnaie Opera House**

**February 2011** : *Das Klagende Lied*, G. Mahler (Belgian première)

**2014 - 2015  
season**



### ***Le Chemin des Dames, J.A. De Zeegant***

*30th August 2014*

*World creation*

Kinga Borowska mezzo soprano  
The Hulencourt Soloists Chamber  
Orchestra

Direction : Benjamin Ellin

Laon Cathedral (France)

### ***Singing Brussels Celebration Weekend***

*14th September 2014*

BOZAR, Brussels

### ***Commemorative ceremony (Fort de Breendonk)***

*28th September 2014*

Musique Royale des Guides

### ***Die Schöpfung, J. Haydn***

*24th & 26th October 2014*

Hilde Coppé soprano

Vincent Lesage tenor

Matthew Zadow bariton

Direction Jacques Vanherenthals

Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles

### ***Requiem, W.A. Mozart***

*22nd November 2014*

*Anniversary Concert of the Mosan Orchestral Ensemble*

Direction Jean-Pierre Haeck

Véronique Solhosse soprano

Julie Bailly mezzo soprano

Roger Joakim bariton

Palais des Beaux-Arts, Charleroi

### ***Christmas concert***

*21st December 2014*

Colette Dedyn sand artist

National Orchestra of Belgium

Direction Damian Iorio

BOZAR, Brussels

### ***Requiem, G. Bottesini***

*28th February 2015*

*Gala concert of the Brussels Orchestral Ensemble*

*Belgian première*

Soloists from the Queen Elizabeth Chapel  
with the Brussels Choral Society

Direction Jacques Vanherenthals

BOZAR, Brussels

### ***Charpentier & Vivaldi : Baroque exultation***

*6th June 2015*

*Gala concert*

Abbaye de la Cambre

Brussels Orchestral Ensemble



## More than 55 years of musical passion at the service of Europe

Since their creation, The European Union Choir has always musically accompanied the important stages of European construction. Some key milestones in the existence of the Choir testify this:

- 1958 : the first concert of the European Union Choir in Luxembourg
- March 1962 : Concert to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the CEE
- May 1981 : Concerts in Greece to celebrate the joining of the CEE
- October 1990 : Concert in Bonn to celebrate German reunification
- April 1991 : Concert in Luxembourg to celebrate the Luxembourg Presidency of The European Union
- November 1991: Concert in The Hague to celebrate the Dutch Presidency of the European Union
- 1993 : Concerts in Antwerp in the framework of Anvers 93, European Capital of Culture
- May 1995 : Concert in Graz for the first anniversary of the entry of Austria into the European Union
- February 1998 : Inauguration of the hemicycle of the European Parliament, Brussels, by King Albert II
- May 1998 : Concert at the Festival of Europe within the framework of The Hague under the direction of Yehudi MENHUIN
- May 1999 : Concert in the European Parliament to celebrate the Parliament Open Days, Brussels
- 9 and 11 May 2007 : concert to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the signature of the Rome Treaty
- October 2010 Concert in Brussels to celebrate the 20 years of the German reunification
- December 2010 : Concert for the end of the Belgian Presidency.

Hire us

## The Symphonic Choir & The Ensemble Vocal of the European Union

Since 2013, **The European Union Choir** (85 singers) also performs in a reduced form (24 singers) as **the Vocal Ensemble of The European Union Choir** allowing for increased flexibility in the choice of repertoires.



4 soprani of the Ensemble Vocal singing a capella (Stabat Mater, Peter CORNELIUS) in Brussels.

and the Grand Choeur Symphonique interpreting the 9th Symphony of Ludwig van BEETHOVEN in Strasbourg)



## Press



**The European Union Choir vibrates the walls of the church of**

Les voix des Chœurs de l'Union européenne ont transporté un public nombreux au travers d'un florilège d'œuvres musicales sacrées et profanes de toute l'Europe. Un voyage et un bonheur musical de très belle qualité.

Ouest-France | 22nd July

# L'atout chœur

Commission en Direct | 10th October

Un concert exceptionnel pour les 50 ans des Chœurs de l'Union européenne

**S**i la musique adoucit les mœurs, rien d'étonnant alors à ce que les Chœurs de l'Union européenne soient nés dans le sillage du Traité de Rome, en 1958. C'est par leur art, par la musique et le chant, qu'ils souhaitent contribuer à promouvoir l'Europe. Walter Hallstein, premier Président de la Commission européenne leur apporte d'ailleurs son prestigieux parrainage dès leur création.

Faire partition commune reste un défi d'actualité, à 6 comme à 27. A leur façon, les Chœurs de l'Union européenne renforcent l'idée d'une harmonie européenne en se fondant sur la richesse de ses composantes diverses.

Ce chœur symphonique compte plus de vingt nationalités parmi une centaine de choristes, sous la direction artistique de Dirk De Moor. L'ensemble s'impose comme l'ambassadeur musical par excellence de l'Europe.

### A l'unisson

Les autorités des différents pays de l'Union ne s'y sont pas trompés et font appel régulièrement aux Chœurs : on les retrouve lors des manifestations autour des présidences semestrielles, à la remise du Prix Charlemagne, lors de l'entrée de la Grèce, puis de l'Autriche dans l'Union, à l'occasion de la réunification allemande, de la célébration de grands anniversaires européens, et en bien d'autres circonstances encore.



**From Rome to Athens, passing through Brussels, for half a century the European Union Choir has marked all the important European events with their talent. (...) To have a common score has remained a challenge in their own way, by founding themselves on the wealth of Europe's diversity, the European Union Choir reinforces the idea of a**

tigieuse salle Henri Leboeur du Palais des Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles qui accueillera les Chœurs, accompagnés pour l'occasion par l'Orchestre national de Belgique et dirigés par le chef d'orchestre autrichien, Theodor Guschlbauer. L'œuvre présentée en concert sera l'oratorio Elias de Félix Mendelssohn. Le Concours Reine Elisabeth participe également à l'événement, puisque des lauréats du concours se produiront au cours de cette soirée exceptionnelle : Elizabeth Bailey, soprano (lauréat 2008), Isabelle

Werner Van Mechelen, baryton-basse (9e lauréat 1988).

- Chœur de l'Union Européenne - 50e anniversaire
- Vendredi 24 octobre à 20h
- Palais des Beaux-Arts / Salle Henry Le Boeur
- Infos : <http://www.bozar.be>
- <http://www.choeurs-union-europeenne.net>

• CÉCILE POUPART



# Une Neuvième en final

Salle comble pour le Philharmonique de Strasbourg qui a assuré, vendredi soir, le concert de clôture du 74<sup>e</sup> Festival de musique de Strasbourg.

**MARKO LETONJA**, le nouveau chef du Philharmonique, était attendu pour diriger ce concert. Empêché, il a cédé sa place au pupitre à Claude Schnitzler, bien connu dans sa ville natale, qui a mené d'une baguette très sûre la *Neuvième Symphonie* de Beethoven à un succès mérité.

La *Neuvième* avec chœurs de Beethoven a accompagné toute l'histoire du Festival de Strasbourg. Elle était de mise pour cette édition de son 80<sup>e</sup> anniversaire, d'autant plus qu'elle a présidé aux débuts, en 1932, des manifestations organisées par la Société des Amis de la musique.

Le lien entre le festival et les institutions de la ville a été souligné dans la laudation prononcée par



Le concert de clôture du Festival de Strasbourg a été salué par une ovation debout. PHOTO DNA – CEDRIC JOUBERT

Roland Ries, sénateur-maire de Strasbourg lors de la remise au festival d'un prix de la Fondation européenne pour la culture de Bâle et du Forum européen de la Culture de Strasbourg et Baden Baden. La Ville parrainait d'ailleurs à juste titre cette soirée finale du festival.

Le programme d'abord annoncé prévoyait, avant Beethoven, un hommage à Messiaen pour le 20<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de sa mort, avec *L'Ascension*, une solide partition qui avait inauguré l'œuvre symphonique du compositeur français. Remplacée par l'Ouverture d'*Oberon*, prélude au romantisme que signalent le cor, ici au beau son de Kevin Cleary, et de fins traits bien détaillés, et les *Variations sur un thème de Haydn* de Brahms. Le temps a manqué à l'orchestre, grandement sollicité aussi durant la semaine à l'Opéra, de peaufiner

à fond cette œuvre de jeunesse riche d'inventions.

## Impeccable force de frappe pour l'*Ode à la joie*

Mais on était venu essentiellement pour la symphonie avec chœurs. Claude Schnitzler la conçoit dans des tempi fluides, sans lenteur, mais qui poussent constamment en avant la projection musicale. L'allegro garde la vision cosmique de ses résonances de quintes vides, le scherzo ne laisse pas tomber son dynamisme rythmique ponctué par les énergiques coups de timbales, l'adagio ne tient pas à piétiner ou à s'endormir.

Unité de chaque mouvement, et bien sûr aussi pour l'apothéose du final, où la part purement symphonique du début n'a pas été négligée avant l'intervention des solistes et des chœurs. Même si le

récitatif du baryton qui initie l'intervention des voix a été calamiteux, (mais on ne peut prévoir un refroidissement subit), le quatuor formé par Susanne Bernhard, Tarnya Baumgartner, Lance Ryan et Detlef Roth, tous assez jeunes chanteurs qui font une belle carrière en Europe et sur tous les continents, a trouvé une remarquable homogénéité. Et les chœurs de l'Union européenne, venus de Bruxelles, et que l'on connaissait déjà ici, instruits par Dirk De Moor, ont constitué l'impeccable force de frappe pour l'*Ode à la joie*, affirmation humaniste, digne d'être l'hymne dont la force de conviction s'impose. Inutile de dire que tous les interprètes, longuement applaudis jusqu'à une ovation debout, ont été encore fêtés quand ils ont bissé le final du final de la symphonie. ■

MARC MUNCH

Dernières Nouvelles  
d'Alsace | 24<sup>th</sup> June

« The European Union Choir who came from Brussels and who are already well known here, instructed by Dirk De Moor, gave an impeccably striking performance of Ode of Joy. It goes without saying that the interpreters were given a lengthy applause and a ending ovation which was repeated after their encore of the final of the end of the symphony. »





## The history of The European Union Choir is filled with great works and discoveries

In order to discover or rediscover works of composers, the artistic direction never ceases to seek out hidden pearls in the history of music. The repertoire of The European Union Choir and the list of its Premiers through the past 55 years is a love song to all European and world musical traditions.

- Le Chemin des Dames, De Zeegant (2014)  
**Creation**
- Messe in G-dur, Schubert (2014)
- Hör mein Bitten, Mendelssohn (2014)
- Alleluia, Thomson (2014)
- Stabat Mater, Cornelius (2013)
- Requiem en Do mineur, Haydn (2012)
- Les Sept Paroles du Christ sur la Croix, Gounod (2012)
- Walpurgisnacht, Mendelssohn (2011)
- Anamnèse, Lysight (2011) **Creation**
- Das Klagende Lied, Mahler (2010)
- Les Chants de Casanova, Lysight (2010)  
**Creation**
- Vesperae solennes de Confessore, Mozart (2010)
- Le Reniement de Saint-Pierre, Charpentier (2010)
- Alt-Rhapsodie (H), Brahms (2010)
- Die Jahreszeiten, Haydn (2009)
- Johannes-Passion, Bach (2009)
- Elias, Mendelssohn (2008)
- Chor-Fantasie, Beethoven (2007)
- Messa di Gloria, Puccini (2007)
- Kyrie-Allô (F), Janssens (2006)
- Missa Sacra, Schuman (2006)
- Hohe Messe KV 427, Mozart (2004)
- Messe in D, Dvořák (2004)
- Le Roi David, Honegger (2004)
- Lobgesang (Symphonie n°2), Mendelssohn (2002)
- Cantique de Jean Racine, Fauré (2001)
- Messe de Requiem, Saint-Saëns (2001)
- Kantate "O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden", Mendelssohn (2001)
- Stabat Mater, Haydn (2000)
- Kantate "Uns ist ein Kind geboren" BWV 142,
- Oratorio de Noël, Saint-Saëns (1999)
- Die sieben letzten Worte unseres Erlösers am Kreuze, Haydn (1999)
- Les Sept Paroles du Christ sur la Croix, Franck (1998)
- Kleine Orgelmesse, Haydn (1998)
- Deutsche Messe, Schubert (1997)
- Messe in F, Schubert (1997)
- Requiem (en do mineur), Cherubini (1997)
- Krönungs-Messe KV 317, Mozart (1996)
- Requiem, Fauré (1996)
- Missa Cordis Intus In Anima, Vanherenthals (1995) **Creation**
- Die Schöpfung, Haydn (1995)
- Ille symphonie, Mahler (1994)
- Messe à mon frère Paul, Micha (1993)
- Veni Sancte Spriritus KV 47, Mozart (1993)
- Matthäus-Passion, Bach (1993)
- Te Deum KV 141, Mozart (1993)
- L'Enfance du Christ, Berlioz (1993)
- Choral-Messe, Bruckner (1992)
- Carmina Burana, Orff (1991)
- Gloria, Poulenc (1991)
- Kantate n°73, Bach (1991)
- Missa brevis KV 194, Mozart (1991)
- Quo Vadis 2000 ?, Capelletti (1991)
- Gloria, Vivaldi (1991)
- Te Deum, Charpentier (1991)
- Eine Kleine Freimaurer-kantate KV 623, Mozart (1991)
- IXe Symphonie, Beethoven (1990)

## François Schuiten

Signed and numbered  
litographies are on  
sale via our web site  
address:

[www.euSING.eu](http://www.euSING.eu)

François Schuiten is the author of the poster  
of The European Union Choir.

He was born in Brussels in 1956 into a family  
of architects and as a well-known cartoonist and  
scenographer. He was only 16 years old when his  
works were published for the first time.

He is also the author of two underground  
stations: "Porte de Hal" in Brussels and 'Arts et  
Métiers" in Paris. He was also designed the giant  
Pavillon des Utopies (A Plant of Visions) which  
received 5 million visitors during the Universal  
Exhibition in Hanover in 2000, as well as the  
Pavillon of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg at  
the Universal Exhibition in Seville.

## Our partners



La Commission  
communautaire  
française



The Royal  
Military School,  
Brussels



# THANK YOU!



By supporting us you will be visible to a targeted public and will make a cultural contribution.

In order to respond to your needs, we have developed a full range of offers for private and business partners.

Contact: [maximbedo@gmail.com](mailto:maximbedo@gmail.com)

**You**SING!eu

## Contact us

**Claire Vanherenthals**

President

*clairevanherenthals@gmail.com*

**Dirk De Moor**

Artistic director

**Maxim BEDO**

Fundraising & Promotion

*maximbedo@gmail.com*

Avenue de la Gazelle 63

BRUSSELS 1180

+32 477 25 69 23

[www.euSING.eu](http://www.euSING.eu)

 /ChoeursUnionEuropeenne

**YouSING!eu**