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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.
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.
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 Orchetsra 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 Vanherenthalns**
President of The European Union Choir
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**

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**Cooperative ventures**

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Our Autumn & Spring Concerts since 2011


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


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 Vanherentals. Heysel Palais 12, Brussels

Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra
June 2012 : Closing concert of the 74th 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
- May 1998 : Concert at the Festival of Europe within the framework of The Hague under the direction of Yehudi MENHUIIN
- 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.
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 sopranis 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
Le voix des Choeurs 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.

Press

**L’atout chœur**

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


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.

*À 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
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)
- 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)
- 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)
- Messe in D, Dvořák (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)
- Kleine Orgelmesse, Haydn (1998)
- Deutsche Messe, Schubert (1997)
- Messe in F, Schubert (1997)
- Requiem (en do mineur), Cherubini (1997)
- Requiem, Fauré (1996)
- Missa Cordis Intus In Anima, Vanherrenthal (1995) *Creation*
- Die Schöpfung, Haydn (1995)
- Ille symphonie, Mahler (1994)
- Messe à mon frère Paul, Micha (1993)
- Veni Sancte Spiriritus 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)
- Te Deum, Charpentier (1991)
- IXe Symphonie, Beethoven (1990)
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.

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