

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2021

30. October 2021, 14:00 CET, online with Zoom

Attendees

1. Alessandra Ceccotti, Roma Rainbow Choir
2. Alice Simone, Qora Turin
3. Annette Zahl, Melodiva München, Legato Board Member
4. Arianna Rizzo, Coro Canone Inverso
5. Bas van Vliet, Het Herenkoord
6. Bev, Rainbow Chorus
7. Bigben
8. Cameron McLeod
9. Clara Pizzocolo, Good News Female Gospel Choir Milan
10. Cromatica LGBT
11. Diversity Choir, UK
12. Dominik K. Jakob, Vielhomonie, Legato Board Member
13. Elisabeth Nappey, Pelicanto France
14. Emelyne Beucler, Omphalos Voices
15. Finola Brophy, Rainbow Chorus Brighton UK
16. Francesca Fratini
17. George Battrick, Regenbogenchor München
18. Gérard Näring, Het Herenakkoord Arnheim
19. Graziano Corsini, Choreos Florence
20. Hsien Chew - Barberfellas / Pink Singers
21. Ian Akroyd- European Queer Choir
22. Peter
23. Irma ABC
24. Joan Lanfranco
25. Jörg
26. Juancho Almenara, Legato Board Member
27. Julie Loriaux - Sing Out Brussels
28. Karin Häuter, Sweet & Power
29. Laura Caserini, The Good News Female Gospel Choir
30. Holger, Mainsirenen
31. Markus
32. Martin Brophy, London Gay Men's Chorus, Legato Board Member (President)
33. Martin Gerrits, Philhomoniker München, Legato Board Member
34. Martin Kaufman, London Gay Men's Chorus
35. Martin Oortwijn, Contatori del Duomo
36. Martin van der Ark, Zangzaad
37. Mary Ellen Kitchens, Regenbogenchor München
38. Mike McMonagle, Edinburgh Gay Men's Chorus
39. Misza Czerniak, Voces Gaudii Poland, Legato Board Member
40. Nancy Sciuto
41. Olaf Müller, Männer-Minne
42. Paola Mainaci, Qoro Torino
43. Paul Charlton, Brighton Gay Men's Chorus & European Queer Choir

44. Peter, Vox Rosa, Netherlands
45. Petra Pechacek, WEIBrations Karlsruhe, Legato Board Member
46. Phil Giorgi - Manchester LGBT Chorus
47. Pierre Héleine García, Voces LGTB de Madrid
48. Riccardo Strappagheti, Cromatica
49. Richard Mohr, Schola Cantorosa
50. Rodolphe, Podium Paris
51. Sabine Neumann
52. Sergio Scianatico, Roma Rainbow Chorus
53. Marina & Christophe, Sing Out Brussels
54. Tatjana Naujocks, Gemengd Dameskoor
55. Thomas Hilder, Kor Hen Trondheim
56. Volker Erk
57. Marco Boscolo, Team VVV Bologna 2023
58. Fred Blaauw, Zangzaad
59. Nicola Mainardi, Komos, Team VV Bologna 2023

1. Welcome - Martin Brophy, President of Legato Choirs welcomes attendees.

2. In Memoriam - Martin Brophy

We offered condolences on the passing of many family members, friends and singers from choirs all around the world due to COVID-19 and who were affected by hate and violence.

3. Report of the Board

The Report of the Board had been sent out before and was discharged.

4. Financial report - Dominik Jakob Legato Board, Treasurer.

The income 3.600 EUR consists of the membership payments.

The expenses are the regular costs of internet, bank, legal and admin expenses.

31 Dec. 2020 Legato's bank account was about € 51.000, which includes a reserve for the various Voices Festival loans of € 40,000.

Auditor Report - Richard Mohr "I am convinced that the accounts of Legato are reliably managed by the treasurer Dominik K. Jakob. I recommend the discharge of the board for the year 2020. Hamburg, 15.10.21."

5. Legato's objectives, actions and achievements - Members of the Board

- a) **Member services - being more relevant and helpful** - Misha Cherniak,
The Board initiated the first "Big Conversations" with the members, to hear what services they want and need Legato to facilitate. The Board is working to deliver those services and has some round tables planned: "Returning to Rehearsals" and "Developing a concert and choosing repertoire".
- b) **Membership Team - staying in touch with you** - Martin Gerrits
Legato warmly welcomes its seven new members: Le Genevoix from Geneva, Choir+ from Madrid, The Good News Female Choir from Milan, Bristol Gay men's Chorus

from Bristol, The Sunday Boys from Manchester, Queer-Essence from Kharkiv/Ukraine and Punch-Art Choir from Brussels. Currently Legato has 134 members from 20 countries with 4,500 singers.

- c) **Various Voices Team - creating singing opportunities for you** - Martin Brophy
Supporting Team VV Bologna 2023 and working on the Legato Choirs' support policy
Developing, initiating and managing the renewed bidding process to host future
Various Voices Festivals in a sustainable and equitable manner.
- d) **Communications - Listening, sharing and engaging** - Juancho Almenara &
Annette Zahl
The communications team shares Legato's work and engages with the members to
share the work, ideas and creativity. Through Legato's website blog, social media
and regular newsletters and updates. This year Legato premiered the "Spring Affair"
sharing the green shoots of life during covid pandemic. Following the success of the
"Spring Affair" Legato has launched "Winter Melody - Our Virtual Choir Celebration of
the Season" to premiere on December 26, 2021 at 4 pm (CEST) with a special guest
- there will also be a hint of sun with a latin beat.
- e) **Governance - accountability and transparency** - Martin Gerrits
The Board has worked with authorities and lawyers to update our Articles of
Association to make us fit for purpose and meet the challenges of a virtually
connected world, to deliver a better service.
- f) **Fundraising - "Singing for Equality"** - Petra Pechaček
The Board appointed Martin Kaufman (with a huge thankyou!) as Legato's
fundraising advisor to facilitate the fundraising Case for Support - a working
document that explains why all deserve funding and what Legato will do with those
funds. The result is the "Singing for Equality" Campaign. To encourage and support
European LGBTQ+ music makers to ensure that eventually – over a 20-year
timeframe – there will be an LGBTQ+ choir or one that commits to supporting
LGBTQ+ singers in every major city in Europe, creating a safe space for all. The
fundraising target is to raise €250,000 to fill the funding gap for Legato's Singing for
Equality programme outlined in the Board's step-by-step to fund Ten projects.

6. Annual Report, Accounts, Budget and Discharge of Board - Martin Gerrits

Thank you for your participation. 80 out of 130 full members had taken part in the vote by 29 October 2021 and so we have clearly achieved the 50% minimum participation required by German association laws for validity.

That results are:

- 78 voted YES for Finance Report - accounts, auditor report and budget
- 71 voted YES for Discharge of the board
- 76 voted YES for Appointment of Richard Mohr again as the auditor
- 79 voted YES for Changes in the articles of association

1 voted NO for any of this items

All items were approved.

There are no board elections this year but there will be Board elections will be in 2022

7. Q & A for the Board - Martin Brophy

Members thanked the Board for their work in the last year in person or via chat. And recognize the professional layout of the Annual Report done by Board member Juancho.

Q: Where will the money come from for the fundraising?

A: The money will not be drawn from the members, but from fundraising. Currently we are in phase 1, why do we need funds and Phase 2 where do we get the money from.

Q: Winter Melody: What is the deadline for handing in the videos? And how long will Winter Melody stay on Youtube?

A: The deadline is 16 December 2021. Winter Melody will stay “eternally” on the youtube channel after broadcasting.

8. Our future together - Martin Brophy

“The “Singing for Equality” Campaign is an ambitious challenge for us all but with your help and support we are committed to giving you what you deserve and need. We want to make our community stronger, as we all sing our way out of the Covid pandemic and into a future with song, dance and exciting music being made available to all. We remain committed to our respect agenda with diversity inclusion and equality as the foundation of all our work. Legato is your organisation and we have to reflect you in everything we do.

Safe spaces for all, where all voices have equality, where difference is celebrated and where we welcome everyone into our world of music, growth and celebration. We support you telling your stories and building a fairer world for all - Take our hands and join us as we step into the exciting reality of “Singing for Equality”

The Board will be carrying out a review of the process for selecting the city to host the 2023 Various Voices Festival and we were thrilled to get 2 exciting and viable bids from Barcelona and Brussels. Congratulations to both Team Barcelona and Team Brussels for their hard work and commitment to Legato and our members.”

A short video reveals the host for VV 2026: **Brussels.**

Congratulations from the Board and the members to Brussels and a huge thank you to Barcelona for taking part in the bidding process.

9. Messages from Barcelona and Brussels

Video from Barcelona - and speech from Brussels.

10. Presentation VV 2023 Bologna - Team Bologna

Report and powerpoint presentation regarding Various Voices Festival 2023 in Bologna.

- VV Festival: 14 - 18 June 2023
- VV Italy Tour: 12 - 13 June 2023, 7 cities, 12 choirs can be hosted
- Choir registration starts 1 January 2022
- Delegates registration starts 1 May 2022

- New website: various-voices.it

Powerpoint presentation link here:

XXXX

11. Q & A to team Bologna

Q: How can a choir take part in the VV Italy Tour?

A: By choir registration for VV there will be boxes to tick whether a choir would like to take part in the Italy tour and which city is preferred. Besides this the choirs can choose (with registration) if they would like to perform in the Museum of Modern Art or in the city centre of Bologna during the festival - besides the concert in one of the theatres.

Q: Which films will be shown on Piazza Maggiore during the festival?

A: All information will be shared nearer the time. VV Bologna is working together with Cineteca and currently selecting the pieces. Choirs will have the opportunity to perform the soundtrack to the films together with a Festival Orchestra.

Q: Will there be rehearsal rooms?

A: Yes.

12. Closure of the meeting - Martin Brophy

The President of Legato thanked all for attending with special thanks to team Bologna.

Time to talk and share - chaired by Martin Brophy

person running the meeting
Martin Brophy - LEGATO President

minute taker
Petra Pechaček - LEGATO Secretary