

# Europäisches Jugendchor Festival

## Quotes from choirs after the festival

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“We are very impressed by the enormity, perfection, artistic level and extraordinary Swiss hospitality. All of us felt distinguished, and at the same time, we felt unified with all the festival events. Thanks to you, we were a big choral family member for those few days. From dawn to dusk, and sometimes longer. We thank you for all this, we thank you for the trust you placed in SKOWRONKI, who sang from heart to heart to all festival participants at every concert.”  
*Andrzej Lukaszkiwicz, manager of Chor Dziewczecy Skowronki, Poland*

“J'ai eu un énorme plaisir à ce Fulminates night! Plus que je ne l'avais imaginé. Bravo pour ce que tu construis avec de ce festival; merci de nous rappeler ce qui est important dans notre travail, sans pour autant mettre de côté la qualité et tout en valorisant notre expertise dans notre art. Ce festival m'a fait beaucoup de bien ainsi qu'aux choristes du CNJ!”  
*Dominique Tille, conductor of the French National Choir*

“After such a wonderful week full of joy, music and friendship, I owe you and every single person that participated in festival organization and implementation a warm hug and a big thank you!!!! My girls and me are honored and most happy to get an opportunity to participate in such a great and high-level festival. The organization was brilliant, the concert places were all so well prepared and the whole staff so kind and helpful. We all appreciated their sense of humor, good will, ingenuity and calm in hard and stressful moments.”  
*Helena Fojkar Zupancic, conductor St. Stanislav's Girls' Choir Ljubljana, Slovenia*

“Once again a great, great thank you for your wonderful perfect organization and amazing festival. The girls from la Choraline came back to Belgium with wonderful memories and open eyes and ears on the world of singing. Organization, spirit, friendship, families, concerts, activities, food, timing, ... Everything was there to create a perfect atmosphere for art and youth. Thank you, thank you, thank you!”  
*Benoît Giaux, conductor La Choraline, Chœur de Filles de la Monnaie, Belgium*

“On behalf of Schola Cantorum I would like to thank you once again for the invitation to come to Basel for this year's festival. It was a unique experience and we had an amazing time with memories that we will stay with us for a long, long time.”  
*Tone Bianca Sparre Dahl, conductor Schola Cantorum Youth Choir, Norway*

“THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for everything you did for us to make our stay in Basel and our participation in your great festival such a wonderful experience for all of us. Your great help to find solutions and answers to all our questions and worries, before we arrived and the whole time we were there, was fantastic, we will never be able to thank you enough.”  
*porgerður Ingólfssdóttir, conductor Hamrahlíðarkórinn, Iceland*

“We staff members of the Young People's Chorus of New York City were thrilled to hear of the huge success of your 9<sup>th</sup> European Festival of Youth Choirs, how excited the choristers were to be a part of it and how beautifully they were treated by everyone, especially their host families. They were enchanted to be in such beautiful surroundings and enveloped by the beautiful singing of the other participating choirs. This is truly an experience they will never forget.”  
*Francisco Núñez, conductor Young People's Chorus of New York City, USA*

“The festival you are directing is one of the best I've ever known if not the best of them. You managed to create a great feeling of sharing and joy among the different choirs, many new friendships and connections were born, different and various cultures were heard in the singing of the different choirs. The musical level was very high, your staff including the volunteers were very well managed, everything was exactly on time as planned and the whole feeling was of trust and secure knowing there is someone to lead everything right.”  
*Naomi Faran, conductor Moran Choir, Israel*

“We had a wonderful time in Basel and we will cherish the experience of the beautiful city, the wonderful choirs, the full halls and the people we met.”*Prof. Kostadin Buradzhiiev, Conductor Female Academic Folk Choir, Bulgaria*

"The "Choeur d'Enfants Sotto Voce" is back in Paris and I really don't have enough words to convey to you just how much the children and myself adored the Festival in Bâle. This turned out to be one of the most incredible experiences that the choir has had and the children came back to France changed. All of the parents have been writing to me to tell me that the kids cannot stop talking about everything. The host families were so nice and the kids really became attached to them!"

*Scott Alan Prouty, Conductor Choeur d'Enfants Sotto Voce, France*

"We still are living from all the memories with all you fantastic people, all the wonderful choirs, the good food and weather, the marvelous organization of everything and especially the good spirit, the warm and humoristic atmosphere and loving attitude. "

*Helle Høyer Vedel, conductor Girls' Choir "Aarhus Pigekor", Denmark*

"What a pleasure it was for all of our team to be part of your wonderful festival!!! What an honor it was to be invited to sing in this distinct musical event in your beautiful city! We feel blessed to have gone through this unique opportunity to be part of your festival!! We, each one of our choristers, chaperons, instrumentalists, accompanist and myself are expressing with this letter our deepest appreciation for your invitation."

*Maria Meligopoulou, conductor Ss. Cyril & Methodios Youth Choir of Thessaloniki, Greece*

"The group came back full of beautiful impressions and unforgettable memories. The choir was impressed with Swiss hospitality, the festival's organization, its nature and people's consideration. They met with warm people and made friends with singers from different nations and experienced memorable moments during the Festival. Also, the group enjoyed a joint practice with "Young People's Chorus of New York City" from the USA. The choir returned home with the best impressions of the Swiss scenery, in its pure nature. The children kept the warmth in their hearts and brought it back to Armenia with the love that they received from social interaction during this trip."

*Tigran Hekekyan, conductor Little Singers of Armenia*

"All the feelings of the festival are great!! Thank you very much for giving us this opportunity. For us it would be a pleasure to come wherever you want in the future."

*Josep Avila Jover, conductor Cor Infantil Amics de la Unió, Spain*

„Im Namen der Chormädchen und höchst persönlich möchte ich Euch nochmals ganz, ganz herzlich Danke sagen für fünf wunderbare Tage, angefüllt mit hochinteressanten Konzerten, Begegnungen mit Chören und ChorleiterInnen, unglaublich netten Gastfamilien und Chorbetreuerinnen und einer perfekten Organisation. Solch vollgefüllte Konzertsäle und Kirchen wünsche ich mir auch einmal in Deutschland!! Sogar beim „Singen uf d'r Strass“ hörten die Menschen aufmerksam zu ohne zu reden, ein fantastisches Publikum!! Meine Mädels schwärmten auf der gesamten Rückfahrt von den großartigen Tagen in Basel!! DANKE!! DANKE!! DANKE!!“

*Gudrun Schröfel, Chorleiterin Mädchenchor Hannover, Deutschland*

"We knew that the festival has a great reputation and the invitation is a great honour for every choir. However, we were not able to anticipate the real experience ahead of us: the community of wonderful choirs, wonderful people, the perfect organization and the very gentle personal care of everyone we met. We appreciated the well-planned schedule, which allowed us to handle everything without stress. We appreciated the ample time for rehearsals before the concerts, the quiet space for those rehearsals and facilities where we were preparing for singing and changing costumes. For all of this, we want to thank you, and express our admiration for the great and useful work you do with your colleagues, friends and probably exemplary support of your beautiful city."

*Tomáš Motýl, conductor Motýli Šumperk, Czech Republic*

"On behalf of the whole CIUL, I'd like to thank you again for the opportunity you've given us to enjoy this wonderful experience which will be forever engraved in our hearts. It was a privilege for us all to take part in such an important festival with such quality and to get the chance to hear and see such extraordinary talent from our pairs."

*Erica Mandillo, conductor Coro Infantil da Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal*