

Deliverable 6.2

Guideline of the structure of conductors' training programme, including schedule – Final version

Partner: Estonian Choral Association

<https://kooriyhing.ee/en/>

Link to the guidelines at the homepages, available for public use:

<https://kooriyhing.ee/choral-ties/>

<https://leadingvoices.ee/choral-ties/>



Guideline of the structure of conductors' training programme

Estonian Choral Association decided to internationalize the training program of our conductors', aiming to encourage international networking, raise awareness of diversity and different cultures and explore new opportunities in choral music field.

To do so, we made several changes in the traditional conductors' training programs, and analysed the results after the event, to share our experiences with any other organisations who are aiming to do the same.

We started with internationalizing the traditional Estonian conductors' summer course on August 12-15, 2024 in Haapsalu.

What we did:

- Added 2 international workshops to the traditional Estonian program, one practical (choral atelier) and another theoretical lecture (the consequences of COVID-19 pandemic to the choral field).
- Held both workshops in English with Estonian translation.
- Opened the summer course to the international participants who attended 3 days out of 5, following international workshops and concerts.

The reasons:

- To encourage Estonian conductors who have never participated in international courses – familiar format they already know is a great help.
- To bring Estonian and international conductors together and encourage them to communicate.
- To widen the participants' community of traditional summer course and make it more accessible for neighbouring countries.

We continued with organising an international symposium-like educational event LEADING VOICES on July 4-10, 2025 for choral conductors/vocal leaders, composers/arrangers, vocal coaches, music educators/teachers, professional ensemble singers and managers of all levels and generations.

What we did:

- Brought an international event LEADING VOICES to Estonia in co-operation with European Choral Association and the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, using the format which had already taken place in Utrecht, Netherlands 3 years earlier.
- Organised 55 sessions by 40 international session leaders, 128 individual lessons on conducting and singing, and 10 concerts, having English as working language.
- Added special program in Estonian, including workshops in Estonian language by Estonian lecturers, international workshops with Estonian translation and some English workshops where understanding the language was not that important (like observing masterclass).
- Structured the schedule with coffee breaks, lunch breaks, dinner breaks and some free time in program, to encourage networking and communication between international and Estonian participants.
- Built up a diverse program, using different working forms: workshops, lectures, round tables, project presentations, keynote speeches, common singing, concerts, individual lessons, lounges, practical labs, masterclasses etc.
- Involved professional workshop leaders from possibly different countries with wide geographical, gender and age diversity.
- Involved both professional and high-level amateur choirs and ensembles in concerts.
- Connected the opening of Leading Voices with the main concert of Estonian Song Celebration, to introduce this great tradition to the international choral scene and attract participants all over the world.
- Packed the whole event to 4 days, to make it more accessible for the choral lovers and professionals.
- Organised special sessions for different target groups: conducting masterclass for young professionals, composition masterclass for starting or advanced choral composers, practical labs for those more interested in hands-on working methods.
- Varied sessions with different concerts both lunchtime and in the evenings, avoiding parallel events (participants don't want to miss any performance).

The reasons:

- Co-operation with international organisation and music university facilitated and activated the international promotion of the event, to make sure that information reached to possibly many conductors all over the world.
- Organised the event in Tallinn as this is the most easily accessible location in Estonia (airport with several direct and connecting flights, harbour with direct connection to Finland and Latvia, train station, bus station etc).
- The wide variety of session types (lectures, workshops, masterclasses etc) made the event attractive for many professionals – everyone could pick the most suitable format.
- Connecting and linking international and Estonian program encourage to participate local conductors who usually don't take part in international training.
- Limited time of the event (4 days; 6 days for conducting masterclass participants) made it more accessible and affordable for the professionals of choral field).
- Organising sessions of wide variety and different formats made the event attractive for more participants.

PRACTICAL HINTS TO THE ORGANISERS OF INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSES FOR CHORAL CONDUCTORS

Time

1. Concentrate the international lectures and workshops to 3-4 days, to make it more attractive and affordable for the potential participants.
2. Discuss the planned dates time of your event with some international colleagues: when is the best time to travel for your target group. This can vary highly in different countries.
3. Make sure that your planned dates would not overlap with some other big international choral event addressed to the same target group.

Location

4. Organise the international course in a place which is easily accessible by public transportation and publish practical information about how to get there. Maybe there are different airports nearby to fly to, connections by ferry or train or something else. Not all people are very good in finding the most affordable ways to reach your destination and may not apply because of that.
5. Inform your participants well in advance about the venue(s) of your event, to let them book accommodation possibly close, if they wish to do so, and plan their days in advance.
6. If possible, organise your event in venues that are within walking distance. If not possible, make sure there is public transportation available, and provide information about that.

Publicity

7. Co-operate with international organisations and spread your information through choral and conductors' associations in different countries, they reach to your target group in the most effective ways.

Contents

8. Ask conductors themselves about the subjects they are interested in – simply surveys work very well!
9. Provide some international lectures in English, with translation into local language – in this case the courses are equally accessible for both international and local participants.
10. Combine joint activities (like singing together, panel discussions or meetings) with lectures, concerts and workshops, to encourage communication between participants.
11. Invite lecturers/workshop leaders who have experience in working with multinational groups.
12. Organise concerts in possibly different venues to make people explore new places and offer innovative sound experiences.
13. If you make concerts, diverse the programs as much as possible, to involve different audiences and raise interest.
14. Make some parts of your program available for free and/or visible in public space, to make sure that local community can have access to your event. It does not need to be much! We organised short lunch concerts in some days which were free for everyone.

Practical information

15. If possible, provide accommodation and meals for international participants, this makes participation easier for them and increases possibilities for networking. If not possible, give time during your program for coffee breaks, lunch breaks and dinner breaks.
16. Be ready to answer questions of potential participants as soon as possible during the preparations of your event – if the destination is not well known to them, potentially interested people easily give up participation if the communication with the organisers is slow and delayed.
17. Leave some free time to the participants during the event, to explore the surroundings and learn something about the place where your course is taking place! Alternatively, offer possibility to come 1-2 earlier or leave a little bit later.

APPENDIX 1



Summer Course Schedule on August 12-15, 2024 in Haapsalu, Estonia

INTERNATIONAL SESSIONS

- Journey from Romantic to Contemporary in European Music (Jan Schumacher, Germany)
- Choirs after COVID – recover, rebuild, renew (Daphne Wassink, Netherlands)
- Meeting composer – Tõnu Kõrvits (Estonia)
- The world's very first choral conducting app – Jan Schumacher presents the Conductor's Coach by Carus

PRACTICAL

- Haapsalu is easily accessible by bus (from Tallinn)
- The course takes place in Haapsalu Vocational Education and Training Centre which has its own hostel and canteen – so accommodation, seminars and meals are all in same place. The concerts will take place in different churches and halls in Haapsalu, transfers will be provided by organisers.
- Participation fee of the course is 210 € per person which includes all lectures and concerts, accommodation for 3 nights in single or twin room in students' hostel and meals from dinner of August 12th until breakfast of August 15th.
- If you prefer to arrive later, leave earlier or stay longer, it is possible – just ask organisers!
- More information: kooriyhing@kooriyhing.ee

SCHEDULE

Monday, August 12

Check-in

18.15 – 19.30 dinner

20.00 and 21.30 concerts in Haapsalu Church of Mary Magdalene: Vesper from Kreek's orthodox music manuscript: Vocal Ensemble Heinavanker, conductor Margo Kõlar

Tuesday, August 13th

8.00 – 9.30 breakfast

9.30 – 11.00 session: Seminar choir (Jan Schumacher)

11.00 – 11.15 break

11.15 – 12.45 lecture: Choirs after COVID – recover, rebuild, renew (Daphne Wassink)

12.45 – 14.00 lunch

14.00 – 15.30 session: Seminar choir (Jan Schumacher)

15.30 – 15.45 break

15.45 – 16.30 presentation: The world's very first choral conducting app (Jan Schumacher)

18.45 – 19.45 dinner

20.00 – 21.00 concert in Haapsalu Dome Church: Chamber Choir Voces Tallinn, conductor Lodewijk van der Ree

Wednesday, August 14th

8.00 – 09.30 breakfast

9.30 – 11.00 session: Seminar choir (Jan Schumacher)

11.00 – 11.15 break

12.15 – 13.45 session: Seminar choir (Jan Schumacher)

13.45 – 15.00 lunch

15.00 – 16.30 Meeting Composer – Tõnu Kõrvits

16.45 bus to Haapsalu, free time

19.00 – 19.45 dinner

20.00 concert in Haapsalu Vocational Education and Training Centre: Youth Male Choir of Estonian National Opera, conductor Hirvo Surva

Thursday, August 15

8.00 – 9.30 breakfast

Departure

APPENDIX 2



Schedule of Leading Voices on July 5-10, 2025 in Tallinn, Estonia

Friday, July 4

16.45 check-in for conducting masterclass in Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre

17.00 – 17.45 first masterclass meeting

18.00 – 21.30 master class, work with Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir

20.00 [Leading Voices concert at St. John's Church in Tallinn](#)

Wakayama Children's Choir (Japan), Espressa Women's Choir (Canada), Male Choir Homme (Estonia)

Saturday, July 5

13.00 Song Celebration parade from centre to Song Celebration Ground

19.30 Opening ceremony and 1st concert of Song Celebration at Song Celebration Ground

Sunday, July 6

14.00 Main concert of Song Celebration at Song Celebration Ground

You can find more information about the Song Celebration [HERE](#)

Monday, July 7

08.30 Registration for those who could not register on Sunday or are coming with one day ticket

09.30-10.15 Plenary Session:

- Open Singing by [Basilio Astulez](#) (Basque Country / Spain)
- Keynote speech: Why We Sing: the Impact of a UNESCO Heritage Song Festival on
- Collective Wellbeing ([Indre Viskontas](#), USA/Lithuania)
- Info on the day

10.30-12.00 morning sessions:

- Workshop: Luca Scaccabarozzi (Italy) [What Makes a Choir Sound Great?](#)
- Workshop: Irene Verburg (Netherlands) [The Power of Conducting Gestures](#)
- Workshop: Tomas Staniulis (Lithuania) [Artificial Intelligence in Daily Life](#)
- Lecture: Deke Sharon (USA) [Arranging for Vocal Groups & Choirs in Pop/Jazz Style](#)
- Masterclass: Risto Joost (Estonia) [Conducting masterclass](#)

- LAB 1: Jesper Holm (Denmark) only for pre-registered participants!
- LAB 2: Lone Larsen (Sweden) only for pre-registered participants!
- Masterclass: Ēriks Ešenvalds (Latvia) only for pre-registered participants!

10.30-13.30 Individual mentoring: Lessons of conducting and voice placing (open for everyone, sign up on the spot)

12.00-12.30 Coffee break

12.30-13.30 noon sessions:

- Panel discussion: Moderated by **Imre Ploeg** [Gender roles in choral music, past and present](#)
- Lecture: **Tom Johnson (Belgium)** [Harmony in Diversity](#)
- Reading Session: [Discover Baltic repertoire with the help of Musica](#)
- Lecture: **Raul Talmar (Estonia)** [The Soul of a Nation: Artistic Concept of Estonian Song Celebration](#)
- Masterclass: **Risto Joost (Estonia)** [Conducting masterclass](#)
- LAB 1: **Jesper Holm (Denmark)** only for pre-registered participants!
- LAB 2: **Lone Larsen (Sweden)** only for pre-registered participants!
- Masterclass: **Ēriks Ešenvalds (Latvia)** only for pre-registered participants!

13.30-15.00 Lunch break

14.15 – 14.45 lunch concert in the foyer

15.00-16.30 afternoon sessions:

- Workshop: Elisa dal Corso (Italy) [Find Your Broadway Voice](#)
- Lecture: Indre Viskontas (Lithuania/USA) [How Music Can Make Your Brain Better](#)
- Lecture: Hans Helsen (Belgia) [Songs They Want to Sing: Composing for Youth Choirs](#)
- Lecture: Elise Bradley (New Zealand) [Inside the Rehearsal: Methods for Children's Choir Success](#)
- Masterclass: Risto Joost (Estonia) [Conducting masterclass](#)

15.00-18.00 Individual mentoring: Lessons of conducting and voice placing (open for everyone, sign up on the spot)

16.30-17.00 Coffee break

17.00-18.00 evening sessions:

- Lounge: Hosted by Sonja Greiner (DE) [International Cooperation in the Choral World – meet your colleagues!](#)
- Lecture: Babilio Astulez (Basque Country / Spain) [Music in Motion: Movement for Children and Youth](#)
- Lecture: Karin Courtney (Austria) [Communication strategies in the choral field](#)
- Panel: Moderated by Raul Talmar (Estonia) [Discussion about different styles of musical Leadership](#)
- Reading Session: Carus Verlag & Jan Schumacher (DE) [Choral Gems by Women Composers: Voices Across Time and Borders](#)
- Individual mentoring: Lessons of conducting and voice placing (open for everyone, sign up on the spot)

18.00 Coffee break

19.00 [Concert](#): Estonian National Male Choir (Mikk Üleoja), Jazzchoir Musta Lammas (Ida Olsonen)

22.00 [Night-Concert](#) in Niguliste Church: Vox Clamantis (Jaan-Eik Tulve)

Tuesday, July 8th

09.30-10.15 Plenary Session

- Open Singing by [Siri Myggen](#) (Denmark)
- Keynote speech: Using music & singing to welcome people to society ([Tom Johnson](#), Belgium)
- Info on the day

10.30-12.00 morning sessions:

- Lecture: Marko Lõhmus (Estonia) [How to Move 23,000 Singers: Inside the Song Celebration Logistics](#)
- Workshop: Risto Joost (Estonia) [Music Through Time: Understanding Style and Interpretation](#)
- Workshop: Claes Wegener (Denmark) [Warming Up with Complete Vocal Technique \(CVT\)](#)
- Lecture: Claudia Franzen (Netherlands) [New forms of youth collective singing](#)
- LAB 1: Jesper Holm (Denmark) only for pre-registered participants!
- LAB 2: Lone Larsen (Sweden) only for pre-registered participants!
- Masterclass: Ēriks Ešenvalds (Latvia) only for pre-registered participants!

10.30-13.30 Individual mentoring: Lessons of conducting and voice placing (open for everyone, sign up on the spot)

12.00-12.30 Coffee break

12.30-13.30 noon sessions:

- Lecture: Jean-Claude Wilkens (France) [Copy, Right? Understanding Copyright in Choral Music](#)
- Workshop: Felix Powroslo (Germany) [Own the Room: Public Speaking for Choir Leaders](#)
- Workshop: Tom Johnson (Belgium) [Everyone Sings: A Guide to Open Singing](#)
- Presentation: Moderated by Sophie Dowden (UK). Sophie Dowden & SWAN [Beyond Barriers: Accessible Choral Practices for Social Impact](#)
- LAB 1: Jesper Holm (Denmark) only for pre-registered participants!
- LAB 2: Lone Larsen (Sweden) only for pre-registered participants!
- Masterclass: Ēriks Ešenvalds (Latvia) only for pre-registered participants!

13.30-15.00 Lunch break

14.15-14.45 lunch concert in the foyer

15.00-16.30 afternoon sessions:

- Workshop: Deke Sharon (USA) [Contemporary A Cappella](#)
- Lecture: Siri Myggen (Denmark) [When the Classroom Sings](#)
- Workshop: Zurab Tskrialashvili (Georgia) [Georgian Polyphony: Tradition in Harmony](#)

- Presentation: Moderated by Sonja Greiner (Germany) [What the choral and vocal world has to offer – where to go and how to find useful online tools](#)
- LAB Results Concert: Jesper Holm (DK) with Musta Lammas (FI)

15.00-18.00 Individual mentoring: Lessons of conducting and voice placing (open for everyone, sign up on the spot)

16.30-17.00 Coffee break

17.00-18.00 evening sessions:

- Lounge: Hosted by Jean-Claude Wilkens (France) [Join us in a relaxed setting to connect with publishers, exchange insights, and discuss all aspects of the publishing world.](#)
- Presentation: Kai Kiiv (Estonia) [If you plan to study in Estonia – studying opportunities in Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre](#)
- Lecture: Umut Eldem (Belgium/Turkey) [Creative Futures: Where AI Meets Music](#)
- Panel: Moderated by Kjetil Aamann (Norway) [When the Music Moves You: Choreography in Choral Performance](#)
- [Final Concert of Conducting Masterclass](#): Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir. Program: Debussy, Martin, Poulenc, Pärt, Rakhmaninov, Sibelius, Tormis
Conducting: active participants of the master class

18.00 Coffee break

19.00 [Concert](#): Boys' Choir of Estonian National Opera (Hirvo Surva) and Jauna Muzika (Vaclovas Augustinas, LT)

22.00 [Night Concert](#): Estonian Voices (Kadri Voorand)

Wednesday, July 9th

09.30-10.15 Plenary Session:

- Open Singing by Ida Olsen (FI)
- Keynote speech: Encouraging young composers (Vaclovas Augustinas, LT)
- Info on the day

10.30-12.00 morning sessions:

- Workshop: Tom Johnson (Belgium) [Teaching songs without scores](#)
- Lecture: Toomas Siitan (Estonia) [Voicing the Word: Arvo Pärt's Choral World](#)
- Workshop: Claes Wegener (Denmark) [Unlock Your Voice with Complete Vocal Technique \(CVT\)](#)
- Workshop: Jesper Holm (Denmark) [Teaching rhythmic music](#)
- LAB 1: Lone Larsen (Sweden) only for pre-registered participants!
- Masterclass: Ēriks Ešenvalds (Latvia) only for pre-registered participants!

10.30-13.30 Individual mentoring: Lessons of conducting and voice placing (open for everyone, sign up on the spot)

12.00-12.30 Coffee break

12.30-13.30 noon sessions:

- Open rehearsal: Hirvo Surva (Estonia) [Open rehearsal of the Boys' Choir of Estonian National Opera](#)
- Presentation: Ester Petri and Jan Schumacher (Germany) [The World's First Choral Conducting App: Practicing with the Conductor's Coach](#)
- Panel: Moderated by Yiğit Deniz (TR) [Panel on advocacy for and communication about collective singing – developing a vision for the future of the choral sector](#)
- Reading Session: SuLaSol & Reijo Kekkonen (FI) [Sulasol New approachable Finnish compositions for choir](#)
- LAB 1: Lone Larsen (Sweden) only for pre-registered participants!
- Masterclass: Ēriks Ešenvalds (Latvia) only for pre-registered participants!

13.30-15.00 Lunch break

14.15-14.45 lunch concert in the foyer

15.00-16.30 afternoon sessions:

- Workshop: Felix Powroslo (Germany) [Stage presence](#)
- Workshop: Anna Fűri (Hungary) [Kodály for Little Ears](#)
- Workshop: Kjetil Aamann (Norway) [Piano accompaniment for music teachers, using piano in choir rehearsal](#)
- Workshop: Elise Bradley (New Zealand) [Singing in Color: Vowels, Balance and Intonation](#)
- Presentation: Moderated by Sophie Dowden (GB) [Singing Without Limits: Collective Singing for All Ages, Abilities and Needs](#)

15.00-18.00 Individual mentoring: Lessons of conducting and voice placing (open for everyone, sign up on the spot)

16.30-17.00 Coffee break

17.00-18.00 evening sessions:

- Workshop: Deke Sharon (USA) [Music Director's Toolkit: how to run a great rehearsal](#)
- Lounge: Hosted by Marleen De Boo (Belgium) [Meet music educators & children's choir conductors](#)
- Panel discussion: [Shaping the Future: Rethinking Higher Music Education](#) (needs, different roles of conductors etc)
- Reading Session: Stuart Overington (GB) Oxford University Press, [Concert Works for a Changing World: Humans & Earth in Harmony](#)
- Lab Concert: see the results! Lone Larsen and Ēriks Ešenvalds with Jauna Muzika

18.00 Coffee break

19.00 [Final Concert](#) of Leading Voices: Boys' Choir of Estonian National Opera (conductor Hirvo Surva), Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir (Tõnu Kaljuste), Jauna Muzika (Vaclovas Augustinas), Musta Lammas (Ida Olsonen)

Thursday, July 10th

Departure