

## **EVTA NEWS FOR COUNCILLORS**

**DECEMBER 2015**

Dear Councillors,

This past year has been busy for EVTA with many activities in Europe. It has been wonderful to meet many of you in congresses in Riga and Florence. Not every member can attend these events but those who do always feel very fortunate to make new friends and learn about our fascinating profession and singing.

## **EVTA COUNCIL MEETINGS**

### **Riga**

The EVTA Council's yearly meeting took place in Riga, Latvia during the Eurovox Congress, June 18, 2015.

#### **PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE:**

- Austria: Helga Meyer-Wagner, Martin Vácha (Vice-President),
- Belgium: Sarah Algoet
- Croatia: Tonči Ante Petković
- Denmark: Anne Marie Kozeluh Malene Bichel
- Finland: Sirku Wahlroos-Kaitilia, Susanna Tenkanen-Lindeman
- France: Emmanuelle Trinquesse, Anne Constantin
- Germany: Eleanor Forbes, Bettina Kerth
- Ireland: Paul Deegan
- Italy: Elizabeth Aubry
- Latvia: Antra Jankava (Executive),
- Netherlands: Clara Mesdag, Ineke van Doorn (Executive)
- Norway: Solvi Elise Halvorsen
- Poland: Maria Czechowska Krolicka, Izabella Jeżowska
- Slovenia: Edita Garčevič Koželj, Davor Mikulić
- Spain: Pilar Lirio
- Sweden: Jacqueline Delman, Ann-Christine Wilund, Elizabeth Jonsson
- Switzerland: Nora Tiedcke
- United Kingdom: Penny Price-Jones, Paul Deegan

Executive members not representing countries as councillors: Outi Kähkönen (President), Christa Bornhijm (Treasurer), Susan Yarnall-Monks (Secretary). Claudia Phillips (Member-at-Large)

Countries not represented: Hungary, Iceland, Serbia. We are very happy that the representatives of 18 of our 21 member countries could be present at this meeting. We are also sorry that TOSINI of Ireland is no longer an active association which means we have 20 member countries at present.

## Election of new President

Dr. Susan Yarnall Monks of the UK was unanimously elected new President. She will continue as Secretary and President-Elect until January 1, 2017, as she formally takes over the responsibility as our new president, after Outi Kähkönen of Finland. There will be more elections coming in the next Council meeting in 2016 (see below, under "Executive Board").



## EUROVOX 2015

The Eurovox Congress took place in Riga, Latvia, June 18-20, 2015. It was a wonderful gathering of colleagues and friends from across Europe. Our host, LATS President Antra Jankava and her team had spared no efforts in preparing for an unforgettable event. The warm atmosphere and the Latvian national spirit climaxed in the celebration of Summer Solstice in the countryside outside of Riga where we made flower wreaths and danced around the bonfire in the white Nordic Night. The invited speakers and presenters were equally enthusiastic about the friendly, yet professional approach of the organisers.

Financially Eurovox managed to turn out satisfactorily. The costs were kept to balance, aided partly by the remaining LEO project funds.

I wish to thank everybody once more for an amazing congress!



## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PROGRAMME (YPP)

The YPP programme is designed to enable young artists to participate in European conferences. It was initiated in Vienna in 2006 and continued in Paris at ICVT7/Eurovox 2009, Munich 2012 and most recently in Riga.

The selected young artists sang for Master Classes and presentations in various styles (musical theatre, classical, popular, folk, jazz, etc.) as well as performed in concert. EVTA will continue with this programme in the conferences to come.

## LEO SINGS!

Leo I, Leo II, Leo III (aka Leo Sings !)  
Who is this Leo guy, anyway ?

As all EVTA councillors know by now, these are the names of the three different EVTA projects that have been funded by the European Lifelong Learning Programme. Throughout the three projects, EVTA has grown and expanded its knowledge and skills: in digital resources; in vocal pedagogy covering all styles of singing; and in closer collaboration within collective singing practices. We have learned how to write an application for European funding, how to write and submit a final report, how to work with the other partners in the different projects.

The first two Leos were partnerships solely between EVTA member associations. Leo 3 (to be referred to henceforth as Leo Sings!) was a partnership between non-EVTA organisations in Spain, Luxembourg, Germany, France and Denmark. This very successful project has opened EVTA up to what can be our next phase of development: collaborating with other European organisations that have different points of view on the subject that interests us all: singing! The partners of Leo Sings! have decided to continue working together to further the practice of singing throughout Europe, and therefore to search for further European funding to enable us to continue our work. We hope that all EVTA members will support the work of the board, and we welcome any and all comments, suggestions and ideas!

Claudia Phillips, France, member-at-large of EVTA Executive

## PEVOC 2015



The PEVOC theme was “An Old Bridge Over New Findings” – very suitable for the lovely city of Florence with the famous old bridge – *Ponte Vecchio* - where *Lauretta* said she’d go. EVTA participated in the PEVOC Congress as coordinator of themes concerning vocal pedagogy. This multifaceted congress was once again the meeting place for more than 400 different voice professionals from all over the world. The traditional division of medical, scientific, speech pathology, singing voice pedagogy, acoustical and mechanical analysis etc. was applied in the programme. It is of course good that each participant finds the topics of most interest to them but among the EVTA people we also thought it would be nice to mix all these experts. It might be valuable for medical doctors to listen to singing teachers for example! As it is, the singing teachers do listen to medical doctors and scientists and seek to learn new information to develop their teaching. We also hope that scientists would listen to singing teachers, especially looking for research topics of real practical value in singing.

## EVTA WEBSITE

[www.evta-online.eu](http://www.evta-online.eu)

Please inform the webmaster Ineke van Doorn of any changes in your officers or board members, change of web addresses or contact addresses, so that we can keep the EVTA website up-to-date.  
Email: [webmaster@evta-online.eu](mailto:webmaster@evta-online.eu)

## NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next EVTA Council meeting will take place in Celje, Slovenia, Sept. 23-24, 2016. There will also be a special event with **Jewels of European Vocal Pedagogy (JEVOP)**, organised by our hosts, the Slovenian Singing Teachers Association. We will learn about classical Slovenian music and listen to young singers' performing. More info and invitations for this meeting will follow.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

The EVTA Executive Board usually meets twice a year to plan our activities and implement the decisions made by the Council. After meeting in Riga we gathered again in Haarlem, the Netherlands, Nov. 20-21. Treasurer Christa Bornhijm had arranged a nice weekend for us and we worked two whole days in an inspired atmosphere. The To-do –list from Riga was reviewed, a new list was made, and so the work continues with numerous e-mails. As you remember, our current Secretary, Susan Yarnall Monks was elected new President from year 2017. There will also be other changes in the Board as two members-at-large will leave their places. Therefore, an invitation will be sent for you to consider becoming new board members. Those interested should send their letter of interest, together with a short resumé and picture to the board by March 2016. A reminder about this will be sent in the February.

Next Congresses: The Board decided that the next Eurovox congress will take place in 2018, as it is a year with no other such events, even though we had decided earlier that congresses would take place every 4 years. For the sake of practicality we thought this would be a better solution. The host country is so far not decided. The International Congress of Voice Teachers ICVT will take place in Sweden, 2017. Moreover, Vienna, Austria, has offered to host ICVT in 2021 but this is still not certain, as there may be other applicants.

The EVTA Executive Board: Outi Kähkönen (Finland), President, Martin Vácha (Austria), Vice-President, Susan Yarnall Monks (UK), Secretary, Christa Bornhijm (Netherlands), Treasurer, Claudia Phillips (France), Ineke Van Doorn (Netherlands) and Antra Jankava (Latvia), members-at-large.

## EVTA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 23-24, 2016	<b>EVTA COUNCIL MEETING and JEVOP</b>	Celje, Slovenia
August 2-6, 2017	<b>ICVT 9</b> <a href="http://www.icvt2017.com">www.icvt2017.com</a>	Stockholm, Sweden
30 Aug.-1. Sept. 2017	<b>PEVOC</b>	Ghent, Belgium
2018	<b>EUROVOX</b>	
2021	<b>ICVT 10</b>	Vienna, Austria?



*Website: [www.evta-online.eu](http://www.evta-online.eu)  
Join us on Facebook!*



*for the executive,  
in Helsinki, Finland*

*Outi Kähkönen  
President*

*EVTA e.V.*