



Media Release

THE 12TH EUROPEAN FESTIVAL OF YOUTH CHOIRS BASEL TO BE CANCELLED

Basel, 17 March 2020 – With great regret, the Board of Directors of the European Festival of Youth Choirs Basel has announced that the 12th European Festival of Youth Choirs Basel from 20 to 24 May 2020 has been cancelled. It is no longer possible for the festival to take place due to COVID-19 pandemic. The decision was made after careful consideration and in consultation with relevant authorities.

Over 2,000 children and young people were scheduled to travel to the Basel region from 20 to 24 May 2020 to give over 40 events for an audience of over 30,000 people. In the last few days, however, it has become increasingly apparent that the arrival of choirs from twelve European countries and Inner Mongolia in the Basel region at the end of May is neither justifiable nor feasible. The festival and the invited choirs assume that the banning of large events, travel restrictions and quarantine regulations will still be in force in May. Due to the current situation, many of the invited choirs have already had to interrupt their rehearsals and are therefore unable to prepare adequately for their performances. In addition, accommodations for the approximately 600 young people in local host families at the end of May will hardly be justifiable or feasible. The sadness and disappointment about this development are great for the choirs, as well as for the many volunteers and participants. Nevertheless, the decision was welcomed and supported in solidarity.

The organisers are currently examining possible alternatives. Decisions will be made in consultation with the authorities and the partner organisations. The most up-to-date information on this will be available on the website www.ejcf.ch.

www.ejcf.ch
www.facebook.com/jugendchorfestival
www.youtube.com/user/EJCFBasel
www.instagram.com/ejcf_basel

For further information

Kathrin Renggli, Festival Director, telephone 061 401 21 00 / k.renggli@ejcf.ch
Elisabeth Schneider-Schneiter, President, telephone 079 702 86 64 / elisabeth.schneider@parl.ch
Andrea Theunert, Media and Public Relations, telephone 061 322 06 14 / a.theunert@ejcf.ch