



Media Release

THE 12TH EUROPEAN FESTIVAL OF YOUTH CHOIRS BASEL TO TAKE PLACE 12 – 16 MAY 2021

Basel, 22 April 2020 - The board of the association European Festival of Youth Choirs Basel is pleased to announce that the 12th European Festival of Youth Choirs Basel has been successfully rescheduled to take place 12 to 16 May 2021 instead of the originally planned 20 to 24 May 2020. Three major choir and music festivals in Switzerland, nearly 100 cooperation partners of the festival and 40 invited children's and youth choirs have shown their solidarity and have made this decision possible with their flexibility and enthusiasm.

Over 2,000 children and young people had originally planned to travel to the Basel region from 20 to 24 May 2020 to give over 40 concerts for an audience of more than 30,000 people. The COVID-19 pandemic made it impossible to carry out the international choir festival as planned. Nobody would have thought that a postponement of such a big event would be possible. But this is the current situation: Several other festivals have shown their solidarity, have set new dates for their own events or have agreed to work together. The Schweizerische Kinder- und Jugendchorfestival has been postponed from May 2021 to May 2022 and will now take place at the same time as the Schweizerische Gesangsfestival. "Cantars", the church sound festival set for 2021, has agreed to move the Swiss Choir Conductor Meeting to Basel. In addition, some concert organisers have postponed their already reserved dates in favour of the festival, the persons working on behalf of the host organisations have promised to look again for host families for more than 500 children and young people and many volunteers are really looking forward to the Festival 2021. The twelve invited choirs from abroad, with the exception of the Trinity Boys Choir from England, have agreed to participate in the Festival 2021. Only three choirs from Switzerland will have to leave their place to others due to commitments already made. Talks with the new participating choirs are already underway. Due to this great support, the board of the European Festival of Youth Choirs Basel has decided to postpone the festival until 12 to 16 May 2021. The board considers the financial risk to be justifiable, especially since some donors have already verbally assured their support.

Despite the now great anticipation for EJCF 2021, there will not be a complete cancellation of EJCF 2020. Swiss radio has already announced some dates to broadcast music from past youth choir festivals, and calls via Facebook and Instagram to recycle unused advertising material for 2020 have led to various handicraft and sewing activities. The organisers will announce additional activities that will serve to boost interest in EJCF 2021 on the website www.ejcf.ch from about 10 May 2020.

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

Further information

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