

Europäisches Jugendchorfestival

Media release

Successful Mini-EJCF with Solidarity Blanket and Mini Singing Groups

Basel, 22 May 2020 - Over 2,000 children and young people were meant 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 at the 12th European Youth Choir Festival. In compliance with the applicable safety regulations and in consultation with the responsible authorities, it was possible to spread a touch of festival atmosphere on Ascension Day despite the coronavirus. Various small formations marched singing through the Basel city centre, while 926 flags with the date EJCF 2020 were turned into a multi-coloured solidarity blanket in the Grün 80 park. Choir enthusiasts from Switzerland and abroad followed the events on a livestream. The 12th EJCF has been postponed until the Ascension Day period 12 to 16 May 2021.

Linking up with European solidarity

The 926 flags with the date EJCF 2020 were turned into a multicoloured Solidarity Blanket of 463 square meters on Ascension Day, 21 May. In the livestream, not only the audience in Switzerland but also the international choir scene could follow how the cloth grew over six hours, accompanied by choral music from past festivals. The Solidarity Blanket symbolises the solidarity with children and young people in other European countries who were unable to participate in the festival or currently unable to sing together in their home country. It stands for 'The Colours of Cultures', which have always represented the colourfulness of the EJCF and which would have come together during these festival days.

Sing-hopping through the Basel city centre

In the end there were ten formations with three to five young people each that marched singing through the inner city of Basel on Ascension Day. Among them was a formation of former EJCF members who took the opportunity to sing together while with their babies and toddlers. A children's formation also tried out singing in front of a street audience for the first time. We would like to give a big shout out to them as well as to the singers of the music academy and the girls' and boys' choir. They maintained social distancing between themselves and the audience in an exemplary manner, while still letting a breath of festival air flow through the city centre. It was clear from the audience reaction that the people of Basel loved it.

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Link to video of the livestream (Source: 'Marin Valentin Wolf on behalf of the EJCF'):

<https://youtu.be/Kz2KIWh1AWw>

Photos of the solidarity blanket and musical impressions of the sing-hopping:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8sgw5m65ca685k3/AACelaaZZB8Y3RLa3-DxiFFya?dl=0>

www.ejcf.ch

www.facebook.com/jugendchorfestival

www.youtube.com/user/EJCFBasel

www.instagram.com/ejcf_basel

Additional information

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Caption: The Solidarity Blanket made of 926 EJCF flags from the 2020 festival that was cancelled due to the coronavirus.

