

**BIENNIAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT**  
for the period 2014-2015

**NATIONAL / SPECIALISED ORGANISATIONS**

for presentation to the 36<sup>th</sup> IMC General Assembly  
Rabat, November 11–14, 2015

You are kindly requested to complete and return this report to the Paris Secretariat not later than **October 11, 2015.**

**PART I: YOUR ORGANISATION**

**1. Name of organisation: *The Aarya Foundation***

**2. Mission of the organisation:**

Inspiration: broadening the scope of choral music.

Vision: in 30 years, within the span of a generation, hundreds of millions of people will have trained their voice and will be singing together.

Mission: to advance singing science and advocates music education through singing from kindergarten on, for the sake of art, health and community.

Objectives: to collect and disseminate the evidences for singing, and to develop and distribute the principles to learn and teach singing effectively.

Actions: science-based advocacy, the initiative *Singing Cities* and its vehicle, *The Singing Caravan*.

**3. Board of Directors/Executive Committee:**

***[name, role within Board, name of organization(s) that the Board member represents or is affiliated with]***

Royce Bell, Trustee, Chair of PRS for Music Foundation

Claudia Castro, Trustee, Chairperson, affiliated with Ministério da Cultura (Brazil), formerly affiliated with the Organisation of the Iberoamerican States for the Education, Science and Culture

Baz Chapman, Trustee, affiliated with ExCathedra and Music Hubs, former Programme Director of Sing Up

Paul Cutts, Trustee, former Chair of the Bach Choir

Philippe Rixhon, Trustee, Secretary General, Managing Director of Philippe Rixhon Associates

#### 4. Membership

No membership. As per your estimation, how many persons does your organisation reach? Thousands.

#### 5. Activities carried out since the last IMC GA (September 2013)

Please list your activities related to

- a) advocacy and policy making
  - transformation of our website into [www.singingcities.net](http://www.singingcities.net)
  - leading contribution to the *Singing Cities* initiative
  - completion of the prototyping of *Singing Cities*, with the supported of the Culture Programme of the European Union

- b) presentation or production

Number of

- conferences: 3
- recordings: 2
- live performances: more than 100
- festivals: 5
- ~~• competitions~~
- ~~• prizes and awards~~

Please describe the main events.

Conferences:

- pecha kucha at *Radiale Vokalnacht* (Berlin, December 2013)
- presentation at the *International Symposium on Singing in Music Education* (Budapest, April 2014)
- organisation of the international conference *Singing. Scientific, emotional and artistic aspects of a human phenomenon* (Berlin, March 2015)

Recordings:

- recording and broadcast of *Singing Brussels, Celebration Weekend* (September 2014)
- recording and broadcast of *Woodland, Sound of Namsos* (Norway, November 2014)

Live performances:

- more than 100 performances during the hereunder mentioned festivals, all of them listed on [www.singingcities.net](http://www.singingcities.net)

Festivals:

- *Chor@Berlin* 2014 and 2015 (Berlin, February 2014 and February 2015)
- *Woodland, Sound of Namsos* 2013 and 2014 (Namsos/Norway, November 2013 and November 2014)
- *Singing Brussels, Celebration Weekend* (Brussels, September 2014)

- c) Research

- completed two first scientific reviews and a first education document within the initiative *Singing Cities*

- ~~d) information services~~

- ~~• printed periodicals (number of issues)~~
- ~~• electronic newsletters / new flashes (number of issues)~~
- ~~• books (title, number of copies printed)~~
- ~~• audio-visual material (title)~~
- ~~• studies, surveys, etc. (title)~~

- ~~e) events organised in cooperation with IMC and/or Regional Music Councils~~

## 6. List of projects envisaged for 2016-2017

Please list your activities related to

- a) advocacy and policy making
  - we will address the press within the project *The Singing Caravan* hopefully supported by Creative Europe between 1 May 2016 and 30 April 2019
- b) presentation or production (conferences, recordings, live performances, festivals, competitions, prizes and awards, etc.)
  - we are launching *The Singing Caravan*, and will contribute to 10 festivals in various European Cities in 2017 and 2018 with workshops and participatory performances
- c) information services
  - we will continue to develop the *Singing Cities* ePlatform (website) in collaboration with Koor&Stem and the European project *Choral Upgrade in Europe*, led by the European Choral Association, as well as with Namsos kommune and the European project *The Singing Caravan*
- d) research
  - we will pursue our research activities (see 4 c)
- e) events organised in cooperation with IMC and/or Regional Music Councils
  - we will discuss with EMC/IMC their potential collaboration with the *Singing Cities* initiative (see 11 hereunder and your *Survey for Members*)
- f) other

## 7. Relationship with UNESCO

- a) How are your relations with the National Commission for UNESCO in your country?
  - we did not contact them again after our very disappointing experience of 2009-2011. We would like to do it and would welcome the support from EMC or IMC.
- b) Do you have contact with one or more UNESCO offices in the field (outside Paris)? If yes, please describe your relations. If not, please explain the reasons.
  - we had a strong work relationship with the Organisation of the Iberoamerican States for the Education, Science and Culture where our trustee Claudia Castro has been leading projects

## 8. Please elaborate on the important collaborations you have had with other organisations (national and international). Which ones?

Prototyping the *Singing Cities* initiative with A Coeur Joie (Belgium), BOZAR (Brussels, Belgium), European Choral Association – Europa Cantat (Germany), Koor&Stem (Belgium), Musikkens studieforbund (Oslo), Namsos kommune (Norway), Radialsystem V (Berlin, Germany), Sage Gateshead (England) and the support of the Culture Programme of the European Union

Research collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University, Max-Planck Institute (Berlin), North Music Trust (Gateshead), Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Institute of Education/University College London, University of Melbourne

## 9. What was the total budget of your organisation last year (in EUR)? Please also distinguish between [operational](#) and project budget.

Operational budget: €5,000.00

Project budget: €25,000.00

## 10. Sources of funding

Please indicate the percentage of your annual budget coming from the following sources:

- |                            |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| • Membership fees          | %    |
| • Individual contributions | %    |
| • Grants                   | 50 % |
| • Contracts                | %    |
| • Government support       | %    |
| • Corporate sponsorship    | 50 % |
| • Earned income            | %    |
| • Other (please specify)   | %    |

## 11. Please share your further comments and experiences!

The initiative *Singing Cities*, presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Forum on Music, has been on a test bench in Berlin, Brussels, Namsos/Norway and Newcastle Gateshead. In Glasgow, it attracted the attention of two groups of cities. One group – represented by the European Choral Association – are cities which organised or will organise the triennial festival of Europa Cantat, Utrecht (2009), Torino (2012) and Pecs (2015). The other group, the UNESCO Cities of Music: Bologna, Bogota, Brazzaville, Ghent, Glasgow, Hannover, Mannheim and Seville.

In the meantime, other towns and cities have declared their interest: Beirut, Birminham, Brasilia, Brighton & Hove, Bristol, Folkestone, Harstad, Hull, St Johns and St Louis. The strong expressions of interest highlighted the need for –

- a not-for-profit franchising system whereby the use of the quality label *Singing Cities* could be granted to towns and cities which would agree to the service level the 4 initiating cities committed to – this is now in the scope of *Choral Upgrade in Europe* (see 6. c)
- an introductory path of workshops and exemplary participative, inclusive, performances – this is now in the scope of *The Singing Caravan* (se 6. c)

We would like to discuss this with EMC and IMC.

---

## **PART II: YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN ACTIVITIES OF IMC AND ITS REGIONAL MUSIC COUNCILS**

### **12. Did (will) your organisation send a representative to participate in events and conferences organised by IMC and its regional music councils?**

- ☐ 5<sup>th</sup> IMC World Forum on Music (Brisbane, 2013)
- ☐ 4<sup>th</sup> European Forum on Music- Music and Politics: a shared responsibility (Bern, 2014)
- ☐ 5<sup>th</sup> European Forum on Music- Access to Music is digital? (Riga, 2015)
- ☐ Share & Learn: Audience Development Capacity building exchange workshop (Warsaw, 2015)
- ☐ 4th session of the AMC General Assembly (Brazzaville, 2014)
- ☐ Feux de Brazza Festival symposium on « The African music instrument and its role in the world music » (Brazzaville, 2014)
- ☐ African Music Rostrum (Brazzaville, 2014)
- ☐ 8th session of the AMC Executive Committee (Brazzaville, 2015)
- ☒ Other (please specify): European Agenda for Music in Europe (Brussels, 2013)

### **13. Did you disseminate information coming from IMC and Regional Music Council's to your constituency? If yes, please specify how many times.**

- ☒ Newsflashes from IMC
- ☒ IMC MUSIC WORLD NEWS
- ☐ Letter from the President of the African Music Council
- ☒ Newsflashes from the European Music Council
- ☒ Newsletters from the European Music Council
- ☒ EMC Magazine *Sounds in Europe*
- ☒ Reports of the IMC President
- ☐ other information (from meetings, seminars, appointments)

### **14. Have you participated in projects coordinated by the IMC or a regional music council? Please specify.**

Yes, see 12. and 13. here above.

### **15. Have you cooperated (as project leader or partner) in projects with other IMC members? Please specify, both the projects and the partners.**

- European project *Voice*, with Koor&Stem and European Choral Association – Europa Cantat
- European project *Singing Cities* with all the partners listed under 8.

**16. Have you invited the IMC, or a regional music council, for cooperation?**  
*Please specify.*

Yes, we invited EMC to join activities of the European project *Singing Cities...* and we will be back (see 11. here above).

**17. Are you interested in hosting an event of the IMC or a regional music council?** *(On conditions to be agreed upon.)*

- ☐ IMC World Forum on Music
- ☐ European Forum on Music
- ☐ meeting of the African Music Council
- ☐ meeting of the Arab Academy of Music
- ☐ meeting of the Music Council of Asia/Oceania
- ☐ meeting of COMTA
- ☐ meeting of IMC Youth
- ☐ meeting of the EMC Youth Committee
- ☐ any other meeting, please specify:

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete the report form and for your efforts!