

# European Voice Teachers Association e.V.



*Founded 1988*  
*Reorganized 2004*

**Why should EVTA be important to NSPF/me?**



# Introduction to EVTA

- Members
- Structure and Aims
- Activities and Projects
- EVTA characteristics
- We are all singing teachers....

# EVTA is

- A non-profit umbrella organisation registered in Germany
  - consists of independent national associations
  - depends on member associations
- Currently 18 member countries

# Members (statistics 31.12.09 + 31.12.10)

## ■ Small organizations (max. 100 active members)

■ Hungary	23	
■ Spain	24	24
■ Italy	37	90
■ Croatia	40	
■ Latvia	58	
■ Denmark	60	73
■ Slovenia	61	
■ Iceland	65	65

# Members

## ■ Medium-sized organizations (max. 300 active members)

■ Poland	108	106
■ Switzerland	172	163
■ Sweden	189	
■ Finland	211	251
■ France	212	170
■ Austria	243	253
■ <b>Norway</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>244</b>
■ Netherlands	299	

# Members

- Large organizations (over 300 active members)

- United Kingdom 459 453

- Germany 878 933 (1,000 in April 2011?)

# Diverse situations

- Tiny and struggling to survive
- Huge and blossoming
- Common questions:
  - Generational change
  - Stylistic - dealing with classical, popular music, folk singing, historical periods, romantic opera.....
  - Professionalisation
  - Profile and recognition

# Structure: EVTA Council

- Governing body of EVTA
- Meets once a year
- Each country may send 2 councillors
- Most decisions 1 vote per country
- Elections: All councillors vote individually

# Structure: EVTA Executive

- Executive Officers: term of office 4 years
  - President - Norma Enns, Germany/Canada
  - Vice-President - Scott Swope, Germany/USA
  - Secretary - Helga Meyer-Wagner, Austria
  - Treasurer - Sebastian Bielicke, Germany
- President-elect: 1 year before beginning of term of office
- Members-at-large: term of office 2 years
  - Antra Jankava - Latvia
  - Outi Kähkönen - Finland
  - Claudia Phillips - France/USA

# Aims

- furthering the development of vocal pedagogy
- adhering to a common code of ethics
- promoting networking and communication between European colleagues
- providing new impulses
- developing co-operation with related disciplines
- supporting national organizations

# Activities and Projects 2005 - 2010

- Eurovox 2006 - Vienna YPP 1
- 2007 - EVPWeek 1 - Kudowa, Poland
- 2008-10 - „LEO I“ Leonardo da Vinci Programme
  - 2009 - EVPWeek 2 - Stockholm, Sweden
  - 2009 - ICVT/Eurovox 2009, Paris, France - YPP 2
  - 2010 - EVPWeek 3 - Marlborough, England

# Activities and Projects 2010 - 2012

- „LEO II“ - Digital Resources in Vocal Pedagogy
  - Website development
- Pedagogy
  - Sessions in Slovenia, Austria, Finland
  - Symposium - PEVOC 2011 in France
  - Eurovox 2012, Munich, Germany

# Regular activities

- Association business
- Organizing executive and council meetings
  - business
  - forums for discussion and exchange
  - planning projects
- Website
- Executive visits to national associations

# European Forum

Council Meeting 2010 in Riga

1. Organizational questions
2. Websites
3. Digital resources in vocal pedagogy
4. Eurovox 2012
5. Finances and sponsoring

# 1. Organizational questions

- Ideas on recruiting members
- Addressing stylistic questions
- Website use
- Recruiting members from the university community
- General observations

## 2. Website and internet presence

- Most websites are not adequate (including EVTA!)
- New technical possibilities should be used
- Developing website content
- Website unification could be a useful and economical step
- Content of the website session in Hamburg

### 3. Digital Resources in Vocal Pedagogy

- What does the current project involve?
- Necessity of dealing with the subject
- Lots of questions: How can it help my teaching? What are the pitfalls?

## 4. Eurovox 2012

- Time frame and schedule
- Presentations from member countries
- Balance of classical, CCM and folk singing
- Offer parallel sessions for interest groups
- Social events: not too posh, please!
- Finances

## 5. Finances and Sponsoring

- Developing membership helps finances
- Looking for national sources of funding
- Initiating partnerships between organisations
- Additional ideas for support through the international connection

# EVTA characteristics

- Diversity with a common goal
  - Motivation to overcome barriers and build bridges
  - Networking by personal contact
  - Teambuilding that respects differences
- Freedom to experiment
  - Developing of reflective practise
  - Practising professional communcation
- Long-term thinking

# EVTA means contrasts

- Tradition and history - creativity and innovation
- Challenge and apprehension - leaving comfort zone
- Excitement and curiosity - apprehension and fear
- Competence and inadequacy
- Helpful feedback, encouragement and criticism that hurts
- Pulling ahead and having patience

# **EVTA sessions include**

- Challenging work sessions
- Presentation of local culture, language, song and cuisine
- Spontaneous round of folk songs from each country
- Refreshing and informative outings

# EVTA endeavours

- to offer something different than national activities
- to look for challenging, current themes
- to develop unique European formats
  
- to build bridges between
  - languages
  - styles
  - disciplines
  - cultures

# Current project - 1.8.2010 - 1.8.2012

- „LEO II“ - Digital Resources in Vocal Pedagogy
  - **Website development**
  - Pedagogy programme
    - Sessions in Slovenia, Austria, Finland
    - EVTA Session and PEVOC 2011 in France
    - Eurovox 2012, Munich, Germany

# Website development

- Common server for EVTA and all members
- CMS - Content Management System
  - Dynamic websites
  - Easy access - Browser-based system
  - Extensive data exchange possible: e.g. articles, videos, newsletters, private social network, discussion forums
  - 4 levels of access
    - Public homepage
    - Protected space for members
    - Network pages for webmasters, editors
    - Private space for individuals - own website on this domain

# Advantages

- National sites
  - Could be transferred as they are to a common server
  - Could use a common template now or later
  - Great benefit by showing international affiliation
- Common EVTA Webpresence
- Balance between national and corporate identity
- Technical modernization and standardization
- New EVTA website
- Economical: 1 server costs less than 18 do
- CMS software, templates and tools are FREE!
- Accessible archive for historical documents

# Questions for discussion

On the agenda for EVTA Council 2011

- Content management
- Rights
- Long-term technical support
- Training webmasters
- Finances
- How do we divide the costs between participating organizations?

# \*What would we get?

- Do we build a skyscraper? 30,000€
- Do we build a house? 10,000€
- Do we buy a camper? 3,000€
  
- Or ride a bicycle?
- Or walk? current static websites
  
- Basis of discussion:  
minimum 3,000€ - maximum 10,000€



\*Catherine Heyvaerts, Hamburg, Jan. 2011

# Breakdown of costs

- CMS software, templates and tools: free
- Design
- Technical set-up of CMS software with the host
- Buying server capacity and domain names
- Technical training for webmasters

# Financing

Min. 3,000€ - Max. 10,000€ total cost

- To be divided between participating organizations
- Contributions from national organizations
- Use of funds from LEO II grant

# Current status

- Consensus to proceed
  - Council meeting 2010 in Riga
  - Website session Jan 2011 in Hamburg
- Which national associations will participate?
- Timeline
  - Decision national associations: June 1, 2011
  - EVTA Website launch December 15, 2011

# And in conclusion

We are all singing teachers

- not organizers, fundraisers, managers, administrators, translators, typists, or taxi drivers, and very few of us are technology freaks
- but we

**\* „Just do it anyway.“**

from a poem by Kent Keith

**Questions??**

**Thank you for your attention!**

Prof. Norma Enns, President  
Dr. Scott Swope, Vice-President,  
European Voice Teachers Association

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