

# VOX INTERNA

*Sense of Singing*



## Annual Report 2022

Stichting Vox Interna

## Overview of activities

The year 2022 has been dominated by the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had a severe impact on both the volume of the activities and the financial results of Vox Interna. However, Vox Interna kept on planning (new) activities and extending its network. Looking back at 2022, the following highlights can be mentioned:

- The revised version of the Amra Programme (€2 mln.) co-drafted by Vox Interna and submitted by Trinity College Dublin to the CREATIVE Europe programme of the EU- received a 71%-score evaluation. Though meeting the minimum quality requirements, it was not high enough to qualify among the 10 best applications under the €20 mln. budget ceiling of the top window of the EU-Cooperation Grants of CREATIVE Europe;
- We discussed this matter with Trinity College Dublin, after which it has been decided to apply for a smaller grant of €1 mln. under the second window of EU-Cooperation Grants scheme, which has a budget ceiling of €24 mln., which is less competitive. As a consequence the number of partner countries has been reduced from 11 to 5 countries.

At the same time, based on the feed back of CREATIVE Europe on the proposal submitted some important improvements have been made on the proposal, which was submitted in March 2023.

- Since the 2021 Anúna Winter School, originally scheduled for February 2021, had to be postponed till October 2021, there was no Anúna Winter School in 2022.
- The organisation delivered three weekends of the workshop-concert series *Echoes from the Middle Ages* in January, March and October (highlighted with more detail in the following section).
- In 2022 Vox Interna received grant approvals for the Echoes from the Middle Ages Series 2022/23 from:
  - Stichting Bevordering van Volkskracht (€1.200) , Elise Mathilde Fonds (€2.700, of which €900 for covering un expected losses for the 2021/22 Echoes series) in Rotterdam;
  - Wesseling-van Breemen Fonds in Deventer (€2.000, of which €500 for the 2021/22 series);
  - Municipality of Winterswijk (€750), for the COLUSCA concert and workshop in January 2023;
  - €500 from St. Joris Parish Bocholt (Germany) for the Ars Choralis Coeln weekendVox Interna is very grateful for the (renewed) courage demonstrated by these foundations to put their confidence in our organisation!

All these activities have been instrumental to establish new alliances, broaden the network of Vox Interna and to gain useful experience for future activities.

## Echoes from the Middle Ages

Like in 2021, the Echoes from the Middle Ages series in 2022 badly suffered from the ever changing COVID-19 circumstances both in terms of audience numbers and financial results. However, for Vox Interna it was clear that interrupting the series was no option, given the devastating impact of COVID-19 on the culture sector where numerous choirs were being dissolved and many professional musicians were seeking alternative employment, to find out that a more stable income and music as a hobby could be quite agreeable...

Against this background Vox Interna tried to keep at least some part some niche-cultural activities alive, and provide some income to the hard struck musicians. At the same time, there was an obvious interest from Vox Interna to keep developing the Echoes form the Middle Ages series, as long as the ambition to receive an EU-grant is alive.

### **Ars Choralis Coeln**

Ten workshop participants and 30 visitors attended the concert in the Rotterdam Pelgrimvaderskerk, which (shortly after the release of the last COVID-19 restrictions) was considered to be a reasonable success, considering the still remaining hesitation among the public to attend public events. The concerts in Deventer and Lichtenvoorde (Achterhoek) attracted 25 visitors each. The performance in Bocholt (Germany) was integrated in the Sunday morning mass of the St. Joris Church.

The programme of the concert 'Rose van Jericho' was focussed on songs from the Liedboek of Anna von Köln, member of a late medieval Beguine religious community. The songs, with texts in Latin of the Lower-Saxon language, are a mixture of religious and worldly music and typical for the transition period between medieval and early renaissance. The overall response of the audience was very positive, especially in the border region between The Netherlands and Germany, where Lower-Saxon is still spoken. Financially the concert weekend would have produced a small surplus, if not a €1.000 grant from a cross-border fund had been retrieved for unknown reasons (no response and payment after submission of the final report; not even after repeated reminders).

### **Muziektheater Hollands Diep (MHD)**

The programme around 'Maria van Brabant', that combined theatrical elements, storytelling and singing has been chosen for its potential to attract a younger and more diverse audience and to work together with secondary schools, for its connection with subjects as history, social science and music. However, the timing of the activities was unfortunate: due to earlier COVID-19 restrictions, the concert had to be shifted from November to March, leaving very little time for interaction with secondary schools. As mentioned in the introduction of this section, the attention of the public was still focussed on the 'well known' pieces. On both locations audience numbers were around 15 visitors, causing a considerable loss of €1.000, even after using 50% of the provision for COVID-19 losses.

### **Les Itinérantes**

An earlier concert weekend with the Tristan & Isolde programme of Les Itinérantes, in 2020, was badly struck by the announcement of COVID-19 restrictions; two days before the concert. Within 24 hours more than the half of the tickets had been cancelled. This in spite of the standing ovation received after the concerts. For this reason, Vox Interna decided to invite Les Itinérantes for a second turn with a renewed version of the programme. In Deventer, audience numbers were influenced by very bad weather conditions, with only seven paying visitors. The next day, in Rotterdam, the concert was attended by 40 persons, including the participants of the workshop. The concert left the audience literally stunned; no sounds, not even coughing, during the entire concert, with an exploding standing ovation after the last notes had faded away. In spite of the musical success, the financial turn-out gave less reasons for joy, with a negative of €350, after consuming the other half of the provision of COVID-19 losses.

## **Outlook 2023**

The next Anúna School Rotterdam, will be held in February 2023. Experience has learnt that this period is good for attracting participants, since the participation is likely to be boosted by the promotional possibilities during the planned Anúna tour in The Netherlands (December 2022).

The Echoes Series will be continued. After the end of the 2022/23 a decision will be taken on its future, depending on the development of audience numbers and workshop participants.

At the end of 2019, through mediation of Vox Interna, Anúna Teoranta has been awarded a grant of EUR 3.500 for Seán Níos singing in primary schools in Ireland, from the end capital of the Dutch Association of Friends of Ireland, The Claddagh. To this purpose Vox Interna applied for a EUR 20.000 grant from the EU. However, due to COVID-19 and delayed approval of the 2021-2027 EU budget, the outcome of the selection process, scheduled for July 2020, has not materialised until now.

At the beginning of 2022 Vox Interna supported Anúna with the application of a EUR 200.000 grant, which extends this concept to the Basque Country and Iceland. The outcome of the evaluation process will be known by the end of 2022. Although not being a formal partner in this programme, the experience gained will be useful for the wider mission of Vox Interna to revive singing tuition in the education system.

A similar initiative, but on a smaller scale, might be developed in the eastern border region, with the Lower-Saxon language, seeking Euregio funding through the sister organisation Vox Externa.

## Finance

### Balance sheet 2022 – amounts in EUR

Assets	01-Jan-2022	Debit	Credit	31-Dec-2022
Fixed Assets	306,70		81,80	224,90
Bank	2.335,31	20.749,13	22.150,76	933,68
Advance payments	843,64	-	843,64	-
Receivables	1.400,00	4.300,00	4.700,00	1.000,00
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>4.885,65</b>	<b>25.049,13</b>	<b>27.776,20</b>	<b>2.158,58</b>

Liabilities	01-Jan-2021	Credit	Debit	31-Dec-2021
Advance receipts	80,00	1.320,00	150,00	1.250,00
Provision COVID-19	3.500,00	-	3.500,00	-
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>3.580,00</b>	<b>1.320,00</b>	<b>3.650,00</b>	<b>1.250,00</b>
<b>Net reserves</b>	<b>1.305,65</b>	<b>23.729,13</b>	<b>24.126,20</b>	<b>908,58</b>
<b>Liabilities + Reserves</b>	<b>4.885,65</b>	<b>25.049,13</b>	<b>27.776,20</b>	<b>2.158,58</b>

#### Explanation:

- Receivables: Unused part of already approved grants for the Echoes series 2021/22.
- The provision COVID-19, has been facilitated by Anúna, originating from an unused gift in 2019, channelled through Vox Interna, which remained on the balance sheet of 2021.

### Profit and loss account

Income	Budget 2022	Result 2022
Donations - general	2.600	3.000,00
Anúna School Rotterdam (ASR)	0	0
Echoes from the Middle Ages	13.300	14.164,62
Autumn School Winterswijk	P.M.	0
Primary education	P.M.	0
<b>Total income</b>	<b>15.900</b>	<b>17.164,62</b>
<b>Costs</b>		
Administration	1.200	1.351,55
Anúna School Rotterdam (ASR)	0	0
Echoes from the Middle Ages	14.600	16.210,14
Autumn School Winterswijk	P.M.	0
Primary education	P.M.	0
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>15.800</b>	<b>17.561,69</b>
<b>Net result</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-397,07</b>

#### Explanation:

- In general, the volume of activities in 2022 was at a similar level as the previous year. However, in 2022, in the absence of an Anúna School Rotterdam, the turnover was lower than in 2021.
- Differences between income and costs related to the Echoes from the Middle Ages Series, have been explained in the narrative part of the annual re