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World
Choir
Games

2014
RIGA LATVIA

Günter Titsch
President

United Nations
H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General
1st ave. and 46th street
New York, NY 10017
USA

8th WORLD CHOIR GAMES 2014

Frankfurt, June 30, 2014

Your Excellency, honorable Mr. Secretary General,

✓ May we first of all express our appreciation for UN's greeting on the occasion of the 7th World Choir Games 2012 in Cincinnati, USA, extended by H.E. Mr. SHA Zukang, Past Under-Secretary-General of UN and H.E. Mr. WU Hongbo, Past Chinese Ambassador to Germany.

✓ For the same event the Congress of the United States in Washington delivered a Resolution saying: "...the World Choir Games, the largest choral competition in the world, takes place every 2 years, is known as the -Olympics of choral music-, and has the goal of uniting people from all countries through singing in peaceful competition."

✓ We believe that the World Choir Games truly contribute to the common target for a better international understanding and good will. The Games build a bridge of peace and friendship and also they promote the realization of UN's millenarian dream through the Olympics of choral music.

As we are about to celebrate the 8th World Choir Games 2014, July 9-19 in Riga, Latvia, we kindly ask your Excellency to deliver a message to the participants, to some 27.000 singers from 73 countries and regions of the world. You may find your own words or you just feel to sign the version attached.

Please accept our advanced gratitude for your message for the 8th World Choir Games!

Sincerely yours

Günter Titsch
President of INTERKULTUR
President of the World Choir Games

Enclosures



8th World Choir Games

INTERKULTUR · Ruhberg 1 · 35463 Fernwald, Germany

AN INTERKULTUR EVENT

RIGA 2014

EIROPAS KULTŪRAS GALVASPILSĒTAS NOTIKUMS
A EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE EVENT



**To the 8th World Choir Games 2014
in Riga, Latvia**

**The World Choir Games truly
contribute to
the common target of a better
international
understanding and good will.
Therefore I call on all choirs of the
world to sing together
for Peace and Friendship!**

**Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York, 2014**

INTERKULTUR: Singing together brings nations together

The idea

INTERKULTUR is the leading initiator and organizer of choir competitions at international level. Even the World Choir Games, the biggest choir competition in the world, belong to the INTERKULTUR events. For more than 20 years INTERKULTUR has been aiming at bringing together people with different cultural, religious and political backgrounds by the means of choral music. Budapest in 2013 celebrates the 125th event that has been organized by INTERKULTUR and its partners and was starting point for the international choir competitions 25 years ago.

Intercultural encounters have a significant share in removing prejudices and obstacles on the way towards a peaceful cooperation among all people. By the integrative power of the shared musical experience prejudices are being overcome and the mutual respect grows. INTERKULTUR concentrates the empathy of all people who share the fascination for the human's most ancient way of making music, choral music, and its potential for the creation and consolidation of peace. This conviction is the core of the idea which Günter Titsch, President of INTERKULTUR, and like-minded people have been pursuing since the start of international choir competitions in 1988.

The institution

INTERKULTUR represents a global institution featuring offices and representatives in a lot of countries all over the world. Distinguished international public figures from the fields of culture, economy and politics as well as choirs, orchestras, associations and cultural institutions have joined the organization. The "World Choir Council", like a UNO of choral music, consists of representatives from more than 70 countries. All INTERKULTUR teams – be it the head office in Germany or one of the numerous branches or international agencies – are dedicating a lot of commitment in order to develop variable and tailor-made offers for the different needs of the choirs. Last but not least INTERKULTUR makes its marks as a worldwide communication platform for all those who want to exchange opinions, questions etc. regarding choral music and the universal music community in the World Wide Web.

The competitions and the Olympic idea

Participation is the highest honor – the World Choir Games (WCG) which base on the Olympic idea is the most spectacular major event of INTERKULTUR. It takes place every two years in cooperation with host cities on different continents. Its stopovers since 2000: Linz/Austria, Busan/South Korea, Bremen/Germany, Xiamen/China, Graz/Austria and Shaoxing/China. In July 2012 Cincinnati/USA was celebrating the 7th WCG. Riga/Latvia will host the 8th World Choir Games in 2014. Be it children's, female or male choirs, Barbershop, Folklore, Musica Sacra, Show Choirs, Jazz or Gospel – the competitions of the World Choir Games offer up to 29 categories. The achievements are being evaluated by an international jury according to the Musica Mundi seal of approval. It represents an evaluation system that has been developed during numerous European competitions since 1988.

Altogether more than 6.800 choirs with roughly 300.000 singers from more than 100 nations participated in more than 130 INTERKULTUR events so far.

The World Choir Games and INTERKULTUR events

Imagine thousands of choir members from all across the globe, dressing in traditional attire and parading through the streets of Riga. That is exactly how the 8th World Choir Games will get under way on July 9, 2014, when the largest international choral competition in the world comes to Latvia for the first time.

The Olympics of choral music will bring 20,000 participants and tens of thousands of visitors from more than 70 countries to Riga, Latvia from July 9-19, 2014 – the largest and most significant international choral event. World Choir Games is the signature event of INTERKULTUR. Inspired by the Olympic ideal, the goal of the World Choir Games is to unite people from all nations through singing in peaceful competition.

There is The Open Competition for all choirs and a The Champions Competition for those who qualify. Choirs compete for Golden, Silver and Bronze Medals. The title of "Champions of the World Choir Games" is bestowed upon the top performers in each category of The Champions Competition. The World Choir Games usually have up to 29 different musical categories including Folklore, Jazz, Pop, Gospel and Spiritual. Judging is done by an impartial international jury.

The World Choir Games have powerful and charming opening and closing ceremonies, awards ceremonies and hundreds of public performances, including "Friendship concerts," free choral performances on city streets, public squares, attraction venues and parks. A worldwide spotlight will be on Riga again for this exhilarating and memorable event.

INTERKULTUR, founded by Günter Titsch, produces numerous choral competitions and festivals, from choral to folk dancing. More than 6,800 choirs, comprised of nearly 300,000 singers and musicians, have taken part in various events organized by INTERKULTUR.

Countries where international competitions and festivals have been or will be held include: Austria, China, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Republic of Malta, Spain, Sweden, the United States and Vietnam. In 2014 the European Capital of Culture 2014, Riga will be the next host city for the World Choir Games.



I Wish the World Sings for a Peaceful and Harmonious World

世界合唱和平和諧世界



沙祖康
聯合國副秘書長
二〇一二年六月於紐約

SHA Zukang

Under Secretary General of the United Nations

New York, June 2012