



Decision and Statements of the Jury “Creative Projects”

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Projects no. 160/163

The Choir of Nations - Solothurn, Switzerland

The choir was founded 2006 in Solothurn by Albert Weibel, who is responsible for Migration in the canton Solothurn.

“Singing is the real mother tongue of mankind because it is the most natural and simple way to be undivided and to express ourselves fully – with all our experiences, sensations and hopes.”
(Sir Yehudi Menuhin)

This statement of Sir Yehudi Menuhin inspires and guides the conductor Bernhard Furchner as well as the 80 members of the choir aged from 18 to 65 years, migrants from 27 nations as well as Swiss.

The concept of the choir is meeting and interacting via musical practice. The Choir of Nations demonstrates in a remarkable way how integration is lived and not only talked about.

Two hours a week they practise songs from their own countries and the participation in the club life strengthens self-confidence, self-competence and intercultural competence.

On November 1st, 2009, the concert “Musik für den Frieden” (Music for Peace) took place at the onset of the “Woche der Religionen” (Week of Religions) at the Culture- and Congress-Center in Lucerne: 250 contributors, choirs, soloists, dancers and musicians from 30 nations performed Music from Christian tradition, Jewish Liturgical Music, Music from Islamic countries, from Hindu and Asian tradition as well as Swiss folk Music and were honoured by standing ovations of almost 3'000 concert-visitors.

The tremendous success gave momentum and birth to new “Choirs of Nations” in Lucerne and Glarus.