

SINGING CITIES



Everyone has a singing voice.

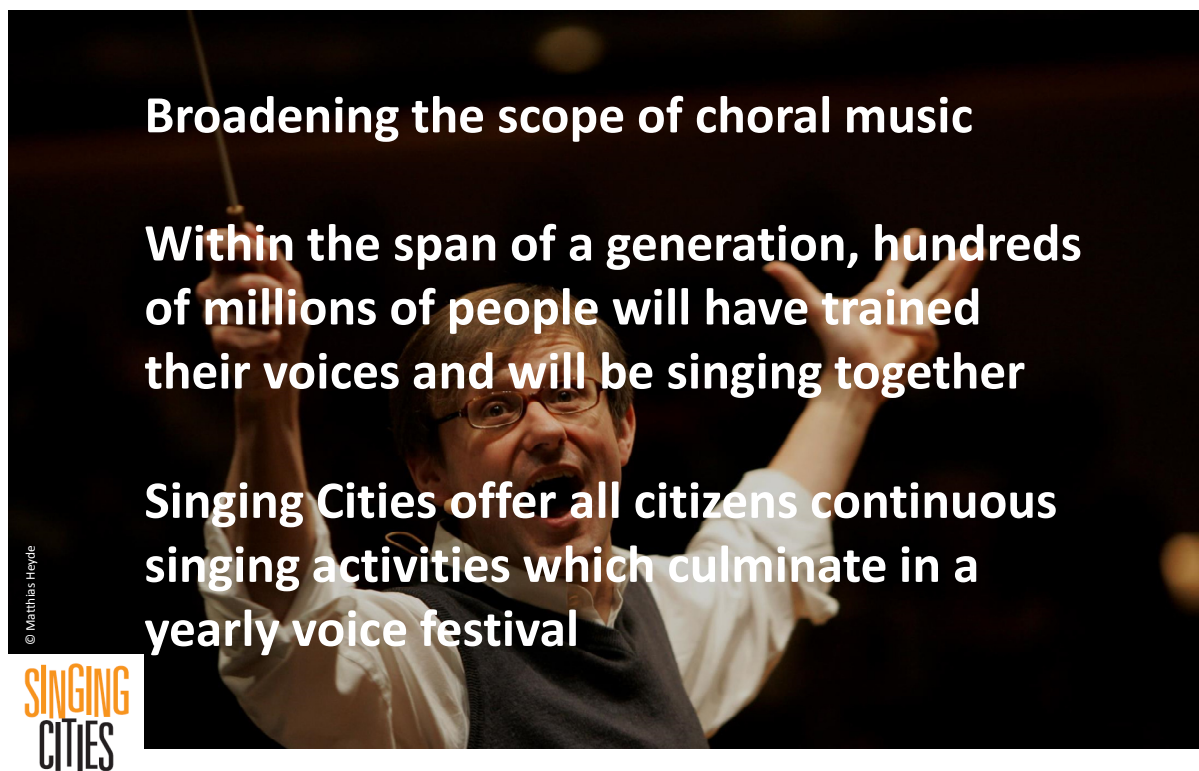
Everyone has the right freely to participate in the singing life of the city and to enjoy singing.

Each city shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in singing life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for singing activity.

Excerpts of the Singing Cities declaration based on fundamental texts of the United Nations

Aarya is launching Singing Cities with Berlin, Brussels, Namsos/Norway and Newcastle Gateshead. Singing Cities adhere to the declaration by decision of their city halls, offer continuous singing activities to all citizens, and organise yearly voice festivals. Why singing is an affair for city halls is easy to grasp, but how it becomes one less so.

Music re>>generates Europe



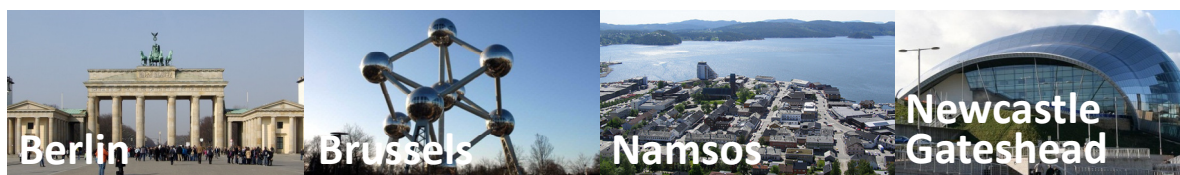
City halls require evidences

Arrogance of maestri pretending that music doesn't have to be justified, advertising campaigns of companies selling Mozart to pregnant women, and well-intentioned opinions of arts administrators will not convince city halls that political and material incentives are necessary to help music play its vital role.

Public music policy must be informed by established objective evidence. An important aspect of this evidence-based policy is the use of rigorous scientific studies to identify programmes and practices capable of improving its outcomes. Much research is published in scientific articles. But the rigorous compilation and translation of this science into accessible advocacy documents remain to be done. First, scientific reviews have to be conducted and maintained. Then, the benefits for the individuals and finally, the benefits for communities have to be established.

The Aarya Foundation started that process for singing. Its scientific committee fosters a better understanding of: 1) anatomy, physiology, and neurology of the singing voice, 2) acoustics of singing, both solo and in a group, 3) development of singing across the lifespan, 4) singing and well-being, and 5) music perception and production. These five areas will be the scope of five scientific reviews.

Consortia re>>generate cities through music



Building up social cohesion
Creating a sustainable legacy
Promoting the city
Sharing scarce resources

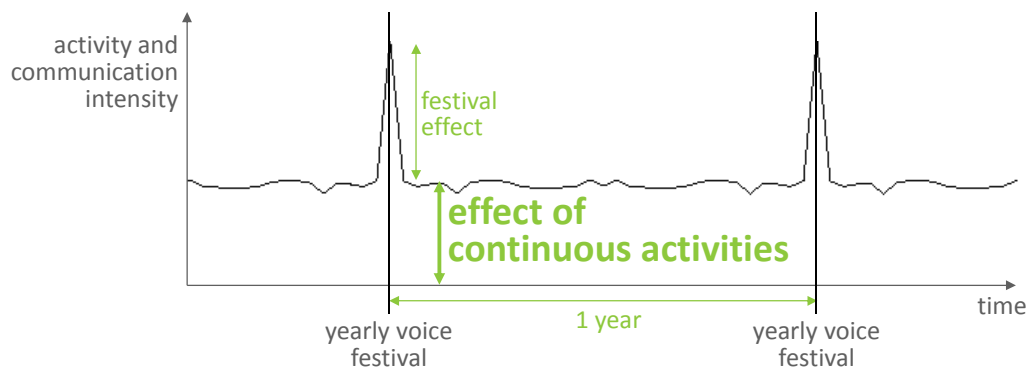


The tone makes the music

It's not what you say but the way you say it. To paraphrase John Dryden: "Our advocacy projects just and lively images of human nature; it represents its passions, humours and changes of fortune for the authorities' delight and instruction".

Cities help citizens who help themselves. Most people in charge of our public affairs have good intentions and cope with numerous requests competing for limited resources. Let's help music by helping the authorities to help music! Let's engage in a jolly collaboration with city halls! And they will endorse an initiative which builds up social cohesion, creates a sustainable legacy, promotes their cities and shares scarce resources.

Continuous singing re>>generates communities



- Year 1** report on the singing status
- Year 2** develop the singing roadmap
- Years 3+** pilot
- Years 6+** scale up and deploy

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Continuous grassroots activities build up singing communities

The provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for singing activity is a long-term endeavour. It takes a year for a Singing City to research existing singing education and performance activities and to report on the singing status quo. It takes another year to formulate the objectives of continuous activities in collaboration with existing education and performance facilities, non-singers and non-singing communities, and to develop the singing roadmap. Then, the Singing City starts to increase the scope of healthy offers, to strengthen worthwhile but weak facilities, and to establish new capabilities. Finally, the Singing City will scale up its efforts and fully deploy its singing roadmap.

Singing together re>>generates communities across –

- generations
- gender
- ethnicities and cultural communities
- faith and non-faith groups
- affluent and deprived neighbourhoods
- abilities and disabilities
- professionals and amateurs



3 concentric circles for a grassroots voice festival

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Yearly festivals celebrate the voice

The events promote local music education through singing creation and performance. They are inclusive, not exclusive, and ensure singing together across generations, gender, diverse ethnicities and cultural communities, faith and non-faith groups, affluent and deprived neighbourhoods, different abilities and disabilities, professionals and amateurs. We rolled up our sleeves and are busy preparing the first festivals. You are invited!

Newcastle Gateshead: Create Choral, 22 June 2013, more: edward.milner@thesagegateshead.org
Namsos/Norway, With Life for Culture, 9 November 2013, more: terje.adde@namsos.kommune.no
Brussels, Singing Brussels, 3-20 December 2013, more: prixhon@aarya.biz
Berlin, Chor@Berlin, 13-16 February 2014, more: jsandig@radialsystem.de

Where there is a will, there is a way

The power is in the network

**The whole is greater than the sum of its parts,
or how sharing resources creates resources**

Singing Cities are learning organisations



Collaboration is strength

Not only are the committee members coming from nine different European research centres, and not only do we collaborate with related initiatives such as Koor&Stem's project within Europa Cantat's Voice programme, but our approaches of city halls are coordinated by local music consortia who maintain strong relationships with their local authorities. Typically, in the four launching cities, the local consortia include leading singing associations, venues, ensembles, festivals and sometimes the city halls. United we stand, divided we fall.

Healing the world one song at a time

Non-profit franchising scheme under development

Cities from America, Asia, Europe and Oceania are considering to join within the next two years

What about you?



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