

Tenso Network Europe
april 2010
models for developing in the next 2-5 years



original goals

- give new impulse to repertoire by co-commissioning
 - motivate serious composers (by scope /quality of performances)
 - working with young composers
- sharing (expertise on) repertoire in database
- platform for musical research
- “champions league”: branding tenso as quality label
- yearly festival

added goals

- encourage new generation of singers
 - shared auditions
 - connect to conservatories, policy makers
- make connection to amateur / semi-professional choral world
 - set an example (“no Mount Everest without a mountain range”)
 - encourage composers to write for amateur choirs
 - encourage amateur choirs to perform contemporary music
- lobbying (national, international)
- influence on national position of Tenso choir

why should the Tenso network involve (many) more choirs ?

- moral obligation? share your achievements with others?
- easier to get (EU) funding for larger network
- possibility to get bigger scope for our activities?

questions to be answered now:

(1) extend the network to a (much) larger group (according to strict criteria: professional, chamber choir, percentage contemp music, year-round organization)

- *danger of loosing the idea of Tenso as quality mark*
- *how to manage a larger network, division of tasks*

(2) or, keep two layers: top ten = champions league, plus larger circle = fulfilling criteria

- *how does one formulate this nicely?*
- necessary to have external committee decide on membership of inner circle

(3) alternative (best of both ways?)

- extended network,
- membership with strict criteria
- Tenso quality will be shown during Tenso Days, where only the best choirs are invited
- original members (4? current 7) will be named as founding members
- full membership, affiliate membership

why would a choir want to be a member of tenso? what are the advantages / what are the expected investments/ and what will the choir gain from it?

ORGANIZATION

situation now

- seven members, idealistic motivation
- put in lots of work, no clear benefits
- ad hoc funding for a limited number of activities
- no office, no 'collective memory'

ideal situation:

- permanently staffed office (0,5 fte)
- regular communications to members, affiliate members, extended network
- regular services offered to members
- regular activities organized (not only during Tenso Days)
- consultants for special projects

how much does this cost? how much can members contribute?

ie 40 members / € 500 year = € 20 000

make fee dependent on yearly total income (excl box office revenues)?

research fees of other networks

**eg Rema = 500 euro per year*

activities

co-commissioning

questions

- who decides on which composer
- # voices?
- who gets premiere?
- choir that makes suggestion for that particular composer
- choir in the country of the composer (but which choir ... (NL, FR))
- let composer choose?
- find co-commissioner / presenter and let them choose?
- who gets first radio broadcast
- who gets cd recording

etc

difficult to find good examples

co-commissioning - usually presenters + one performer

festival

- always find local festival that incorporates the Tenso Days?
- programming committee?

basic idea - to have independent Tenso Days - is good: but requires external committee that (1) looks at Tenso esthetics ideal and (2) feasibility for choirs (balance between wishes local programmer and "our own festival" where Tenso choirs bring huge amount of money

- approach festivals eg Maerz musik, Donaueschingen, etc with concrete plans (as a strategy to retain more influence on the programme)

composers workshops

training young singers (national / international projects + internships)

- national project
- Tenso European Youth Choir

outreach to amateur choirs

services (made possible through collective **)

- Tenso database of repertoire: satb, special requirements, lyrics, translations, liner notes, etc
- legal help, visa, double taxes (especially for international contracts)
- access to libraries, Grove, etc
- full scores (with watermark) - involve publishers

professional network

- networking during (annual?) meeting
- one-on-one coaching for professionalization
- sharing experience (one-on-one, or during meetings)