



Le Don du Chœur

Chœur d'Enfants des Écoles Privées Genevoises



HIGHLIGHTS

Geneva

- 9 May: Don du Chœur's 6th concert crowned with success

Mexico

- Work starts to extend the music school at Oaxaca
- Children give a concert for peace - on a refuse tip!

Cambodia

- School year ends: 100% final exam success
- Our pupils admitted to top senior high school

Madagascar

- Andohasatra school starts 4th year
- Training session for primary teachers

Don du Chœur Committee

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Sue Power
Artistic direction

Our sixth concert, for Mexico: Victoria Hall sold out! Unprecedented success for the 400 singers of Geneva's private schools

Who could have imagined, 15 years ago, that there would not have been even one folding seat left available for a Don du Chœur concert? The enthusiasm generated by Geneva's private schools for the children of the Oaxaca shanty town, in Mexico, ensured a turn-out that went beyond all expectations.

On 9 May 2019 our 400 Geneva children sang their hearts out for the enlargement of the Santa Cecilia music school, which opened in 2011 near a refuse tip in Oaxaca. Their motivation was, above all, to help children of the same age escape the cycle of drugs and violence through playing music.

What emotion there was when the singers performed one of the

most emblematic songs of Mexico, "Cielito Lindo", to a recorded accompaniment by the Santa Cecilia students. For those brief moments, the children of Switzerland and Mexico were as one.

The audience of 1,500 were dazzled by the Mexican dancers and the Marachis Quetzal band, the fervour of our young singers and the professionalism of the musicians and conductors.

The evening was also a reminder that Don du Chœur recently celebrated its 15th anniversary. This was marked by a series of tableaux featuring dances from five countries where the Association works – a strong symbol of the solidarity between children around the world.



There was hearty applause for the three conductors: Daniel Darbellay, Benjamin Lubrano and Sue Power



Dancers of the Palenque ensemble

The Mexican community of Geneva, various partners and our volunteers worked together on projects such as the stage décor of home-made cacti, decorations at the nearby Grütli arts centre where a Mexican buffet was served, a book about Mexico and various activities in the schools. Everyone had the opportunity to get creative and commit to helping the young musicians of Santa Cecilia.

It was amazing. Once again, the talent of the children and their teachers charmed the public; it's what Don du Chœur is all about!



Choir with young Mexicans on screen

Another first: Live streaming!

This was also the first time that Don du Chœur had streamed its concert live. The children in Mexico were able to watch and listen to the Geneva children performing, almost 10,000 kilometres away, on a giant screen. The connection was established thanks to our Mexican friends. The children of Santa Cecilia were over the moon and applauded heartily, especially for the songs in Spanish.



Concert in figures

- 412** young singers aged 8 to 12
- 12** private schools in Geneva
- 32** teachers involved
- 5** musicians
- 3** conductors
- 14** sponsors and partners
- 100%** volunteers

Net result: **CHF 118,568** comprising ticket sales, collection, private donations and activities in the schools.

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ACTION MEXICO

The extension of the music school has kicked off

A mere four months after the Don du Choeur concert and the completion of key administrative formalities, the plans for the extension of the music school were approved by the Asociación Armonia Juventud y Comunidad, which heads up the communal management of the school. The site has now been cleared and the ground-breaking ceremony has taken place. So - we're off!

The families of the Vicente Guerrero shanty town have committed their weekends to moving the project forward. A construction committee has been set up to help everyone be involved: yet another fine example of community solidarity.

A ceremony to celebrate the laying of the foundation-stone took place on 12 September; the construction itself will take around eight months.

👉 photos showing progress will soon be posted to our site www.don-du-choeur.ch



The laying of the foundation-stone – and a smiling greeting from our French and Mexican partners, wearing Don du Choeur T-shirts, who will manage the project on the ground. From left to right: Modesta Hernandez Lopez, Maria Elena Ramirez and Isabelle de Boves.

Rehearsal rooms to be available soon!

Just take a look at the model of the new school buildings.

It's a dream come true for the 138 pupils of the Santa Cecilia music school who currently have almost nowhere to practise their instruments. Soon, they'll have two large rehearsal rooms, ten individual rehearsal rooms and two storerooms, for both string and wind instruments. The playground will also be extended. Many thanks again to all those who, on 9 May, at the Victoria Hall, contributed so much to this project.



Children holding the model of the new buildings

The Oaxaca refuse tip – site of a concert for peace!

On 15 September, children and teachers from Santa Cecilia music school gave their annual concert for peace, conducted by Panos Karan, at the Oaxaca refuse tip. The leitmotiv of these concerts is always the same "you send us your garbage, we send you our music".



ACTION CAMBODIA

From Ta Pen to a top senior high school!

It's wonderful! Since last April, 13 graduates of Ta Pen junior high school have been accepted into Bakong senior high school. These pupils now have the opportunity to further their studies in the tenth highest-ranking senior high school in Siem Reap Province. In August, all of them joined the final-year class of the high school. They board in two houses we are renting for them – one for girls and one for boys – about 25 kms from Ta Pen.

So, on 1 November, a total of 31 Ta Pen pupils will be enrolled in Bakong senior high school in three different levels! Who would have thought that one day we would be able to say that ... Don du Choeur and the children of Ta Pen are very grateful to you for making it happen!



Proud to be enrolled in Bakong senior high school, the first in the family to receive a formal education.

Your donation will help us help these communities

Don du Choeur

Swiss non-profit association, tax-deductible since 2008

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Don du Choeur world-wide

Madagascar

- The fourth school year has started at our school in Andohasatra-Betioky.
- In September, Don du Choeur financed a week of professional training for all primary teachers.

Cambodia

- Ta Pen is thrilled with the excellent results achieved by its students: 100% pass rate for the final junior high school exams, half of those with merit.
- An English camp was organized by two young anglophone volunteers from Geneva. Huge thanks to Helena and Vincent for offering their skills to the children of Ta Pen!

PARTNERS

Geneva Association of Private Schools, Banda de Musica, Brolliet SA, 1875 Finance, Fondation Coromandel, Fondation Covalence, and with the support of the City of Geneva.