

Europe's LGBTQ+ premier singing festival Various Voices Bologna is moving to 2023

The quad-annual 15th Various Voices Festival of Legato, the European Association of LGBTQ+ Choirs will be hosted in Bologna and moved from 2022 to the summer of 2023. Team Bologna is led by Komos, the LGBT Chorus of Bologna, with their partners and funders including the municipality of Bologna, along with allies and friends in Italy. The 5,000 expected participants will bring at least €2.5 million estimated income into the local economy of Emilia-Romagna, Italy during the festival.

The festival is a celebration for the LGBTQ+ choirs and musicians of Europe celebrating with their friends from around the worldwide community of singers, to share, learn and enjoy time, singing, performing, engaging in the beautiful ancient "la rossa" red city of Bologna and the people of the region of Emilia-Romagna, the home of parma ham, balsamic vinegar and parmesan. Five glorious warm summer days and balmy evenings of superb singing, entertainment and a "totally fun experience". Choirs and musical groups perform in a range of languages, styles, an eclectic crucible of European musicians and music.

Nicola Mainardi, Bologna Various Voices Festival Director, said "we will be using this time to add that extra bit of Bologna sparkle, seeking even greater local support and working with our partners to rebook venues and agree new dates in 2023. This has been a complex decision in response to the global pandemic and we need to give all time to heal and recover, to enjoy our festival safely. As details are confirmed we will share them with all our stakeholders. We will create the best Various Voices experience ever, for everyone"

For further enquiries or comments various-voices@legato-choirs.com

Martin Brophy, Legato Choirs 07710353054

<https://www.legato-choirs.com/>

   LegatoChoirs



Editor Notes

Legato Choirs has over 130 member choirs from 21 countries with approximately 4,500 singers who look to us for support and leadership. We promote art and culture, particularly to promote choral singing. We maintain an up to date list of LGBTQ+ Choirs in Europe and publish events being run by these Choirs locally, and encourage people to attend and support the events. We connect new LGBTQ+ Choirs with more experienced members to ensure their success. .

We promote understanding between nations, particularly by staging events with participants from many European nations and from around the world. We are actively supporting the development of LGBTQ+ Choirs in Eastern Europe, where in many countries it is considered a crime to be LGBTQ+ and people continue to be persecuted and discriminated against. We work for the equal rights of LGBTQ+ individuals in Europe and combat discrimination. We are registered as a Charitable Association under German law. Registration Court: Mannheim, Association Number: VR 102885.

Bologna, UNESCO "City of Music" and European capital of culture 2000. Various Voices will be an important event in the city and will easily grab the attention of the local media and government and this will help to increase our visibility amongst the wider public.

Team Bologna plan to organise the festival in June 2023, a 5-day festival, Bologna theatres will enhance the choir performances in beautiful and historical settings. Including Arena del Sole , Auditorium Manzoni , Oratorio San Filippo

Neri and Teatro Duse. Various Voices celebrations will spill into the streets, amongst the famous towers of Bologna with open air concerts, flash mobs and events and activities, a city-wide celebration of GLBT culture.

We can affirm without a doubt that Bologna is the foremost city in Italy where GLBT culture is alive and productive, with more than 20 GLBT organizations and a Municipality that stands firmly against discrimination and promotes equality and diversity. Bologna was the first Italian city to assign a community location for its LGBT citizens: the Cassero di Porta Saragozza in 1982. It was also the first to elect a transsexual to the local council, Marcella Di Folco, directly from the LGBT movement. Since 2016 the local authority has been part of the rainbow cities of Europe and the European coalition of cities against racism.

Komos has been active for more than ten years. In 2017 Komos signed the Collaboration Pact for the promotion and protection of the rights of people and the LGBTQI community in the city of Bologna.

For contact in Italy and responses in Italian please email info@various-voices.it