

# Report on the European Cheon Il Guk Choir in Korea

By Kazuha Canak, September 25, 2017



## Thanks to...

The European Cheon Il Guk Choir project was led by many people. Hans Campman (National Leader of the Netherlands) composed and wrote the cantata after Jack Corley (European Continental Director at the time) gave him the approval to create a piece as the European contribution to True Father's 5<sup>th</sup> Seonghwa anniversary celebration. Peter Staudinger (European Office) got the ball rolling by hiring a professional string orchestra in Prague to do the recordings a few weeks later. Heidi Wakayama and Margaret Staudinger organized the choir practices and recordings in Camberg and Düsseldorf in which approximately 50 members of the Dutch, Czech, and German communities participated in. Derk van Dorsten transcribed the scores Hans wrote and managed and mixed the orchestra, piano, and choir recordings. Achim Pock created the background video which was projected on the big screen during the performance. Benjamin Lajda (2<sup>nd</sup> gen) organized and led the live orchestra, Jeong-Hye Yeom (Youth and Students Department Director for Europe, 2<sup>nd</sup> gen) took care of all the general affairs while the group was in Korea and Kazuha Canak (2<sup>nd</sup> gen) conducted the choir and orchestra ensemble. In total over 100 people from around 17 countries have supported these efforts.



참부모님, 참부모님 감사합니다  
眞の御父母様、眞の御父母様、ありがとうございます  
Chambumonim, Chambumo- Kamsa Hamnida



## Glorious Day Meaning

*Glorious Day* is a cantata, which is a 16 minute-long narrative piece of music for voices with instrumental accompaniment, typically with solos, chorus, and orchestra. Its core message is the glorious announcement of the True Parents who bring the New Age of Eternal Peace to humankind. The lyrics are simple and pure; nevertheless they contain many of the key life-giving words which True Parents use to proclaim the New Age. The music combines various styles of European music: Christian, classical, as well as mystical, medieval and Celtic styles. The piece is divided into three main themes: a chant, a hymn, and a round. The hymn, *A light from the East* is a direct proclamation of the coming of the True Parents to save humankind.



## Preparations & Performance in Korea

The choir practices in Korea began on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August which were led by Hans, Derk, and Kazuha. The goal was to teach the cantata to the European Global Top Gun participants and the Albanian members who were getting blessed and practice singing it with the pre-recorded backing track. This was a challenge in many ways as none of them were trained singers. We divided the choir in smaller groups by voice, which practiced separately. They were led by Celina Haubold (first soprano), KyungIn Van De Ven (second soprano), Mihoko Koetsier (alto), Derk van Dorsten (tenor), Hans Campman and Patrick Pritty (bass).

We were also restricted by the limited amount of time and space due to conflicts with other entertainment groups' practice schedules and the backing track itself had varying speeds that made it difficult to follow. The orchestra started rehearsals on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. We concluded our one-week intensive practice on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September in order for everyone to attend the Blessing ceremony on the 7<sup>th</sup> and rest their voices.

The European CIG Choir performed second in line during the luncheon to celebrate the victories of True Father's 5<sup>th</sup> Seonghwa Festival and the Cheonji SunHak Won Groundbreaking Ceremony on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. In total there were about 80 participants who were able to perform in front of True Mother, True Children, and a banquet with over 800 VIPs and special guests. The European CIG Choir and the piece *Glorious Day* received a standing ovation by almost the entire audience. Afterwards, both the Angels of Peace from Russia and the European CIG Choir were invited to Heaven G Burger by True Mother who wanted to express her gratitude.





Because True Mother was so happy about the performance the Korean cultural team invited the European CIG Choir to perform again in front of True Mother for the ACLC banquet at the Heavenly Palace on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September. This time a group of 8 singers (Celina Haubold, Emi Giancaspro, Jeong-hye Yeom, Kazuha Canak, Robin Chionna, Derk van Dorsten, Laurenc Klas, and Songman Wöllmer) and 10 instrumentalists (Hans Campman, Harue Peham, Matthew Huish, Mélanie Komagata, Yuuka Suzuki, Tae Jun Moon, Angelika Birdsong, Takanari Wakayama, Marika Peham, and Benjamin Lajda) was formed. The orchestra started off with *Oh! Mio Babbino Caro* by Puccini and was joined by the choir for *People wake up, the night has ended* and *A Light from the East*, two new holy songs from the *Glorious Day* cantata by Hans Campman.

We are grateful for Hans Campman who wrote such beautiful songs that proclaim and worship True Parents and that Europe has had the opportunity to present them to our True Parents while still on earth.

