



EXTRA NEWSLETTER



# GERMAN & MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Academic Year 2021/2022

## EBIS STUDENTS TRAVELED TO GERMANY

### Youth choirs from Egypt, Lithuania and Germany at “You(th) Can Sing” Camp

Three choirs, three nations:

Germans, Egyptians and Lithuanians sing together in an experimental project.

A message for peace and understanding.

The week in Upper Bavaria is part of a two-year EU project from the Erasmus funding line, which includes a trilateral youth exchange of members of the Wolfratshausen Children’s Choir, the PASCH Choir from Cairo/Egypt and of the choir “Hzg sound” of the Hermann-S.-Gymnasium Klaipeda.

Music as a language of understanding, dealing with prejudices and the exchange of European values are the focus of the project. The project includes a composition commission, which the composer Helga Pogatschar carries out in a joint process with the young people, in which a new piece with the intention of “music as a common, international language” is created at the end.

The intuitive ability to communicate with other people even without communicating in a common language should be the priority. The new choral work is designed in such a way that it can be adapted and performed worldwide across cultural and language borders.

The 48 young people from these three choirs, aged between 12 and 17, learned in a workshop from June 6th to 9th in the youth hostel in Kreuth am Tegernsee how to use mindfulness, perception and the sound of their own voice to create a common musical language. This idea came about five years ago when choir director Kinoshita visited the choir in Cairo.



***The PASCH choir with Mr Ahmed and our three students at the Cairo Airport***



Now, in order to understand what happened, Kinoshita urged those present during the workshop: "Please pay attention to how you react when I say a sentence to you in Japanese." It was the tonality and volume of his voice and facial expressions that transported an emotion and made a statement. In a similar way, the international young people in the workshop should communicate spontaneously and playfully and interact with tones and sounds, explains the choir director. "We don't know what happens as a result."



**Choir director Yoshihisa Matthias Kinoshita**

The Munich composer Helga Pogatschar developed choral arrangements from the still virtually unpolished vocal material. This unique international choir project will run until 2023. "This year is the first step," says Heller. The choirs get to know each other, should develop creative ideas and learn cognitive skills that are listening, looking, reacting and interacting.

At the choir concert evening on June 10, the audience first heard the respective choirs' own repertoires with traditional musical influences from their homeland, then a part together and the experimental part that has been worked out.

It was still an "unfinished concert", says Heller, but "it was exciting for everyone".

The project is expected to continue in Egypt during Eastern vacation 2023. In the meantime, the choirs want to keep in touch online and continue to work on the composition together with Helga Pogatschar.

It is a search for the musical identity of one's own language and whether there are similarities with other languages, so Kinoshita hopes.

**"Maybe we'll start listening to each other more with the musical ear."**



**The final concert of the trilateral youth exchange camp.**