

With the name AERCIP - Associazione Emiliano-Romagnola Cori di Ispirazione Popolare (Association of Emilia-Romagna Choirs of Popular Inspiration) - on 16 May 1971 a small group of choirs from Emilia-Romagna (Leone and Stelutis from Bologna, Monte Toccacielo from Porretta Terme (BO), Giuseppe Verdi from Argenta (FE), Valpadana from Casumaro (FE), Val Dolo from Toano (RE), set up the first regional association of choral ensembles in Italy. A few years later, also thanks to the entry of some polyphonic choirs, the association acquired the name **AERCO: Associazione Emiliano-Romagnola Cori**. The founders then set themselves the aim of finding a moment of collaboration to spread amateur musical associationism, to improve the technical preparation of conductors through training initiatives, to support the activities of the choirs by creating opportunities for concerts and musical encounters in order to facilitate musical practice among members, and finally to contribute to enhancing musical research in the region, both in the polyphonic and ethnophonic fields. Aims that still form the basis of the association's mission. The most important projects implemented are the **Regional Festival Voci nei Chiostrì** (www.vocineichiostrì.it), **World Choral Day** (extended to all the provinces of the Region), the **Festival Fiumi di Voci** (www.dicoriunaltropo.it) and the **Suoni e Colori Festival**. At provincial level, we would like to mention the **International Choral Festival CantaBO** (www.cantabo.it), **Cori@Mo** (for choirs from Modena), **Soli Deo Gloria** (for choirs from Reggio Emilia), **Le Voci della Terra** (for choirs from Parma), the **Festival dei Cori Piacentini** (for choirs from Piacenza), and the **Concerti del Tè** (for choirs from Rimini). In addition, choral festivals on the occasion of Christmas are organised at provincial level. AERCO is present in the educational and didactic field for choristers and conductors with a series of masterclasses and permanent courses throughout the region. It has founded its own **Choral Academy** at the Casa della Musica in Parma where it holds annual and three-year courses for Choral Directors (www.aerco.academy). Every year it organises the **Giuseppe Savani National Choral Competition** in the city of Carpi (www.concorsocoralegiuseppesavani.it). Every two years it also promotes an **International Competition for Choral Conductors** dedicated to Romano Gandolfi (www.choralconductorcompetition.eu) and two **International Choral Composition Competitions**, one of them exclusively dedicated to the youth repertoire (www.corinfesta.it). Other flagship projects are the **Coro Giovanile dell'Emilia-Romagna** (www.corogiovaniledellemiliaromagna.it), the **Coro Regionale dell'Emilia-Romagna** (www.cororegionaledellemiliaromagna.it) and the **Schola Gregoriana Ecce** set up at the famous Pomposa Abbey (FE), the place of the monk Guido d'Arezzo. Finally, AERCO is present with editorial projects such as its official magazine **FARCORO** (www.farcoro.it) and its **Quaderni**. For all detailed information, please visit the main website www.aerco.it