



As Calvino once wrote, there are two poles of the human experience: the invariance of specific structures of the crystal and the relentless internal agitation of the flame. Baroque music bridges them: it is the search for order in our universe and, at the same time, it is a celebration of life in all its unexpected, multifarious and always unique forms. Baroque music flourished when political Europe was at its most divided. I will not cease to marvel at the power of art to overcome the divisions imposed by political, economic and military interests. In the baroque period, music allowed talented musicians to learn from each other, it united the North and the South of Europe, it mixed cultures. In every single period of our intellectual, cultural, and artistic history we can find this drive towards a pan-European identity. I congratulate the EUBO for continuing this tradition in our own time and for promoting some of Europe's best young talents. You deserve every success in your 2005 tour.

Commissioner Ján Figel'
European Commissioner with responsibility for Education,
Training, Culture and Multilingualism

As President of the Council of Ministers of Culture of the Member States of the EU in 2005, we are pleased to endorse and encourage the valuable contribution that organisations such as the European Union Baroque Orchestra are making to preserve and invigorate the cultural and educational life of Europe.

For 20 years now, the European Union Baroque Orchestra, which brings together young musicians from all over the EU, has been working to promote better understanding and communications between nations and cultures. With the historic enlargement last year of the EU, we are delighted to see new opportunities opening up for musicians and audiences alike in the new Member States.

The Orchestra, an enduring initiative of the European Parliament and Commission, is a symbol, a microcosm even, of all that Europe should aspire to be; fully integrated and working in harmony, yet recognising and celebrating the rich cultural diversity of our shared heritage. Music has always been a universal language, which helps to maintain stability and nurtures common interests.

We wish the young members of the European Union Baroque Orchestra from twelve EU Member States every success in their training, performances and concert tours in 2005

François Biltgen
Luxembourg

Octavie Modert
Luxembourg

Tessa Jowell
United Kingdom