

# Ercu Trip to Brussels, December 2025

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On Sunday 7 December, ERCU performed a joint concert at the Bozar concert hall with the Brussels Choral Society, a leading amateur choir in Belgium. ERCU members mostly travelled from Scotland to Brussels a few days earlier, ready for rehearsals and a social event over the weekend.

Brussels proved to be a great place to visit: as well as the well-known Brussels town hall, it has many museums and galleries. These include a very large musical instrument museum and a comic art museum celebrating Hergé, creator of the Belgian detective Tintin, and his many Belgian comic artist compatriots.

On the morning of Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>, we had a joint rehearsal at the European School in Brussels, which was our first chance to meet choir members. We then rehearsed our two pieces, Bruckner's *Mass in D minor* and Poulenc's *Gloria*. The BCS conductor Gabriel had a cheerful attitude – we would sing through both pieces from start to finish, no matter what happened!



Rehearsing at the European School



Brussels Town Hall



Tintin and his friends on the moon!

In the afternoon, some choir members took a tour of some less well-known Brussels sites by local resident and author Derek Blyth. Among other things, we discovered that two Brontë sisters had lived and studied very near to the concert hall. In the evening, the choirs

attended a convivial reception at the Residence Palace, a fantastic art deco venue.



**Touring Brussels city with Derek Blyth**

The concert itself was very enjoyable and rapturously received by our Belgian audience! BCS members will come to Scotland to reprise our joint concert in Edinburgh's Usher Hall on Sunday 15 March.

Due to the European Commission and Parliament being located in Brussels, choir members turned out to have come from many different countries across the world.



**The Bozar concert hall where we performed.**



**BCS and ERCU combined choir on stage at Bozar**

John Thompson, ERCU tenor