

New member

Dear choir members, those who haven't been to rehearsals for a while won't have noticed, but the loyal members who attend every week will have. We have gained another loyal member, namely Baco.

Baco is not a Bacardi Cola but a real Frisian Stabij and owned by Ben. You can imagine that my Frisian heart opened up completely when I saw Baco for the first time, finally speaking Frisian again. Look, Elbrig and I are so well-behaved that we don't do this in the company of others, but you don't have to teach a dog these manners. Imagine if Baco also had to learn English, Rotterdam dialect and German. He would have been better off becoming an English Bulldog or a German Shepherd.

In the first few weeks, Baco was kept a little apart, which was a good move by Ben, because Frisians like to wait and see how things develop.

Last time, Baco was allowed to sit next to Ben, assuming that Baco is also a tenor. This raises the question of whether dogs can form a choir. They can. If you search the internet, you will find a beautiful version of Jingle Bells (Christmas is fast approaching), performed only by dogs.

There are not many other songs performed by dogs, but there is, for example, "Zwerfhonden" (Stray Dogs) by Plan D-, in which dogs dance beautifully to music.

In general, dogs enjoy music, especially quiet genres such as classical music or soft rock, and they respond to sound patterns and rhythms. The sound of a choir may intrigue a dog, provided it is not too loud or too high-pitched. Now, of course, the question is what effect music has on dogs?

1 Calming: Dogs can relax to soft, slow music. Research suggests that they particularly enjoy reggae and soft rock.

2 Positive response: They often respond positively to classical music because of its sound patterns, tempos and rhythms.

3 Avoid loud noises: Loud music, such as heavy metal or rap, can irritate a dog.

4 High-pitched sounds: Dogs hear a wider range of frequencies than humans and may therefore find high-pitched sounds, which are inaudible to us, annoying.

Points 1, 2 and 3 seem to me to be typical points for Janneke to take into account, and point 4 seems to me to be something for sopranos to take into account. I won't mention any names.

Dogs and choral singing

Interpretation of sound: The group howling of dogs and wolves can be seen as a form of communication, similar to the concept of a choir.

Performances: There are musical performances, such as "Stray Dogs", which integrate dog choirs with singing (barking, growling) and dancing.

Background music: When loud or nervous sounds, such as fireworks, are heard, playing soft, calm music has a calming effect on dogs and helps to reduce their anxiety.

It is remarkable that the group howling of dogs and wolves is compared to singing in a choir. We tend to think that we are far above that. For Ben, it is reassuring to know that Baco can also be taken to rehearsals in December, because we can easily drown out the fireworks with our quiet and calming songs. The only question that remains is whether Baco is allowed to stay according to the rules of the choir.

For example, does Baco have a Rotterdam Pass that entitles him to two months' free membership?

Does he then pay the student rate or the adult rate?

Does he have a mobile number so he can be added to the group app?

If none of that is the case, he can only be admitted on condition that he teaches us the Frisian anthem, preferably in four-part harmony:

Frysk bloed tsjoch op! Wol no ris brûze en siede,
En bûnzje troch ús ieren om!
Flean op! Wy sjonge it bêste lân fan d'ierde,
It Fryske lân fol eare en rom.

Refrein:

Klink dan en daverje fier yn it rûn
Dyn âlde eare, o Fryske grûn!
Klink dan en daverje fier yn it rûn
Dyn âlde eare, o Fryske grûn!