



It is an honour for me to accompany the EUBO 2008 tour by contributing again with a message. The European Union Baroque Orchestra is a perfect symbol of our united Europe and its ideals. The orchestra is a truly pan-European project; the players selected this year hail from 12 different countries, maybe to match the stars of the European flag. I would also like to praise the organisation for its commitment towards the young. Since its creation in 1985, the EUBO, with the support of the European Union, has been giving young European musicians a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work together with some of the most prestigious orchestras in the world, show their talent, and develop their art and skills. In this way the EUBO can help young musicians make the transition from the conservatoire to professional life and can assist the most talented and determined among them to move from the regional and national stage to European and global acclaim. Your orchestra is a brilliant example of the Europe of excellence, which we all strive to build. Your continued success is a great encouragement for all the people who invest their time and energy to reinforce the cultural side of the European project.

Another reason of fascination for the symbolic power that emanates from your orchestra is linked to baroque music itself. The music you keep alive and renew with your every performance was composed at a time when Europe was politically at its most divided. In spite of this, the composers and musicians of the time never ceased to influence each other and mix their traditions, especially uniting the musical cultures of the North and the South of Europe. Once again, the story of this period shows that the unifying power of art is stronger than the divisions determined by political, economic and military interests. Throughout the centuries, scholars, artists and entertainers have built a pan-European cultural identity which we should receive and cherish as their most precious legacy. I commend the EUBO for continuing their tradition in our time.

I wish you every success in your 2008 tour.

Ján Figel
 Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth
 European Commission



I am delighted that HVB Luxembourg, a member of UniCredit Group, Europe's first truly European Bank, can provide EUBO with the necessary financial support to assist young musicians from all over the EU to develop their skills and gain experience in orchestral performance.

UniCredit is committed to the world of music. It is the most universal of languages, bringing together people from all nations and cultures, without losing respect for their specific identity. Our commitment to culture is an indication of our core values: we believe in innovation, in the young, and in an optimistic approach to the future. So that we can be a driving force to help people develop. Wherever they may be.

We wish EUBO a successful season 2008.

Ernst-Dieter Wiesner
 Chief Executive Officer
 HVB Luxembourg / UniCredit Group Luxembourg



Music is a truly universal language, and EUBO is a great instrument with which to further European integration. So I am delighted that Microsoft Europe has the opportunity to support the European Union Baroque Orchestra for the sixth consecutive year.

Bringing together young musicians from all over Europe and providing new talents with the opportunity to realise their potential, EUBO builds on our European heritage whilst providing each musician with a chance to further his or her professional career. EUBO's performances delight audiences both at concerts and through recordings and broadcasts; the Orchestra is a lively, responsive and energetic symbol of cultural exchange and communication within Europe and a great ambassador outside Europe.

We wish EUBO a successful tour in 2008.

John Vassallo
 Vice-President, EU Affairs
 Microsoft Europe

