Online Choirs: How to carry out virtual choir rehearsals with the help of digital tools

Universität Liechtenstein, Universität Mozarteum Salzburg, Hochschule Anhalt
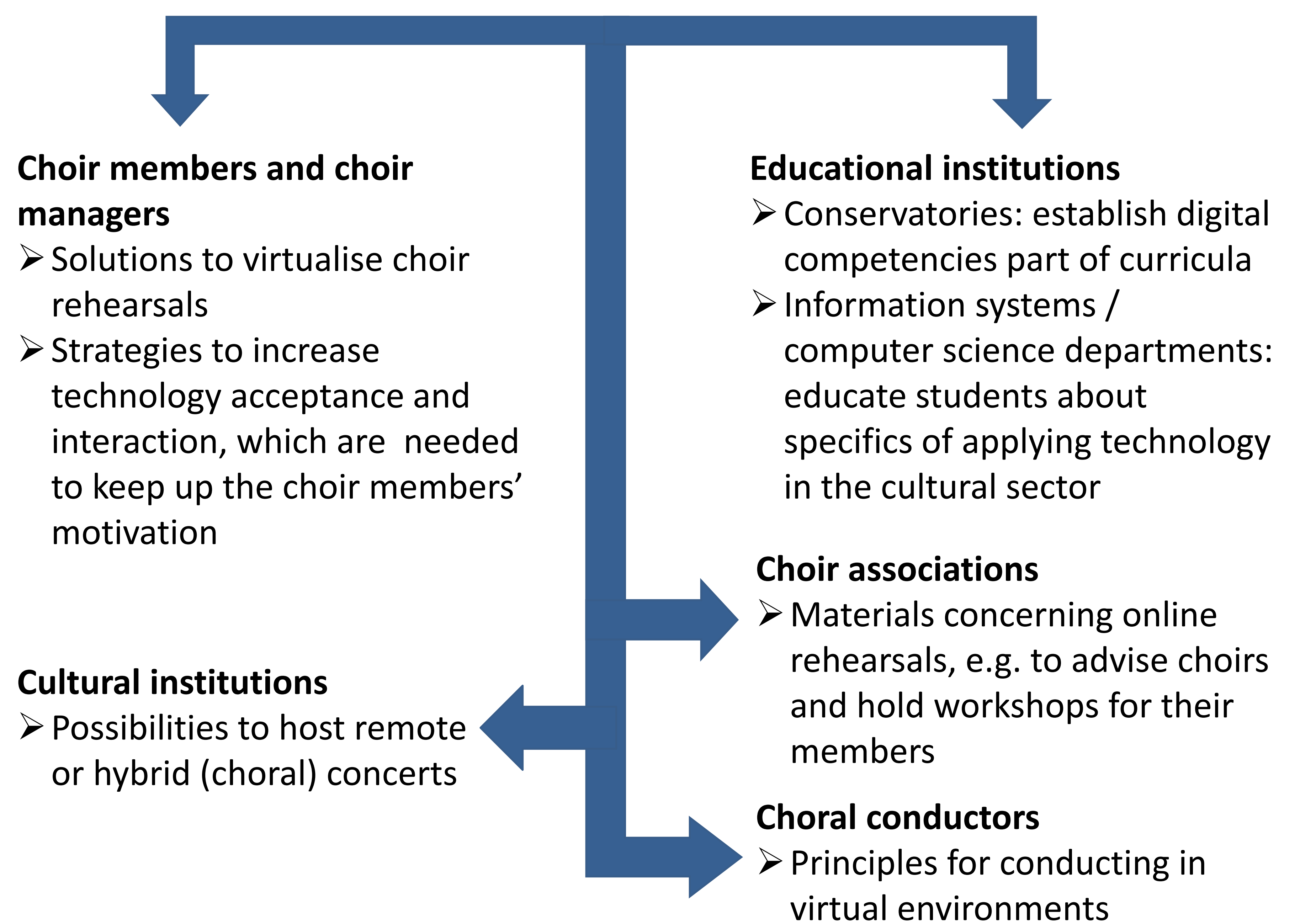
Project motivation

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, some choirs started to experiment with **online rehearsals**
- Experiences from the pandemic show that **singing and conducting in online environments basically works**
- However, by far **not all choirs** were able to switch to online modes of interaction
- Singing together in the digital space comes with **unique** requirements
- **Barriers** preventing the use of digital tools may relate to
  - Limitations of existing tools and **lack of technical skills**
  - Lack of best practices and guidelines how **conducting** can be done in a virtual environment
  - Perceptions that singing online is **less enjoyable** than singing face-to-face

Goals

1) Identification of the **state-of-the-art** of online choir rehearsals
2) Design of **technology solutions and principles** for carrying out online choir rehearsals
3) Application and **evaluation** of the designed technology solutions and principles in an **online laboratory choir**
4) Communication and **dissemination** of the results of the project

Target groups and benefits

Choir members and choir managers
- Solutions to virtualise choir rehearsals
- Strategies to increase technology acceptance and interaction, which are needed to keep up the choir members' motivation

Cultural institutions
- Possibilities to host remote or hybrid (choral) concerts

Educational institutions
- Conservatories: establish digital competencies part of curricula
- Information systems / computer science departments: educate students about specifics of applying technology in the cultural sector

Choir associations
- Materials concerning online rehearsals, e.g. to advise choirs and hold workshops for their members

Choral conductors
- Principles for conducting in virtual environments

Impact

- Building **digital readiness** by identifying digital competences required to organise and conduct online choir rehearsals
- Stimulating **innovative learning and teaching practices** by laying groundwork for distance learning in music education and choral practice
- Building **inclusive higher education systems** by facilitating access to (remote) music education

- Initiate and advance the nascent field of **online choir pedagogy**
- Enable and shape digitalization in the **cultural domain**
- Encourage the creation of **new artistic formats**

Team

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