31 August 2017

Professors Bo Jonsson and Monica Johansson
Department of Arts
Luleå University of Technology
Luleå, Sweden

Dear Professors Jonsson and Johansson:

Thank you very much for your part in making it possible for the Erik Westberg Vocal Ensemble to participate in the first international ethnic choir festival in Kaili, China. Your support was greatly appreciated.

I was the co-artistic director of the festival and wanted very much to have outstanding ensembles from around the world perform – and the Erik Westberg Vocal Ensemble certainly were fantastic! They are indeed world class and of the highest artistic quality. It was also wonderful for the singers to experience this unique part of China with the Dong and Miao peoples and their special culture.

The Chinese audiences were large and very appreciative. They especially liked Jan Sandström’s Vuojhna Biegg and the presentation of folk music from the Sami people – something totally new for them.

Katarina Barruk was a wonderful performer – both as a soloist and with the Ensemble – and the audience found her performance very moving. All in all, these performers as well as the outstanding work of Erik Westberg added a great deal to this international event. You can be VERY proud of the part you played in bringing Erik Westberg and the Vocal Ensemble to China!

Sincerely and gratefully,

Dr. Philip Brunelle, Vice President, International Federation for Choral Music
Co-Artistic Director – 2017 China (Qiandongnan) International Folk Song Choral Festival and IFCM World Voices Conference