

Report on the Efmet-workshop: Presentation Day, Ghent March 15th2004.

Jeunesses Musicales International, the world's biggest youth music network, and in Europe represented by its subsidiary **Jeunesses Musicales Europe** that represents 27 national member sections and 5 Associate members, stands for approximately 30.000 activities for almost 5 Million young Europeans annually.

The JMI network is the **Pioneer organization** in the field of young audience development in Europe ever since its establishment in 1945. During the past 60 years, the JM Europe network has obtained substantial know-how and competence in organizing concerts for young people, be it as public concerts for specific target audiences or as school concerts for a wider outreach. JMI has also a great competence in the organization of workshops on active music-making, thousands of young people have experienced the power of playing together in orchestras and ensembles, in the most diverse musical genres (classical, pop, rock, jazz, folk, ...).

This said, JMI and its members do acknowledge the good work, 'spitz-kompetenz' and experience of other European organizations and networks in this field and it is clear that we are all working together – not in competition – in order to realize a giant task: to offer **live high quality music experiences** for young people in order to widen the cultural horizons, increase understanding of other cultures and deepening the insights into specific genres as steps in building the music society of tomorrow.

As part of the EFMET initiative, JM Europe as a co-organizer wished to emphasize the need of sharing experiences and techniques in the field of Young Audience Development. Thereby, it asked its Flemish section **Jeugd en Muziek Vlaanderen** to organize a Presentation Day where different high quality productions from different European countries were at display for a predominantly Belgian but also international public.

JM Vlaanderen developed and organised a workshop in Ghent on the 15th of March 2004. The day was organised as a workshop in the international context of **Efmet**, thanks to the **European Culture 2000 Program**.

For the location of this event, **the Royal Opera House in Ghent** was chosen. Reasons to choose this location were diverse: a partnership with the opera on the development of programs for young people, the national and even international reputation of the Opera House, the possibility to use several suitable concert- and rehearsal-rooms, the central position, the familiarity of the artistic and educational world with the Opera House.

Through meetings and workshops, the organisers wanted to have **an artistic and an educational platform** for people involved in music education (representatives of basic, secondary, music schools and conservatories, representatives of cultural houses), for a young audience (3 tot 18 years old) and for young musicians on the stage. Besides the show-cases of new programs for youth, workshops for different types of young people were presented (toddlers, pupils of basic-schools, pupils of secondary schools, handicapped people,...). Due to the impossibility to present all artists live on a stage, video's and sound-programs were presented for different audiences (schedule of the programs: see appendix 1).

Some **734 young people** assisted the different programmes of the day:

Toddlers: 156

Basis school: 267

Secondary school: 225

Different sort of workshops: 86

The **artistic and educational world** was represented by more than **150 people**. Thanks to the Culture 2000 program we could also welcome people from Spain, Austria, the Netherlands and Germany to attend this Presentation-day.

Besides the very positive experience of the successful concerts, workshops and meetings, we could make an **impulse** to a further development of the international network, and to a frequent exchange of musicians, groups, musical knowledge and educational processes between different organisations and audiences on a national and an international level. This development of international exchange already resulted in contacts with Norway (Rikskonsertene), Sweden (Rikskonserter), Austria (Jeunesse), France (Jeunesses Musicales) and other organisations with a need to cooperate on an international level.

The **context** of the workshops and the educational programs are collected in the booklet '**Traject 2004-2005**', which is unfortunately only obtainable in Dutch (see appendix 2).

The participating groups where recruited through the following procedures:

Professionals on an international level via the Efmet-network (Culture 2000)

Professionals on a local level (artistic, formal education, non-formal education) through a very intense action in the Flemish schools, conservatories, culture centres, and among other interested people in the music-educational field

Young people through the network of Jeugd en Muziek Vlaanderen in different schools, situated in the neighbourhood of Ghent.

For the organisation of the Presentation Day, Jeugd en Muziek Vlaanderen was supported by several **partnerships** which made it possible to reach such a high amount of people attending the concerts, the workshops, the meetings. The result is not only found in what happened during this day, the work **continues** by exchanging the results of the different workshops with the professionals that attended this 'Presentation Day'. And even more, because many of the most various interested people which could not attend the Presentation Day contacted us to receive a feed-back on the context of the event (see Traject 2004-2005).

Contacts with formal music education resulted in the **attendance** of many of their responsables. We could welcome inspectors, directors and teachers of basic, secondary and music schools. We could also welcome directors and contributors of the non-formal music education as governmental services and educational services of orchestral and opera-houses. These partnerships resulted in a much more enlarged spreading of the ideas and of the impact of the workshops, this on national and international level.

We can also mention the presence of some 20 music-groups working on educational matters, **informing** all people present on their own experience and their work in the musical, artistic and educational field.

Some students of the **Royal Conservatory of Antwerp** were animating the events, a task they had to fulfil as part of their curriculum. The teacher was present to give them feedback and to accompany them in their attempt to build a bridge between the live music and some young audiences.

Efmet and Culture 2000 of the European Commission made it possible to create an **international context** of the Presentation Day which should make it possible to work further on this matters in the future. **Exchange** of educational groups, artists and educational projects are important topics for JMI and Jeugd en Muziek Vlaanderen. This will be a **continuous process**, which hopefully will result in a better training for the artists, the teachers and the responsables of the music educational field, and in fascinating music educational projects for young musicians and young audiences.

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