

Newsletter No 7, Summer 2008

Editorial

Dear readers,

The EMC conference in Barcelona 2007 had forecast changes and challenges for music and the EMC in the future. And indeed, many things have happened during the past months: a new Board has been elected, new members have joined the organisation and the new EMC website has been recently launched. The EMC Conference in Brno in April 2008 brought together over 90 representatives and resulted in fruitful discussions and promising encounters under the title "Access to Music".

The ExTra! project is beginning its third and last year; exciting activities are taking place in the framework of this EU-funded project by putting music and intercultural dialogue into practice. Cultural exchange and access to music: these concepts are not easy to realise when they are achieved implemented on troubled soils. The next conference, organised by the EMC in co-operation with the IMC Israel, will take place in Jerusalem from 23 to 26 October 2008. The discussions will focus on issues such as politics, music making and music education in the context of disturbed social and political circumstances.

For the past few years, the EU has been moving towards a more human union, endeavouring to serve people. When we talk about a union of peoples, we have to discuss culture and cultural politics on the European level. As an umbrella organisation for European music organisations, the EMC wants to take part in political discussions about culture and advocate European music organisations and musical life.

I am very honoured to have been elected as Chairman by the Annual Meeting of the EMC members, and I am looking forward to the development of the European Music Council over the next two years and to cooperating with European music organisations.

Timo Klemettinen
EMC Chairman
President of the Finnish Music Council



EMC Annual Conference 2008, 17-21 April 2008, Brno, Czech Republic **Access to Music: New perspectives on Education, Distribution and Politics**

Over 90 representatives from 24 European countries, Israel, Venezuela and Australia came to Brno to exchange their visions of the 21st-century musical life. The Janáček Academy for Music and Performing Arts provided a nice and welcoming atmosphere for the event. Taking place during the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, the EMC Conference investigated the specific needs in relation to Access to Music, taking into consideration the various cultural backgrounds of the people living together in Europe today.

Inspired by a keynote speech regarding the European Agenda for Culture by Vladimír Šucha, Director for Culture, Multilingualism and Communication before the EU Commission, the conference offered the opportunity to discuss new perspectives in music education, music distribution and music politics. Three Interactive Round Tables enabled each participant to bring an active contribution to the conference. Every discussion forum was opened with speeches by three experts on a particular topic.

The EMC keeps enhancing the dialogue between active musicians, music educators, music organisations, stakeholders and politicians. An important objective of this dialogue is to create the appropriate political, economical and cultural framework to enable the maintenance and continuation of the present richness and diversity of the European and international music life.

Reports, documents and pictures are available [here](#).

New Board of the European Music Council

The 2008 Annual Meeting of EMC members elected a new Board:

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| - Timo Klemettinen, Chairperson
(President of the Finnish Music Council) | - Harald Huber
(President of the Austrian Music Council) |
| - Christian Höppner, Vice Chair
(Secretary General of the German Music Council) | - Erling Aksdal
(Head of the Jazz Department, Norwegian University of Science and Technology Trondheim, Norway) |
| - Stef Coninx, Treasurer
(Secretary of the International Association of Music Information Centres) | - Uģis Prauliņš
(Chairperson of the Latvian Composers' Union) |
| - Petra Mohorčič
(President of Jeunesses Musicales Slovenia) | - Daphne Wassink - Co-opted member of the Board
(Chairperson of the Working Group Youth) |



ExTra! Exchange Traditions

The EU funded ExTra! project is at its mid-term. Many inspiring activities run by the ExTra! partners* have already taken place – some are still to come.

An exciting Symposium on “Musical traditions: from life to stage: issues and challenges of distribution and creation in the framework of the Intangible Cultural Heritage” will take place on 22 July 2008 in the framework of the Gannat “Cultures of the World” Festival.

The ExTra! Research Study, coordinated by the EMC, will be published in spring 2009 under the title “Music in Motion: Diversity and Dialogue in Europe”. It will collect inspiring articles by renowned experts in the field of ethnomusicology, sociology or policy making. A selection of model projects will give concrete examples of the exchange of musical traditions.

* En Chordais, Greece; music information center austria (MICA); Fondazione Adkins Chiti: Donne in Musica, Italy; International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation (IYMF), Belgium; Association Nationale Cultures et Traditions (ANCT), France; Cité de la musique, France.

EXTRA! Exchange Traditions

www.extra-project.eu

EMC activities

Music on Troubled Soils, 23 - 26 October 2008, Jerusalem, Israel

From 23-26 October 2008, the IMC Israel together with the European Music Council will hold a conference in Jerusalem, entitled “Music on Troubled Soils”.

The conference’s main goal is to examine the possible roles of musical activity, serving as a bridge between people and peoples on troubled social and political circumstances. Different Arabic and Israeli music styles coexisting in the region and their influence on the dialogue between these peoples will be in focus.

The conference will take place in the Jerusalem Music Centre, a well-known music institute, located in the heart of Jerusalem. The programme of the conference includes activities consisting of lectures and discussions, project presentations, workshops, concerts and short excursions following the great diversity of musical traditions and practices coexisting for many years in this region.



New EMC Website

The new website of the European Music Council is online! A new layout and new levels now allow more accurate information and provides better insight into the issues dealt with by the European Music Council, and of EMC member activities. Please visit our website on www.emc-imc.org.

Sounds #3

The third edition of our magazine “Sounds in Europe” has been released. It can be downloaded from the [EMC website](http://www.emc.org). A hard copy can be ordered at the EMC office for a contribution towards cost of €4.50.



News from the European cultural policy scene

First meetings of the Culture Sector Platforms

The European Commission installed three Culture Sector Platforms as a first step towards the implementation of the European Agenda for Culture. The aim of these platforms is to strengthen the voice of the culture sector and to enhance the structured dialogue between the culture sector and the political field (EU institutions and member states).

>From 4 to 6 June the EU Commission invited selected organisation to participate in the first meeting of the platforms. The European Music Council attended all three meetings, where work areas were agreed upon and governing bodies were appointed.

The three platforms are:

- Rainbow Platform (already installed in 2006 by EFAH and ECF)
- Access to Culture
- Potential of Creative Industries

The next official meeting for the platforms is envisaged for the first half of 2009, the next culture forum to which all operators from the field of culture will be invited will take place in autumn 2009 in the framework of the Swedish EU Presidency. At this point, the first outcomes of the work of the platforms will be presented.

An exhaustive report of the meeting is available [here](#).

EFAH became Culture Action Europe



The European Forum
for the Arts and Heritage

EFAH's new name and visual identity were launched during the 65th Trans Europe Halles meeting in Brussels on 24 April 2008. The word 'action' states its ambition to be a proactive advocate for the cultural sector at the

European level. It symbolises the coming of age of the platform as a professional lobby for the arts with a broader interest in culture, and signals a shift towards a more strategic and communicative organisation.

Discover the new Website! www.cultureactioneurope.org

Young Cultural Policy Researchers Forum

The European Cultural Foundation is supporting the 2nd Young Cultural Policy Researchers Forum, "Cross-cultural, qualitative approaches to cultural policy research", organised by the ENCATC (European Network of Cultural Administration Training Centres).

This year, the Forum will take place in Lyon, France, from 15- 16 October 2008 in the framework of the ENCATC's 16th International Conference and the Cultural Policy Research Award (CPRA) ceremony.

News from members

Polifonia II launched

The first Polifonia project ended in January 2008. The EMC was an associate partner in the project and was represented in working groups by EMC Chairman Timo Klemettinen and former Board member Einar Solbu. From 2007-2010 Polifonia II will focus on the EHEA (European Higher Education Area) strand, as well as on the implementation of the 'Education & Training 2010' Agenda of the Lisbon Strategy. Another study point will be the role of research in conservatoires, as well as the set up of continuing professional development activities for conservatoire teachers. Find out more about Polifonia on www.polifonia-tn.org.

European Festival Association

The Arts Festivals' Declaration on Intercultural Dialogue was signed by European festivals and international guests in Antalya on 25 April 2008. 60 EFA member festivals and networks from 27 countries in Europe, Africa and Asia signed this important document. Hosted by the Aspendos International Opera & Ballet Festival, festivals came together for 4 days in the framework of the EFA General Assembly and Conference dedicated to 'Festivals in a globalizing world'. More information and text of the Declaration on www.efa-aef.eu.

EUROPA CANTAT XVII Utrecht 2009

The province and the city of Utrecht (NL) will host the next festival of our member Europa Cantat – European Federation of Young Choirs, from 17 to 26 July 2009. Some 3500 participants from Europe and beyond will gather to take part in this event, offering a wide range of workshops in all vocal genres and directed by top conductors from around the world, and a substantial complementary programme. More information on www.ecu2009.nl. Application is possible until 1 November 2008.

EUROPA
CANTAT XVII
UTRECHT
17-26 JULY 2009
WWW.ECU2009.NL



see U singing

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