

## Many Musics in Europe

Successful conference of the European Music Council in Budapest  
with over 100 participants from all over Europe

At the end of April over 100 representatives of the musical life in Europe met in Budapest to join the conference “Many Musics in Europe” that took place next to the Annual Meeting of the European Music Council (EMC).

The conference “Many Musics in Europe” focused on European cultural policies and on the activities of the members of the European Music Council.

After an inspiring keynote speech of Christina Coker (Youth Music, UK), the participants discussed the importance of preserving cultural diversity within Europe. Panellists from the European institutions as the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the European Parliament were ready to answer questions from the floor. Two basic points of interest were highlighted: the EU service directive and EU funding opportunities for culture. Whereas it was consensus that the budget for cultural programmes of the EU should be augmented, the threat that the EU service directive bears was discussed controversially. Concerning EU funding for culture, Ruth Hieronymi, member of the European Parliament, pointed to the fact that this will only be possible, if the member states will increase their financial contribution for the support of culture to the EU.

During the conference programme the great variety of musical life in Europe became obvious. More than 10 model projects were presented, ranging from integrative choirs, where healthy and disabled people sing together, to life presentations of traditional folklore and to community programmes in the Nordic countries promoting art and music schools. The most outstanding projects won the award to be present at the Music World Forum of the International Music Council in October in Los Angeles this year. For practical experience, different workshops provided insight in fundraising for European organisations, in issues concerning mobility of artists and in the chances that lie in youth participation.

In an overwhelming concert in the beautiful hall of the Benczúr House, the host of the conference, the Hungarian Music Council, presented “Many Musics in Hungary”. A Jazz combo, a chamber choir, a piano player, a duo for string and voice, a baritone singer, a brass quartet, a folk and dance group and a gipsy band offered the participants of the conference an unforgettable evening.

At the Annual Meeting of the EMC, Beata Schanda, former chairperson of the EMC, and Ursula Bally-Fahr, long time secretary general of the EMC, who both contributed to the EMC with outstanding engagement, were elected as honorary members.

The EMC membership elected a new Board that will serve the EMC for the upcoming three years, promoting European musical life in general and sustaining the voice of the music sector in Brussels and Strasbourg in particular. The elected new Board members are: Wouter Turkenburg (International Association of Schools of Jazz) as chairperson, Hans-Herwig Geyer (German Music Council) as vice-chair, Sonja Greiner (Europa Cantat) as treasurer, Harald Huber (Austrian Music Council), Timo Klemettinen (Finnish Music Council), Regina Senften (Swiss Music Council) and Einar Solbu (IMC Norway). The new Board co-opted Petra Mohorcic as youth representative.

With this successful conference and the newly elected Board the EMC is looking forward to continue its work in promoting the musical life in Europe. The next annual conference and meeting of the EMC will take place from 21 to 23 April 2006 in Malmö, Sweden. The Music World Forum of the International Music Council will take place from 1 to 4 October 2006 in Los Angeles, USA.

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