

Press Release

„MIX IT! Young people with migrant background in music projects“

Symposium of the European Music Council (EMC) in cooperation with the broadcasting station “Deutsche Welle” from 3 to 5 November 2006, Bonn, Germany

The Symposium “MIX IT!”, taking place from 3-5 November 2006 in Bonn, Germany, deals with the frequently and controversially discussed topic of social inclusion of young people with migrant backgrounds in the European society.

The European Music Council (EMC) and the broadcasting station “Deutsche Welle” invite to meet key players in the music and cultural policies throughout Europe.

As a follow-up of the EMC Annual Conference “Turning Points: Music – Youth – Diversity”, the symposium aims at formulating recommendations on how to include different traditions in European society. These recommendations will serve as inspiration for cultural operators as well as for local, national and European authorities.

How to interact respectfully with minorities and their cultures is one of the key issues of the symposium.

Lectures, project presentations, workshops and discussions intend to illustrate how different musical traditions enrich each other and contribute to a European identity. The aim is to abolish the elitist idea of culture according to which cultural activities are just a privilege for the upper-classes.

Musical activities for a wide range of young people are an important tool particularly for social inclusion: Different traditions – that are not necessarily “from far away” but might just reflect the unknown in the own tradition – raise awareness and curiosity. Especially children and youngsters are motivated to appropriate those different cultures or establish new traditions.

Andreas Freudenberg, director of the “Werkstatt der Kulturen” (Workshop of Cultures), Berlin, and expert for intercultural exchange and political dialogue, is invited to elaborate on this frequently discussed and explosive topic in his keynote speech and to present necessary political actions.

Afterwards, key players in music and cultural policies will discuss the issue in public. Smaller discussion groups and workshops will highlight practical aspects of social inclusion through music.

Choirs and all those who enjoy singing are invited on Saturday afternoon to an improvisation workshop with Lone Larsen, who worked on the improvisation scenes of the film “As It Is in Heaven”. This film demonstrates in a very sensitive way how important collective musical activities are for society. Lone Larsen will give an introduction to the film-show on Sunday morning.

Concerts and a film matinee in cooperation with the Schumann Festival “Endericher Herbst” will provide the musical frame.

The attendance of the symposium is free of charge.

Ruth Jakobi

For further questions concerning the symposium please do not hesitate to contact the EMC office in Bonn: info@emc-imc.org, www.emc-imc.org, +49-228-96699664

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