

FONDAZIONE ADKINS CHITI DONNE IN MUSICA

MEMBER INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL OF UNESCO AND OF THE EUROPEAN MUSIC COUNCIL



PRESS RELEASE

Fiuggi, 2013, July 6 – “It’s necessary to introduce gender quotas into the governing and artistic boards of all Music Institutions.” This is the request launched by Patricia Adkins Chiti, President of the “Women in Music Foundation”, the network of women in music associations in 108 Countries worldwide.

In total accordance the Hon. Silvia Costa Member of the European Parliament, and Rapporteur for Creative Europe.

This was one of the proposals raised during the WIMUST (Women in Music Uniting Strategies for Talent), Annual General Meeting in Fiuggi Città, near Rome, (5- 6th July), by one of the largest music organizations in Europe today.

More than fifty women, composers and musicologists from organisations in Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Israel, Kosovo, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Rumania, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the USA arrived in Fiuggi to discuss an urgent topic: the under representation of women, and their music, in the performing arts.

In Europe women represent over 50% of the work force in this field, but 89% of European cultural Institutions are run by men. This situation is the consequence of the maintenance of male hegemony in the cultural field, where gender inequalities are a real problem.

Composers from European and non-EU Countries confirmed the gender gap with examples of day to day problems in their own countries.

In order to overcome female underrepresentation in music, in 2009 the European Parliament introduced a Resolution for “Access and Equal Opportunities for Women in Performing Arts”, that has not been implemented by any Member State. In 2011 WIMUST was set up to help to change all of this and in 2012 launched a petition to encourage countries to assume the 2009 resolution.

The Petition invites Member States to cancel all obstacles separating women from truly equal treatment in cultural institutions, academia, universities, in music programming and performance.

From Fiuggi has also come a call for the production of official comparative analyses and statistics which has already begun with the preparation of a list of “affirmative actions” to fight gender discrimination in the music sector.

For those who doubt whether there are many women composers and creators of music, we invite them to visit the Foundation’s website where an online Encyclopaedia of European living women composers grows daily !!

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