



Issue 1

December 2009

E - NEWSLETTER

Dear Members

As the new President of the Association I would like to introduce myself to you. Although I have met many of you I'm sure there are many members who know very little about me!

I have been a board member since 2006 and have taken part in the activities of EAS during the past 4 years, including the meNet project.

I work at Exeter University (www.ex.ac.uk) in the Graduate School of Education where I train specialist music teachers for primary schools, and work on Masters and doctoral programmes. I edit an international journal for research in music education (www.tandf.co.uk/journals/cmue) and direct the RIME conference at Exeter every two years. I am passionate about the importance of good quality music education for all young people, especially in the primary phase of schooling where there is much to be done in many countries to narrow the gap between policy and practice and the need for a well trained and well supported workforce to achieve this.

I was motivated to join EAS because of my interest to learn more about music education in other countries and I have learned a great deal through the opportunities EAS has provided.

The profile of EAS has grown and strengthened a lot in recent years, both through the meNet Project and through the annual conference. A key aim for the coming year is to increase membership, and encourage more active membership. In the board we are discussing strategies and activity to support this aim and a key factor is communication with members and the wider music education community, through the website. This newsletter is one way to increase communications within the network. It's taken me rather a long time to get this first newsletter to you but I hope, with contributions from members that there can be at least two issues per year. Please send news of new projects, or initiatives in your country to me as short descriptions and/ or commentaries with photos etc. to me at any time and I will do my best to include them.

Best wishes and a peaceful New Year

Sarah Hennessy

EAS President 2009-2011

Special points of interest: Bolu Conference Student Forum NC News

Projects

Bolu Conference 26th –29th April 2010 <http://www.eas2010.ibu.edu.tr>

The Board members visited Bolu in November to hold their board meeting and also to meet the conference planning team (led by Nesrin Kalyoncu) and visit the venues for the event. We were warmly welcomed and had a very productive 2 days in which we agreed a structure for the conference programme and discussed the Student Forum. The theme of the conference—the socio—cultural contexts for music education offer a broad range of topics and



approaches which we hope will stimulate debate and generate new insights. One of the most useful

aspects of conferences is the opportunity to network and develop new research or practical projects.

STUDENT FORUM

The invitation has been sent out to NCs and CPs to find student to take part in the Forum at the 2010 Conference.

The Forum is proving to be a really exciting and lively element of our conferences and we are looking for ways to develop the participation of Student teachers in the network.

At the last board meeting it was agreed that there should be

Student representation on the Board. The next Student Forum participants will choose a representative to join the EAS board for the following year. He or she will be joined by a student from the next host country (ie for 2011 this will be the Netherlands). Part of their role will be to look after the Forum page on the website.

A participant from the Czech Republic in the Tallinn Student Forum wrote,:

„The EAS European Student Forum significantly contributed to the thought of united Europe and enriched its participants with a diversity of views...This international experience has brought me... new views and suggestions for my music-educational practice“ .

NC News

We welcome several new NCs and Contact Persons to the network :

Christian Rolle, who has replaced Carola Schorman as NC for Germany.

Anna Houmann NC for Sweden

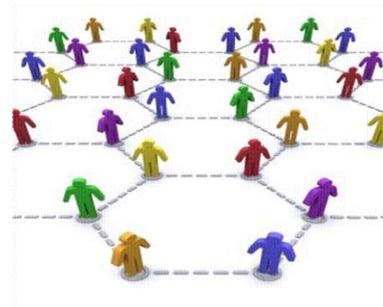
Ruth Frischknecht NC for

Contact Persons have been agreed for France : Marie Francois Quinet and Anne-Claire Scebalt-Auer

Ireland: Regina Murphy

Portugal: Ana Luisa Veloso.

In the next few weeks their photographs and details will be



NC News Article

This article is contributed by the NC for the Czech Republic. He gives us some informative and valuable ideas for strategies to develop links across borders.

Artistic and Pedagogic Cooperation in the Visegrad Countries

doc. Dr. Miloš Kodejška, Ph.D. Charles University in Prague, EAS (National Coordinator) Czech Republic,



I have been working in the EAS since 2001 when I took part in the European Music Congress in Riga. In many papers there appeared words such as globalization and national identity. I believe that the organisation EAS helps exchange information and pays attention to preservation of national traditions. I am convinced that Europe will be rich only when it will support national traditions and interchange of important information, documents and teaching tools necessary for high-quality music education.

As you know, there was Czechoslovakia, which split into two Republics on 1st January 1993 – the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic (Slovakia). Our relations are and most likely will continue to be very good in the future. People from both countries want to cooperate in many areas. One of them is music education. Friendly relations were established naturally among pedagogues from some other countries as well – Poland and Hungary.

On 9th June 2000 the Secretaries of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary signed the Visegrad Treaty in the Hungarian town of Visegrad. The International Visegrad Fund was founded at that time. It supports projects in areas of culture, science, education, exchange stays of students and the young in those countries. Currently it offers several types of grants which significantly contribute to convergence of the four Visegrad countries (V4). These include funding for cultural projects and scholarships for students

The field of music culture and education is perceived as a very important one for every society. In various conferences, cultural and artistic meetings colleagues from the Czech Republic,

Slovakia, Poland and Hungary felt the need to solve many professional, music-pedagogical and artistic common issues. Since 1993 we have prepared many artistic concerts, seminars, courses, radio and TV programmes for students and pedagogues both in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Irena Mednanska (NC for Slovakia) and I also founded an artistic and professional project which continues today, called *The Bridge of Cooperation*. These activities grew attractive to other university teachers from all Visegrad countries. As a consequence, the Visegrad Music Team* was established in 2007 which is supported by the International Visegrad Fund. Besides the above mentioned project *Bridge of Cooperation*, we hold exchange concerts of university ensembles and individuals. For example:-we support the growth of instrumental chamber ensembles at grammar schools in the Visegrad countries; we organised 5 festivals at a grammar school in the Czech town called Mladá Boleslav since 1977 to 2001; and we introduced the Brass Quintet from Szeged, the Chamber Orchestra from Krakow and dozens of other secondary school ensembles. We also held a very successful course for about 100 young choir masters in Prešov in 2003.

Since 2007 the Visegrad Music Team has been working very intensively due to the proceeding pedagogical reform. The reform also influences the education of future teachers of Music. That is why we hold professional seminars where we assess study programmes for future Music teachers in individual countries. We have been trying to formulate real needs of universities in the bachelor's, master's and doctoral study programmes. We invite to a genuine effort to improve music education also by means of mass media and new forms of pedagogical approaches.

In the Visegrad Music Team we hold the opinion that perspectives of qualifying growth of employees are of essential importance for further development of every place of work at universities. At Music Education Departments of Faculties of Education two significant areas are interconnected – an artistic one and a music-pedagogical one (or managerial one). Employees of Departments of Music Education of Faculties of Education in the Visegrad countries (except for the Czech Republic) have problems with the second doctorate or inaugural proceedings in this sense.

We believe that nowadays it is essential that professional associations arise in European microregions and that they collectively ask e.g. for European dotations for activities that help nations to get closer, exchange important information and experience in the area of music education and culture. That is why the communication among post-graduate students, university pedagogues, chief representatives of cultural and social institutions and public authorities from the Visegrad countries is inevitable. We wish that our activities help in constructing a good informational network of the organisation EAS. We look forward to further cooperation because it brings the development of understanding and joy.

* For details of members please contact Miloš Kodeščka miloss.kds@atlas.cz

Translation from Czech: Jaroslava Lojdová

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENTS

We are currently working on updating the website and plan to provide NCs with some guidance on how to develop their pages so that there is more consistency across all the countries. As the meNet Project comes to an end EAS is taking responsibility for maintaining and developing the content. To keep it up to date and expand its scope—with new countries added and new examples of practice.

There will be links between the EAS NC pages and the meNet products so that visitors to the EAS site can access the more detailed, in depth content via the meNet pages. This allows the EAS pages to be more focused on current and future events, news and short reports.

MEMBERSHIP

At the board meeting we had lengthy discussion about membership matters. Any changes to the fees will be considered at the general meeting in Bolu. We are currently investigating the use of PayPal to make it easier for members to pay online. Once this is implemented we will be putting lots of energy into recruiting new members and ensuring that existing members are able to renew their membership without difficulty.

PROJECTS

Both the meNet and NetMusic Projects are coming to an end. Those of you who have been involved in these projects will know how valuable they have been in building and sharing knowledge about music education in Europe. New friendships and professional collaborations have grown from them and we hope that new projects will emerge. One of the motives for developing meNet was to strengthen the EAS network and raise our profile in Europe and beyond. This has very evidently been achieved and you can see the results of the work on the project's website (www.menet.info). We were also asked to become partners in another project focused on the use of ICT in music education. This was a mainly Italian based project with EAS providing the Europe-wide dimension (www.netmusicproject.org).

We are currently included in a new bid to the EU for a FP7 grant for a medium scale research project. The project aims to research and develop new approaches to the use of ICT for cross curricular and music learning for primary aged children. We will know whether the grant is awarded by the Summer of 2010.

We are quite regularly approached to take part in projects – and we hope that any successful project could involve the participation of NCs and their national networks, where relevant. Equally any NCs or other members who are planning to develop a bid for a research or practice based project can use the EAS network to find partners and associates. We are beginning to develop some expertise in the area of developing bids so we may also be able to offer advice.

The EAS is a partner in the international EU-Project within the Programme Leonardo da Vinci. This project "NetMusic" was initiated by Olbia's Technical High School "Attilio Deffenu" and was concerned with the use of ICT in music education in schools. As a partner in this project EAS has undertaken, amongst other things, an investigation into how ICT is used in music education in Europe. The results have also been reported on the EAS-website.



The coordinating Organisation is ITCG "A. Deffenu" from Olbia. Most of the project partners are from Italy. For the EAS the past-president Franz Niermann: Gerhard Sammer (coordination), Marina Gall, Adri de Vugt and Herbert Meyer are participants.

The project focuses on "New education technology in music field". The part of the EAS is to collect data on what is the use of new technology (ICT) in European schools in music education and in music teacher training. The EAS undertook a survey about ICT in music education in Europe (music in schools and in music teacher training). The survey has the aim to gain data and information about the presence of digital technologies in music education (classroom teaching) and music teacher training for music in schools in Europe.

As a result of this project a book about ICT in Europe is to be published – a call for papers has already gone out to the National Coordinators and Contact Persons.

For the Leonardo-Project Netmusic several different websites have been developed (see www.netmusicproject.org)

You can also find information on previous projects within this platform and interesting links to their websites:

- Musinet / Musiweb - www.e-musiweb.org (Italian language)
- Modem (Music Open Distance Exchange Model) - <http://ccdev18.dreamhosters.com> (French, Italian, Spanish and English language). Project page: www.modemproject.org