

eas newsletter #1/2011



Adri de Vugt
 EAS President 2011-2013

Message from the EAS president

Dear member,

I am very happy to send you the new EAS Newsletter. With this letter EAS would like to inform you about current and upcoming activities of EAS. Some of this information you can find on the EAS website as well, but it seems to be a good idea to have the information in a newsletter as well. The communication with our members is the main thing to keep a network lively and active. This newsletter is not only meant to inform you but also to invite you to respond by questioning, commenting or offering a contribution of any kind. So if you want to respond, please do.

Many things have happened during the last period and there are more things to come. A new website, new initiatives, new board members, a successful conference and new conferences to come. This newsletter will inform you about these.

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1. New EAS Board

During the conference in Gdansk (May 2011) a new board was elected. Isolde Malmberg and Nesrin Kalyoncu are new board members and Adri de Vugt was elected as the new president. Franz Niermann and Herbert Meyer left the board. Past-president Franz Niermann was honoured during the general assembly for his important work for EAS. An important development in the work of the board is the distribution of tasks and responsibilities.

The EAS board really works as a team on the following activities and responsibilities: Adri de Vugt (President), Gerhard Sammer (Vice-President/students forum/website), Sarah Hennessy (Past-President), Isolde Malmberg (Secretary), Thomas De Baets (Treasurer), Branka Rotar Pance (Students' Forum Coordinator), Ene Kangron (responsibility for National Coordinators), Gabriela Konkol (Conference Advisor), Nesrin Kalyoncu (website). In addition Mary Stakelum is co-opted in the board as the organiser of the Doctoral Students' Forum.



2. 19th EAS conference in Gdansk

The 19th EAS/ISME European Regional Conference was organised and hosted by the Stanislaw Moniuszko Academy of Music in Gdansk. The theme of the conference was "Music in Schools: Teaching and Learning Processes". It addressed issues such as the organisation of music education systems, music teachers' competences at different educational levels, learning outcomes and teaching methods; and didactic materials used during music lessons. There were more than 150 delegates from 34 countries and 4 continents, and 90 participants had presentations/workshops/round tables/symposia. The conference included many concerts varying from choir performances, a piano solo recital to jazz concerts. A report of the Students' Forums is given below.

3. 20th EAS Conference in The Netherlands (19-22 April 2012)

The upcoming EAS conference will be held in The Hague, The Netherlands. Host is the Royal Conservatoire. This conference draws our attention to the core aspects of music education. It focuses on general music education - on artistry, musicianship, craftsmanship, skills and knowledge and the question of how to achieve high quality music education in classrooms and communities. Contributors will present research, projects and practices related to pre-school, primary and secondary education. There will be opportunities to consider good practices in contexts; to discuss music teachers' skills; the role of artists in music education; and to participate in practical workshops. We invite teachers, teacher educators, students, researchers, artists and policy makers working in school related music education in Europe. Main themes: Pupils' musicianship; The teacher as musician; The musician as teacher. More information: www.eas2012.koncon.nl

4. EMC & ISME

EAS has strong relationships with other networks like ISME and EMC. Last September the 4th World Forum on Music was organised in Tallinn. This conference, organised by IMC in cooperation with EMC, was about social change and music and addressed issues like music education and new media, technological developments in music and social change through music. For a report, visit our website.

Prior to this World Forum the annual EMC meeting took place and was attended by Thomas De Baets. Particularly interesting for the field of music education, was the presentation of the 'Bonn Declaration on Music Education in Europe'. This document is the output of an EMC meeting in May 2011 where different representatives from the field of music education, including EAS, discussed the implementation of the UNESCO 'Seoul Agenda. Goals for the Development of Arts Education'. To quote the EMC document: "The Bonn Declaration reflects common focal points for the development of music education in Europe." The text covers three main topics: (1) access, (2) quality, and (3) social and cultural challenges. More information about the EMC and the 'Bonn Declaration' can be found on www.emc-imc.org.

Thomas De Baets



5. New website helps with sustainability of meNet

meNet - music education Network (www.menet.info), a three-years project in which EAS was centrally involved ended in October 2009. EAS has taken over the role to work for sustainability of meNet, the following steps have already been taken:

Information on Music Education in Schools and Music Teacher Training that has been worked out in meNet is now available on the new EAS-Website, see <http://www.eas-music.org/en/countries/>. The countries for which meNet has worked out information are: AT, BE, HR, CZ, BE, FL, FR, DE, GR, IT, NL, NO, PL, SK, SI, ES, SE, UK. EAS-NC's of further countries are currently working on the relevant information for their countries. NC's are working on keeping this information up-to-date.

The widely-used meNet Learning Outcomes in Music Teacher Training can now be downloaded from <http://www.eas-music.org/activities/publications/policy-papers/>. You can also find the relevant translations of the descriptors in Dutch, Slovenian, Turkish, Estonian and French. In 2012 the new set of meNet Learning Outcomes for Music in Generalists' Teacher Training will be available.

Isolde Malmberg

6. The 9th student forum in Gdansk

EAS conferences are now traditionally connected with the Student forums. The last one was at the Stanisław Moniuszko Academy of Music in Gdansk (16th -19th of May 2011). The main theme of the 9th Student forum (SF) was Teacher responsibility for children's music activity: teaching styles – roles and responsibilities. The programme, prepared by Gerhard Sammer, Sarah Hennessey and Branka Rotar Pance included three main elements:

- Practical and creative music making through sharing examples of musical activities and repertoire from students' own context and creating new music together.
- Discussion focused on the theme of the SF and sharing of the students' different experiences and perspectives of learning to become a teacher in their own school system.
- Independent group work to create a presentation given by the whole group to the 19th EAS conference delegates.

Branka Rotar Pance

7. 1st Doctoral Student Forum

A new addition to the EAS activities was the introduction of The Doctoral Students Forum. The focus of the forum was the exchange of experience and knowledge about research praxis and the process of writing a PhD thesis in the different academic traditions in Europe. There were 8 participants in all, including experienced practitioners in the field of music education as well as those involved as early career students.

Participants had prepared a poster in advance and this was used as a starting point for activities and discussions throughout the forum. In the introductory session, each participant made a spoken presentation to the group, outlining the basic idea and the structure of their PhD studies.

This was followed by a mixture of paired, small group and whole group activities, with opportunities for discussions and feedback sessions on aspects of each study.

The forum ended with a Poster Session which was scheduled in the main conference and this provided participants with an opportunity to discuss their work with delegates attending the conference.

Feedback from the participants was positive and encouraging. They welcomed the opportunity to work in small groups and to have some individual attention on aspects of their work. They also liked the chance to present their posters at the conference and were encouraged by the interest shown to their research by researchers attending the poster session. In addition, they reported that the multi-cultural dimension was a unique feature of the forum and of particular usefulness and value to them in the development of their research ideas.

Mary Stakelum & Thade Buchborn

8. The 1st international Music Olympiad

EAS is supporting a new musical event. The 1st International Music Olympiad Tallinn 2012 will take place from 25-29 April 2012 and has the aim enhance the development of international contacts in the field of school education in music. This Olympiad is meant for students of general comprehensive secondary schools who will compete in three areas: music making, composing and music theoretical skills.

The event will be organised by the Estonian Society for Music Education (ESME) and the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre (EAMT) in cooperation with the European Association for Music in Schools (EAS) and with the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research. Important information and Guidelines for the 1st International Music Olympiad (IMuO): <http://imuo.edicypages.com>.

Ene Kangron

9. National Coordinators

EAS National Coordinators/Contact Persons had their annual workshop during the conference in Gdansk (Friday, 20th May 2011). The number of the participating NC-s at the conference was bigger than ever, the workshop brought together representatives from 17 countries. The work of NC's is very important in the further development of the EAS as an active network. EAS wants to develop e.g. opportunities for groups of countries to work together. Another important aim for EAS is to get more connected to the national associations. NC's will play a key role in this.

Ene Kangron