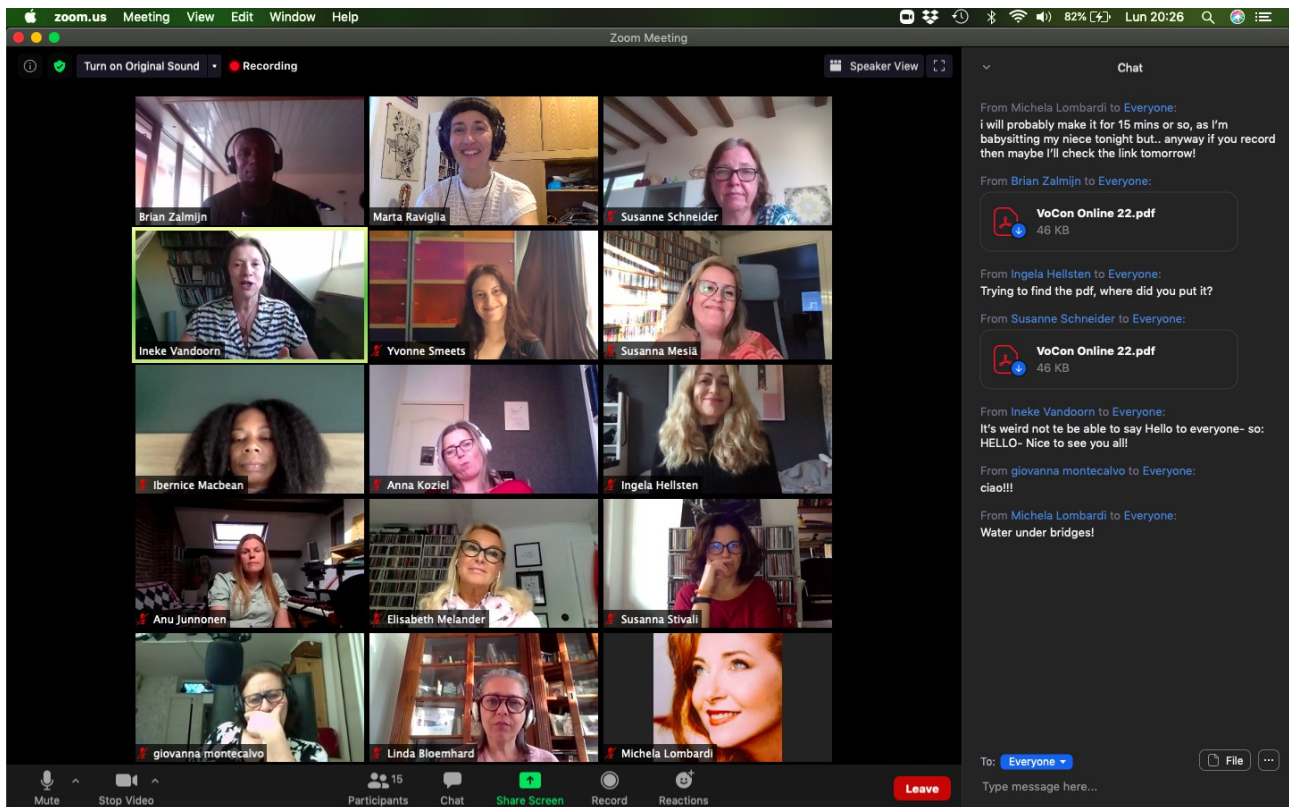


# VoCon

## Report on the first VoCon public on-line meeting Zoom Platform, 22-06-2020



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20:00 – 20:10 Intro Brian Zalmijn

20:10 – 20:20 Intro Marta Raviglia

20:20 – 20:30 Ineke Vandoorn – update and progress about article on vocal improvisation

20:30 – 20:45 Linda Bloemhard – update and progress about PJP 2021 and PJP WG

20:45 – 21:15 breakout-groups:

1. *on-line (voice)teaching – yes/no? pros and cons?*
2. *ideas VoCon 2021/Lodz (programme, facilities)?*
3. *covid19 - end of our career, or new opportunities?*
4. *voice student – past vs. future*

21:15 – 21:45 outcomes breakout-groups

21:45 – 22:00 wrap-up session

The active core group members contributing to the organization of this first public on-line meeting via Zoom were Brian Zalmijn and Marta Raviglia.

The meeting consisted of sixteen people (VoCon members), coming from Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Sweden:

- Linda BLOEMHARD
- Ingela HELLSTEN
- Anu JUNNONEN
- Anna KOZIEL
- Michela LOMBARDI
- Ibernice MACBEAN
- Elisabeth MELANDER
- Susanna MESIÄ
- Gianna MONTACALVO
- Marta RAVIGLIA
- Susanne SCHNEIDER
- Yvonne SMEETS
- Susanna STIVALI
- Ineke VANDOORN
- Anette VON EICHEL
- Brian ZALMIJN

After a brief introduction the meeting started with some touching singing from Brian Zalmijn and a round of self presentation amongst the presents.

Ineke Vandoon, who was a presenter at the VoCon meeting in Gent (February 2020), updated the group about the progress she is making in collecting material to write an article about the challenges of vocal improvisation.

And Linda Bloemhard, recently appointed chair of the PJP working group, gave us some news about the 2021 meeting taking place in Poland.

Then Zalmijn, who was hosting the meeting, divided the participants into four groups and each group had to discuss one of the topics of the opening list.

The first group (*on-line voice teaching*) focused, on one hand, on challenges of the on-line teaching experience:

- *more preparation needed;*
- *live accompaniment /piano playing with student is not possible;*
- *sound quality is often poor;*
- *sometimes the internet connection is very bad;*
- *more work for the teacher during the week (listening to recordings, giving feedback, etc.).*

The group also stressed that on-line teaching slows down the teaching/learning process, takes much more energy both for teachers and students and, in addition and very sadly, through it body-language is completely lost.

Nevertheless, the group also found some very good points:

- *recording helps students to increase their awareness;*
- *first steps for producing;*
- *more self-responsibility for the students;*
- *more focus on topics and musical content beside sound;*

- *students start to be creative*
- *looking at screen can be helpful for monitoring posture and face;*
- *could be a alternative to live lessons in the future (while being on tour, or student is sick, etc.)*
- *collecting written material can be a resource in the future.*

Zoom seems to be the best option for on-line lessons.


The second group (ideas VoCon 2021 in Poland) tried to think what the best solutions for the 2021 official meeting could be. And all the group members agreed that the Gent meeting really set a new standard for VoCon meetings. The staff at Club Telex was very professional and could satisfy technical requirements and needs of each presenter. The quality of presentations was very high and there were at least forty participants both teachers and students in higher musical education. More time for the meeting could be needed in future editions and in this case AEC could provide some lunch and extra-charge only for VoCon participants because in Gent many people came specifically for the VoCon meeting, but it could also be possible that some VoCon presentations and activities could be part of the PJP meeting (a selection of presentations, surprise sessions, etc.) just to give all PJP participants an idea of the uniqueness of the VoCon community and its strength.

While the third and the fourth group discussed very different issues, they came out with very positive statements about the need for experimenting new ways of approaching both performing and teaching. The Covid-19 emergency has definitely imposed new boundaries – this is why we need being more and more creative, more and more flexible, more and more open to new possibilities.

All participants were happy about the opportunity to meet on-line, so there will be a new meeting in September to collect ideas for the 2021 official meeting in Lodz (Poland) and, above all, to keep on feeling part of this wonderful sharing and learning community.

July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Best regards,  
Marta Raviglia



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