



Brussels, 20 July 2015

Dear AEC member,

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to attend the 2015 AEC Annual Congress, which will take place from November 12th to 14th at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

This year, the Congress takes as its title: **Pursuing Quality; Sharing Knowledge; Strengthening Partnerships: new agendas and new strategies for higher music education.** As you can read in the brief description that is attached, this refers to two major items that we shall be discussing and hoping to advance at the meeting: AEC's contribution to a European Agenda for Music as part of its 3-year project FULL SCORE (2014-17) and our own new Strategic plan for the period from 2016 to 2020.

These are both substantial items, which will require time and concentrated thought. Embedded within them are many issues that are important in their own right. For example, a European Agenda for Music needs to embrace elements that range from the pedagogical to the social and even the economic. If AEC is to have an influence on matters across such a wide spectrum as this, it will do so most effectively in the context of initiatives, such as the Agenda, that unite the whole sector. Not only through the Agenda but in a variety of other contexts, AEC has been working throughout 2015 to deepen and strengthen the nature of its partnerships with a range of other organisations, and it sees these developments as integral to its strategic progress over the coming years.

Other major issues have been a regular feature of recent congresses but have also undergone significant developments in 2015. We shall be reporting on progress made by the working group exploring field-based ranking indicators for music and also on the early achievements of the independent quality assurance agency for music, MusiQuE, whose establishment was announced at the 2014 Congress.

The AEC website provides all relevant information concerning Congress themes, programme, venue, travel and accommodation, as well as a link to the registration form: www.aec-music.eu/congress2015.

All members are invited to convene for the AEC General Assembly, to be held on Saturday, 14th November. Elections will be held for two Council members. Information on all these roles and on the election process itself can be found [here](#).

As institutional leaders, it is important that you are not only informed but also have an influential voice in all of the strategic issues we have programmed. However, I am pleased to reassure you that not all of the Congress will be devoted to abstract discussion of such matters. Our hosts at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland have planned a range of 'hands-on' activities and exciting events that will ensure that we none of us forget our roots in the practical engagement with music that is our shared vocation. Add to this the legendary Scottish hospitality and reputation for enthusiastic partying and I am sure that we will experience together a Congress that is as energising and entertaining as it is challenging.

We are very grateful to our colleagues in Glasgow for the hard work and dedication with which they are carrying forward arrangements. I do hope you will be able to join us for this high-point of AEC's annual calendar of events and I look forward to seeing you in the vibrant city of Glasgow!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pascale de Groot', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pascale de Groot, AEC President