

Brussels, 6 July 2013

Dear AEC member,

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to attend the AEC Annual Congress from November 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> at the Conservatorio di Musica "Vincenzo Bellini" in Palermo, Italy.

2013 is a very special year, for it marks the  $60^{th}$  Anniversary of the Association's founding as well as the  $40^{th}$  time that members will have gathered for their Congress and General Assembly.

Focusing on the theme: *Celebrating the AEC at 60: Assessing the Past and Imagining the Future*, this Congress proposes to measure our accomplishments, evaluate the challenges ahead and explore ways in which the AEC activities can continue to support and sustain innovation and development in conservatoires across Europe and beyond.

The new AEC website provides all relevant information concerning Congress themes, programme, venue, travel and accommodation, as well as a link to the registration form: <a href="https://www.aec-music.eu/congress2013">www.aec-music.eu/congress2013</a>.

Active members are invited to convene for the AEC General Assembly, to be held on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> November. Elections will be held for a new Vice-President and Council member, while the President, Secretary General and two Council members will seek re-election for a second term. Information on all these roles and on the election process itself can be found on the Documents and Images tab of the AEC Congress webpage. The Nominations Committee has already come up with suggestions for the two vacancies, but anyone else interested in standing in the elections should consult the webpage, which includes eligibility factors and the next steps that candidates should take.

We are grateful to our colleagues in Palermo for the hard work and dedication with which they are carrying forward arrangements for the Congress, and for making it possible to host the Congress in the University premises.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you in the historic and culturally renowned city Palermo and do hope you will be able to join us for this landmark 40<sup>th</sup> Congress and its associated 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations!

Yours sincerely,

Pascale de Groote, AEC President