



Association Européenne
des Conservatoires,
Académies de Musique
et Musikhochschulen

LEONARDO
PROGRAMME

PROMUSE NEWSLETTER I



CONTINUING EDUCATION IN MUSIC AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION OF MUSICIANS

Promuse is a project co-ordinated by the *Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (AEC)*, that aims to strengthen higher music education and the professional music world throughout Europe. In order to be able to offer music students and professional musicians better professional opportunities, the areas of professional integration and continuing education are being examined. The two-year project is supported by the LEONARDO programme of the European Union.

The AEC has been very actively involved for the past 4 years in the Thematic Network Projects (TNP) for music, a project in the framework of the SOCRATES programme. One of the specific projects within this programme made a study of the situation and an analysis of the needs that exist in higher music education in Europe, using a questionnaire on the violin courses that are taught in schools, looking at education systems and pedagogical approaches. Thanks to this study, called 'Caprices d'Europe', the TNP for music was able to identify several subjects that seemed to need closer examination. Two of those subjects are the professional integration of musicians and continuing music education.

For the first time organisations with different backgrounds, from different countries and with different remits, has started working on these topics in partnership on a European level. Besides the AEC, they are the Sibelius Academy Continuing Education Centre (Helsinki), Centre de Ressources Musique et Danse de la Cité de la Musique (Paris), Association of British Orchestras (London), European Music Office (Brussels), Stichting PodiumKunstWerk (The Hague) and the Koninklijke Nederlandse Toonkunstenaars Vereniging (Amsterdam). Although these partner institutions are located in a limited number of EU member states, this project is relevant to all fifteen European member states.

During this two-year project two working groups are studying the topics mentioned above: one works on the topic 'professional integration of musicians' and the other on 'continuing education for musicians'. Both working groups consist of one representative from each participating organisation. *Promuse* will also be on the agenda of the annual AEC conference in November.

Promuse aims to achieve the following goals:

- to establish an overview of the present state of and the latest developments in continuing education in music;
- to make an analysis of the needs that exist in this field on a European level;
- to develop effective models of collaboration between educational organisations and the professional world;
- and to get a clear picture of the most significant social, economic and technical changes affecting the professional music world.

The first year of *Promuse* consists of defining the research areas, describing the target groups and making an inventory of the current situation. Up to now there has been one meeting of the organising committee and both working groups have had two meetings. In its second year, the project will focus on the development of pilot projects based on the results of the study conducted in the first year. These pilot projects could take on different shapes. Depending on the results of this year's research, they might be organised as short intensive training modules during which members of the teaching staff from several conservatoires in Europe are informed and educated about various topics concerning professional integration of musicians and continuing education in music. They could also consist of focus groups or some other appropriate method. In addition, a complete report will be published. The wide dissemination of the results of this project will help to develop practice, structures and curriculum development on a European level.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The continuing education working group - led by Rineke Smilde, director of the North Netherlands Conservatoire - has its focus on statistical research and on the development of tools and policies with regard to continuing education in music. Continuing education has been defined as applying to the period after graduation from an institution for higher music education, except when the student enrolls directly in a post-graduate course. In other words: continuing education consists in any form of music education (including management courses) a former student takes when he or she has already entered the music profession.



A questionnaire has been developed to find out about existing provision and developments in this field. For this questionnaire a provision list has been constructed for which, amongst others, the outcomes of a former AEC 'lifelong learning' questionnaire have been used: most of the directors of AEC member conservatoires (99%) agreed with the subdivision of skills into four main areas: life, pedagogical and performance skills and information exchange. Nevertheless a fifth skill area, sound engineering has been added, because this is a separate topic for the working group on professional integration as well. This questionnaire will be sent to institutions within the 15 European member states that provide continuing education for professional musicians (these are not only conservatoires!). Former students will also be consulted to find out their needs for continuing education.

Apart from the continuing education questionnaire, this working group has also constructed a questionnaire on staff development, which has already been sent to all AEC member institutions. The subject of staff development will also be a separate topic for the AEC Congress in November '99 in Bucharest.

PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

The working group on professional integration - led by Marc-Olivier Dupin, director of the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris- has as its focus three research areas. The first area is symphonic orchestras, being important employers of musicians and a well organised research area. Conservatoires need to know more about employment opportunities in the orchestral sector. The two questions: 'How many students need to be trained for orchestral work?' and 'How can training be improved for more effective professional integration?' are essential for institutions for higher music education, as well as the question 'How should students be prepared for orchestral auditions?'

The second area is keeping track on former students. The professional integration group believes that the AEC should establish a common approach in tracking students. During the next AEC congress in Bucharest a proposal will be made about this matter.

The third research area, sound engineering, has been chosen because this area contains developments in new technology and is not limited to classical music. Moreover, there are several institutions in Europe that provide training for this profession. The purpose of this working group is to create a booklet including information on education centres, unions, continuing education modules and all existing networks in this field. This booklet could help institutions that are willing to develop new curricula that include sound engineering.

Alongside these three areas, the professional integration group will also look at the possibilities of establishing a European Observatoire for Music Professions. Its objectives would include:

- the gathering and organising of information in the music profession;
- the circulation of information through publications, meetings, discussion groups, participation in pilot projects;
- research into subjects ranging from education to various socio-professional aspects of the music profession;
- provision of evaluation and advice to both educational and governmental institutions.

The structure of this Observatoire as well as its location will be worked out in a later stage.

This working group also uses the method of questionnaires (to conservatoires, former students and orchestras) for finding out what exists, what developments are relevant and what is lacking.

TIME SCHEDULE

There will be two more *Promuse* meetings this year. The first will take place in October in Paris, where the professional integration working group will meet. The second will take place in December in London, and is meant for both working groups as well as for the organising committee, which is responsible for the day-to-day management of the project. During these meetings - amongst others - the pilot projects for the second year of *Promuse*, the year 2000, will be worked out.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS ANY ASPECT OF THIS PROJECT,

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT

SANNE POSTHUMA, *PROMUSE* ADMINISTRATOR, OR MARTIN PRCHAL

AT THE NORTH NETHERLANDS CONSERVATOIRE IN GRONINGEN

FAX +31.50.3131591 • E-MAIL s.posthuma@pl.hanze.nl

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AEC,

PLEASE CONTACT ISABELLE REPLUMAZ

AT THE AEC OFFICE AT THE PARIS CONSERVATOIRE

FAX +33.1.40404609 • E-MAIL aec@aecinfor.org • www.aecinfor.org