



Sturm und Klang Ensemble, ECCO Concert ©ECSA

ECSA winter session concluded

Composers and songwriters from all over Europe gathered in Brussels from 15-17 February 2016 on the occasion of the ECSA winter session. The session included ECSA internal meetings such as the General Assembly, Committee meetings and Board meeting as well as the NMI concert and the ECCO concert.

The winter session was kicked off on 15 February 2016 with the innovative sounds of the New Music Incubator (NMI) concert, brought by Martin Q Larsson, president of the Society of Swedish Composers and initiator of the NMI project, and the NMI-Mrežnica team. NMI is an initiative aiming to connect composers and performers from all over Europe, fostering the sharing of skills, ideas, and networks. On this occasion, 18 European artists from 16 different countries gathered in Molenbeek's creative space Q-O2 to recreate the process of close collaboration and to present the outcome of the work they produced when they travelled to a remote eco-village on the river of Mrežnica in Croatia in October 2015. The event encompassed an eclectic mix of cross-genre, traditional, trans-disciplinary and musical compositions .

On 16 and 17 February 2016, ECSA members gathered in Flagey Cultural Center on the occasion of the Annual General Assembly. Committee meetings were held within ECSA's three committees, APCOE, ECF and FFACE. Elections to the Board were held in each committee. The ECSA Board consists of Alfons Karabuda (SKAP, Sweden), Bernard Grimaldi (UCMF, France), Antun Tomislav Saban (HDS, Croatia), John Groves (CC, Germany), Jean-Marie Moreau (SNAC, France) , Kjartan Olafsson (SIC, Iceland), Luis Ivars (Musimagen, Spain), Niels Mosumgaard (DPA, Denmark) and Martin Lichtfuss (ÖKB, Austria). Alfons Karabuda was re-elected ECSA President, Bernard Grimaldi and Antun Tomislav Saban were re-elected ECSA Vice-Presidents. John Groves was re-elected ECSA treasurer.

The General Assembly discussed all the important advocacy issues and cultural projects for 2016 and focused also on upcoming activities such as the Creators Conference on 31 May 2016, the European Film Music Days in Cannes and the next General Assembly which is set to take place in Ljubljana on 29 and 30 September 2016. Amongst the advocacy issues that were thoroughly elaborated were unfair contracts and abuse of creative commons, the review of the EU copyright acquis as well as the role and responsibilities of online intermediaries. The work and collaboration within the Authors' Group, which is an informal partnership between Europe's main associations of authors, most notably EFJ, EWC, FERA and FSE, was also on the agenda. Furthermore, it was decided that the autumn session of 2017 will be held in Vienna in honor of ECSA's 10th anniversary.

Secretary General Ager announced that with the entrance of six new members, ECSA now consists of 50 composers' societies. ECSA members warmly welcomed Componisten Archipel Vlaanderen (ComAV), Greek Association of Composers and Lyricists (Metron), Fédération Luxembourgeoise des Auteurs et Compositeurs (FLAC), Beroepsvereniging voor Auteur-Muzikanten (BAM!), Swiss Media Composers Association (SMECA) and Association Suisse des Musiciens – Schweizerischer Tonkünstlerverein (ASM-STV).

On 16 February 2016, the European Contemporary Composers Orchestra (ECCO) concert featuring the Sturm und Klang Ensemble performed pieces by Michael Berkeley (UK), Moritz Eggert (GER), Olli Virtaperko (FIN), Julian Grant (UK), Peter Lang (GER) and Philippe Leroux (FR). The concert was held in Studio 1 at Flagey and was conducted by Sturm und Klang's artistic director, Thomas Van Haepere. Following a reception hosted by the Embassy of Slovenia in honor of the Slovenian Cultural Day, ECSA members were invited back to Studio 1 to a concert by Slovenian saxophonist Jan Grigar and accordionist Nejc Grm.

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Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union