News from Brussels - edition 46 - January 2015

The fourth edition of the Creators Conference is fast approaching and selling out! Make sure to register here!

23-24 February 2015, Brussels

The reception and opening concert of the Creators Conference 2015 on 23rd February will start with a welcome speech delivered by Adina Ioana Vălean, Vice President of the European Parliament. Bands and creators from different countries and music genres will then be showcased: Loney, Dear; Tamara Obrovac; transhistria ensemble and Pixel. This exciting night will end with DJ COQÒ.

The Creators Conference itself on 24th February will be opened by EU
Commissioner Tibor Navracsics, in charge of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport.

Additional highlights of the conference include a first session featuring a joint interview between Ramy Essam (square Tahrir hero), MEP Ana Gomes and Farida Shaheed (United Nations special rapporteur in the field of cultural rights). Together they will explore the role of creators in today’s societies. Afterwards, Michael Price, EMMY award winner, will discuss the review of the EU copyright framework with representatives of European institutions such as MEP Christian Ehler.

In the afternoon, industry players will present good practice and exchange views with MEP Mary Honeyball about fair remuneration of authors in the digital age. The Creators Conference will also showcase the first representation of “Exquisite Scorpse”, a unique pan European creation and an adaptation of the Exquisite Corpse game to music. The last session of the day will be dedicated to the future of music. Finally, to end on a musical note, ECCO (European Contemporary Composers Orchestra) featuring Sturm und Klang Ensemble, will perform the best of European contemporary music creation in the evening.

Check the full programme and latest updates on www.creatorsconference.org

ECCO is proud to present its European Programme!

As announced previously, the European Contemporary Composers Orchestra (ECCO) will have the pleasure to close the Creators Conference on Tuesday 24th February 2015. This is the first edition since the reboot of the ECCO project which aims to establish itself as a pan-European “body of sound” dedicated to performance, circulation and promotion of contemporary art music.

This year, the Sturm und Klang Ensemble was selected to serve as core or “body” of ECCO. As for the “sound”, the ECCO artistic committee just came to an
agreement on the scores to be presented during the evening! The committee, composed of ECSA composers and guest Thomas Van Haeperen, conductor of the Sturm und Klang ensemble, reviewed all entries submitted by the ECSA network for the concert. All members agreed that scores entered were of great quality, reflecting the dynamism and strength of professional composers of contemporary music active in Europe today, and reaching a final decision has been a challenging process.

After careful consideration, they are proud to present the scores which will be performed during the closing concert of the Creators Conference 2015 – in alphabetical order:

- “Ainsi une courbe” - Jean Luc Fafchamps – Belgium
- “Diptych” – Mihailo Trandafilovski - Macedonia
- “Luca Marenzio in Salzburg” – Mate Balogh – Hungary
- “Pinta” – Pertti Jalava – Finland
- “The Stargazer” – Lynne Plowman - UK

Do not miss the opportunity to be amazed by our European talents and join us on the 24th of February in BOZAR! For more information on how to register follow http://creatorsconference.org/registration
Executive switch!
Beatrice Hamann joined the ECSA team in the beginning of January, she will officially be replacing Elzbieta Kubok as Executive Officer on February 6th 2015. After three years at ECSA Elzbieta is permanently leaving Brussels in search of adventures in the US. We wish her best of luck!

ECSA position paper on the review of copyright released
This position paper presents the views of professional composers and songwriters active in Europe on the copyright review. Copyright law has always been a balancing act and must remain so: authors are the “raison d’être” of copyright and are at the origin of the value chain in the music
industry. They are also the drivers of cultural diversity in Europe and play a crucial role in the functioning of vibrant democratic societies. For more information about the proposals of music authors on the copyright review, please refer to the position paper published here.

**The copyright review process: update on the future developments**
Firstly, the European Commission will present a digital single market strategy in May 2015, expected to focus on steps to take to complete the digital single market. The strategy will be an “umbrella” text: it will include – but be broader than – copyright issues. It should lay out in general terms the priorities of the Commission and possible policy options they are considering exploring on the subject matter. Commissioner Oettinger is then expected to release a document on the copyright review itself after the summer break, although it is unclear at this stage if it will be a fully-fledged legislative proposal.

**TTIP update**
The European Commission published two documents early January to clarify the scope of the TTIP negotiations. The first document focuses on Intellectual Property. It confirms that copyright is part of the negotiation, in particular public performance and broadcasting rights. The second document focuses on culture, and gives additional indications with respect to the position defended by European negotiators: “TTIP might include a limited but important number of issues that would benefit European artists and producers: European music is very popular in the US, yet in the US musicians and singers do not receive any royalties when their music is broadcasted on over the air radio. Similarly, in the US composers and songwriters receive no remuneration when their songs are played in bars or restaurants. In Europe they do: we believe it is essential to reward the creativity and talent of our musicians. TTIP can address the way they are treated differently in the EU and the US.”
The Welfare Line

Culture Action Europe has set up a new working group, The Welfare Line. The group’s aim is to raise awareness on how changes in employment practices have had an impact on access to social protection. To support the work of this group, participants are being sought for a survey focusing on the protection against health-related risks. This call is aimed at those who work on a freelance, project-based, short-term contract basis, or those who are self-employed. To support this Europe-wide survey please refer to the call from CAE.

UN Human Rights Council Report

The report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Farida Shaheed, entitled "Copyright policy and the right to science and culture", is now available. ECSA participated actively in the process of this report contributing as an expert. Farida Shaheed will present this report at the Human Rights Council on 11 March 2015, in Geneva. You can read the report here.

Grand Scores Film Music Awards

4 February 2015, Berlin

This exclusive event will celebrate film music and its composers in Berlin, next week on February 4th 2015. ECSA as the official content partner has collaborated with Moët&Chandon Germany to award film music composers during a magical dinner soirée.

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