

Brussels, 15 February 2023

In memoriam: Jörg Evers

Today, the European Composer and Songwriter Alliance (ECSA) mourns the loss of Jörg Evers, who passed away last week. Our sincere thoughts and condolences go to his family and loved ones. Jörg was a German composer, lyricist, guitarist, bassist and music producer, whose works won many gold and platinum records, as well as awards, including the Best Composer's Award at the 9th Tokyo Music Festival 1980 and two ASCAP Awards (Rhythm & Soul Music Awards 2001).

Jörg was a Supervisory Board Member of GEMA and served as its Chair from 2009 to 2012. He was also President of the *Deutscher Komponistenverband* (DKV) from 2005 to 2012 and an active member of the German Composers' Club. He was an ECSA Board Member from 2008 to 2016 and has held the position of CIAM Vice President since 2018.

Jörg always advocated fearlessly and tirelessly for authors' rights and to improve the working conditions of music authors. He was always keen to share his experience and knowledge with his colleagues to the benefit of our community of composers and songwriters across Europe. We will always remember him with gratitude, as a friend, colleague and mentor to many music creators in Europe and around the world.

Helienne Lindvall, ECSA President:

“To me, Jörg is synonymous with ECSA – he was there to welcome me from the first day I arrived, and has always been there for me and all our members. I didn't have the pleasure of knowing him during his heyday as a rocker, but seeing photos of him from that era I recognise that warm, joyous glint in his eye that remained throughout his life. Jörg never lost his eagerness to learn, discuss and find solutions to our problems. Not only was he talented, smart, and a tireless advocate for authors' rights, he had a big heart and was always ready for fun with a wonderful sense of humour and enthusiasm. His *joie de vivre* makes it even more difficult to comprehend that he's gone so suddenly. He has left us with a big Jörg-sized void in ECSA, and will be remembered with fondness and love.”

Frank Ramond, President of the Deutscher Textdichter-Verband:

"I am deeply saddened to hear the news of Jörg Ever's passing. He was an exceptional person, not only a committed and competent fighter for the interests of authors and originators, but also a warm-hearted and attentive colleague and friend. His loss is felt by all of us who had the privilege of knowing him. Jörg's contributions to our field were immense, and his dedication and passion for his work were truly inspiring. My thoughts go out to Jörg's family. I wish them all the strength and comfort they need during this difficult time. Jörg will be greatly missed!"

Anselm Kreuzer, ECSA Board Member:

"Jörg has been one of the most dedicated and loyal contributors to music creators' concerns and had a wealth of knowledge that he was always happy to share with other committed people so to empower them. He will be greatly missed as a person and colleague."

John Groves, President of the Composers Club (Germany) and former ECSA Board Member:

"I am absolutely devastated to hear that Jörg is no longer with us. He was not just a colleague, but a friend. He has been a valued member of the Composers Club since the very beginning and he will be greatly missed. Our hearts go out to his family in this difficult time."

Micki Meuser, Chairman of the German Film Composers Union DEFKOM, Board Member of the Deutsche Komponistenverband and Supervisory Board Member of GEMA:

"This is incredibly sad. Jörg was a friend and our guide in many ways. His death came far too soon. Coming from the same generation of musicians in Germany and the same 'music scene' I always admired his incredible musical talents as a player and composer that made him famous in Germany and abroad. Later he was our guide through the beginning battles for our authors rights. As the head of the board of directors in GEMA he started a long needed modernisation and as the president of the Deutsche Komponistenverband (German Composers Association) he encouraged us to stand for our rights. His experience was immense. I remember sitting next to him many times in the GEMA board and when we all thought we had everything discussed and were in control he came up with a little detail that we had missed and that would have led GEMA into deep trouble would we not have considered it. This happened regularly. How can we compensate his loss. He will dearly missed."

Contributions of ECSA members

"Jörg was not only a colleague with insightful views on our creative world, not only a gifted creator on his own right, not only a faithful brother in arms in our constant fight for authors right, not only a connoisseur of the intricate technicalities in the digital domain, not only a bon vivant with a sure taste, he was also a friend, whose playful eye on life and iconic laugh we will miss."

Wally Badarou

"I have known Jörg Evers since the founding days of ECSA, and it was always a pleasure to meet him at the sessions wherever in Europe. He was sparkling because of his kind and respectful collegiate attitude, combined with a comprehensive knowledge of author rights and political matters. I also admired him for his patience to explain something complex twice - not only to me, but also in the Assembly- if this was required. My personal memories include meeting him years ago unexpectedly during the DKV Film Music Days in Munich, where he was hosting a "fireplace" talk show with German composers. Although from Dutch origin I was invited to the show, because I composed the music for quite a bit of German movies. This unexpected situation led to a funny and lively discussion between us, because of all the coincidences, even more when it turned out that already in the sixties I wrote my first theater music for a play, in which Rainer Werner Fassbinder played the main character. During the General Assembly in Split last September we shared the breakfast table a couple of times. We had fun by discussing into the most exquisite academic detail, the fastest way to the meeting venue. At last we decided that only the experiment would prove the best way, and so we split up and both followed our own idea of the best way. He was first. Thanks for all the comradeship and the fun, Jörg."

Loek Dikker

"I met Jörg Evers in 2011. Since then we have been good friends, working together at ESCA and CIAM. I was always impressed by his commitment to music creators community. But above all, I found him to be a humorous, charming senior colleague from whom I drew more than just knowledge. I find it hard to imagine future ECSA meetings without Jörg, his commitment and wisdom."

Marek Hojda

"Jörg was there from the very start. He brought so much to ECSA. It would take a long time to mention all the ways he helped the community of European composers through the years. He was a companion of arms. And a friend. This is a very sad day. My thoughts are with his family and loved ones. RIP Jörg."

Bernard Grimaldi

"What tragic news! As a newcomer to ECSA, his generosity and patience was vital to learning for me, and his historical knowledge was a well that I enjoyed tapping into."

Tobias S. Stenkjær

“What a shock and how desperately sad to hear that Jorg is no longer with us. As well as his immense experience, wisdom and attention to detail, Jorg possessed a delightful and irrepressible sense of humour and fun that made him such a charming companion. I am proud and honoured to have known Jorg as a friend. He played a pivotal role in the development and growth of ECSA. I shall miss him greatly. My deepest condolences to his family and loved ones. RIP, Jorg.”

Chris Smith

“That is very sad to hear. As Helienne says, always welcoming, always a humorous glint in the eye, and one of our most tireless advocates. He will be missed enormously. Condolences to his family and all those friends who were privileged to know him much better than I did.”

Mark Ayres

“After the shock of his unexpected trip, yesterday I spent a good part of the afternoon remembering such good times shared with Jorg over many years. They were all radiant, full of generosity, talent and commitment. We have shared many hours in the consolidation of ECSA and all our dreams in general. Now I remember our recent meeting in Rome, where the two of us had a long talk of almost two hours about everything around us and our common friends. I never imagined that it would be my last comforting date with him. I can only say that I feel both sadness and gratitude to him. My best toast to my friend Jorg!”

Luis Ivars

“We are truly saddened to hear the news of Jörg Ever’s passing and extend our sincere condolences to his family and loved ones. We had the pleasure to talk to Jörg on multiple occasions at ECSA’s meetings and remember him as a kind and passionate person, deeply engaged in advocating for the rights of music authors.”

Fédération Luxembourgeoise des Auteurs et Compositeurs (FLAC)

“About a decade ago, I was honoured to meet Jörg Evers at ECSA assemblies. Certainly for me his presence was exemplary of a passionate man totally dedicated to our world of music and the rights we deserve. I learned much from dear Jörg, and indeed it made of me a much better person. That is the sort of experience that one encounters once only in a lifetime. Of course his dedication to the causes of ECSA and AMA are recognised as exemplary of a very righteous and great person. His passing away is a great loss in the EU to the cause of the arts. Personally I carry a very heavy heart today, his loss has left a massive hole which cannot be explained in words. I hope all his loved ones and friends strength during these difficult times, the many memories of his kind heart being bring us some solace.”

Javier de Juan, Autores de Música Asociados (AMA)

ECSA (European Composer and Songwriter Alliance) - The European Composer and Songwriter Alliance (ECSA) represents over 30,000 professional composers and songwriters in 27 European countries. With 54 member organisations across Europe, the Alliance speaks for the interests of music creators of art & classical music (contemporary), film & audiovisual music, as well as popular music.

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