

ECSA Winter Session Brussels 2018

The ECSA Winter Session took place in Brussels from 19-21 February. About 70 delegates from ECSA's 56 members were welcomed by the New Music Incubator concert in Maison Haute of Watermael-Boitsfort. The next day ECSA's three committees, apcoe (popular music), ecf (contemporary music) and fface (audio-visual music) held their bi-annual committee meetings to discuss ECSA's Creative Europe work plan for 2018-2019. In the afternoon a workshop on the evolution of the Composers' Directory was held to exchange future perspectives of the platform with interested members.

The evening programme consisted of the ECCO concert featuring the brilliant Diotima quartet. The ECSA Winter session concluded with the General Assembly, where important ECSA issues were discussed. The delegates welcomed ÖGZM (Österreichische Gesellschaft für Zeitgenössische Musik) and ECPNM (European Conference of Promoters of New Music) as two new supportive members of ECSA. Furthermore, ECSA's members were informed about the state of play of the copyright directive, international music business issues and a study on user-centric versus pro-rata model in Spotify distribution, presented by Jari Muikku, consultant at Digital Media Finland.

ECSA members voiced once again the importance to close the value gap and ensure that a meaningful rights reversion mechanism is introduced in the copyright directive.

In addition, ECSA members addressed the problem of sexual harassment in the music sector as revealed in relation to stories of #MeToo. The General Assembly therefore adopted the following resolution which will be circulated among the wider music sector:

“The main objective of the European composer and songwriter alliance – ECSA – is to defend and promote the rights of authors of music at the national, European and international levels by any legal means. ECSA advocates for equitable commercial conditions for composers and songwriters and strives to improve social and economic development of music creation in Europe.”

ECSA enshrines equal treatment and freedom from sexual harassment as fundamental human rights. Every composer and songwriter have the right to a safe working environment in which they can provide the best possible performance, and to be free from harassment, discrimination or retaliation. All of the stories of #MeToo show that is not the case today.

European composers and songwriters must stand united. Sexual harassment, abuse and all manner of offensive behaviour is unacceptable and must cease immediately. Our belief is that in a diverse and inclusive industry, there exists no culture of silence and no room for structural oppression. Now is the time to make a change. The goal is to have an industry free from oppression, sexual harassment and abuse. Not in fifty years, not in ten years – but now!”

ECCO concert with Quatuor Diotima in Brussels

On 20th February 2018 Quatuor Diotima performed six pieces from six different European composers in the framework of the ECCO concert in Studio 1 of Flagey in Brussels.

These pieces have been chosen from a pool of 47 submissions from seventeen different countries. The jury that carried out the selection consisted of the ECCO Artistic Committee which was formed, for this concert, by Jana Andreevska, Dusan Bavdek, Christian Diemer and Pierre Morlet from Quatuor Diotima.



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The ECCO concert presented a wonderful performance by Quatuor Diotima consisting of Yun-Peng Zhao, Constance Ronzatti, Franck Chevalier, Pierre Morlet who featured the following pieces and composers:

- Kimmo Hakola – String Quartet N°4 Op. 95 - Finland
- Paul Pankert – J. S., my friend! - Belgium
- Andrea Tarrodi – Light Scattering, String Quartet N°3 - Sweden

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- Malte Giesen – unisono 1 für Streichquartett – Germany
- Mihailo Trandafilovski – Fibers and Coils – Macedonia
- Helena Tulve – nec ros, nec pluvia – Estonia

The event appeared on Flagey's digital programme resulting in a well-attended concert.



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As Jana Andreevska, member of the ECCO Artistic Committee and ECCO Working Group, outlined in her welcome speech ECCO's aim is to perform and promote contemporary art music and to reach new audiences as well as share the European repertoire across national borders. This mission of promoting European contemporary art music is only possible thanks to the support of the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.

Second concert of NMI Konstancin in Brussels

The second phase of the New Music Incubator (NMI) Konstancin edition took place on Monday 19th February 2018 in Brussels. Twenty professional music practitioners gathered at Maison Haute, a beautiful venue located in Watermael-Boitsfort, to surprise and engage the audience with their performance. The following original eleven pieces were performed: Uncanny Remix, DeLAys, Two days before..., Barbershop II, The Tower Behind the Babble, exagium 1, Topsy, 100, Let the square be the circle, Whater, Concerto for envelopes. The names of the participants can be found [here](#).



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