



**Association Européenne des
Conservatoires, Académies de
Musique et Musikhochschulen**

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Brussels, 31st August 2021

Dear AEC member,

We hope that you are well and healthy and having some rest before another academic year impacted by the pandemic. As you know, the situation related to the pandemic is still having a strong impact on the organisation of the AEC Congress as well, with all the uncertainty related to travels and social distancing affecting the format and timeline of the event.

Nevertheless, I am glad to officially invite you to attend the AEC Annual Congress 2021, which this year will take place for the first time as a **hybrid event** hosted by the **Royal Conservatoire of Music in Antwerp, Belgium** on **3-6 November**. The event will feature in-presence sessions, purely online sessions and hybrid sessions taking place in Antwerp and streamed online for remote audiences. Participants will therefore have the choice to travel to Antwerp or follow the sessions that will take place online.

The [AEC website](http://www.aec-music.eu) provides all relevant information concerning the 2021 Congress theme *Building Bridges - Artists as Makers in Society*, the programme, the registration procedure and other relevant technical details. Please visit <https://aec-music.eu/event/aec-annual-congress-and-general-assembly-2021/>.

Active members are invited to the AEC General Assembly on Saturday, 6th November from 14:30 to 16:30 CET. The voting and the elections will take place exclusively online. As usual, there are elections due to take place. This year there is one vacancy for Council Member. Information on these roles and on the election process itself can be found on the General Assembly submenu of the AEC Congress webpage, including eligibility factors and the next steps that candidates should take. The deadline for applications is 6th September.

We are grateful to our colleagues, in particular those in Antwerp, for the courage and dedication with which they are carrying forward arrangements for the Congress, and for making it possible to host an hybrid Congress thanks to their technical infrastructure.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you online or in Antwerp if circumstances will allow. I really hope you will be able to join us for this special event!

Yours sincerely,

Eirik Birkeland, AEC President