

Plenary Session II - abstract

***Musicians as 'makers in society': A conceptual foundation for contemporary professional higher music education***

by Helena Gaunt, Chair of the SMS Working Group on the role of HMEIs in society and Principal at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama

*Respondents: Heinz Geuen and TBC*

*Session moderated by Henrik Sveidahl, Rhythmic Music Conservatoire Copenhagen*

The session will start with a 20-minute film introducing the audience to the extended paper that has been published by Helena Gaunt with her SMS working group, entitled [Musicians as "Makers in Society": A Conceptual Foundation for Contemporary Professional Higher Music Education.](#)

In this paper, the working group advocates for a paradigm shift in the very foundation of higher music education, i.e. a change in the lens through which we look at what an artist is and does, and at what higher music education institutions are and do.

After the film, each of the three respondents, who will have read the full article, will offer their perspectives, and in particular reflect on and amplify the concept of artists as makers in society, with its implications for institutions, for students and their emerging careers, and for the professional world.

A short panel discussion will end the session.