



Innovative Conservatoires (ICON) Seminars 22.23

Courses for teachers in Higher Music Education Institutions

“THE ARTIST AS TEACHER”

Call for participation

The AEC, in collaboration with the [Royal Conservatoire The Hague](#), is proposing a series of seminars aiming to give teachers at any stage of their career stimulating learning experiences to help them increase their knowledge and skills in educating and coaching conservatoire students.

Core subjects include the participants' views about teaching future musicians, how to provide feedback in teaching and after assessments, the strengths and pitfalls of the teacher-student relationship, the why, how and what of assessment, the professional perspectives for students and research in the arts.

The sessions will take place from November 2022 to May 2023 and will be open for a total of 20 participants from member institutions of the AEC. The sessions will take place online, with the exception of the first two, which will take place at the Royal Conservatoire The Hague.

Participants will be given an attendance certificate, including a detailed description of the discussed topics and the acquired skills, signed by the AEC and the Royal Conservatoire The Hague.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

The Innovative Conservatoires (ICON) network began its life through an international partnership between four conservatoires in the UK, the Netherlands, Norway and Finland, with a shared mission to develop exchange and learning about core approaches to teaching in conservatoires, and to enable teachers themselves to collaborate and evolve practice. Following an initial practical seminar hosted by the Sibelius Academy in Finland, the project was developed and presented by the [Research in Music Working Group](#) of the AEC's “[Polifonia](#)” project from April 2009 to April 2010. Following the success of these seminars, the initiative was further developed by a growing international network of institutions co-ordinated by the Guildhall School of Music in London. Alongside biannual ICON seminars for the network, “[ICONgo](#)” seminars were developed to enable individual institutions to implement tailored ICON seminars for groups of their teaching staff. At the request of diverse conservatoires and institutions for higher music education, ICONgo seminars have since been held in Europe and beyond.

Drawing on the experience of ICON, the Royal Conservatoire The Hague developed the current form of the programme, ‘Artist as Teacher’, integrating one of the fundamental ICON principles that participants co-curate the programme by sharing expertise and experience, reflection, and inter-vision.

Based on these positive experiences, the AEC included as part of its new EU-funded [ARTEMIS](#) project the opportunity for 20 representatives of its member institutions to take part in this training



programme. The proposed seminars, which will be based on the “Artist as Teacher” programme, will offer participating teachers from all over Europe and beyond the opportunity to meet and exchange views on teaching methods, reflect on and develop their learning and teaching skills.

STRUCTURE OF THE ACTIVITIES

As the main activity of the programme, courses are divided in 9 sessions of 3 hours. Course leader is Professor Gerda van Zelm from the Royal Conservatoire The Hague, who will be joined for the different sessions by renowned experts such as Renee Jonker, Susan Williams, Yvonne Smeets and Gretchen Amussen.

Participants should also engage in mutual lesson visits (online or in presence if possible) with one or more colleagues.

In addition, participants are asked to produce the following two written assignments:

1. Discovery through biography: looking at their history as artists and learners, focussing on critical moments, significant others and educational interventions, participants are asked to write an autobiography of their learning experience and reflect on who they are as artists and as teachers.
2. A reflective report based on a questionnaire that gives evidence of what they have taken from the course and how this may or may not have changed their teaching and what they want to develop further.

Both assignments must be delivered at the end of the seminar series.

To obtain the certificate of attendance, participants must attend a minimum of 80% of the training sessions and deliver the two written assignments.

All courses and assignments will be done in English.

COURSE CONTENT

Themes

The artist as teacher

Who are we as artists, learners and teachers? What are or have been critical moments during our own development, who are or were significant others and what have been important educational interventions? Reflecting on our own biography we ask ourselves what kind of artists and learners we are and how this affects our teaching.

Student-teacher relationship

What factors are important for the success of the relationship between a teacher and a student and what are the features of such a relationship? Which aspects of the teacher-student relationship can promote and support or frustrate the development of the potential of the student?

Student ownership in learning

How do teachers enable their students to become independent learners? What working forms can we share? How can teachers find a balance between being the expert and giving space to the student?



How can group work with students contribute to student's ownership in learning? One of the working forms will be the Critical Response Process developed by dancer/choreographer Liz Lerman.

Conditions and foundations for learning

Mindset, health and wellness, motivation and goals are important conditions and foundations for learning. What tools are available for teachers to guide their students to enable them to become self-supporting learners? What do HMEIs offer to students in those cases where the learning is obstructed by external issues?

Social safety in the learning environment

HMEIs want to offer a safe environment for study and work. What can teachers do to help create a safe learning environment for their students? How can we recognise situations where students and or colleagues do need support? What help can the school offer in cases where social safety is at stake?

The power of constructive feedback

How can feedback enable students' learning? What are criteria for constructive feedback? What happens if, instead of giving tips and advice, we ask neutral questions? One of the working forms will be the Critical Response Process developed by dancer/choreographer Liz Lerman.

Assessment

Why do we assess? What do we assess? What are the assessment criteria we use and how do these connect to the students learning goals and the learning objectives of a course? How can we make assessment procedures transparent? How can we reflect on our role and behaviour as an examiner? What are quality criteria for the assessment process?

Research in the arts

The artistic practice is a place for creativity, expression, aesthetic experience and cultural transfer. Research is a feature that is more and more mentioned as belonging to the artistic practice. What does this mean? How can the artistic (teaching) practice be a breeding ground for research? And how should we relate to this? What motivations can lead to research, and how can they lead to questions and needs in and about the artistic practice? Are there common motives in research and in the artistic practice and what can be the differences?

The multi-faceted professional practice

The objective of a conservatoire is to prepare students for a professional practice. Yet this practice is rapidly changing as we all have experienced. How does this influence our teaching? Whilst teaching dance and music skills are still the core of our practice, to what extent do we need to relate to other aspects that are nowadays required to become a professional performing artist?

The exact content of each session will be announced at the beginning of November.



Working forms

Inter-vision

Inter-vision is a way to discuss work related issues with colleagues. Any work-related issue or challenging situation can lead to a question that can be asked to peers. Inter-vision is a way of peer coaching; it aims to open up the perspective of the person that brings up a question thus enabling this person to find his/her own solutions.

Coaching and mentoring

What can teachers learn from the coaching practice? What advantages can we take from a more coaching approach in teaching? How as a teacher can we move back and forth between a coaching approach to a master-apprentice model in teaching? Aspects of coaching and mentoring in teaching will be discussed and practised.

Mutual lesson visits

Teachers will visit at least two lessons of one or two colleagues and vice versa. As a preparation for this a toolbox will be offered with several possible approaches to reflect together on teaching.

Teachers bank of working forms

Teachers will be invited to present working forms they use in their lessons which they feel could be helpful, inspiring, constructive for colleagues, thus building on the experiences of all participants.

Goals

At the end of the study programme participants are expected to:

- Be aware of recent developments about conditions for learning, collaboration in teaching and learning, assessment and feedback, the connection to the professional practice, and research in and on arts.
- Have developed and experienced new working forms and can apply these in their own teaching practice.
- Have developed skills in the field of peer work and peer consultation.
- Be aware of their own development and can set themselves learning goals.

DATES AND TIMES

In-presence sessions:

The first two sessions will take place at the Royal Conservatoire The Hague:

Friday 18 November 2022: 3.30 – 6.30pm CET.

Saturday 19 November 2022: 10am – 1pm CET.

Online sessions:

Thursday 15 December 2022: 10am to 1pm CET.



Thursday 19 January 2023: 10am to 1pm CET.

Thursday 9 February 2023: 10am to 1pm CET.

Thursday 9 March 2023; 10am to 1pm CET.

Thursday 30 March 2023: 10am to 1pm CET.

Thursday 20 April 2023: 10am to 1pm CET.

Thursday 11 May 2023: 10am to 1pm CET.

FEES:

Participation in all the sessions is free-of-charge. This is the outcome of the AEC's decision to integrate this series of seminars to the ARTEMIS project, with the aim to offer to academic staff of its members institutions the opportunity to participate in this innovative initiative for free.

However, this does not include travel and accommodation costs for the two in-presence sessions.

APPLICATIONS:

To apply, please send a brief CV to Konstantinos Aspiotis: konstantinosaspiotis@aec-music.eu
Application deadline: 28 October 2022