

AEC Pop and Jazz Platform 2027

AEC

Who's Playing? Creativity, Education and Human Connection in the Age of AI

Conservatorium
van Amsterdam

11 - 14 February 2027

Call for Proposals
Deadline 1 November 2026

The theme – **Who's Playing?** Creativity, Education and Human Connection in the Age of AI

The title for the 2027 edition of the PJP Meeting is **Who's Playing? Creativity, Education and Human Connection in the Age of AI**. With this the host institution and the **Pop and Jazz Platform** & **Traditional, Folk and Global Music** Working Groups want to provide our community with an opportunity to share experiences, challenges and lessons learned: how to balance technology and artistic depth, innovation and authenticity, and how to strengthen the connection between music education and professional practice in an evolving creative landscape.

Across Europe and beyond, artificial intelligence **(AI) and digital technologies are transforming music creation, production, distribution and consumption** at an unprecedented pace. While these developments create exciting opportunities, they also raise fundamental questions about creativity, artistic identity, pedagogy, ethics, authenticity, ownership, wellbeing, and the future role of the musician. Many institutions are currently struggling with similar challenges, often without clear answers or established best practices.

What remains uniquely human in an age of AI, and what should music academies focus on? How does authenticity change in an algorithm-driven culture? Are music academies still adequately preparing students for the professional world? At the centre of the discussion lies a broader question: **How do music academies need to evolve in order to balance adaptation to a new generation of students, a changing music industry, and emerging forms of creativity, music-making and music education?**

The formats

Workshops

- Workshops will last up to **60 minutes**, including 15 minutes for Q&A
- Workshops are expected to include **interactive/hands on activities** and **active participant engagement**
- Each workshop will be offered **twice**, allowing participants to attend the session in a different time slot if they cannot join the first one
- **Student proposals are highly encouraged!**

Open Floor Presentations

- Open Floor Presentations will last up to **30 minutes**, including 10 minutes for Q&A
- These sessions are **presentation-focused**, providing an opportunity to share ideas, approaches or practices, followed by discussion and exchange
- **Student proposals are highly encouraged!**

In both formats, the **Q&A will be facilitated by members of the PJP and TFG Working Groups**, which will guide the discussion and moderate questions from the audience.

The topics

Workshops

Practical workshop proposals are welcome, preferably addressing, **but not limited to**, the following topics:

- Artificial intelligence in music education
- Technology in teaching and learning practice
- Songwriting, arranging, production and/or performance in the age of AI
- Health, resilience, performance pressure
- Personal branding & social media
- Bridging education and the professional field
- Questions concerning tradition vs. innovation
- Pedagogical strategies for nurturing traditional and indigenous music forms
- Music and identity
- The evolving role(s) of the teacher in Higher Music Education
- Teaching and learning methods and styles
- Instrument- and/or genre-specific issues
- Improvisation

Open Floor Presentations

Proposals for presentations and discussions are invited, preferably related to, **but not limited to**, the themes outlined in the **Call for Workshops**, as well as:

- Ethics, authorship, copyright and intellectual property in the age of AI
- Curriculum design and implementation
- Skills (musician's, music educator's etc.)
- Sustainability, e.g. Sustainable musicianship, Artistic sustainbut ability, Physical/mental sustainability (Musicians's health)

The topics – thought-evoking statements and questions

1 – AI in Music Education

Artificial intelligence and digital technologies are transforming how music is created, learned, performed and shared, from generative composition tools and personalized learning platforms to algorithmic distribution and new forms of human–AI collaboration. As these developments become structural rather than experimental, music academies must rethink artistic identity, professional roles and the skills needed for a rapidly changing field.

Key questions:

- How will AI shape songwriting, arranging, production and the evolving roles of musicians and producers in jazz, pop, and folk music?
- How can AI-based tools for feedback, analysis and practice be meaningfully integrated into music education?
- How should academies address ethics, authorship and intellectual property while helping students define a distinct human artistic identity in an AI-rich environment?

2 – Health, Resilience, Performance Pressure & Personal Branding

Accelerating production cycles, rising quality standards and continuous online communication push students to constantly brand and promote themselves, while algorithms, AI-driven trends and permanent, measurable content intensify pressure, comparison and fear of failure. Music academies must protect space for experimentation, vulnerability and authentic artistic growth in a culture of continuous exposure and evaluation.

Key questions

- How can we prepare jazz and pop and folk music students to handle performance pressure, perfectionism and burnout risks in a highly visible, metrics-driven social media culture?
- How should artists relate to external validation, curated online identities and the fear of public mistakes in a world of seemingly flawless artistic products?
- How can our music and educational communities build resilience and create safe spaces for experimentation, vulnerability and sustainable artistic development?

The topics – thought-evoking statements and questions

3 – Technology in Teaching Practice & Hybrid Musicianship

Rapidly evolving tools – from DAWs, stem splitters and slowdown software to AI-assisted improvisation, virtual ensembles and online collaboration – are reshaping how students practice, perform and learn, creating new opportunities but also questions about depth, focus and artistic quality in jazz, pop and folk education.

Key questions:

- What role should technology play in the future education of jazz, pop and folk musicians, and how can it deepen learning and artistic development?
- How can digital and AI-based tools enhance engagement, practice, creative originality and critical reflection?
- Which emerging technologies have the greatest potential to enrich teaching and learning in hybrid, digitally supported music environments?

4 – Bridging Education and the Professional Field

The music industry is evolving faster than traditional jazz, pop and folk curricula, as students increasingly build portfolio careers where artistic, entrepreneurial and communicative roles converge. Technological change and AI-driven production, marketing and distribution expand expectations on musicians, challenging academies to prepare students for more diverse, networked and technologically integrated careers.

Key questions:

- How can jazz, pop and folk programs strengthen ties with the professional field and support emerging portfolio careers shaped by content culture and AI?
- Which skills, competencies and mindsets will future musicians need, and how can music academies position themselves as creative hubs and innovation spaces for this new professional reality?

Practical information

Application must include*:

- A session description (max. 300 words)
- A short biography (max. 150 words) of the speaker(s)
- A high-resolution (HD) photo of the speaker(s)
- Technical requirements, including equipment, spatial needs, setup and take down time

Proposals that do not meet the above requirements or are submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

N.B: Selected applicants will be required to register as participants and therefore pay the corresponding fee

Please send your application by 1 November to Beatriz

Laborda (AEC Events Manager and AEC PJP WG

Coordinator) at beatrizlaborda@aec-music.eu

Selected applicants will be informed about the results by mid November.

All proposals will be reviewed by the PJP Working Group and representatives of the TFG WG and Conservatorium van Amsterdam.

In order to ensure a balanced and diverse programme, the following criteria will be taken into consideration, among others:

- Geographical balance
- Gender balance
- Genre diversity
- Relevance to the conference theme and topics
- Interactive format and participant engagement (**for workshops**)
- Student representation, with particular consideration given to student-led sessions
- Technical feasibility

*Please note that this information will be published as part of the conference programme if your proposal is selected.