

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The PopJazzPlatform of AEC

Revised August 2016

Preamble

International meeting grounds for Higher Music Education (HME) in Europe have traditionally been populated with representatives from classical music education. This reflects the fact that most HME institutions' main activity has been to offer classical music training. This has naturally become the recruitment base for directors to these institutions, directors that have represented the institutions internationally.

HME in Europe has changed over the last decades. A growing number of institutions have introduced programmes with genres previously not offered, and many specialised institutions offering various non-classical music training have also emerged. Typically, classical conservatoires have introduced jazz programmes, some local folk music and pop programmes in their portfolio. The expansion of portfolios has continued to broaden to include other programmes like World Music and genre-crossover, in addition to non-genre based disciplines like music technology and other modern media-technology. The aspect and role of audiences in making and teaching/learning music has continued to change. This has paved the way for more interdisciplinary programmes and activities both within the arts and with other knowledge bases and expressions. All the while international European meeting grounds for these programmes and activities have remained limited.

In 2005 representatives of many contemporary music programmes and activities within AEC member institutions met to establish the Pop-Jazz-Platform (PJP) with the purpose to create a European meeting ground for programme heads as well as other staff in these programmes. The choice of the PJP name reflected the fact that apart from classical music, the predominant programmes in HME at that moment were pop and jazz programmes, and it was important to make a clear appeal to the identities of these programmes in order to be perceived as relevant and thus secure recruitment to the platform. However, the ambition has always been to represent the many facets of contemporary music education. Its focus on contemporary orientation and genre diversification gave PJP an essential role in the 3-year EU funded AEC-project FULL SCORE.

There is always the danger of dividing the community when one establishes 'sub-cultural' forums, and the ideal situation is, of course, that the musical communities are united. However, the particular issues that concern the contemporary music programmes need to be addressed separately for the time being. Some of them go to the core of how music is understood, taught, learned and made, which make the issues related to these programmes even more urgent to address for all HME institutions. The goal of the PJP is to contribute to a broader and deeper understanding and greater diversity, not to undermine unity or create division. Being an inclusive platform and in order to stimulate cultural activity the PJP has reached out to organizations relevant to the field and continues to do so. The FULL SCORE project kicked off an intensive collaboration with EJM (Europe Jazz Network) and IASJ (International Association of Schools of Jazz)

The PJP profile

- Being a platform in the AEC the PJP subscribes and adheres to the Vision, Mission, Aims, Objectives and 'Credo' of the AEC.
- PJP will contribute to the development of the AEC by informing on and problematising educational, pedagogical, musical, professional and institutional issues on the basis of the particular expertise and experience the PJP community possesses.
- The predominant new programmes in HME at this moment are pop and jazz programmes, and programmes derived from, or related to their roots. There are numerous other genre programmes and non-genre based programmes both inside and on its way into the AEC member institutions, and the PJP seeks to be inclusive in this regard.
- The PJP caters to the needs and development of all these programmes and their crossovers in the AEC's membership institutions.
- The PJP seeks to stimulate to the discourse on all issues relevant to contemporary music education. Genre diversity in HME may be a complex issue and poses challenges for the institutions. Other ways of categorising the field than by genre are possible, for example by differences and similarities in teaching/learning and, in musical processes, in how music is made and for what audiences. The PJP will therefore in particular stimulate the discourse on the concept of genre, genre diversity, teaching and learning processes, self-perception, identities and audience engagement.
- The main activity of the PJP is to organise meetings on a regular basis for non-classical programmes in AEC membership institutions addressing musical, pedagogical, educational, professional and institutional issues, at the same time providing a meeting ground for networking and the sharing of experiences among the programmes.