



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

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Dear AEC member,

We hope that you are well and healthy. We are aware of the fact that, with the start of the new academic year, you are all very busy facing important challenges. As you know, the situation related to the pandemic is having a strong impact on the organisation of the AEC Congress as well, with all the difficulties 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 2020, which this year will take place for the first time as a mainly **online** event hosted by the **University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna (mdw)** on **6-7 November**, in collaboration with the Conservatorio di Musica “G. Verdi” di Milano, the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre in Tallinn and the AEC office. The possibility of onsite participation in the three above mentioned location will be notified to registered participants by Friday 23rd October.

The [AEC website](http://www.aec-music.eu) provides all relevant information concerning the 2020 Congress theme *Going On(line) - Connecting Communities in the Digital Age*, the programme, the registration procedure and other relevant technical details. Please visit <http://www.aec-music.eu/congress2020>.

Active members are invited to the AEC General Assembly on Saturday, 7th November from 10:45 to 12:30h 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, and one vacancy for Vice-President. Information on these roles and on the election process itself can be found on the “Photos and Documents” tab of the AEC Congress webpage, including eligibility factors and the next steps that candidates should take. The deadline for applications is 30th September.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Eirik Birkeland, AEC President