



Brussels, 25 July 2014

Dear AEC member,

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to attend the 2014 AEC Annual Congress, which will take place from November 13th to 15th at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, Hungary.

This year, the Congress takes as its title: **The Future of European Higher Music Education: upholding tradition, promoting diversity and encouraging innovation.** These three strands are all crucial to the future development of our conservatoires, music academies and Musikhochschulen, and colleagues will recall that they are each addressed within the ten points of AEC's Credo.

While tradition and diversity are constant factors in AEC's agenda and activities, it is often through its projects that the Association is most effective in encouraging innovation. The 2014 Congress will be an opportunity for members to review the achievements of the three editions of 'Polifonia' (2004-2014) and to consider how project work can continue to be a vigorous and stimulating strand within the activities of AEC.

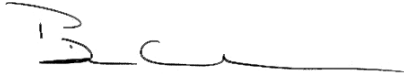
The AEC website provides all relevant information concerning Congress themes, programme, venue, travel and accommodation, as well as a link to the registration form: [www.aec-music.eu/congress2014](http://www.aec-music.eu/congress2014).

All members are invited to convene for the AEC General Assembly, to be held on Saturday, 15th November. Elections will be held for one new Vice-President and two Council members. Information on all these roles and on the election process itself can be found [here](#). Active members of the Dutch Association (i.e. who joined AEC before 2013) will also be asked to approve the closing down of the Dutch association so that only the Belgian Association will remain.

We are grateful to our colleagues in Budapest for the hard work and dedication with which they are carrying forward arrangements for the Congress, and for making it possible to host the Congress in the magnificent premises of the newly-restored Liszt Academy.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you in the historic and culturally renowned city of Budapest and I do hope you will be able to join us for this high-point of AEC's annual calendar of events!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pascale de Groot', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pascale de Groot, AEC President