



Association Européenne des
Conservatoires, Académies de
Musique et Musikhochschulen



TRINITY LABAN CONSERVATOIRE
OF MUSIC & DANCE

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Invitation to the POP AND JAZZ PLATFORM MEETING TRINITY LABAN CONSERVATOIRE OF MUSIC AND DANCE London, United Kingdom 17-18 February 2017

We, the AEC's Pop & Jazz Platform working group, are happy to invite you to our next annual meeting. We are grateful that Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance has offered to host it. The conference will mark the last of three consecutive events under the AEC FULL SCORE Project about Audience Engagement and Development – one of the overarching themes set by the EU Culture Commission for the funding cycle 2014-2017. The PJP is excited to have grown significantly during this period - with increasing numbers of conference participants and an agenda shared with the two project partners IASJ (International Association of Schools of Jazz) and EJM (Europe Jazz Network).

Meeting colleagues and friends and exchanging expertise and best practice are most valuable aspects of every PJP meeting. The topics proposed by the working group are developed to provide an arena for discussion - with all relevant issues finding their way into it: from day-to-day hands on practice in music education to philosophical, cultural and last but not least even political aspects of our work. The 2017 conference is entitled:

CROSS THE BAR LINE

"It ain't what you do it's the way that you do it"

(© Sy Oliver and Trummy Young 1939 ... Bananarama 1981)

Educating musicians to combine craft and integrity in their music-making and to think beyond borders with a readiness both to engage with commercial structures and vested interests and to assume the role of cultural citizens and leaders. Using the challenge of audience engagement as a creative spur to re-thinking musical languages and performing contexts.

We aim to cross not only musical borders (such as bar lines) but to gain deeper understanding of how we do our work as educators - and how we could do it. How much do our concepts, eurism seems to be everything? How can the responsibility to educate cultural citizens and leaders at the same time remain on top of our agenda?

In 2016 the PJP meeting for the first time opened up to students and invited them to participate actively - which seemed logical from an audience point of view: the students are the next generation audience builders. We - the educators - must hear how they think about their future and engage in a discussion with them. The 2017 conference will involve students from across Europe who share a week of intense musical and artistic experience in the CoLab, an off-curriculum creative space organized by the hosting institution Trinity Laban.

The PJP working group has published a Statement of Purpose about its *raison d'être* and aims. It will be available in the conference folder.

On this very spot last year's invitation letter talked about drastic changes and challenges in Europe and the entire world: it said that fear was on the rise, cultural depth and freedom in general were being threatened. It seems the situation has not become any better - the world seems to be split up by interest groups that benefit from fear, anger and short-sightedness. The PJP is meeting in the capital of a country that is undoubtedly among the cultural and educational leaders in Europe but is to leave the Union soon. We hope Brexit will not affect AEC member institutions and European exchange policies on an all too significant scale.

We believe that our motivation to contribute to positive thinking through music and music education should not only be kept alive but must grow against all odds. Jazz, Pop and creative musics have always propelled changes in society for the better.

All practical information, including a detailed programme, the link to the compulsory online registration, and information about fee payment, travel and accommodation are available on the webpage of the event at www.aec-music.eu/pjp2017.

Looking forward to seeing and talking to you in London!

Stefan Heckel
Pop and Jazz Platform Chairman