

22 June 2020

## Joint letter to the AEC Members

Much to our regret, the Royal Conservatory Antwerp of the AP University College will not be able to host this year's AEC Annual Congress and has therefore decided on close consultation with AEC to postpone the organisation of the AEC Congress by one year.

As you know, the Corona virus has hit Belgium quite hard, as a result of which security measures in higher art education are strict. Currently, for example, a maximum presence on campus of 15% of the normal population is allowed. For RCA's campus this means 60 to 70 people. The context for the autumn has not yet been determined, but it is certain that the Conservatoire will have to offer hybrid education even then and avoid large group meetings.

The Conservatoire is currently working out a long-term plan to make the Campus 'smart', investing the necessary infrastructure for high-quality live streaming, extra recording possibilities and other digital tools. At the moment this is not available, therefore the RCA couldn't sign up for an online or hybrid AEC congress in 2020.

We are, however, very glad that a good alternative solution has been found and that the AEC Congress 2020 will take place! The music university mdw in Vienna has declared its willingness to host this year's AEC congress on the originally scheduled date, although due to the circumstances, mainly as an online event with an abbreviated duration.

Dear friends, we look forward to welcoming you at the Royal Conservatory Antwerp in November 2021 and will thank you all for your understanding of this difficult decision.

Keep safe!

Collegiate greetings,

**Stefaan De Ruyck**, Dean Royal Conservatoire Antwerp and **Eirik Birkeland**, AEC President