

From Potential to Performance

An innovative way to share musical knowledge in conservatoires

From Potential to Performance - a collaborative teaching and learning project focusing on performance skills, was developed by:

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- **Dr. Gabriela Mayer**, piano, CIT Cork School of Music, Cork, Ireland
- **Eve Newsome**, oboe, Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University, Australia
- **Susan Williams**, Baroque trumpet, University of the Arts Bremen, Germany and Royal Conservatory, the Hague, Netherlands

From Potential to Performance is the title adopted by an international group of six Conservatoire lecturers and performers from Finland, The Netherlands, Ireland, Germany and Australia for a collaborative project centered on innovative ways of improving practice and performance skills. The six lecturers continue to be active as players, as well as teachers. Within their own institutions, they also promote an increased awareness of musicians' well-being, through workshops and courses relating to these themes.

The chosen title symbolizes the journey each musician takes from the start of preparing a work to its resultant performance. In recognition of the important nature of accessing relevant information for practice and performance preparation, the group decided to share their approaches and created an innovative website with practical information and effective strategies for students, music teachers and professional musicians.

The website was conceived as a 'pool of information' where musicians, students and teachers alike, could dip in to gain diverse information.

It is structured as an accessible tool that can be used in multiple ways:

1. Themes range from Focus and Motivation, to Health and Well-being, Practicing, Planning, and Performance
2. A timeline view corresponds to the sequence a project normally takes
3. An interconnected middle layer guides the user to related sections
4. A resource collection offering full articles, exercises and diagrams

The website materials have been shared with the staff and students in each conservatoire and represent an example of the connections between teaching, performing and practical

artistic research with immediate applications to pedagogy in higher music institutions.

Website address:

<http://web.uniarts.fi/practicingtipsformusicians/>

The relation to the questions listed in the Call:

This presentation will focus on a collaborative project, which fits well into the theme of the EPARM conference, particularly the following question:

- Can teaching and learning activities be developed as collaborative research activities?

This project started in 2009, when a small group of music lecturers and performers from The Netherlands, Ireland and Australia were invited by staff from the Sibelius Academy, Finland to come together to share and discuss teaching and research work. What united the group was a passion and focus on practical strategies for musicians, and the belief that playing is intrinsically related to teaching and learning. For this reason, we feel that this project fits in perfectly with the theme of the EPARM Conference 2018 - Play - A Common Ground for Artistic Research and Teaching the Arts.

Most importantly, we felt that our experience as performers blended with the insights gained from years of teaching. We wanted to keep learning and discovering other ways of approaching practicing and performing. Sharing knowledge became a way to enrich our own performing and teaching as we tried new ideas in the studio and on the stage.

With the support of our institutions, we organised to meet over several years at Symposia at our respective Universities under the banner 'From Potential to Performance', and this in turn created an opportunity to share ideas with other lecturers as well as students. These events were a combination of practical workshops and lectures on the practical research areas covered.

The website 'From Potential to Performance' represents the natural evolution and culmination of the group's work. It has developed out of our united desire to share and develop practical ideas for all musicians and music teachers in order to inspire each person on their journey towards achieving their own potential.

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Dr Gabriela Mayer is currently the Head of the Department of Keyboard Studies at the CIT Cork School of Music. Since moving to Ireland, she has engaged in teaching as well as performing, both in Ireland and abroad. She is also involved in activities of the Association of European Conservatoires (AEC) in

seminars and conferences, and as an international member on institutional review panels. Her students have been successful in securing professional careers and winning awards. Gabriela has given concerts and masterclasses as part of the Erasmus programme at European partner institutions. As a performer, she continues to be actively involved in concerts and regularly collaborates in chamber music projects with colleagues from the Irish Chamber Orchestra and the CIT Cork School of Music. In addition, she has given concerts and masterclasses as part of the Erasmus programme at European partner institutions.