

# Time for some Extra Learning?

*Learning, networking, improving, modernising: at the EUYO we are really looking at how we can expand our players skills to help make a more sustainable Europe*

## Learning from the pandemic experience

Dozens of faces peering together on a screen, partitioned by small lines, names at the bottom – and a look, often unexpected, into each other's lives, rooms and houses. Online meetings and zoom sessions boomed with the pandemic as a way to keep in contact with the people we care about, and as music schools and universities had to forcibly adapt their teaching.

In 2020 the EUYO had leapt into this change, and our speed in doing so led to thanks from EU Commissioner for Culture, Mariya Gabriel, for our “great agility in adapting to the circumstances”, becoming “an outstanding example” for the cultural sector.

So the question for 2021 was, how to take this forward? With our new hybrid lives we wanted to make sure that as we cautiously returned to physical meetings, that we did not lose some of the gains we had actually made during the first pandemic year of 2020.

In fact at the EUYO we had already had a plan before the start of the 2020 pandemic crisis for an online learning programme – a way to help players broaden their training with us – in a one year pilot programme we were calling *EUYO Extras*. The Pandemic merely led us to accelerate that plan.

And so we embarked this year on a series of four focus sessions in early Spring, and then nine learning sessions throughout the year that were offered to over 500 EUYO members and alumni from the past five years.

## But what exactly is this new pilot learning programme?

To put it simply, our pilot online teaching programme was designed to help EUYO members and recent alumni take a more holistic approach to their work, thereby creating rewarding and sustainable careers fit for 21<sup>st</sup> century. And the idea that such careers might help contribute to the good of society as well as being successful by more conventional career measures.

The seminars were held online with skilled tutors and mentors, who presented not just a lesson, but an opportunity to learn, interact, share experiences and grow together in a friendly environment.

The pilot programme is divided in four areas: **Perform, Include, Share** and **Sustain**.

The aim of **Perform** is to improve performance skills with areas of training that there might not be time for in conventional rehearsals. The **Share** element, on the other hand, is about sharing your passion with the world, getting insights on how to create a professional public persona and prepare for

## Main areas of teaching



include



perform



share



sustain



the professional world, and how to create and realize successful projects and programmes.

**Sustainability** is a central pillar in the new pilot programme – helping young musicians have a practical understanding of how to sustain both their own careers and also the planet: the ways, that is, to create a better career and a better world.

Last but not least, **inclusion**, which we see needs to have a greater role in the world that we are creating. And by inclusion we mean a whole group of values: not just inclusion, but also equity, diversity and representativeness, a real set of shared values. In these ways, we aim to prepare the new generation of musicians to understand how they can both help and gain from a more inclusive music industry, how outreach concerts and the inclusion of less privileged musicians and vulnerable communities may benefit all the communities around us.

The sessions that resulted varied from discussing deep topics such as how to develop lifelong motivation with [Eric Booth](#), and debating how to deal with stress, fatigue and mental health with [Dinka Mijić-Vlatković](#), to more pragmatic matters such as our National Partners Coordinator **Alexa Nieschlag** explaining how to prepare the right kind of CV and biography, and alumnus **Andrew McCoy** demonstrating some of the basics of the digital

world which we all need to be experts with.

### So, what did we learn in this one-year EUYO Extras pilot programme?

As always, the EUYO provided attendees with feedback forms for evaluating the process. Was the concept clear? Were the sessions actually engaging and well presented? Had attendees learnt something of value? And last but not least, we asked if the players would recommend the programme to a friend – and with a nice surprise, all those who filled in the forms answered that last question in the positive.

#### So, what's next?

This online pilot year has been invaluable, demonstrating that when we start a new idea, it needs detailed thought and careful preparation. On which note, huge thanks to our digital team for making a platform that really works.

And as for what is next, well in the words of a famous author when asked what his next book would be, *'oh, that's a state secret...'*. So, stand by for news next year about how we intend to take the pilot on, expanding and deepening areas already touched on, learning from the feedback, and working unremittingly to provide EUYO musicians with the necessary skills and capabilities to make successful careers in today's and tomorrow's world. After all, that's what we are here for isn't it?

“  
*The session was extremely inspiring! It is very uplifting seeing other musicians, friends trying to make a change, to make things happen, seeing that for everyone this Covid time is difficult but we are not passively waiting for the change – we are becoming the change!*  
 ”

Feedback comment on an EUYO Extras pilot session

Want to hear more?  
 Stay in touch!



Honorary President David Sassoli, President of the European Parliament  
 Co-Founders Lionel & Joy Bryer | Founding Music Director Claudio Abbado |  
 Chief Conductor Vasily Petrenko | Conductor Laureate Bernard Haitink  
 Co-Chair Sir John Tusa | Co-Chair Martijn Sanders  
 Advisory Council Chair Sir Ian Stoutzker | Secretary General Marshall Marcus

Head of Honorary Patrons Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission  
 Honorary Patrons Josep Borrell Fontelles, HR and Vice-President of the European Commission  
 Charles Michel President of the European Council

The heads of state and government, the ministers of foreign affairs and culture of the EU member states



#### EUROPEAN UNION YOUTH ORCHESTRA FOUNDATION

Postal address: Teatro Comunale Claudio Abbado, Corso della Giovecca, 38 - 44121 Ferrara (FE), Italy  
 Legal seat: Via Asiago, 10 - 00195 Roma (RM), Italy | Registered Foundation Reg.1560724  
 info@euyo.eu - Tel +44 20 7237 7671 P. IVA/VAT number 14993441006 - Codice Fiscale 97967700580

