

The Amiens Declaration

A new European support platform for brass and woodwind music

1 Introduction

Europe has a very broad and long history in the field of brass and woodwind amateur music. In several countries this music culture has been developed in different ways. Although there are very active and broad music organisations in many European countries, these national music organisations can benefit from working together with and learning from the experience of colleagues in other countries.

To keep up with new developments regarding education, social development, repertoire or instrumental development, there is a strong need for international cooperation and a mutual promotion of interests.

Prior to the European Championship for Wind Orchestras in Amiens (2023) a meeting was organised for board members of several European music organisations. They decided to start the initiative for a new European platform for brass and woodwind music.

2 Need for international cooperation

International cooperation is necessary and there is an urgent need of a European umbrella platform for amateur brass and woodwind music, as a focal point for the interests of orchestras, federations and festivals and a developmental hub for the garnering and sharing of related information and concepts.

3 Mission

The mission of a European platform for brass and woodwind music is:

To promote brass and woodwind music in the broadest sense (from low to high end and from harmony, fanfare and brass bands, percussion bands to marching and show bands) and to present it as an up to par discipline within the broad field of art and culture.

4 Goals of a European platform for brass and woodwind music

The goals of a European platform for brass and woodwind music should be:

- The strengthening of the societal position of amateur music-making.
- The promotion of cultural participation and cultural education.
- The stimulation of innovation within the brass and woodwind music area.
- The optimisation of the synergy inside and outside brass and woodwind music.
- The joint nurturing and promotion of communal interests.

Four levels of activity are distinguished:

- Musical level: the artistic value, the artistic idea and the creative/innovative process.
- Educational level: the pedagogical value (lifelong learning).
- Social level: making people and society better through music.
- Economic level: music is a product and part of economic life (commercial aspects).



5 Agenda for a European platform for brass and woodwind music

Important issues to realise in the framework of the goals above are:

- The promotion of brass and woodwind music and the values connected to this, making amateur music visible and accessible within and across society.
- Music education for children in the primary school system and beyond. Education, support and enhancement of the knowledge, experience and skills of musicians and conductors.
- Further development of brass and woodwind music by means of innovative approaches to repertoire development, new education methods and innovative approaches to the nurturing, inclusion and expansion of our audiences.
- The stimulation of international contacts, international exchange programs and networking.
- A joint approach to governmental, professional and public organisations.
- Making financial resources from EU level available to fund the new platform.
- The importance of interactive creative music projects for all within our local communities that promote the sense of well-being and the value of the arts in general across society.

6 Organisational aspects

Members of the intended platform should be national federations as well as other organisations active in the amateur music field, e.g. research organisations, festival organisations, contest organisations, repertoire institutes and organisations acting in the interests of brass and woodwind music.

The platform should have a simple structure and a non-bureaucratic essence. Activities should be organised via a connected and active European network bringing together many member organisations to achieve the most effective possible result. Professional support and coordination of activities is necessary.

7 Funding

The activities basically should be funded by a combination of European subventions and sponsoring. Additionally an activity or project based fee can be a possibility to fund special activities or projects, to be paid by organisations participating in these specific activities or projects. Above all however, funding should be sought in European subvention programs for cultural and social projects (e.g. the Creative Europe program) and via sponsoring. In order to realise a strong funding, professional support of the platform is necessary.

8 Make a fresh start

The realisation of the above outlined ideal requires a new momentum. Therefore a new European platform for brass and woodwind music needs to be established with clear goals, a transparent agenda and a new structure that extends across and involves as many European countries as possible.



We therefore call upon and invite European music federations and other musically motivated organisations to cooperate in the creation of this platform to further develop and improve the face of European brass and woodwind music.

To this end, we have listed a large numbers of national public information associations.

If you agree with these ideas and would like to participate or stay informed, please review and update your information, and, if needed, complete the details for other organizations you are familiar with.

EUROPEAN ORGANISATIONS

We also suggest that you add your national and international events to the calendar, so that others can find out about it and we can circulate the information to the network via a newsletter.

CALENDAR

We could consider planning for the long term and organising, during different international events, inter-knowledge or thematic meetings.