

## EOFed newsletter

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## Newsletter no. 4/2020

**May 2020**

Content of this newsletter:

- Brand new website for EOFed
- European Orchestra Festival 2021 in Bulgaria
- EOFed and European institutions
- Summer courses in Italy
- Vanessa Sweeney: our School Music Teachers are Wonderful

New website for EOFed!

EOFed has a brand new website but with the old address: [www.EOFed.org](http://www.EOFed.org). Do have a look, comments are welcome. The website has to grow further as a platform for the members of EOFed and you can help us with it. So, please send us your news: [eofed.vicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:eofed.vicepresident@gmail.com)



**12th European Orchestra Festival. Let's go for Bulgaria!**

**The registration will be open after 1 June!**

The European Orchestra Federation is most happy to invite EOFed members to participate in the 12<sup>th</sup> European Orchestra Festival. This festival will be held in May 12-16, 2021 in Plovdiv, in Bulgaria.

Before the end of May all the necessary information, including online registration form, conditions and rules, list of workshops and other information will be published on the website: [orchestrafestival.eu](http://orchestrafestival.eu) . You can follow the festival information also in <https://www.facebook.com/europeanorchestrafestival/>

You can also mail us for information : [info@orchestrafestival.eu](mailto:info@orchestrafestival.eu)

The registration will be open between 1st of June and the 1st of October 2020. We

strongly recommend to arrive at Plovdiv on 12 May 2021. In the morning of 13 May we start with three busy days with concerts of participating orchestras, workshop rehearsals and concerts. There will be special events like an opening concert and ceremony in the Kolodrum centre and a final concert in the historical Ancient Theatre.

More special events are prepared.



Workshops will be given on baroque music, classical music (Mozart/Haydn), romantic symphonic music (large orchestra), 20th century music, Bulgarian folklore music, jazz-crossover, film music, contemporary music and wind ensemble workshops. You are most welcome to participate in the 12th EOFed festival!

Please do send this information to you members!





## **EOFed and European institutions**

### **Help from Europe?**

EOFed signed a few letters from different European organisations to ask for help from the European Parliament and the European Commission. We hope they will help the orchestras in their difficult situation. We will keep you posted on what happens for the needs of our sector.

Next time you can read your own  
fantastic news here. Send your  
news to  
EOFed.vicepresident@gmail.com

Next deadlines are:

1st July 2020

1st September 2020

1st December 2020

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### **Better online system for rehearsing is coming!**

EOFed was present in a few online lounges from the European Music Council (EMC) and International Music Council (IMC).

**In the first lounges** we talked about the situation throughout Europe. Serious problems for our orchestras everywhere. Some countries are opening up a bit now or will in the near future. In most countries social distancing is very important and this is a great handicap for the orchestras. Coming together as an orchestra could be impossible for the coming months in many countries.

**In the lounge of 15th May** the topic was "**online rehearsing**". With the existing systems this is very hard. But there is hope. A new system is built especially for music making. This system will not give way to the loudest noise only (as needed for conferencing) but to all the microphones in the rehearsal. Time lapses are also diminished. The testing will start before long.. The builders are looking for (more) partners and testers so if you are interested: [digital-stage.eu](http://digital-stage.eu)

If you are a **music teacher** and you need information on and inspiration for online lessons you find this on [www.nammfoundation.org](http://www.nammfoundation.org) .

Collaboration is growing between the various organisations in the cultural field: music teachers (on different levels), organisations of choirs and orchestras, Europe wide but also with organisations outside Europe are working together. It is very important that we can learn from each other and help each other. This is a major concern now for EOFed. Do tell us your ideas and plans concerning collaboration in general and in this crisis, please, to help and inspire.

#### Summer courses 2020 in Italy

The organisation in Italy is very happy to invite you for their summer courses as they are planned at the moment.

The Chamber music workshop in Como (18-19 July) is now in its 6th edition. Chamber music players from all Europe will join Italian musicians in Como for a weekend of music in one of the most beautiful places in the world.

Register for our **chamber music workshop!** Supported by ACMP - Amateur Chamber Music Players, **from 18 to 19 July in Como**. I Cambristi from all over Europe will meet for the biggest chamber music workshop in Italy. Coaches like Guido Boselli, Elena Ponzoni, Silva Costanzo and Daniela Pisano will work with 10 chamber groups in 8 shifts each day.

The Renaissance music workshop will be held in the magnificent scenario of Val Camonica **from 24 to 30 August**. During the stage, **open to both singers and musicians**, the group will work on the Opera "Rappresentazione di Anima et di Corpo" by Emilio de' Cavalieri.

This **one-week course open to musicians and singers** involves studying the **vocal and instrumental practice of the Renaissance** period. During the stage will be studied the opera "Rappresentazione di Anima et di Corpo" by Emilio de' Cavalieri. The seminar is open to both beginner and intermediate and advanced students.



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### **Vanessa Sweeney: Our School Music Teachers Are Wonderful**

A bit of good news from Vanessa Sweeney! Vanessa, in February, adjudicated at the Inter Schools Music Festival in Wesley College and she wanted to share some wonderful words with us:

"With the shadow of Covid-19 looming but before the beginning of the spread of this horrible virus in Ireland, the organisers at the Interschools Music Festival decided not to cancel the Festival and to go ahead as planned. I had been invited as adjudicator for the Chamber music and Orchestra/Band competitions.

What I heard during the day was so impressive that I thought it deserved honourable mention in this newsletter.

There were two competitions for Chamber Music, junior and senior (I heard about 20 groups) and four for Orchestras and Bands (I heard about 30 groups). The challenge when adjudicating this type of competition is that there is no set piece and each group chooses what they want to play. The real test is: have they chosen a piece that suits their level of technical and musical ability and how well do they actually perform and communicate this piece? So an elementary string quartet who have chosen a piece in which they have matched their bowing styles, play in tune, and interpret the music with interesting dynamics and good

communication can achieve a good mark. Equally, a more advanced group (I heard a Scherzo from Brahms piano quartet!!) will be judged at the level of that music and if they can't bring it off they would not do so well....so there is no point in presenting music you would aspire to play but cannot manage yet! As a general piece of advice when competing in this type of Festival when there is no set piece, choose music that fulfils 2 criteria:

You can play it and, you like the piece!

My reason for being so impressed is that almost all of the groups I heard fulfilled these criteria...which brings me to the teachers behind all this and the reason for this article.

I know some schools have fantastic instrumental programmes within their own schools but many have to work with the combination of instruments and players that are available within their school whatever the eclectic mixture.

I want to compliment these wonderful teachers who motivate and tutor groups of all shapes and sizes, who cleverly adapt music to suit the individual needs of the students in their group, who source music to fit the group they are working with....from elementary string or wind ensembles with a handful of players, to large wind bands, jazz bands and school orchestras of 60-80 players. Somehow within the busy schedules of school and the huge demands of sport, debating societies, etc. and against all the odds at times, they manage to organise and timetable rehearsals and concerts (often at 8am) and inspire their students to want to participate in making music together.

Having retired from school music teaching, and from a little distance, I really appreciate just what a great musical education many of our young people are getting in their schools thanks to their WONDERFUL SCHOOL MUSIC TEACHERS!"

– Vanessa Sweeney



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