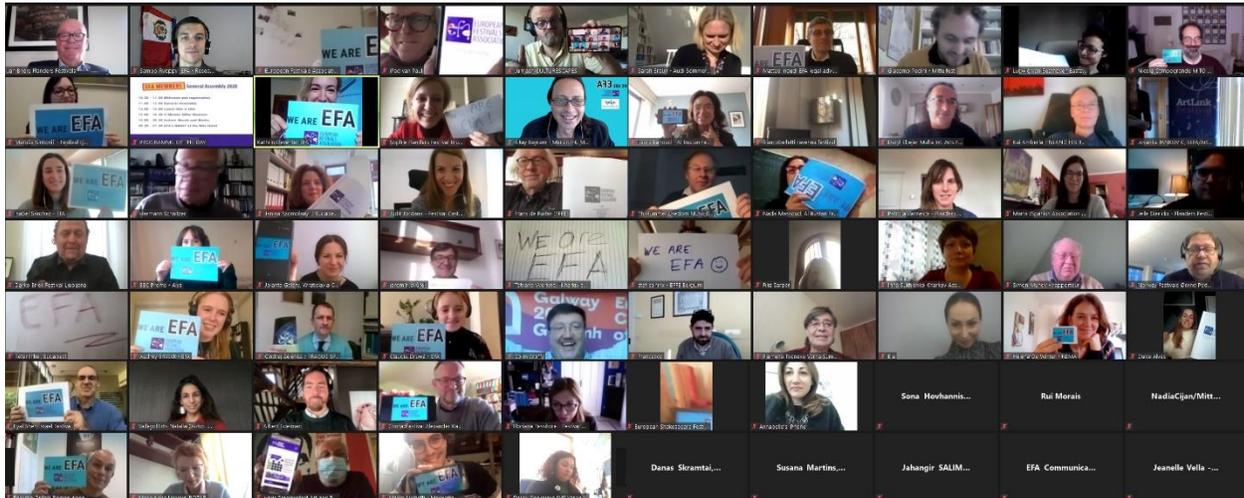


HIGHLIGHTS - EFA Members General Assembly Video Conference

25 November 2020, online



This year, we were not able to meet during our annual Arts Festivals Summit (a new tradition since 2017) with 250 festivals and stakeholders coming together. Instead, we gathered ‘just’ the core of the European Festivals Association's community: the EFA members. [EFA's General Assembly](#) was an important moment of decision making for the Association. It took place on 25 November 2020 and was the first online Assembly in 68 years. 83 colleagues representing 44 member festivals have exchanged about the strength, connectivity and necessities of the Association, its activities and communities, and showed that all together: **WE ARE EFA**

EFA President Jan Briers said, *“More than ever, we are there to support each other and EFA gave us the tools. [...] Thanks EFA team and so many others of you, you took all this great opportunity to bring us closer to each other and to give us new ideas in these strange moments.”*

The [working day](#) was composed of 5 specific moments, including a series of insightful and inspiring appointments, preceded by a yoga session. Members took the floor during the 4-Minute-Mike-Moment, discovered young talented artists in the evening and finished the journey at the NITE Hotel.

25 November 11.00 CET > Video Conference
EFA MEMBERS General Assembly 2020
 Prelude towards the Arts Festivals Summit 2021



11.00 – 13.00 General Assembly
 13.00 – 15.00 Lunch tête-à-tête
 15.00 – 16.30 4-Minute-Mike-Moment
 19.00 – 20.30 Artists Words and Works
 20.30 – 21.30 EFA's NIGHT at the Nite Hotel

Welcome to our 4 new EFA members

Following the General Assembly, we would like to welcome 4 new members among our festivals community. We are happy to count them among the EFA Members.

International Music Festival “Kharkiv Assemblies”



International Music Festival “Kharkiv Assemblies” is one of the oldest classical music festivals in Ukraine.

This festival was founded by Tetyana Vyerkina (famous Ukrainian pianist, Professor, Rector of Kharkiv I.P.Kotlyarevsky National University of Arts) with the main purpose to promote and popularise widely musical art, to improve professional skills of the competitors and to expand international artistic ties.

The annual selection of themes is dedicated to the names of prominent personalities of world music culture.

In 2020, the festival went on and celebrated its 29th edition from 9 until 25 October.

Macerata Opera Festival



Macerata Opera Festival is a music festival that is celebrated every Summer since 1992 in Macerata, the provincial capital of the Marche region (Italy). Each July and August the public can enjoy different Summer activities, international conferences and opera performance in historical sites and buildings.

Its 2020 edition will be held from 18 July until 9 August, during which the public can enjoy different activities

and operas as *Don Giovanni* or *El trovador*.

Valley of Arts Festival



The Valley of Arts Festival is the oldest among the major festivals of Hungary as it was started in 1989 with the aim of promoting Kaposcs region's cultural and economic values. Its original aim is the commitment to promote quality, cultural values, local ties in a friendly atmosphere. Thanks to the festival's long history, the Valley of the Arts has become and grown into a real cultural brand.

The centre of the valley is the village called Kapolcs. This village's sites are all show venues and invites visitors to unique artistic experiences: improvised theater shows, handicraft workshops, folk dance or concerts, among other.

The 2020 edition has been cancelled. The next festival will be from 23 July to 1 August 2021.

Sarajevofest Art and Politics



Sarajevofest Art and Politics is a new international festival focused on critical thinking and political discourse. It consists of three programme lines:

- * Art Forum (films, plays and musical works)
- * Forum (international discussions on international and regional topics)
- * Youth Forum (meeting of regional and international young people and work with international mentors)

Subjects discussed include: freedom of speech; critical thinking; critical view of politics; public violence against women; false history - revision of history; feminism; minority rights; surroundings; economic prosperity; security; the future of the Western Balkans; extremism; immigration; tolerance.

The Festival is running from 5 until 14 December 2020.

A new membership fee policy

Pro-active, efficient organisations always develop and we want to be more inclusive and strengthen our network in the near future.

The new membership fee that has been voted during our General Assembly works in that direction. It is at the same time a new way for EFA members to play an active role in the Association and to increase the volume of festivals joining EFA.

The co-opting membership policy works as follows: halve your fee, double our membership.

- 1) If you co-opt a new festival to join, you share your fee:
 - Co-opting member: 2450 €
 - New co-opted festival: 2450 €
- 2) If you want to invest further into the work and ambitions of EFA, even though you co-opt a festival:
 - Continue to pay 4250 Euro membership fee and be part of the future EFA Council the board

We will come back to you beginning of 2021 with more information about the new membership fee policy.

Supporting young artists' works



The evening of the General Assembly was dedicated to young artists. Programming young artists and offering them a window is important, especially today in difficult times for the arts. Festivals need to take responsibility to ensure they have a stage to be seen and the opportunity to show their talent to an enlarged group of professionals.

The evening programme has been built together with EFA members. Thanks to Festival Castell de Peralada and ArtLink Belgrade, the evening of the General Assembly highlighted the work of 2 young artists: the bass Manuel Fuentes and cellist Petar Pejčić. The evening was enriched by a keynote speech of Norman Lebrecht “What classical music has gained from Covid” and introduced by EFA Honorary Member Darko Brlek from the Ljubljana Festival.

You can [watch here the recording](#) of the evening session.

Arts Festivals Summit 2021 in Galway - Save the dates



The Arts Festivals Summit 2021 has been postponed. Travel restrictions, social distance measures in Ireland, the uncertainty of another wave and planning restrictions for such a large scale event at the end of March forced us to take this decision.

The Summit will take place from **31 May - 2 June 2021 in Galway** and will be hosted by AOIFE - the Association of Irish Festivals and Events. Learning from the past, we have also planned alternative dates: 22-24 November.

With even more commitment and focus, we will programme our offer to you depending on what will be possible.