

House of Europe

International Songwriting Project 2024

Introduction

HKU Utrechts Conservatorium will be host of the 11th House of Europe Songwriting Project in the fall semester of 2024. The idea of this international project is to bring together European higher music education students and musicians from outside Europe. The students and guest musicians work together for a week in small teams writing and performing new songs they create collaboratively. The intensive week of the project will be in turn hosted by each of the six participating music institutions:

- HKU Utrechts Conservatorium (The Netherlands)
- Metropolia University of Applied Sciences (Helsinki, Finland)
- Conservatorio di Musica "Luisa D'Annunzio" (Pescara, Italy)
- Música Creativa (Madrid, Spain)
- Vienna Music Institute (Austria)
- University of Tartu, Viljandi Culture Academy (Estonia)

The **House of Europe Project** was established to allow music students and musicians from non-European backgrounds to get to know each other, learn from each other about songwriting and collaborative music making, to learn from each other's cultures, and to network. So far, the new songs created in the project have told us stories about life in Europe, both through the eyes of those born here and those who ended up here for one reason or another. We have heard stories of everyday life, celebration, love, misfortune, dangerous journeys, the shelter of one's home – that is, of everything human that unites us and sometimes separates us. Each intensive writing week culminates in a public concert where the new songs are performed by the participants of the Intensive Week. The concert will possibly be recorded in multi-track audio and multi-camera video.

The project consists of 3 parts:

1. The project starts with an online introductory course (IC) of 4 sessions, the aim of which is to introduce the participants (and other students of the different schools) to some relevant issues regarding international and intercultural songwriting.
2. The Intensive week (IW) is the heart of the project. Here all students, teachers and musicians of the project meet each other for a week, creating and performing songs.
3. In the Postproduction Period (PPP) students will produce (on distance) a selection of the songs created in the intensive week, coached by a producer, in 3 sessions.

Periods

1. IC: Online introductory course 'Intercultural collaboration in songwriting'

Open for ALL students of the 6 participating institutes

Dates: October 4 – 11 – 18 - 25, 2024

Time: 13-16h CET / 14-17h EET

1 pts ECTS

2. IW: Intensive week at HKU Utrechts Conservatorium

Open for students, selected by their home institutions, and guest musicians with non-western backgrounds

Dates: November 4-8 (Nov 3 and Nov 9 will be traveling days)

2 pts ECTS

3. PPP: Postproduction Period on distance

For students who participated in the intensive week

Dates: November 15, December 13, January 17

2 pts ECTS

IC: introductory course

Please read the information in the document 'House of Europe International Online Course'.

IW: intensive week

The Intensive Week will be organized on Monday 4th to Friday 8th November 2024 at HKU Utrechts Conservatorium. Sunday November 3rd and Saturday November 9th are travel days.

3 to 4 students from each institution will be selected for the intensive week, who will have the opportunity to work with students from other partner schools and visiting musicians. A total of 24 musicians will take part in the Intensive Week. Eligible students must have previous experience with writing songs, preferably in teams as well. **Those who register for the Intensive Week must also participate in the Introductory Course and the Post-production period.**

The Intensive Week is coached by teachers from the participating music institutions. There is a joint workshop on Monday, where all participants get to know each other through music, set common goals, and are introduced to the activities for the week. The actual writing of the songs takes place in daily changing teams from Tuesday to Thursday. At the end of each writing day there is a common feedback session, where the teams give and receive constructive peer feedback on their work and possible development suggestions for further elaboration on their songs. On Friday there will be rehearsals during the day and a joint concert in the evening. In addition, if possible, one or two social evenings/workshops will be organized during the week, where the participants can get to know each other more deeply and share their thoughts and experiences in a more relaxed atmosphere.

PPP: postproduction period

The intensive week will be followed by a remote post-production period. The idea of this period is to produce songs written during the Intensive Week further, aiming at publishable quality. Only students who participated in the Intensive Week will participate in this period. The working methods of the Post-Production Period will be announced later.

The working language of the project is English. However, participants in the Intensive Week are encouraged to write lyrics in their own mother tongue as well.

Based on the intensive weeks that have already taken place, it is safe to say that this is a really great opportunity to meet new people, learn more about other cultures and increase your skills in writing music and networking professionally. Music is the language that unites us all!

Learning objectives

At the end of the project the students are expected to have improved their skills to:

- Engage with individuals and groups, demonstrating sensitivity to diverse and intercultural views and perspectives and evidencing skills in teamwork, (leadership), project development and organization as required;
- Understand and collaborate artistically and humanly with people of different backgrounds;
- Gain multicultural awareness and knowledge regarding differences between European countries and their policies towards (im)migration;
- Understand basic principles of music copyright, contractual practices and the general differences between various copyright conventions, seen from a multicultural and international perspective;
- Blending distance learning and remote teamwork, utilizing the latest digital music production and communication tools.

Competences

Technical skills: The student has a wide range of professional knowledge and skills and applies them in different musical contexts

Creative skills: The student can shape musical expression based on his/her own artistic vision and aims

Research and development skills: The student evaluates his/her own artistic performance by reflecting on and exploring the development of his/her own identity, personal actions and work, and those of others, with the aim of continuously improving that performance

Communication skills: The student interacts effectively in various professional contexts, using appropriate forms and means of communication

Assessment criteria

The student has attended all lectures, and has improved skills to

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How to apply

<https://www.vmi.at/blended-learning-intensive-program#house-of-europe>