

WHAT STUDENTS SAY ABOUT THE HOUSE OF EUROPE PROJECT

STUDENT FEEDBACK EXCERPTS

I clearly remember the anticipation and excitement I felt from the very beginning of House of Europe. This was my first time participating, although I had heard a lot about it from other students and was already familiar with some compositions from previous editions. Because of that, the project already felt meaningful to me even before it started.

During the online sessions, I met musicians from different countries and backgrounds. What stood out most was how open and individual everyone was. Despite our differences, there was a shared willingness to collaborate and create. One of the most valuable aspects for me was learning how to balance my own musical ideas with those of others. I was able to stay true to my artistic voice while also giving space for the group's identity to develop. This is something I will carry into my future work.

The Intensive Week itself was a unique and intense experience. From the very beginning, the welcoming activities helped create a strong sense of connection between participants. Each day we worked in randomly assigned groups of four, writing a new song within a limited time. The process was fast, focused, and highly creative. Ideas were quickly shared, developed, and transformed into complete pieces.

By the concert day, we were physically tired but somehow mentally energized. Performing all 18 original compositions was a powerful experience and a meaningful culmination of the project. The atmosphere on stage made it clear how much we had created together in such a short time. Throughout the week, I often had the feeling that I was part of something truly special.

Adrian (Ukraine)



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All around the project felt like a boost of personal development. The intensive week was a wonderful discovery of my inner creative world and pushed me to make decisions that I probably wouldn't have in any other situation. The teachers felt supportive and left so much space for us to make our own choices and the musicians that I got to work with endlessly stimulated my creativity in new and different ways.

The online course also felt very stimulating and overall the most important thing I learned from both the online course and the intensive week was all the other ways my creativity can be applied after a couple months have passed there isn't a day that goes by that I don't think of at least one of them. I'm glad I was able to get those connections in different parts of Europe but most of all I'm glad I got to spend a wonderful week with some wonderful people. I even wrote a song about those people the day I got back to Italy.

Riccardo (Italy)

Some key experiences of the Intensive Week in Vienna are the Yodeling workshop and visiting the workplace of the piano maker for sure – seeing his craftsmanship made a big impact on me. I also really liked the feedback sessions we had every day. Everyone was so kind and respectful and they were really helpful.

What I also take away is the pace in which we had to write a song everyday. Knowing that you only have limited time and will have to present something in a few hours works really well. It's something I will keep in mind and use for myself in the future too.

Luna (Netherlands)

I loved this project! The online sessions were productive and helpful – I will definitely use some of the songwriting techniques we talked about in my future projects as well. Then, of course, the best part of the project was the community. We grew so close with the participants and when I first met them, I already could feel the warmth.

I am so happy, that I met so many wonderful musicians that I now get to call my friends. Late night walks, jam sessions, playing board games, eating breakfast – we did everything together and because of that it was really hard to let go of them, when we had to return to our homes.

Loore (Estonia)

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This project gave me invaluable insights into both collaboration and my individual artistry. First, I learned that strong communication is essential when working within a group or band dynamic. Collaborating with other songwriters was highly inspiring, introducing me to new ways of approaching my writing and performance.

Finally, during the Online Course, the musical identity worksheet was a standout tool—it pushed me to clearly define the overall vibe and creative direction I want associated with me as a singer and musician.

Sawara (India)

The postproduction phase was especially meaningful, as we were given tools on how to give and receive feedback throughout the production process of the work. I found this extremely valuable, not only for this creative project, but also for any type of work and even for life in general. Overall, I am taking away strong growth in collaboration skills and a broader understanding of Europe.

Eva (Spain)

Overall it has been an amazing and warm experience. From the organisational side there has been a great communication from day one, and willingness to help both on the online format and intensive week. I had previously participated in the Online Course during the past year, and I have noticed improvements on the mentors & content provided – also the way they have facilitated it.

I feel that I have developed more confidence on songwriting overall and had the chance to freely apply my prior experience, together with recent university learnings. I managed to make very good connections within the organisation, students and also around Vienna in order to come to perform or develop other music related projects.

About the Intensive Week: I feel that there was a very good balance between team building activities to get to know each other and create bonds: that time devoted for learning names by playing, drawing each other, asking personal questions – helped a lot.

José (Argentina)

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My experience with House of Europe in Vienna was fantastic, I keep telling myself that is the experience I've appreciated the most in my entire conservatory time. I was quite nervous before arriving to Vienna because I had never been in a co-writing environment of this magnitude, but I've always been a songwriter at heart so I could feel a calling for this. While participating, I thrived with people around me that felt like songwriting was also a passion of theirs.

My main learning taken from the project is the overall combined experience of my peers, all the constant activity and inspiration flowing through us made it unforgettable and hugely fruitful. Apart from that, I learned how to write in a group and set aside the ego to facilitate the song.

In my opinion, what worked splendidly was the general formula or concept of this project. But the shared energy of everyone combined was felt from the start, and it led into fantastic results and inspiration. This formula is also a great recipe for unbelievable amounts of deep friendships and general connection, by the 4th day, I was so united with these people that it really felt like being around family.

Jeronimo (Peru)

This project was truly a unique and unforgettable experience. It allowed me to discover a side of myself and some of my musical abilities that I had never really explored before. Beyond learning about songwriting and collaboration, the project gave me the opportunity to better understand myself and my potential.

The Intensive Week was definitely the most valuable and inspiring part of the project. What fascinated me the most was experiencing three completely different songwriting processes in three different groups over just a few days.

Although the goal was the same, each group approached creativity, collaboration, and music-making in a unique way. Seeing how differently songs can evolve from the same starting point was incredibly inspiring and broadened my perspective on collaborative creativity.

Rokhshid (Iran)



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