



AEC ANNUAL CONGRESS 2010

Fryderyk Chopin University of Music

Warsaw

4-6 November 2010



AEC is supported by the European Community
budget line "Support for bodies active
at European level in the field of culture"





Opening Event

Welcome by

Stanislaw Moryto

**Rector of the Fryderyk Chopin
University of Music**

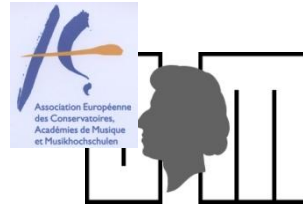


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**CONGRESS AEC
WARSAW – POLAND
November 4 – 7, 2010**

**Minister,
Mr President,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

The choice of Warsaw for the third time running, as the site of the AEC congress, and handing the organization of the congress over to the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music is a great honour for Poland. The meeting of over three hundred people, representatives of music academies from all over the world in this particular place is an unusual event, and we do feel that it brings us a great distinction.



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Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I welcome all of you, particularly Mr Johannes Johansson, the President of AEC and Mr Martin Prchal, the AEC chief executive manager. It is also an honour to welcome Dr Monika Smoleń, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, and Professor Wiktor Jędrzejec, the director of the Department of Artistic and Cultural Education in the same ministry.



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Ladies and gentlemen,

The university which I have the honour to represent is one of the oldest music academies in the world, with great traditions, wonderful achievement and many distinguished graduates. It is the place where Fryderyk Chopin was taught music, as was Ignacy Jan Paderewski, the first president of the Polish independent government of 1918, Witold Lutosławski, Paweł Klecki, Witold Małcużyński, Wanda Landowska and many, many others. These names are engraved in the history of not only Polish music. We find the traces of their work in all continents, and continue treating them with great respect and pride. What is also very important is that in this academy we have always taught in Polish, no matter what the geo-political situation of Poland was at the time.



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This year we celebrate two anniversaries: the 200th anniversary of our genius alumnus and patron Fryderyk Chopin's birthday, and the 200th anniversary of the foundation of our Alma Mater. Both these jubilees attract a lot of interest to our university, and the current congress is also well fitting in the overall scheme of celebrations.

But we can not just focus on celebrations alone because our prime goal and most important task are teaching. The Fryderyk Chopin University of Music has many accomplishments with distinguished ensembles, choirs, orchestras, chamber music ensembles, and numerous other achievements in such areas as humanities, psychology of music, acoustics, phoniatics, audiology and pedagogy.



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It is our principal task to educate artist musicians at the highest possible level of intellectual perfection and craftsmanship. Let us also remember that there is no great art without great teaching and learning. And there is no art without audiences. This is why a lot of what we do here is targeting the preparation and upbringing of aware consumers of high music culture, guided by the principle: creator – performer – recipient. This triad is what makes the development of musical life harmonious.

This is the model that our predecessors strived for and the model that we promote today. Artistic education is at the foundation of the development of culture and the arts. In Poland we have a three level system of education that we have inherited from the National Education Commission of 1773, which rationalised the schooling system by introducing primary, secondary and higher education. The system accepted then is still providing the basis of artistic education today.



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By educating artists, our schools take part in the education process, which dignifies man. It makes our existence more interesting, it develops imagination, teaches discipline and good organization of work. People look for moral truths in arts. It is a principle of artistic education to take every pupil and student individually, which is both a specific aspect of it and a great privilege. This is a model that other schools and academies can only dream of. It is an ideal didactics based on working together of a master and a disciple. Such relationships develop personality, sensibility and creative abilities.



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When introducing our university, we wish to show you what best we have, which are our students and teachers. I must confess that I am very content that I can be your host in our Alma Mater. I wish that your visit here will make for some wonderful experiences of kindness and beauty.

Professor Stanisław Moryto
The Rector of the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music



Opening Event

Monika Smoleń

Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of
Culture and National Heritage



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***Your Magnificence the Rector,
The High Senate,
Honourable Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Warsaw, 4 November 2010

I am honoured to be able to participate in this opening session of the *Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen* (AEC), and feel privileged to welcome so many distinguished guests who are also luminaries of European music education systems. The fact that you have all accepted your invitations to the congress confirms the rank and significance of the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, as an institution that sets new trends for progress in music education.



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Both the time and the place of our meeting carry particular significance. The celebration of the jubilee of the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the university and 200th anniversary of the birth of the greatest Polish composer and pianist Fryderyk Chopin, is an important event which has consolidated the world of music. I believe that the jubilee is a major event of the Chopin Year, with 2500 artistic events celebrating it in the world, and 1500 in Poland. I wish to emphasize that Fryderyk Chopin Year is the time of extraordinary importance in the history of Polish culture. None of the previously held jubilees was celebrated within such extensive and impressive artistic framework.



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I think we are all in agreement that the strongest note of the Chopin Year so far has been the 16th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition, which has just ended. This competition stirs more emotions than any other. The genius of Chopin, expressed through passionate and disturbing emotions, is also reflected in the feelings of those who listen to his music. These expressive attitudes to the Chopin Competition are a testimony to the international character of the music of our great romantic composer, which although in essence is a quintessence of Polish spirit, deeply stirs the hearts of music lovers all over the world.



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I wish to thank the University of Music for its involvement and help in organising the competition, with special thanks to be directed to His Magnificence Rector of the University, professor Stanisław Moryto, also for funding one of the competition awards. I am convinced that the award granted by the school where Fryderyk Chopin had actually studied music is especially invaluable for the young pianist Ingolf Wunder, and it will become a special motivation for future development, helping him to win new laurels.



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I am also proud to announce that today's University of Music in Warsaw is a strong and dynamic school which is crucial to the present and the future of Polish culture. It is with great satisfaction that artistic circles have noted the creation of the first, and so far the only, university of music in Poland. The Academy of Music in Warsaw had to meet the highest statutory requirements to be able to transform into the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in May 2008. It is the university's high position in the realm of arts that attracts both Polish talents and young people from all over the world.

We take pride in our Polish artistic education system which forms the foundation for Poland's cultural development.



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The artistic school community is composed of 631 art schools, including schools of music, fine arts, ballet and other accommodating over 80 thousand pupils and employing over 15 thousand teachers. It is an extraordinary, elite community that offers high-quality education based on the teacher-student relationship; a community that forms the foundation on which the Polish culture is built. It is here that talent is discovered and skills are perfected; it is here that future authors and active recipients of the arts are trained. Arts schools form a solid foundation on which the students may base their plans, dreams and hopes: even if not everyone is set to become a great artist, the skills gained during their artistic education are priceless. These schools give the students an opportunity to experience the beauty of the arts and to understand it; they teach sensitivity and creativity, i.e. the ability to perceive issues from a range of different perspectives and to find unconventional solutions. This creativity, if transposed into the other spheres of life, becomes a basis for innovative approach, the moving force of today's societies.



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The most talented of these young people go on to study at 19 state higher schools of art, which teach over 15 thousand students and employ 3 thousand academic teachers.

In Poland there are:

8 Academies of Music

7 Academies of Fine Arts

2 Drama Schools

1 Drama and Film School

and the newly created higher education school in Szczecin which provides education for both visual artists and musicians.



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It is the main principle of art education to provide for individual development of each pupil and student and guarantee elite, high-quality teaching. Its specific didactics is based on the work of a master with a disciple which happens to have a great impact on a young person's personality, sensitivity and creativity. This special character of art education means that the number of students that the system can cater for is limited. It is only less than 1 % of all students that attend art schools in Poland. The budget of art education at all levels amount to 47% of the entire budget of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.



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In order to raise another generation of artists efforts must be made by all those in the arts school circles, and in particular by the teachers. Working with the talented and sensitive youth is an exceptional task and an enormous responsibility. Albert Einstein said *the most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and all science.* Those chosen few amongst us that artistically talented have been enchanted by *the mysterious*. The education of such individuals requires outstanding, competent and devoted teachers. The high quality of the Polish artistic education is attested by artistic accomplishments of our students and pedagogues: each year they attain significant achievements and win prizes in a number of important international competitions.



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Moreover, the number of candidates competing to study in the Polish higher arts schools has remained high over the past years. Finally, one must not overlook the importance of the lower- and higher- level arts schools for the local community, especially in non-academic centres. For all of the above reasons, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage has made it a priority to support artistic education, a sector which forms one of the basic elements of the development and popularisation of culture. We consider it of highest importance to maintain the continuous and dynamic development of the Polish artistic education.



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The development of the artistic education system is our priority. The Minister of Culture and National Heritage fully appreciates the important role of art education, and so he has created special programmes, open to applicants in a way of competition, for co-financing artistic pursuits, and purchasing instruments for music schools and academies. A new programme has been initiated for 2011 called *the development of art education*, which comprises 2 priorities. Firstly, art education: it is to serve raising artistic competences (knowledge and skills) of pupils and students of art schools, and also aid the promotion, provision of support and presentation of achievements in art schools. The second priority is to provide instruments for art schools, in order to enhance teaching standards through the purchases of new instruments for art schools and academies.



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The way most art academies operate has considerably improved in recent years. There is more teaching space, and in the last years significant investment has been made from the budget of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and from the European funds.

The whole art education i.e. higher, primary and secondary was granted funds from the EU funds at the disposal of Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, within the 11th priority “Culture and Cultural Heritage” of the Operational Programme “Infrastructure and Environment” in the sum of PLN 478.294.469, including money for 8 tasks to be realized within higher art education for the total of PLN 271.316.646.



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18 different investments are being carried out for this money, including 10 at the level of primary and secondary education and 8 in higher education. Thanks to these investments, by 2012 each music academy will have its own professional concert hall.

Building new and renovating old premises within the already completed investments, and those that are still underway, has laid grounds for further investments into enhancing the quality of art education.



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When Poland joined EU in 2004, new opportunities were open for exchange, cooperation and student mobility. Exchange programmes, such as *Socrates*, *Erasmus* and *Leonardo da Vinci*, and above all the creation of common education platform in Europe, thanks to the *Bologna Process*, gave young people a chance for comprehensive development on an unprecedented scale. Talent and exceptional creativity require an exceptional and above-average care, and the creation of optimal condition for their further development. Talented young people educated in the art education system need promotion in the form of integrated, multidimensional activities, which should form a cohesive system for supporting young talents. A good scholarship system, providing young people with the opportunity to implement arts projects and to develop their artistic and research skills in Poland and abroad, is immensely important.



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The *Sinfonia Iuventus*, an orchestra founded by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage in the second half of 2007, opened a chance to the graduates of music schools to begin their careers in Poland. Financed by the Ministry, it is aimed at artistic debuts, and at providing employment for the most talented musicians, while also promoting Polish and European culture. We are aware of the fact that the promotion of young artists is the area that needs continuous development and improvement.



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Finally, I would like to wish the Congress organizers and guests to have their hopes and expectations for the congress fully met, and their objectives fulfilled.

*Monika Smoleń PhD
Undersecretary of State
in the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage*



Opening Event

Johannes Johansson

President of the AEC



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Don Gibson

President National Association
of Schools of Music USA (NASM)



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Association Européenne
des Conservatoires,
Académies de Musique
et Musikhochschulen (AEC)

18:30 – 19:30 Concert
At National Philharmonic

20:00 Dinner at Holiday Inn Hotel

***Students will guide you to the
venues***



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