

GETTING CLOSER: AUTHENTIC COLLABORATION THROUGH OPERA, MUSIC AND DANCE

RESEO CONFERENCE 2019

Stefano Poletto

Choir Conductor, « A Bridge Between Two Worlds »



Stefano Poletto studied at the Conservatorio di Verona (Italy) before working with the Scala, the Orchestra Internazionale d'Italia, the Orchestra Filarmonica d'Italia, the Istituzione Teatro Lirico Sperimentale di Spoleto and the Offerta Musicale di Venezia. He has lived in Belgium for the past 15 years and since 2007 has directed four choral workshops, including three in prison, as part of La Monnaie / De Munt's "A Bridge Between Two Worlds" programme.

Åsa N. Åström

Choreographer, dancer and teacher



Åsa N. Åström is a former dancer with an extensive contemporary dance career in Sweden, France and Germany, often in the field of community dance and in collaboration with different artists. After four years as a dance coach working with the elderly, Åsa started Dance for Parkinson in Stockholm and founded the Swedish network of Dance for Parkinson. She is now head of health and community dance at Balettakademien in Stockholm.

Lukas Pairon

Director, Social Impact of Making Music



Lukas Pairon co-founded the contemporary music ensemble Ictus, of which he was the general director until 2013. In 2005 he founded the philanthropic organization Music Fund. His PhD-research in Kinshasa (DR Congo) for the University of Ghent (Faculty of Political and Social Sciences) focused on the role of music in social work. He created the international research platform on the social impacts of making music (SIMM), which he has directed since 2017.

Imogen Flower

PhD student, Guildhall School of Music and Drama



Imogen's research focuses on understanding the platforms that performing arts, particularly music, can offer people with experiences of marginalisation, particularly how these platforms can be built, sustained and utilised by the members of marginalised communities themselves. Her PhD research is centred on "Sex Worker's Opera" (SWO), a sex worker-led devised performance.

Barbara Gessler

Head of Unit DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture - Culture & Creativity, European Commission



Barbara Gessler worked at the European Parliament before joining the European Commission in 1994. Until 2016, she ran the Culture Unit at the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, which implements the EU's funding programmes in these areas. Since 2017, she is responsible for the Creative Europe culture sub-programme at Directorate General Education,

Youth, Sport and Culture.

Jean-Marc Mahy

Educ'Acteur



Jean-Marc Mahy was born in 1967. He spent twenty years in prison, including three in solitary confinement, from the ages of 17 to 36. He spent his time reading, listening to radio programmes, studying and obtained six degrees. Upon his release, he continued his education and became an « educ'acteur » (educator-actor). His autobiographical monologue "Un homme debout" ("A Man Standing") has been staged over 300 times.

Mirjam Zomersztajn

Coordinator, « A Bridge Between Two Worlds »



Mirjam Zomersztajn studied social science of work, international politics and cooperation with development at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. From 1999 to 2008, she directed the Centre Communautaire Laïc Juif (CCLJ) where she created the tolerance programme «La Haine, je dis non !» ("I Say No to Hate"). She has coordinated "A Bridge Between Two Worlds" since 2009.

Tina Ellen Lee

Artistic Director, Opera Circus



Tina is a singer, actress and co-founder of Opera Circus, now mainly producer and artistic director of the company. Opera Circus commissions new work of opera and music theatre, runs inclusive and diverse projects with children and young people using the creative arts in the UK and in Wider Europe, in particular the Balkan region. Tina leads the International Youth Arts

Programme The Complete Freedom of Truth. Opera Circus is a partner in the Erasmus + research project, Get Close to Opera.

Darren Abrahams

Co-Founder, The Human Hive and the Starr Trust



Darren is a coach, therapist and trainer and is the creator of many programmes designed to expand the potential of individuals and groups. He works internationally as a facilitator and project leader in the fields of creativity, music and trauma, arts and community, social entrepreneurship and personal development. He is a qualified trauma therapist, a Certified High Performance Coach and a professional singer.

Matt Clark

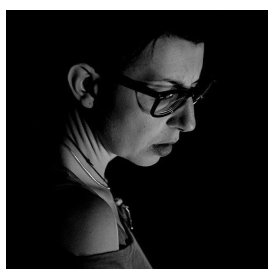
Programs Director, JM International (JMI)



Matt joined JMI in 2007 and now oversees the organisation's 12 international programmes. As a student at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, he organised grassroots social music activities that connected and empowered youth previously divided by apartheid. At JMI, Matt has been able to grow his passion for music and social change, standing firmly behind its mission of enabling young people to develop through music across all boundaries.

Laura Fatini

Director, playwright and theatre educator



Based in Italy, Laura's plays have been performed in Spain and France. She is part of The Complete Freedom of Truth (TCFT), an international creative network with the ambition to develop global youth citizenship through culture

and the arts. In 2018 she was artistic director of The Giufà Project, commissioned by Glyndebourne and created in collaboration with Opera Circus and other international partners in Italy, Portugal and Romania.

Chris Stones

Acting Head of Education, Glyndebourne



Over the last 6 years, Chris has produced youth operas for the Glyndebourne stage and led the development of Glyndebourne's vocal talent programme, including initiatives such as the Glyndebourne Academy and the development of singing strategies for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Music Hubs. Prior to Glyndebourne, Chris was active as a community musician, manager and producer in the north of England.

DE MUNT
LA MONNAIE

RESEOO