



EUROPEAN CLARINET ASSOCIATION

Newsletter of the **European Clarinet Association**
Volume 1, Number 1
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Dear members of the newly formed “European Clarinet Association”,

First of all **welcome to the ECA!** And thank you for being with us right from the beginning! The seed which led to the birth of the European Clarinet Association was planted in Porto during the ICA ClarinetFest® last August. The birth was on 5 November 2010 in Kortrijk, Belgium. With the ECA, we now have a platform here in Europe where we can all benefit from exchanging ideas and enjoying the clarinet and its music together!

These are the officers and national chair persons of the ECA:



Pedro Rubio, Spain, Arkadiusz Adamski, Poland, [Simone Weber](#), Luxembourg (secretary),
[Matthias Müller](#), Switzerland (president), [Eddy Vanoosthuyse](#), Belgium,
[Heike Fricke](#), Germany, [David Campbell](#), England, [Luigi Magistrelli](#), Italy
(from left to right)

The inauguration of the ECA was accompanied by a trio of events: 1) 1st European Clarinet Competition, 2) 1st International Research Competition and 3) 1st European Clarinet Festival with performances, recitals, exhibits and lectures superbly organized by Eddy Vanoosthuyse.

For the competition, an international panel of judges consisting of well known players from all over the world was called together. These were: Koichi Hamanaka (Japan), Jonathan Cohler (USA), Robert Spring (USA), Stanley Drucker (USA), Karl Leister (Germany), Marc Matthys (Belgium), Eddy Vanoosthuyse (Belgium), Marc Kerckhof (Belgium), Fan Lei (China), Valdemar Rodriguez (Venezuela), James Gillespie (USA), Antonio Saiote (Portugal), Matthias Müller (Switzerland) and Jan Briers (Belgium). After three rounds, the Japanese clarinetist Anna Hashimoto who is studying in England won the competition playing the War Concerto by Dirk Brossé with the Brussels Philharmonic under Brossé's baton.

The first prize for research was shared by Prof. Keith Koons (USA) and Prof. Keith Bowen (UK). Mr. Koons research was about the roll of the A clarinet in the 3rd symphony of Brahms and Mr. Bowen presented the history, use and availability of the bass clarinet in A.

There were many performances including members of the Jury who worked together with the excellent Ciurlionis String Quartet of Belgium. The performing clarinetists and groups came from all over the world. One of the high points was surely the French group "Les Bons Becs" who gave a full hour performance by memory with choreography, costumes and lights.



Les Bons Becs performing in Kortrijk

Aside from all this there were still masterclasses (by Eddie Daniels and Karl Leister) and of course displays of equipment and music in the foyer of the building where everything took place. There seemed to be plenty of room for all the events in the well equipped building called Muziekcentrum Track. And since the city of Kortrijk is not so large with its 74,000 inhabitants, everything was within walking distance.



Eddie Daniels in a masterclass in Kortrijk

For more details see the article (in German) “Der Geballte Charme der Klarinette, 1st European Clarinet Festival in Kortrijk, Belgien” by Alexander Doll in 'rohrblatt (ISSN 0935-8900, Volume 4, 25th year, December 2010, pp. 211-215) or the report “The Founding of the European Clarinet Association” in “The Clarinet” (ISSN 0361-5553, Volume 38, Number 1, December 2010, pp. 42 – 43).

More details about everything mentioned in this newsletter can be found on our very attractive and easy to use web site at www.europeanclarinetassociation.org . Please bookmark this site if you haven't already and make frequent use of it. You can also visit the ECA at facebook and of course you can attend the events which are all listed on the web site. Make sure to ask your friends and colleagues to join. The yearly fee of € 5 is very modest!

Here are some of the upcoming events presented by the ECA and/or one of the national or local organizations:

- ♪ 3 – 4 February 2011: Bass Clarinet Symposium in Zurich, Switzerland
- ♪ 6 – 9 February 2011: Norddeutsche Klarinettagen in Bremen, Germany
- ♪ 7 – 11 February 2011: “George Dima” Clarinet Competition in Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- ♪ March 2011: St. Martin's Chamber Music Competition in London, England
- ♪ 11 – 15 April 2011: Solo Bass Clarinet Course on the Isle of Raasay, Scotland
- ♪ 2 – 5 May 2011: 1st Lisbon International Clarinet Competition in Lisbon, Portugal
- ♪ December 2011: 2nd European Clarinet Festival in Madrid, Spain

Details to the above events can be found at the ECA website. Here is the URL again:
www.europeanclarinetassociation.org .

Do you know of any clarinet related events which should appear on our website? Then please let us know. It's easy: just go to our website, click on “Contact” and fill in the information so that we can publish it.

And last but not least

The President's Message:

Dear Member of the European Clarinet Association,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our first full ECA-year including this first newsletter! Thanks to David Glenn who is responsible for the newsletter which you will be receiving four times a year, you will be informed about the most important clarinet events all over Europe.

The ECA lives through the activity of its members. At the moment it is most important for all of you to motivate as many people as you can to join our organization.

Proud and happy, we look back on our beginning in Kortrijk. Thanks to Eddy Vanoosthuyse's great work it was part of a wonderful festival. The combination of a competition for the best young players, the presence of famous players from the whole world in the Jury, masterclasses and an ensemble-festival with interested amateur groups plus a research competition was ideal. Everybody had something to tickle their fancies. The festival showed in the best way how different and how rich the possibilities of the clarinet are. It is perfect for different styles and it sounds well in ensembles and orchestras. In this way, one can enjoy the clarinet at all levels. The competition showed that the level of playing is increasing. It's wonderful to see how clarinet playing is popular all over the whole world and that excellent players are coming from everywhere. It's also a good omen that we could hear new and different repertoire.

This festival was so successful that the ECA will organize more of the same but in a smaller version every second year and in a different country. In 2011 it will be in December in Madrid and will include a festival, a competition and masterclasses. In 2012 the next festival in Kortrijk is planned.

I wish you a successful and satisfying clarinet year.

Matthias Müller, president

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