

## **EMU General Assembly part II - 21 May - Linz, Austria Conference 'EMU in Future'**

*Reports Open Space Working Groups*

- . Benefits broad talent development*
- . Benefits of working with new target groups*
- . Benefits of working in regional groups*

### **English speaking working group.**

*Chaired by Marion van der Hoeven (board member EMU); report Helen Mason (England)*

We had two starting points for our discussion

- We are Europe and have many beautiful things to give to our young people and those who come to live in Europe from other continents.
- How do we accept and grow from the cultures who join our communities?

We discussed the political and financial situation for music in the participating countries and found a wide variation of provision and systems but also many similarities.

There was a general feeling that while working with groups of young people who are not our usual target group we should not compromise the quality of the music.

It was noted that Hungary and other countries who had followed a Kodaly approach to music in education had strived for a "music for all" system based on the musical and cultural roots of the children. This poses the question "what are the music roots of a multi-cultural society. "

Many of us felt that singing programmes offered a big possibility for development.

We considered the advantages of working with other arts as a good way of engaging a wider audience, gathering political support and looking at new ways of working.

We also noted the importance of starting any inclusive programme with children as young as possible.

We looked at what this might mean for music teachers and acknowledged that for many teachers there would be a challenge for us to convince them of the benefits to music of widening the target groups we work with.

There was a very large range of situations when we looked at music schools relationship with day schools. Some music schools are forming closer relationships with schools and even working in partnership with class teachers to support music lessons.

In conclusion we looked at who benefits and how from extending the groups we work with. We felt there should be benefits for all of these groups.

Society – Children and young people – teachers – politicians and funders.

It was also discussed that while all of this is important one of the driving forces should be to enrich the quality music we produce.