

National Report 2022

1 General information

The Association of Swiss Music Schools (ASMS) serves as the umbrella organisation for the 25 cantonal associations, which represent all 26 cantons and their music schools. 384 music schools with around 12'000 teachers educate approximately 300'000 music students. By comparison, 987'700 children and young people in Switzerland attended school at the primary and secondary I levels this school year. The ASMS-departments for Advocacy and Management, Public Affairs, Music Pedagogy and Research, Finances as well as Services worked very closely together on a broad variety of projects to improve the general conditions and further develop music education in the music schools. The transition of the presidency from the long-serving and well-deserved president Christine Bouvard Marty to Philippe Krüttli had to be mastered and was the starting point for strategical discussions within the board.

This National Report also covers the Liechtenstein Music School in Liechtenstein, which is a member of the Association of Swiss Music Schools and instructs approximately 2'700 students.

2 Management

2.1 *Pre-College Music CH* label

The *Pre-College Music CH* label, developed by the Association of Swiss Music Schools (ASMS) and the Conference of Swiss Universities of Music (CSUM) in 2019, was run as a pilot project in the years 2021 and 2022. The quality label is based on specific regulations and meets the international standards for pre-colleges published by the *Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen AEC*, the *European Association for Music in Schools EAS* and the *European Music School Union EMU*. The institutions of music and the music schools certified with the label offer specific pre-college courses for talented young people with university potential. By the end of 2022, eight Pre-Colleges in Switzerland have been certified. These certified institutions are organized in the *Swiss conference of Pre-College Music CH*. Their representatives gathered for the first time in 2022 for networking and exchange.

2.2 *Federal Program Young Talents Music*

The Culture Dispatch 2021-2024 approved by the Federal Parliament in autumn 2020 calls for the creation of a federal Program for the promotion of young musical talents, thereby implementing the constitutional mandate set out in Article 67a(3) of the Federal Constitution. After hard conceptual work lead by the Federal Office of Culture, which was supported by partners

such as the ASMS, the Federal Department of Home Affairs published the legal basis for the implementation of the Program *Young Talents Music* in 2022. This program will allow the early recognition of above-average musical talents on the basis of criteria developed in specialized committees and guarantee the coordination of measures to promote musical talents in Switzerland.

2.3 Digital Transformation at Music Schools

The use of digital tools in teaching as well as in the organisational and communication structures of the music schools are the subject of an ASMS project. This is intended to show as many facets of the culture of digitality as possible and to provide the music schools with a basis for the development of their own strategy for dealing with the digital change.

A working group of the ASMS board with the support of an external consultant has defined the first keystones of a concept – after a broad consultation among the ASMS members – and will develop the document in the course of the coming year.

3 Pedagogy: Research and Education

3.1 ASMS Research Project: *Music Education Switzerland*

In a large-scale study presented in march 2022, the ASMS and the Research Department of Music at the Lucerne School of Music have for the first time compiled an overview of extracurricular music learning providers and music learning offerings in Switzerland. The comprehensive, internationally recognised study was produced in cooperation with 37 specialist associations and institutions of music education as well as external experts. The study was also presented at the 2022 general assembly of the EMU.

The full diversity and complementarity of the sector is presented. At the same time, the authors encourage concrete measures to further develop extracurricular music education. Some of these issues – such as for example the possibilities of the ongoing digitalisation, the requirements of the music pedagogical profiles or the cooperation between extracurricular music education providers with primary schools – are already being worked on by the ASMS.

3.2 New Professional Mission Statement

Over the past 15 years, the professional profile of music educators has changed and developed significantly. To do justice to the social and pedagogical developments, the ASMS Board has launched a *Professional Mission Statement* project to revise the professional profile of music pedagogues dating from 2006. A broadly based working group was mandated to develop a written guide. Under the four chapters *Educational mission and target groups*, *Music teaching and learning*, *Qualified education and further training* as well as *Profession and external image*, a new document was worked out. After broad discussion within the ASMS and with our partners such as the LLACHD regional group (Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Austria, Switzerland, Germany) of the EMU, the updated profile was finalised by the End of 2022. It will be presented in German, French and Italian in the course of 2023.

3.3 Music Management Education

For the past 17 years, the University of the Arts Bern (HKB) has successfully offered an established continuing education opportunity, the *Bern University of Applied Sciences Master of Advanced Studies in Music Management*. Upon completion of at least three CAS (Certificate of Advanced Studies) modules, the ASMS grants the Music School Director ASMS diploma. So far, the ASMS has already conferred over 200 Music School Director ASMS diplomas.

Since mid-2022, the Diploma Music School Director ASMS can also be obtained via a programme at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts HSLU. For the study of the DAS (Diploma of Advanced Studies) *Kultur- und Bildungsinstitutionen leiten* (Lead cultural and educational institutions) and one of two CAS offered at the HSLU, the diploma is awarded by the ASMS.

3.4 Good Practice Competition 2022

23 ASMS member music schools took part in the fourth Good Practice Competition. The call for entries asked for exciting and innovative projects realised in ASMS music schools. Special consideration was given to projects developed and implemented to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, the focus was on topics such as new forms of teaching, network-based teaching, all kinds of cooperation, integration and inclusion, special offers of pupil support or school team support.

The competition jury nominated the ten best projects for the final and then awarded the three regular competition prizes as well as an anniversary prize and a prize for the best project in the context of the pandemic. The prizes were handed over at the 10th *Forum Musikalische Bildung* 2023 – a biennial continuing education event of the ASMS. The forum participants also awarded an audience prize to one of the projects in the finals.

All these impressive examples of future-oriented work at Swiss music schools are published on the ASMS website.

4 Public Affairs

4.1 Delegates' Meetings and Cantonal Associations

All cantonal associations were represented in the Delegates' Meeting. It met two times and positioned itself as an engaged body of the Association. As an umbrella association, the ASMS has networked on an ongoing basis with the cantonal associations through visits to the cantons and consultancy in political matters and advocacy. In both the Western Switzerland and Central Switzerland regions (in cooperation with the Lucerne School of Music), the ASMS held a regional continuing education conference for music school directors.

4.2 National and International Cooperation

The ASMS continues to cooperate with the *Swiss Music Journal*, the *Swiss Music Council*, Swiss music associations (professionals), and the amateur associations. The ASMS works together particularly closely with the *Conference of Swiss Universities of Music* on various topics. The ASMS also sits on the board of trustees of the *Swiss Youth Music Competition*.

International networking with the EMU took place in the regional group of Romance-language countries *Onda Latina* (France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland) and the *LLACHD*

regional group (Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Austria, Switzerland, Germany) as well as at the *Meeting of the Boards*. The ASMS was represented at the EMU's General Assembly on 26 May 2022 and attended the European Youth Music Festival Remix22.

5 Communication and Marketing

The 30 editorial pages on which the ASMS topics were reported in the Swiss Music Journal was once again the focus of media work. News items were reviewed for our members each month as part of our media monitoring. Within the Association, the ASMS communicated directly with the music schools and other interested persons via the newsletter (11 issues in German, French and in Italian). The ASMS website contains current information about the ASMS, its projects, and the developments in the music school landscape. The focus is on transparent communication especially regarding current projects and services offers.

6 Support

6.1 Counselling and ASMS services

The knowledgeable Secretariat was happy to assist interested persons on all issues relating to the organisation of the music schools and the cantonal associations. As part of ASMS quality management, the music schools continue to be offered the quality management system *quarte Open Label*, which has a modular structure and is adapted to the needs of the music schools. At the end of 2022, one cantonal association and 14 music schools carried this label.

In the services sector, the ASMS offers a wide range of benefits for its members in the areas of law, insurance and pension fund.

6.2 Acknowledgements

The 2022 ASMS year was characterised by many different activities by the Board, the Secretariat, and the working groups. Although the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the music schools was much smaller than in the previous two years, all were faced with new challenges due to the dramatic global events particularly affecting Europe. This makes the music and the playing of music by children and young people at music schools all the more a source of hope and deserves all our attention and support. Let me take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to cultivating this vitality. I would also like to thank our partners, the delegates, my colleagues on the board, the participants in our projects and working-groups as well as the secretariat for their commitment to the music schools in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Association of Swiss Music Schools ASMS

Philippe Krüttli
President

Basel, April 2023