

EMU SPEECH EVENING EVENT

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues, esteemed partners and friends,

On behalf of the European Music School Union, it is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this evening – a gathering of minds and hearts that shape and support music and art education across our continent.

We are here in Vic thanks to the dedication and vision of our hosts – the Catalan Association of Music Schools (ACEM), with the support of the Spanish Union of Music and Dance Schools (UEMyD). We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our hosts for your kind invitation – not only to us but to all European music and art schools – and for your incredible efforts in organizing this event. Your hard work and dedication have made this gathering possible: We felt welcomed even before we arrived and are truly honored to celebrate our annual gathering and the upcoming festival here with you.

Our generous hosts stand for more than just artistic excellence. Your work places a strong emphasis on social inclusion, community building, and democratic participation – values that are not only central to music and art education, but to the future of Europe itself. You have developed cultural policies that place music and art schools in the center of your communities.

Music and art schools are more than educational institutions. They are spaces of cultural participation, where young people learn not only how to play, but how to listen – to each other, to different perspectives, to diversity. Through making music, dance or act together we experience connection and build trust. We create belonging, empower expression, and strengthen the social fabric of our societies.

In times where democratic values are being challenged, our mission becomes even clearer: We educate not only musicians – we educate citizens.

And we do so through our culture, creativity, and cooperation across borders.

Indeed, the location of the 15th edition of the EMU festival has a deep historical background. The medieval Corts of Catalonia were among the earliest forms of parliamentary representation in Europe. As we reflect on this rich history, let us commit to fostering these democratic values in our music and art schools, creating opportunities for every young person to experience the transformative power of music and art.

As the esteemed local cellist Pau Casals once said:

"Music is the divine way to tell beautiful, poetic things to the heart."

Let us take these words to heart and make them our guiding principle. Let us continue to speak to the hearts of young people – and, let us support them speaking to the hearts of their communities and through them help shape a strong, united, inclusive and peaceful Europe.

To our hosts, to all EMU members, to our collective future –
Cheers, and thank you.