51st Meeting of the EMU General Assembly &
European Music and Art School Forum
4 -7 June 2026
Prague, Czech Republic

Cologne, 26 January 2026

Dear members, dear colleagues,

the EMU Board is honoured and pleased to invite you to the 51st General Assembly of the European Music School Union and the European Music and Art School Forum, which will take place from 4 to 7 June in Prague, Czech Republic.

We are deeply grateful to our Czech member association AZUŠ-ČR, who has kindly invited the EMU to Prague and will host this year's General Assembly and Forum. The Czech Republic has a long and rich tradition of music and arts education, deeply rooted in its cultural life and educational system. We are very much looking forward to getting to know this tradition more closely during our stay in Prague. And we sincerely thank AZUŠ-ČR and all partners involved for their commitment and support in preparing this important EMU event.

We warmly invite you to join us for what promises to be an inspiring and forward-looking gathering. The annual EMU General Assembly and the European Music and Art School Forum are more than formal meetings – they are a unique opportunity for our community to come together, exchange perspectives, strengthen cooperation, and actively shape the future of music and arts school education in Europe.

The European Music and Art School Forum will be structured in two distinct parts:

On Friday afternoon, the Forum will take place as an internal EMU forum, dedicated to working with our members on key future-oriented topics for the development of the EMU network and music and arts school education in Europe. This session is designed as a space for strategic exchange, joint reflection, and collaborative work.

On Saturday morning, the Forum will continue in the form of a European Music and Art School Conference, focusing on Music and Arts Education, Democracy, and Societal Engagement. This part of the programme is open to EMU members on site, and additionally to music and art school leaders, educators, and partner organisations across Europe in a hybrid format. A separate open invitation for this hybrid event will be sent out in March/April, and we kindly ask all EMU members to actively share and disseminate this invitation within their national networks.

A central thematic pillar of this year's Forum is the Erasmus+ project CC-ECME (Early Childhood Music Education). Free access to early childhood music education for all children in Europe will be one of the EMU's key strategic priorities in the coming years, as we seek to strengthen music and arts school education across Europe. The EMU and its members will actively advocate and lobby at local, national, European, and international levels for free and high-quality access to music and arts. The Forum will provide space to work together with our members on expectations, needs, and concrete advocacy approaches in this field.

Beyond the working programme, Prague offers an inspiring cultural setting, shaped by a long-standing musical tradition and a rich historical heritage. Thanks to the generous support of our host association AZUŠ-ČR, delegates will be offered a varied accompanying programme, including

a school visit, a concert, a guided city tour, and an evening cruise, as well as numerous opportunities for informal exchange during shared meals and social events.

We very much hope that you will seize this opportunity to participate in the 51st EMU General Assembly and European Music School Forum and to contribute your experience, ideas, and perspectives.

PROGRAMME
The General Assembly and Forum will take place in the conference room of the Novotel Wenceslas Square which is directly next to the Ibis Wenceslas square in which participants will be accommodated.

Delegates are invited to come to Prague on June 4 to attend the opening and welcome dinner in the evening. The GA will be held on Friday, 5 June in the morning from 9.00 to 12.30. The first part of the European Music School Forum will start in the afternoon of the same day followed by a concert and dinner on a boat on the Moldova. The music and art school conference will take place on Saturday morning with a guided tour of Prague scheduled for the afternoon. Delegates are invited to return home on Sunday 7 June.

DOCUMENTS
In addition to this invitation, you will find attached the proposed agenda of the General Assembly. Please send any additional proposals you may have by 5 May 2026. You may address these to our Secretary General at till.skoruppa@musicschoolunion.eu

You will be able to retrieve all additional documents concerning the General Assembly and Music School Forum in the members area of the EMU website shortly.

Instead of a national report this year, EMU will collect updated information on music school statistics and related data. Detailed information on this process will be shared with you in early April.

REGISTRATION
The deadline for registration is **31 March 2026**.
Please register via this link: https://forms.office.com/e/hrPLRENeYv
Invoices will be sent to you by AZUŠ–ČR after your registration.

ACCOMMODATION
AZUŠ–ČR covers the accommodation and subsistence cost for the honorary members and for one delegate from each member country during the General Assembly and European Music School Forum for a maximum of 3 nights. We hope to see as many participants as possible from our member associations, but please note that extra participants will have to cover their own accommodation and subsistence costs. Details on the options and related cost for additional participants can be found in the registration form. Invoicing will be handled directly b AZUŠ–ČR.

All delegates and participants will be accommodated at the Ibis Hotel Wencelsas Square.

Should you have any questions concerning any of the above mentioned, do not hesitate to contact the EMU office at office@musicschoolunion.eu

We very much look forward to welcoming you in Prague and to an inspiring exchange with you, as we continue to build and plan together the future activities of our EMU network!

Michaela Hahn
EMU President