



Press release

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## Launch of the Network of the Houses and Museums of Musicians in Europe

On Sunday 3 April 2022, the city of Bougival will become the pan-European capital of music. The town where Pauline and Louis Viardot, Georges Bizet and Ivan Turgenev lived will be the seat of the signing of the Convention of the Houses and Museums of European Musicians at a day-long event organised by the Centre Européen de Musique (CEM)\* in partnership with Europa Nostra\*. Some forty houses, museums and partner institutions will officially join the Network of the Houses and Museums of European Musicians (HMEM). These Houses and Museums are already present in 20 European countries while additional establishments and institutions are expected to join the network soon.

***"The Europe of Musicians exists because music has shaped Europe!"***

This initiative, undertaken by Jorge Chaminé, President and founder of the European Music Centre, is in line with one of the pillars of the French presidency of the European Union.

*"The Europe of Musicians exists because music has shaped Europe! It is a question of highlighting a feeling of belonging on the European soil, a feeling that has been carried by great musicians for centuries. With this network, we want to broaden connections in Europe and its neighbourhood. Music must play this role as a connector, but also a diplomatic role, as a bridge between cultures and a dialogue between disciplines", said Jorge Chaminé.*

*"In this semester of the French presidency of the European Union, we warmly welcome this wonderful initiative, whose main objective is to promote and strengthen the feeling of belonging to Europe's common culture and cultural heritage, which are the very foundation of Europe. This objective also corresponds to the mission and raison d'être of Europa Nostra, which explains our great enthusiasm for the creation of the Network of the Houses and Museums of European Musicians with Bougival - where the Villa Viardot and the Maison Bizet are located - at its centre," adds Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović, Secretary General of Europa Nostra.*

### **In physical or virtual presence of representatives of musicians' houses and museums**

The event will take place with the participation of representatives of musicians' houses and museums (in person or virtually). From the Island of São Jorge (Azores) in Portugal to Turku in Finland or from Stockholm in Sweden to Delphi in Greece and Bonn in Germany, they will meet to sign the creation of this important network. The mayors of Turku (Finland), Catania (Italy) and Granada (Spain) will also be present. A high-level delegation from Europa Nostra will also attend the signing of the Network's Charter as "Grand Witnesses".

### **European personalities who welcome the creation of the Network**

Mrs Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Culture, Mr Carlos Moedas, Mayor of Lisbon, who is also ex-European Commissioner for Innovation and Scientific Research, Mrs Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović, Secretary General of Europa

Nostra, Mr Marco Ros Sempere, Member of the European Parliament and co-rapporteur of the European Parliament on the New European Bauhaus, as well as Mr Luc Wattelle, Mayor of Bougival, will intervene in person or will send a message during this event..

### **The participation of the operational actors of the future CEM**

The operational actors of the future Centre Européen de Musique in Bougival will also participate in this event: the property developer Linkcity; the tourist and cultural operator Opérel; the architectural firms Devillers & associés and Snøhetta, the latter represented by its founding partner, the architect Kjetil Thorsen, who is the creator of such iconic buildings as the Oslo Opera House or the Library of Alexandria.

### **The main objectives of the Network include :**

- Promoting a sense of belonging to the common culture and cultural heritage of Europe by enhancing the artistic work and legacy of Europe's illustrious musicians.
- The organisation of cultural and artistic activities focused on the mobility of young musicians, academic exchanges and the work of researchers or doctoral students.
- The creation of thematic seasons shared by the network of Houses and Museums with the capacity to organise musical events.
- Development of artists' residencies.
- Digitisation of archive material, scores, letter writing material, etc.
- Dialogue with digital technology and all current techniques.
- The creation of dialogues between music, arts, and sciences.
- The expansion of extra-European connections where music can play a diplomatic role but also a bridge between different cultures.
- Carrying out cooperation projects with the help of European funds.
- Attracting new audiences through educational work to be developed between the partners.
- The realisation of promotion, mediation, awareness, and inclusion actions for all audiences.

\* The Centre Européen de Musique (CEM) is a musical, educational, scientific, and cultural project that is unique in Europe. Conceived, created, and led by Jorge Chaminé, the CEM is a meeting place for the arts, humanities, sciences, and all generations. The CEM is located in the commune of Bougival, an integral part of the Colline des Impressionnistes, in the heart of a landscaped park linking Pauline Viardot's villa, Ivan Turgenev's dacha, and Georges Bizet's house - three of the most creative minds of the 19th century in Europe. Within this vast estate, the new buildings will be designed as places of training, transmission, and interdisciplinary exchanges around music. When it opens in 2024, the CEM will offer a university training programme, the creation of a media library dedicated to the preservation of endangered musical heritage, the opening of exhibition spaces, a programme of recitals, concerts, operas, conferences, artists' residencies, and a series of masterclasses. It will also have an intergenerational residence and a scientific institute dedicated to research on the links between music and the brain. Supported by the President of the Republic, accompanied by the State, local authorities and European institutions, the CEM is a response to the challenges of the 21st century, a defender of living together and of sustainable development. The CEM is a member organisation of Europa Nostra.

\* Europa Nostra, which has supported the Centre Européen de Musique since 2016, is the European voice of civil society committed to the safeguarding and promotion of cultural and natural heritage. A pan-European federation of heritage

NGOs, supported by a vast network of public bodies, private companies, and individuals, it covers over 40 countries. Founded in 1963, it is now recognised as the largest and most representative heritage network in Europe. Europa Nostra campaigns to save Europe's endangered monuments, sites, and landscapes, through the 7 Most Endangered Sites programme. Europa Nostra celebrates excellence through the European Heritage Awards / Prix Europa Nostra. Europa Nostra actively contributes to the definition and implementation of European heritage strategies and policies, through a participatory dialogue with the European Institutions and the coordination of the European Heritage Alliance. Europa Nostra was the main EU civil society partner during the European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018. It is also among the first official partners of the "New European Bauhaus" initiative recently launched by the European Commission.

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