

13 February 2017

Dear friends

TRANSITIONING TO EUBO @ AMUZ

This letter tells you about important new developments concerning EUBO's future and what these mean for the EMBA project.

EUBO has been a fantastic achievement over the past 30 years. We are hugely proud to have helped launch the professional careers of hundreds of baroque instrumentalists. Our alumni can be found today in all of Europe's leading baroque ensembles. This year's orchestra is at the top of its game, producing performances that excite and inspire audiences, night after night, in the best venues across Europe.

We're convinced that EUBO still performs an essential service to the music world, and are determined that it should continue to do so for another 30 years.

But the financial and political environment in which EUBO operates has undeniably become far tougher. We still receive substantial co-funding from the European Commission under its Creative Europe programme in support of our EMBA (EUBO Mobile Baroque Academy) project, which we implement with the help of nine wonderfully innovative and energetic partners. But while we continue to work well with the Commission and its cultural agency, and are proud to have the lifetime status of "EU Cultural Ambassador", the terms of its grant are extremely onerous for our small organisation.

The Brexit vote has already had an impact on our fundraising efforts. The current orchestra has no UK members, but EUBO's administration is entirely British. With the UK outside the EU and free movement to and from the UK in all likelihood ended, EUBO's operation will become seriously compromised, to say nothing of our likely future access to EU and other funds.

The EMBA project itself has in our view gone extremely well. We have almost completed two of the planned four annual cycles, working closely with our excellent partners who have gone the extra mile to support our musicians, to introduce us to new possibilities, and to bring in new audiences. We are very grateful to them all.

Nevertheless, faced with the increasingly difficult operating climate, EUBO's management and Board of Trustees have been looking for a strategic way to secure EUBO's future for another 30 years. The solution we have found is one that fills us with delight and confidence. Our long-standing friends at AMUZ in Antwerp, Belgium, have offered to provide a legal and physical home to EUBO. We believe that EUBO's

long-term future (as well as its name and, at least for a while, the involvement of Paul James and Emma Wilkinson) is secure with AMUZ whose track record chimes so well with our own.

AMUZ is already in discussion with several grant-making organisations and the plan is for the new EUBO, hosted at AMUZ, to be operational from 2018. To allow for a successful transition, therefore, EUBO's Board of Trustees has decided to terminate the EMBA project at this, its midway point.

This means that when the current orchestra completes its annual cycle of tours at the end of March, EMBA will cease its planned activities. There will be no auditions for EUBO held this April, and the cycle of concerts that we had planned for the remainder of 2017 and thereafter will for the most part not now take place.

As experienced practitioners in the music business, we know all too well how these cancellations will inconvenience, hurt and disappoint our many loyal friends, colleagues and partners as well as prospective orchestral players. We have striven to find a way to avoid this outcome. Having looked at all options, however, we have been forced to the conclusion that carrying on as we were is no longer possible. A strategic transition out of the UK to a new future with AMUZ is the most viable way forward.

We wanted everyone involved with EUBO to hear this news as early as possible and at the same time. But we are acutely aware that its practical consequences affect all of you in different ways. So we have prepared the attached FAQs which add detail for the various categories of affected people.

We know too that each of you will have particular questions and anxieties, and we are more than happy to try and answer them over the phone. We very much hope that, in due course, all of us can raise a glass to the new EUBO@AMUZ, its musicians, and the noble cause of baroque music.

Yours sincerely,

The Board of Trustees of EUBO, and Paul James, and Emma Wilkinson

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