



EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRAS



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Culture

The MusXchange programme has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the view only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



MusXchange 2012–14

FINAL REPORT

MusXchange 2012–14

A Cooperation Project
of the European Federation of
National Youth Orchestras



mobility matters
pre-professional
opening horizons
**Youth
Orchestras**
innovative training
new skills
concerts
europe
new mindsets
changing
needs

EFNYO's programme for fostering
transnational mobility of
pre-professional musicians





Wiener Jeunesse Orchester at Young Euro Classic, Konzerthaus Berlin, August 2013, welcoming MusXchange musicians from France, Spain, Romania, and the Netherlands | Photo: Jenny Dünser



With its 35 member organisations, the European Federation of National Youth Orchestras (EFNYO) is an association deeply rooted in European musical life. It provides a platform for the exchange of expertise in music training and performance between the leading national youth orchestras of Europe and takes over responsibility for skilling future generations of musicians. In this regard, the Federation truly benefits from its unique position at the interface of higher music education and the music profession.

Following its beginnings in 1996, the musicians' exchange programme of EFNYO has developed into an indispensable instrument for the professionalization of the music sector in the European Union. It gives young pre-professional musicians opportunities to gain orchestral practice in partner orchestras abroad, discover new repertoire, different performance styles and orchestra traditions, meet conductors, teachers, and young artists in a different cultural environment. This experience will widen their perception of musicians' job profiles today, help them to compete on the European labour market, and increase their social, intercultural and language skills.

The programme "MusXchange" has certainly been the highlight among EFNYO cooperation projects since its foundation in 1994. This year, as EFNYO is celebrating its 20th anniversary, we are delighted to present this brochure as a lively and colourful account of a pilot mobility programme which has seen more than 620 participants to date. It represents a wonderful example of intercultural dialogue, transnational learning, and the empowerment of youth and musical excellence throughout the European Union.

I hope you enjoy reading what young musicians, managers and cooperation partners say about MusXchange, – and will be inspired by the opportunities this pilot programme can offer for the advancement of young professionals in the European arts sector!

With best wishes
Renate Böck

President | European Federation of National Youth Orchestras
General Manager | Wiener Jeunesse Orchester



EFNYO Cooperation projects involve activities


- to sustain and shape the future of symphonic music in Europe
- to nurture new youth orchestra initiatives on a national and international level
- to promote the brand of pre-professional youth orchestras
- to support the mobility of a new generation of orchestra musicians
- to raise the interest of young musicians and new audiences in musical diversity and contemporary music performance

Mission

EFNYO strongly believes in the added value of short-term mobility projects in professional music training. The MusXchange programme is based on 15 years of experience of EFNYO members involved in musicians' exchanges throughout Europe.

Recognising the specific characteristics of education and performance in music, MusXchange offers efficient methods of enhancing mobility skills of young musicians in order to support their career paths on the European labour market.

The experiences of participating in ensemble projects of durations between 10 days and 4 weeks with EFNYO partner orchestras abroad widely contribute to young musicians' competitiveness, diversification of social, language and intercultural skills, and performance practices as future professionals.



As one of the leading European music networks, EFNYO plays a vital role for ensuring the quality and outcomes of the MusXchange programme:

The national co-organisers who are member orchestras of EFNYO

- function as platforms of expertise on ensemble training in their own countries
- ensure efficient communication flows between sending/hosting organisations and musicians
- collaborate to remove barriers to mobility on a personal, institutional, social, educational, economic, and political level
- realise the issuing of standardised evaluation documents including musicians' questionnaires, managers' reports, case studies on selected musicians' career paths, and MusXchange passes
- sustain quality assurance within their organisations and in the implementation of the programme





NJO: talent in concert (Nationaal Jeugd Orkest), August 2013, welcoming MusXchange musicians from Poland and Spain | Photo: Nic Limper

Facts & Figures > 2012–14



EFNYO'S MOBILITY PROGRAMME FOR PRE-PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS

EU GRANT > 80.000 €/ Cooperation project

BUDGET > 160.000 €

CO-FINANCING RATE > 50 %

DURATION > 24 MONTHS, MAY 1, 2012 – APRIL 30, 2014

NUMBER OF EXCHANGES > 126 MUSICIANS

ORGANISER:

European Federation of National Youth Orchestras (EFNYO) | www.efnyo.org

CO-ORGANISERS:

Wiener Jeunesse Orchester (AT) | www.wjo.at

Cyprus Youth Symphony Orchestra (CY) | www.cyso.org.cy

Joven Orquesta Nacional de España (ES) | <http://jonde.mcu.es>

Sibelius Academy Symphony Orchestra (FI) | www.siba.fi

Orchestre Français des Jeunes (FR) | www.ofj.fr

Orchestra Giovanile Italiana (IT) | www.scuolamusicafiesole.it

NJO/Dutch Orchestra and Ensemble Academy (NL) | www.njo.nl

The National Youth Orchestras of Scotland (UK) | www.nyos.co.uk

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS:

National Youth Orchestra of Ireland (IE) | www.nyoie.ie

Ungdomssymfonikerne (NO) | <http://ungdomssymfonikerne.no>

The Polish Orchestra Sinfonia Iuventus (PL) | www.sinfoniaiuventus.pl

The programme MusXchange 2012–14 was preceded by the pilot mobility project “MusXchange 2009–11” financed under a special budget line of the EU Parliament (Support to transnational mobility programmes in the field of culture). It covered 118 individual short-term training projects for musicians sent and hosted within the EFNYO network over a period of 24 months between Dec. 2009 and Nov. 2011.



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Sibelius Academy Symphony Orchestra, May 2012, welcoming MusXchange musicians from Austria, France, Spain, and Poland in front of the Helsinki Cathedral | Photo: Tan Shuo

At the occasion of the official launch of the MusXchange Programme 2012-14, the Sibelius Academy Symphony Orchestra was fortunate to receive eight enthusiastic guest players from Spain, Poland, Austria and France. The symphonic programme for this special event included Magnus Lindberg's "Clarinet Concerto" and Richard Strauss' "Alpine Symphony" under the baton of Leif Segerstam. Naturally, it was a major challenge for all players, and a great experience for them to play in the magnificent concert hall of the new Helsinki Music Centre (Musiikitalo). The MusXchange musicians also had the opportunity to join orchestra managers for discussions on future perspectives of the music profession in the framework of the General Assembly of EFNYO hosted at the Sibelius Academy.

Anna Jaskiewicz | Orchestra Manager
Sibelius Academy Symphony Orchestra



Among the group of guest musicians, the discussions we had about job opportunities and music making in the countries we came from were inspiring and motivating. I got a trumpet lesson from Simo Rantanen, trumpet teacher at the Sibelius Academy. My practice and playing is still benefiting from that! In the trumpet section I had to find a way to sound alike and be in tune with them, even though I did not play on the same instrument.

Damaris Richerts | Wiener Jeunesse Orchester (AT)



Orchestra Giovanile Italiana at the Auditorium Parco della Musica di Roma, October 2012, hosting MusXchange musicians from Austria, Spain, and Lithuania | Photo: Ruggero Crescioli

For me, it was a wonderful experience that was organised well and that I still carry with me. I wish to thank those who made the effort necessary for the conception, development and sustenance of this marvellous project. Grazie MusXchange!

Francesco Giordano | Orchestra Giovanile Italiana (IT)

The sound of the orchestra was different and that was very interesting for me. I tried the Viennese horn for the very first time. I had the opportunity to play a Strauss waltz in true Viennese style. I played wonderful music in a wonderful city full of music.

Tea Pagliarini | Orchestra Giovanile Italiana (IT)



The MusXchange Programme has proved of fundamental importance to the members of the Orchestra Giovanile Italiana. Every one of our students who has participated in an exchange has expressed the desire to do so again. Travelling to a foreign country, embracing a new language and adjusting to new rehearsal methods, repertoire or performance practices casts a wider perspective on what it will be like for these young musicians as they transition from a pre-professional experience in their home country to a professional one in the rest of Europe or beyond. Welcoming guest musicians into our orchestra for large-scale symphonic programmes has also proved a wonderful experience for our members, including the opportunity to network with respect to competitions, auditions, teachers, etc., rounding out a programme which is truly essential in forming today's young musician.

Hollie Grey | European Project Manager
Orchestra Giovanile Italiana (OGI)



NJO: talent in concert (Nationaal Jeugd Orkest), August 2014 | Erich Wolfgang Korngold: Die stumme Serenade | Cooperation with the Dutch National Opera Academy (DNOA) | Conductor: Etienne Siebens | Photo: Nic Limper

Although NJO is already highly internationally oriented, MusXchange brought us many new experiences, both by sending and hosting musicians. In their questionnaires, our musicians explained how they got inspired by experiencing other cultures and how they enjoyed working with colleagues from different countries. Sometimes, they were surprised about things like discipline, rehearsal (and dinner...) times, hierarchy, and so on, but all musicians learned a lot about the host orchestra, and about themselves. For MusXchange students coming to the Netherlands it was sometimes a new experience to participate in a smaller project, for example an opera or chamber orchestra. Because of the international population of NJO, it was easy for them to feel at home. Dutch habits like having milk at lunchtime and having dinner already at 5.30 pm, sometimes really astonished them...

Miranda van Drie | General Manager

NJO: talent in concert (Nationaal Jeugd Orkest)

I am really happy that I had the possibility to be part of this special project of the Nationaal Jeugd Orkest (NJO). I enjoyed the mixture of opera, musical, cabaret, operetta, and chamber music with the Hollywood-flair magical music. The experience showed me a lot about communicating with my colleagues, reacting fast, and made me discover, experiment and learn more. I am indeed grateful for having met very nice people with whom I intend to stay in touch in the future.

Miona Vujovic | Wiener Jeunesse Orchester (AT)



Orchestra Giovanile Italiana, October 2013, hosting Marie Lestrelin, violin (Orchestre Français des Jeunes)
Photo: Sylvain Pelly

I found my experience with OFJ reassuring, and it has given me great confidence and skills to take forward in my career. It has taught me the ability to adapt and join a new, different orchestra and blend with the other players quickly and easily. This has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I have been given the opportunity to build lasting connections all over the world, and feel certain that this will be of great benefit when I audition abroad.

Eve Kennedy | The National Youth Orchestras of Scotland (UK)

The second MusXchange experience in Norway made me realize that music is a universal language and it is a very good way of communicating with other people and discovering their culture. International orchestral experiences are important to remind me how beautiful it is to play music with other people and how it helps to stay open-minded. I also appreciated meeting other MusXchange musicians from Spain, Austria, and France, and sharing our experiences. We can feel like being part of a very big family of young European musicians.

Perrine Delecour | Orchestre Français des Jeunes (FR)



The young musicians participating in the MusXchange programme learn a lot from their experience, but also the orchestra welcoming the musicians benefits in many ways from their presence. It brings first and foremost a fresh look on the – sometimes unspoken – national traditions and makes the local musicians realize that there are different manners of playing and teaching music. In this way, it opens their minds in an international sense and can bring them contacts and information about training and job opportunities in other countries. It also makes them feel the need to speak other languages, especially English, if they wish to go abroad. This, too, makes MusXchange an incredibly important programme.

Pierre Barrois | Director
Orchestre Français des Jeunes (OFJ)



The National Youth Orchestras of Scotland, July/August 2012, hosting Ronan Whittern, bassoon (National Youth Orchestra of Ireland) | Photo: Iain Watson, Studio Scotland

Both the conductor and the tutors at NYOS had great music experience and teaching ability as well as humour. I am very glad that I met such good musicians. Next to the experience of playing in a foreign youth orchestra, I also appreciated the opportunity to make new friends, to share our knowledge by playing together, and to experience other cultures and traditional values. All this is important not only in a musician's life but in everybody's life.

Makrina Troullou | Cyprus Youth Symphony Orchestra (CY)



The MusXchange programme has become an integral part of our work to equip musicians on the cusp of a professional career with the skills needed to succeed in the global jobs market. The programme exposes our musicians to new creative stimulus, and enables them to experience different cultures, methods and practices. NYOS has also benefited hugely from being part of a diverse international network.

Joan Gibson | Chief Executive & Artistic Director
The National Youth Orchestras of Scotland (NYOS)

During the MusXchange programme 2012–2014, the Cyprus Youth Symphony Orchestra hosted at its summer camps students from Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Austria, Poland and Finland. These young musicians joined our rehearsal period at the mountain resort which included entertaining trips and social activities. We benefited from a fruitful collaboration which helped both Cypriot and guest musicians and brought them together on an artistic as well as on a personal level in an ideal atmosphere. All musicians hosted were very committed, well integrated, and made a very positive contribution to the sectionals, chamber music sessions and preparation of the symphonic repertoire. This experience offered both local and international students a great opportunity to make music together and form new friendships.

Yiorgos Kountouris | Artistic Director and Conductor
Cyprus Youth Symphony Orchestra (CyYSO)

It was awesome to experience the enormous tradition for orchestras in Austria. The Vienna Musikverein is a great hall, so it was a pleasure to perform in this place. We played a new piece by an Austrian composer and it was a good experience. I had to play the German trumpet, but as I am studying in Salzburg right now, it was not a big surprise for me. Thanks to this project I could go three times to Musikverein to watch concerts of some of the best orchestras in the world, which would not be possible in Spain.

Mario Martos | Joven Orquesta Nacional de España (ES)

Travelling abroad has contributed to making Spanish musicians more self-confident, as they realize that their technical and performance level is very similar to that of young musicians in Central Europe. The increase in communicative skills and their motivation to continue studying foreign languages have brought about an enormous change of mindset. Getting to know different teachers, artists and music schools, as well as exchanging with their peers in the host orchestras often form the first steps for studying or even working abroad. The exchanges open up horizons for young musicians who in spite of representing the best musically trained generation in Spain's history, are faced with little labour opportunities inside the country due to the economic crisis. Compared to other European countries, the unemployment rate among young people in Spain is more than 50%.

Saulo Muñoz Schworchert | Artistic Coordinator
Joven Orquesta Nacional de España (JONDE)



MusXchange provides an excellent opportunity for young musicians to continue their education through orchestra practice abroad. Like the Erasmus programme, participants have the opportunity to learn about other cultures, as well as different ways of looking at music and instrumental techniques. The benefits of such an experience are hard to put into words, and often have long-term effects on participants. Personally, I am delighted to have been on two exchanges with JONDE, and came back richer for the experience, and in thoughts, not only on how to play music, but also as regards my perception of the world of music, mentality and approach to life.

Aleksandra Gargol | The Polish Orchestra Sinfonia Iuventus (PL)



NJO: talent in concert (Nationaal Jeugd Orkest), August 2013, welcoming Yaryna Nycz, violin (The Polish Orchestra Sinfonia Iuventus) and Carmen Muñoz Hernández, viola (Joven Orquesta Nacional de España) | Photo: Nic Limper



Wiener Jeunesse Orchester, August 2013, hosting MusXchange musicians from Romania, Spain, France, and the Netherlands | Photo: Jenny Dünser

Continue this way! MusXchange gives people the chance to travel, learn and share experiences on different cultures and orchestras. One learns to be tolerant, and to play together with people who have different views, which is the best way of growing as a person. The conductor, the soloist, the staff and the composer were really involved in looking after the atmosphere in the orchestra. All the exchange musicians were very well received, and the integration was perfect. Not only during the rehearsals, but also during our free time. Thank you again for this opportunity!

Laura Rodriguez Fonseca | Joven Orquesta Nacional de España (ES)

I really liked the atmosphere in Wiener Jeunesse Orchester. Especially since it was my second time, I knew a lot of people already. They were all so friendly, and it already felt like my own orchestra. I proudly wear the WJO sticker on my violin case, and will never forget the great time I had with my friends in Vienna. I was very happy to be re-invited, and wish to thank EFNYO for giving me this great opportunity. I hope the very best for the MusXchange programme in the future.

Jouko Kuijk | NJO: talent in concert (NL)



The feedback we have received most from the musicians in our orchestra is that the MusXchange experience has broadened their horizons. Hearing the standard of performance for their international peers pushes them to achieve their goals and, in many cases, encourages them to study abroad when they may not have considered this previously. It is an inspiration for these young musicians to have the opportunity to learn from each other and I am certain that some lifelong friendships have been forged in the process.

Carol-Ann McKenna | General Manager
National Youth Symphony Orchestra of Ireland (NYOI)



Wiener Jeunesse Orchester at Athenaeum Bucharest, August 2013, hosting Maïewenn Nicolas, oboe (Orchestre Français des Jeunes) | Photo: Romy Draghici

MusXchange 2012–14 Outcomes

EVALUATION TOOLS

- Musicians' questionnaires (**122**)
- Managers' reports (**27**)
- Case studies on selected musicians' career paths (**17**)
- MusXchange passes (**126**)

MUSXCHANGE VIDEO

“Opening horizons for a new generation of musicians”

<http://www.youtube.com/user/efnyo>

EU NATIONALITIES

The **126 exchange musicians** hosted in **27 orchestra projects** between May 2012 and April 2014 are nationals of **17 different countries** – Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

STATISTICS BASED ON MUSICIANS' QUESTIONNAIRES

- Overall rating given to the course: **excellent 39%** or **good 49%** > **totalling 88%!**
- I will possibly consider working in this country later: **53%**
- I want to learn more about this country's culture: **61%**
- It's a great asset on my CV: **66%**
- It motivates me to work as a professional musician in the future: **68%**
- I learned/improved a foreign language: **69%**
- I met new people with whom I intend to stay in touch: **84%**
- I would participate again in an exchange project of EFNYO: **92%**



Sustainability and collaborative links

The qualifications of the future generation of musicians experienced in mobility have to be made visible to the professional sector, especially to professional orchestras and orchestral associations. This will support their recognition as fully trained „cultural workers“ suitable for working within a flexible, fast-changing and competitive European labour market.

EFNYO has entered into collaboration with professional orchestras and orchestra networks such as the Orchestra Network for Europe (ONE®), the Association of British Orchestras (ABO), the Association Française des Orchestres (AFO), and the Spanish Orchestras Association (AEOS). Along the timeline of the two MusXchange programmes, outcomes have been communicated to an even larger number of partner organisations including the European Music Council (EMC) and the European Association of Conservatoires (AEC), and have found their way to European congresses, into brochures, concert programmes and tour booklets, to the websites of all MusXchange co-organisers and associated partners, to thousands of young musicians, and last but not least, to large European audiences.

One very concrete outcome of MusXchange is the cooperation with the Orchestra Network for Europe (ONE®) which will start in 2014–2015, and will enable some of the most advanced players in EFNYO orchestras to join professional orchestras for pilot internships of up to 4 weeks in France, Germany and Slovenia (“MusXchange_Going Professional”).

NJO: talent in concert (Nationaal Jeugd Orkest) at Orpheus Theatre, Apeldoorn, August 2013 | Photo: Nic Limper

ONE® – an Orchestra Network for Europe, has constantly been looking for new ways of including young pre-professionals and, as such, is keen to cooperate with EFNYO and its unique, progressive MusXchange programme. 10 years of networking and innovative activities have made the orchestra members of ONE® aware of the impact of mobility on both musicians and institutions. One of the network’s core concerns is also the issue of orchestra training and evolving professional skills in a fast-changing world; therefore, it salutes the sustainable way in which

MusXchange addresses the issue of pre-professional training and mobility. The prospect of working in association with EFNYO over the coming years, as well as welcoming young musicians who have benefited from the MusXchange programme, is a great asset.

Rose Bardonnnet-Lowry

ONE® – An Orchestra Network for Europe | Lead partner
Orchestre de Picardie

Following the pilot programme “MusXchange 2009–11”, EFNYO submitted a set of recommendations to the EU Commission in support of transnational mobility under the new programme “Creative Europe” 2014–20.

EXCERPTS FROM THE RECOMMENDATIONS:

“The new EU Culture Programme should underline the importance of mobility at all stages of the curricula of artists. In particular, we wish to stress the importance of nurturing the mobility of young artists while still in their training process. Mobility experience creates opportunities, opens horizons, and contributes substantially to the basic skills required for a professional career in the arts.”

“The new EU Culture Programme should consider the strong impact of mobility experience for musicians at the interface of music education and the profession, and should take place in formal, non-formal and informal learning environments. The inherent multiplier effect is directed at peer groups of young professionals paving the way for a new generation of mobile musicians in the EU.”

“We wish to stress the necessity for and enrichment of such programmes by including overseas partners which will enable pre-professional artists in Europe to qualify for the demands of international labour markets and to adapt to various social, economic and political environments in a global context.”





Project management | EFNYO

Renate Böck, project coordinator

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Aleksandra Bajde, project manager (since Sept. 2014)

Lucie Faggiani, project assistant (2012–14)

Floriane Cottet, project assistant (2009–11)

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Yiorgos Kountouris, Cyprus Youth Symphony Orchestra (CY)

Saulo Muñoz Schworchert, Joven Orquesta Nacional de España (ES)

Anna Jaskiewicz, Sibelius Academy Symphony Orchestra (FI)

Pierre Barrois, Orchestre Français des Jeunes (FR)

Hollie Grey, Orchestra Giovanile Italiana (IT)

Miranda van Drie, NJO: talent in concert (NL)

Joan Gibson, The National Youth Orchestras of Scotland (UK)

Cover: Sibelius Academy Symphony Orchestra rehearsing at Helsinki Music Centre, May 2012

Official launch of MusXchange 2012–14 | Conductor: Leif Segerstam | Photo: David Claudio

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