



Newsletter of ESTA International – January 2016

Dear Mr. Giuranna, President of ESTA,

Dear Members of the Central Board,

Dear Presidents and Board Members,

Dear Friends of ESTA,

First of all, may I wish you a creative and peaceful 2016! I hope that all our ESTA branches continue to flourish and develop. A better level of string playing and teaching is important for the development of music and art in general.

In this Newsletter I would like to report on the activities of the Central Board during 2015.

We had Skype Meetings in January, May, July, September and November. We have been dealing with the following items:

- **Central Secretary:** Sophie Schudel (CH) left us in April. Thanks Sophie for your excellent ESTA work. Isabel Hahn (D) became her successor and joined us at the International ESTA Conference in Middelburg (NL). Welcome Isabel!
- **The international ESTA Conference in Middelburg (NL) in May:** Thank you ESTA Nederland, the organizing committee and the board, for this wonderful congress with the slogan 'Do It Yourself'. We all enjoyed the active workshops, the fascinating lectures and inspiring concerts. The repeat of many activities was a clever solution to double bookings, and the space between the activities also gave us time for conversation. The historical town of Middelburg offered an ideal environment for an ESTA conference. Thanks again!
- **ESTA Nederland** is 40 years old! There was a fine celebration day in November in Zeist with Ton Koopman conducting an ESTA chamber orchestra. Congratulations!
- **ESTA Portugal** is a new branch and is developing well. If your Portuguese is not too bad, please check their exciting website! Thank you Jorge, Clarissa and Ana Sofia. Good luck!
- **ESTA Ireland:** The President Mr. Szucs has left for Hungary and unfortunately the branch has become dormant. In the meantime ESTA UK is offering membership to the remaining members. We hope that new board members can be found to revitalize the branch. Ireland is a country with a strong folk music tradition and a lot of string players.
- **ESTA Germany** has a new president: Walter Mengler. Congratulations, Walter!
- **ESTA Denmark** also has a new president: Elisabeth Zeuthen Schneider. Congratulations, Elisabeth!



- **ESTA Belgium-Flanders** has a new secretary: Liesemarie Beelaerts and a new treasurer: Jacques Piert. ESTA Wallonia-Brussels has become inactive. The board is investigating the possibility of building one Belgian branch for the 3 parts of the country.
- **ESTA France:** After a difficult period this branch had a revitalizing Delegates Meeting in Paris in November. Cristina Bellu and her new colleagues on the board managed to sell the domain name of their website and will be able to organize interesting activities. The magazine of ESTA France has been digitalized and offers interesting pedagogical information. We wish Cristina and her team good luck in expanding the French branch.
- **New branches:** negotiations have been held with Iceland, Spain, Lithuania and Hungary.
- **The website www.estastrings.org** has been updated by the CB and Stas Sagdeyev (ESTA Ukraine). If you have important news from your branch, please let us know.
- **The ESTA Solidarity Fund in memoriam Elspeth Iliff:** Thanks to the commitment of the Working Group (John Shayler, Agnes Stein von Kamienski, Wolfgang Klos, Ramil Sadriev, Jorge Alves) new rules, suggestions and an application form have been set up to support members of poor branches to come to the conferences. The information can be found on the start page of the website. Many members from Eastern Europe had the opportunity to benefit from the fund for the Conference in Middelburg. We also want to thank the Dutch branch for their generous support. A lot of communication between the CB and ESTA Nederland was required to organize this, but in the end we succeeded!
- **Exchanges.** Karen Valeur reported on the Carl Nielsen masterclass in Lithuania. There has been an exchange between a Danish and Spanish string orchestra.
- **The Guidelines to organize a conference** have been rewritten by a Working Group (Antoine Frenedo, John Shayler, Philip Aird and Kristian Kolman). Thank you very much! They can be found on our website.
- **The ESTA Edition** has been federalized. The updated information can be found on the website. Existing editions can still be purchased with 10 % discount through ESTA Switzerland or Müller & Schade.
- **The ESTA Foundation** has a new president: Ulrike Danhofer. We welcome her warmly and thank the previous president, our honorary member Kjell-Åke Hamrén for many years of commitment. An artistic advisory board has been formed with Ulrike Danhofer, Judith Ermer, Terje Moe Hansen and Merit Palas. We would also like to thank Werner Schmitt for writing a helpful article about the ESTA Foundation. It will soon be put on the website. ESTA UK has offered to advise the ESTA Foundation on its investments.
- **The MUSE project:** ESTA Italy and ESTA Belgium-Flanders are partners in this European project of Atelier Europeo. A subvention was not granted in 2015, but there will be a new application this year.



- **The International ESTA Conference in Ljubljana (26-30 April 2016):** We are looking forward to a splendid congress organized by the Slovenian ESTA branch. Being aware of the enormous amount of work and stress involved in this, we are very grateful and wish Kristian Kolman and his team all the best. All information can be found on <http://www.esta2016.si/>. We also want to remind you that Thomastik-Infeld sponsors this conference with 10,000 euros. It will be great to meet all of you again in Ljubljana!
- **Kazan 2017:** This conference will be organized by ESTA Tatarstan in May by Ramil Sadriev and his team. We wish them a lot of energy and inspiration in preparing this conference. Included will be a (possible) re-election of the Central Board. We would also like to give you some practical information on traveling to Kazan. If you live in Western Europe you will need a visa (150-200 euros) - with fingerprints - which you have to order in advance at the Russian Embassy of your country. You can take a direct flight to Moscow from either Frankfurt or Helsinki (cost approx. 250 euros) and then take a flight (or a train) to Kazan. Please try to motivate your members to come, and keep them well informed.
- **Malta 2018:** Remembering the beautiful conference of 2005, we are happy to return to Malta, Cultural Capital in 2018. Good luck, Antoine Frenedo and your team from ESTA Malta!
- **Bucharest 2019:** Luigi Gageos and his team from ESTA Romania have invited us.
- **Other forthcoming conferences:** 2020: ? / 2021: ? / 2022: Graz, 50 years of ESTA / 2023: Oxford?, 50 years of ESTA UK. If your branch is interested in hosting a conference, especially in 2020 or 2021, please let us know as soon as possible.

I hope I have been able to give you a good summary of the work of the Central Board and the activities in ESTA during 2015. I am convinced that the continuing exchange of ideas about fine string teaching will raise the level of string playing in both a musical and technical way. It has been a pleasure to work together with the President, the Secretary and the members of the Central Board. Meeting them live or on Skype is always a positive experience. I hope you can find the same friendly atmosphere in your national board. Let's go for a better string world!

Best wishes for 2016!

Mark Lambrecht, Vice-President of ESTA International

Bruges (B), January 2016