

History

The Music Council was established on request of the International Music Council in 1949 and functioned as the Belgian national Music Council until 1978.

After a short transitional period, Jan Kestelyn became in charge from 1981 until the middle of the nineties. Until 2000, the Music Council was managed by Camille Swinnen (chairman) and Luc Leytens (secretary).

The Flemish Music Council played an important role in the IMC through its membership of the financial and the juridical committee, and as a consequence thereof involved in the working of the international forum. From 2000 on the new President, Dirk Rombaut, outlined a first five year strategy focused on the diversification of the Music Council. The intention was to gain a larger basis by accepting also the membership of associations, and not only of individual members. This resulted in an expansion of the membership to approximately thirty members representing associations or organizations. Individual membership has been maintained to safeguard the important contribution of erudite and experienced individuals.

The realizations of the Flemish Music Council include:

- Yotam, a project guiding young talents in music (department of the ministry of education)
- Seminar on the music libraries (initiative of the librarians of the Flemish colleges of Music, in association with KVAB)
- Participation to the Flemish Fortnight (Waco Texas) in cooperation with ISME (now ivme).
- Participation at Am Arts Fest, an American music festival in Flanders in cooperation with ivme and the Baylor University (USA)
- 'Pollinating sounds': an international symposium with as a subject 'the authenticity of the folk music'
- 'How will the carillon play?': a symposium on music literature and arrangements for carillon.

The Flemish Music Council is a member of the IMC and EMC.

Mission Statement

The Flemish Music Council is a platform for transversal and structured consultation and co-operation between all stakeholders, promoting and protecting musical quality and spreading musical culture and musical experience in Flanders.

It also represents the IMC and EMC in Flanders.

The Flemish Music Council is a non-governmental organization, standing up for the artistic and human values as promoted by IMC, EMC with reference to the Unesco conventions in the sector of the non commercial music in Flanders

It defends the Flemish music inheritance and a scientific approach and research thereof.

The Flemish Music Council supports the several sections of the non commercial sector by offering them its artistic and scientific expertise.

The Flemish Music Council shall draw attention to and undertakes to:

- study the needs of the non commercial music sector in the Flemish country
- support its members and other stakeholders in an optimal and professional way
- expand international relationships and activities
- create opportunities for cooperation and development
- stimulate the professional deepening and innovation of the sector.
- promote and publish the Flemish music inheritance and the scientific approach thereof.

Flemish Music Council

- is a non-profit association incorporated under Belgian law, with a core activity in one specific art branch: music.
- intends to realize an open information and/or documentation forum
- supports the non-commercial music sector by developing and providing documentation and working material, and by organizing quality improving projects
- undertakes to cooperate with other organizations and associations, and to enter into discussions and agreements with involved and allied sectors and actors.
- provides advice concerning content and offers artistic and/or technical support
- develops a quality policy in order to optimize and to control the quality of its functioning.
- shall realize product or process innovations and stimulate diversity.
- expands international relationships and activities

The Flemish Music Council is inspired by artists, whether professionals or amateurs, by the social engagement of the non-professional arts sector, and by the several levels of art education and teaching.

This leads to a productive interaction and a smooth flow.

The Flemish Music Council devotes itself to get the Flemish music sector a positive image and emanation on the international forum by delegating artistic and scientific specialists.

The Flemish Music Councils target group is large and diverse. Its focus however lies on the artistic and pedagogical field of the non profit music sector: amateurs, semi-professionals, professionals, teachers, performers, composers, musicologists, music libraries and their users.

Its general assembly is composed of organizations/ associations and individual representatives of the amateur sector, the semi-professional sector and the professional sector.

In addition, the Flemish Music Council may compose specific reflection and projects groups whenever necessary.

For membership info, contact

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Flemish Music Council
(section of the Belgian Music Council)