

1. SHORT BACKGROUND:

Orkester Norden is celebrating 20 years of existence in 2013. During these 20 years, youth orchestras have developed from being a place for "special interests" to becoming the true "hot spots". Young musicians have today a wide range of top level possibilities of how to spend their summertime.

An orchestra does not become more interesting or fantastic than the role models (conductor / soloist / teachers / repertoire / staff /) and members participating in it can make of it. ON had a big star in most musicians' awareness a few generations back, thanks to names like Esa-Pekka Salonen in front. After some rough years with reorganizing and diminishing the project back down to earth, the jungle word has again started to spread our name throughout the region in spite of hard financial times and for being an almost "Dudamel-free zone". Our number of applicants are increasing and we are starting to believe that others (too!) recognize our mission and profile.

Working within a Nordic collaboration is a wonderful mess. It demands a huge amount of coordinating information and for a small orchestrs staff we can only do so with help from our network. We would like to reinforce the ability to get the most of our potential as an interesting platform for AMNAs students.

2. ON TODAY:

Not unique, but with a clear agenda:

- 1-3 weeks yearly orchestra course and tour (depending on budget)
- Coaches from the Nordic symphony orchestras and / or conservatories (the very best and most experienced we can get)
- According to a thorough evaluation executed by Concert Sweden in 2006, ON members have a high rate when it comes to dedication – perhaps even as a result of participating in ON. The report reveals that:
 - o 85% of participants become professional musicians later on
 - o over 90% confirmed that the network and friendships established during ON became life time contacts and colleagues
 - o A major amount replied that what they experienced during ON became crucial to their careers after (also in sense of network of contacts throughout the different orchestras etc)
- ON has an emphasis on
 - o Artisticly as high level as possible
 - o Education: i.e. how to manage as an orchestra musician
 - o Exchange and network: meeting point between musical and methodic "dialects" in our region, on student and teachers level
 - o Nordic core repertoire: both historic and contemporary (no commissions: principle of serving the students what we already know is good, WITH the composers present, if he / she is still alive..)
 - o Nordic role models: Teachers, soloists and conductor(s)
 - o Open for Nordic passports holders or residents (+ auditions)
 - o Baltic students (ca 5 pr country) selected and through schools (no auditions in this area)
 - o Participants receives ECT points for Orkester Norden through University of Agder
 - o Offering additional workshops (varies from year to year: composer's workshop, performance awareness, improvisation, audition techniques)
 - o Between 200 – 300 applicants every year

The organisation proves a challenge after the long stable period when Concert Sweden where the producers. ON is today an ambulating orchestra, on its way to finalize a period with Norwegian hosts (Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra and University of Agder) to being moved for a new period in Aalborg (the new Concert Hall in Aalborg,

the Conservatory, the Symphony Orchestra and the City of Aalborg is already working very well with the financial grounding of the orchestra). The artistic leadership is for the time being linked to the national hosts, - today represented by Rolf Gupta.

A Nordic Council is securing the continuity and the overall Nordic network on different organisation levels:

- ANMA (recruiting, secure artistic quality and relevance)
- FNF (political lobby and awareness)
- Lions Club Nordiske samarbeidsråd (sponsors, friends)
- Musik og Ungdom (travel support students, marketing)
- De Unges Orkesterforbund (general advice, marketing)
- Musikalliansen (general advice)
- Further on, we wish to reinforce the professional contact level by inviting members from one major Nordic symphony orchestra, concert halls or festivals / agencies as members of the council.

3. WHAT WE NEED:

- A. a more stable organization
- B. a more predictable recruiting process
- C. more money

A: ON is in an ongoing process in order to formalize the structure and organization in order to commit the Council members in a more solid way. We believe this will give the working staff better tools to meet everyday challenges as well as the overall goal: the most relevant offer to the Nordic students possible.

ANMA role today:

- o Is represented by the secretary general in our Council
- o Represents the schools of which the majority of our applicants study
- o Provides a network between teachers / coaches
- o Hosts our auditions, where local teachers act as jury members

B. We are happy with the role of ANMA; but would love to see the relation working on a far more active level.

Could ANMA and ON...

- work more tightly together regarding guest teachers (provide guest teachers directly?)
- synchronize the process of auditions better?
- could ON participate in the relevant discussions regarding orchestra education?
- could ANMA members to a higher degree give us feedback?
- Should ANMA through their teachers to a higher degree be part of the artistic planning / advice?
- IN other words: apart from providing high and interesting artistic and social level in general, what would ANMA members need in order to make ON more known among the new generations of students?

C. ...who doesn't?

The point is, that if our communication with the Nordic and Baltic conservatories regarding information (from both sides) and auditions could be better synchronized, we could use our resources far better than we do today.

Thank you for the attention – we look forward to stay in touch!

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www.orkesternorden.com
www.youtube.com/orkesternorden
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ON Evaluation (in Swedish only):

http://www.orkesternorden.com/orkesternorden10/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=147&Itemid=109