European Association of Artists Agents for the first time in Russia

For the first time since its founding in 1947, the members of the European Association of Artist Agents, AEAA, voted unanimously to hold their annual General Assembly in Moscow. The AEAA was founded by a group of artist managers, concert agents and impresarios from five European countries in Paris in the aftermath of World War II. Today the AEAA counts over 70 members from 17 countries and represents over 4000 artists in the field of classical music. It differs from its sister organisation, the IAMA (International Artist Managers Association) in that AEAA restricts its membership to individual artist managers, though both organisations subscribe to the same ethical standards and provide the only definite list of artist representations on the Classical Music Artists website www.classicalmusicartists.com.

Russia, the biggest country in the world, has a great musical tradition and cultural diversity. As a genuine European association, it is important to us as well to uphold the idea of enhanced cultural cooperation and integration - not only inside the European Union. This is ever more important in times of growing nationalist and even dystopic tendencies. Music as a universal language contributes to international understanding, hence this year's motto "Music without Borders".

The AEAA’s being in Moscow during the renowned Tchaikovsky Competition gave the opportunity of hearing laureates in both Moscow and St.Petersburg, and attending the Helikon Opera’s Mazeppa and a concert at the St. Petersburg State Capella. Making the personal and inspiring acquaintance of Russian music administrators, agents, promoters and those who generously support music-making in Russia led to the formation of new friendships, synergies and the mutual creation of opportunities.

The General Assembly was held in the elegant St Regis Hotel, where the new Board of the Association was elected with Réda Sidi-Boumedine (France) as its new President, Pawel Orski (Poland) as Vice President, Andreas Kirchner (Germany) as General Secretary, Vladimir Dedyukhin (Russia) and Giovanna Losco (Italy). Zdenka Kachlova (Czechia) continues as Treasurer. The Board of the AEAA thus represents a truly united Europe.

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