

WELCOME

As President of the European Music Council it has been an honour and privilege to be so closely involved with the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage and this resulting study into Music and Heritage in Europe to be published in 2019. The EMC has contributed to the success of the EYCH initiative and through our extensive network of members, ensured that this programme did not simply highlight the role that music plays in cultural heritage, but has led to many inspiring and complimentary programmes of activities throughout Europe, many of which are featured in this publication.

We could easily argue that of all the art forms, music plays a key role in promoting and developing a local, regional, national or even European cultural heritage, both from the historical perspective and from contemporary cultural trends. It is no coincidence that many of the articles you will read feature the oral traditions, and in the case of this publication most of them are connected to song. Words and music not only have an emotional response for the participant and audience alike, they ensure that the language of music, which knows no boundaries, is the conduit to maintaining language itself, especially those languages spoken in less populated parts of Europe. Music and song also tell stories that are passed down from generation to generation, thus ensuring that cultural heritage looks forward as well as celebrates the past.

I hope that you will both embrace and enjoy what follows – some articles are scholarly and academic in nature; often the result of many years of detailed research whereas others simply tell the story of an individual experience, whether centred around any particular style or genre of music, or celebrating the cultural heritage of an individual country and the role that music plays.

We are delighted to publish this study and add my introductory remarks to those of my colleague Silvia Costa former MEP who will continue to play an important role in this vitally important area promoting and developing the ongoing face of our cultural heritage in Europe with music at its core. I join her in committing both personally and on behalf of the EMC to fight for music, musicians and the well-being of all of Europe's citizens in ensuring access to music and to culture is never denied.

Yours, Ian Smith

President, European Music Council