



FestFlash 1 - July 2008

FestFlash on Intercultural Dialogue - Arts Festivals' Declaration on Intercultural Dialogue brought to life!

The European Festivals Association proudly presents you with the first edition of **FestFlash** - a monthly newsletter highlighting exceptional cases of festivals celebrating intercultural dialogue.

"Festivals declared all together in [Ljubljana](#), during the opening of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, how important cultural organizations are in turning multicultural societies into intercultural societies. In partnership with European Commissioner Ján Figel', EFA promotes the concept of Intercultural Dialogue by involving hundreds of festivals across Europe and beyond into the active implementation, celebration of and reflection on Intercultural Dialogue", according to Darko Brlek, President of the European Festivals Association.

This **FestFlash** shows how the Arts Festivals' Declaration on Intercultural Dialogue, an initiative of the European Festivals Association, is brought to life, featuring projects that have been set up in the spirit of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

In the spotlight

Festival Internacional de Musica y Danza de Granada

Artists, Audiences and urban spaces - A celebration of intercultural dialogue



A Festival such as Granada's is much more than its performances in the Alhambra: It celebrates a festival of culture which spreads, shares, joins, complements and feeds the diversity of its own cultural expressions.

- The [programme](#) 2008 was dedicated to artistic encounters involving especially European, Arabic and Jewish artists performing together on stage, in a historical place such as the Alhambra, evoking a discussion on the rich culturally diverse history of the city - ***“Festivals give artists from all over the world the opportunity of increasing and developing their artistic experience” (the Declaration).***
- The open visual arts and music instrument [exhibition](#) (p. 38) ‘Intercultural Dialogue’ enhanced public awareness of Granada's multi-cultural history. Public [debates](#) (p.36) organized in collaboration with different local universities on ‘Intercultural Dialogue’ made contributions to the reflection on the European vision of culture or cultures.
- FEX, the Festival's expansion around the city and its outskirts with [urban spaces activities](#) allowed high participation of the audience and different urban groups - ***“Outreach and fringe activities provide easy and open access to the cultural activities of festivals for all kind of audiences, attracting all kinds of people, thus enhancing the process of social inclusion”.***
- the [Manuel de Falla International Courses](#) for young artists from all over the world enhanced learning from each others' cultural and artistic backgrounds -

“Festivals play a unique role in the context of education by promoting a culture of peace and shaping understanding and respect amongst groups of people.”

- [Children’s activities](#) involved the young generation into dialogue with cultures through arts bringing values such as friendship and solidarity into discussion – ***“Activities conceived especially for young people are particularly useful tools to reach youths and communicate with them, sharing values such as respect for other cultures and launching education processes in the field of intercultural exchange.”***

In dialogue with...

Enrique Gamez Ortega, Director of the Granada Festival

EFA: Why have you decided to engage and sign the Declaration on Intercultural Dialogue?

E.G.: We live at a time where the dialogue between cultures is much more relevant than the dialogue between nations. I do believe that the most relevant task of cultural festivals is to contribute to Intercultural Dialogue. In my opinion it has been a wise decision to declare 2008 the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

When it comes to promoting activities, there must be a real commitment toward the international, the global and the intercultural. This is the reason for backing the Declaration. First we have to “be” and then we have to “do”. All the activities that conformed our programmes and all the public statements that we issue to this end should be a true commitment towards the complex and diverse society in which we live, towards the society that makes up our own city, our own region, towards everything that we call “international”.

EFA: Are you suggesting that festivals are playing a key role also in terms of social cohesion?

E.G.: More than ever, in present and future times, a festival must be an effective vehicle for peace and social cohesion and must ensure an open perspective on the world; to this end it must be very active, unconventional and prepared to take risks. A festival such as Granada’s, and all those who are members of EFA, has an added cultural, educational, recreational and economic responsibility as well as a social and civil one, with the purpose of contributing to the positive enrichment of our perspective societies.

EFA: How is your festival practically engaging in this challenge?

E.G.: The idea of Intercultural Dialogue inspires every single aspect of the activities proposed in 2008. The first step involves the conviction of truly wishing to establish collaboration with colleagues and artists. But the show or the performance are not the only vehicles of communication. Equally significant are the variable combinations of contents, the subject of training courses, the specific programmes, the commissions, the cycles for children, adolescents or handicap people, exhibitions, conferences, chats and even the graphic image selected this year, to give just a few examples.

Enrique Gamez will write in EFA BOOKS 4 on the responsibilities, impacts and challenges of festivals in developing intercultural competences.

FestFlash Highlights

Emilia Romagna Festival, Italy



L'incanto dei luoghi, la magia della musica

Calendario Programma Luoghi Press Collaborazioni Sostenitori Archivio ERF

Emilia Romagna Festival itinerari musicali

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La parola al Direttore Artistico

Anno europeo del dialogo interculturale 2008

Il 2008, Anno Europeo del Dialogo Interculturale, segna un' percorso di ERF e dei Festival in genere. Festival delle arti musica. Prima di tutto perché questa tematica, esposta Festivals Declaration on Intercultural Dialogue", è stata sottoscritta dalla Commissione Europea e da un manipolo c appartenenti alla European Festivals Association, a l cerimonia di apertura del semestre sloveno di preside bisogna approfittare dell'energia sovversiva dell'atto crea tutti i sistemi culturali troppo stabilizzati o populistici.

Festival d'arte, non solo musica, è questo il cammino da seguire? La nostra risposta è sì. È dialogo, al rispetto per le varie culture, alla diffusione di idee e competenze, all'union Festival, forti delle loro profonde radici nelle comunità in cui operano, possono, promuovere ed esaltare, in una atmosfera "festosa", una filosofia di scambio culturale diversità che non possono più essere ignorate. Su questi "landmarks" si muove il most partendo da Noa e chiudendo con la Grande Messa di Bach, spaziando dalla nuova musica, il Millennio della Cattedrale di Sarsina commissionata e diretta da Ennio Morricone, o la i brano di Françoise Choveaux, compositrice nota anche per l'opera scritta per il Concorso presenze di grande spessore provenienti da tutto il mondo e che di questo mondo ci parla

Un percorso di musica, teatro, danza, esperienze trasversali e anche una piccola esposiz raccontano 50 anni di storie d'Europa, da quando eravamo divisi in due e ci si riuniva Questo ci rincuora e ci incoraggia a guardare positivamente avanti contro gli stereo discriminazioni, ma soprattutto a sorridere, come nella nostra nuova veste grafica: un vi sogni. L'abbiamo soprannominata Agata e per noi sta diventando un simbolo, forse una pi Dipendera' da noi.

The Festival dedicates its 2008 edition to the [European Year of Intercultural Dialogue](#), from Noa to Bach's Große Messe, spreading the message of the Year also in an [exhibition of EFA festivals' posters](#), produced by festivals throughout the last 50 years. This exhibition confronts us with our past and reminds us of the first steps of dialogue between festivals in times when Europe politically was divided in two.

Culture&Cultures Festival, Lempaut, France

In keeping with the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, this year's edition of the [Culture&Cultures](#) multidisciplinary festival features China, Australasia and France involving artists that have composed their works in the spirit of intercultural dialogue illustrating the commonality between diverse cultures beyond our ancestry, religion, language, history, customs or institutions.

Ruhr Piano Festival, Ruhr District, Germany

Inspiring people of different backgrounds and different age groups with different levels of education in the German area of the multi-cultural 'Ruhr' to work together - this is the motto of the [Ruhr Piano Festival Education programme](#). A specific series presents the "great piano schools of our time" from all over the world. In 2008, the school of Russian Alexei Lubimov is featured. International Masterclasses and projects such as 'Encounters' are further examples with an intercultural dimension.

[March Music Days International Festival](#), Rousse, Bulgaria



Let's play orchestra - an [educational orchestral project](#) - was [included in](#) the [2008 festival programme](#) and involved 53 young musicians from Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Macedonia, Monte Negro and Turkey. The workshop with Sir Neville Marriner and international tutors ended with a concert broadcasted by the Bulgarian National Television and by the Radio. With a high degree of visibility, this project is an excellent example for artistic and professional interaction amongst young people regardless of their different cultural background.

REMA members commit to the Arts Festivals' Declaration

In Brezice (Slovenia) on 4 July 2008 early music festivals of REMA (Réseau Européen de Musique Ancienne) signed the [Declaration on Intercultural Dialogue](#).

New signing parties

The European Festivals Association invites all arts festivals to sign up the Arts Festivals' Declaration on Intercultural Dialogue. Read the Open Call [here](#).

About FestFlash

The monthly **FestFlash** brings news about festivals and their activities implemented in the spirit of the [Arts Festivals' Declaration on Intercultural Dialogue](#).

It is the roadmap to **EFA BOOKS 4** that will be published by the end of 2008. EFA BOOKS 4 showcases most outstanding examples of festivals' work and reflects on the challenges in the context of intercultural dialogue.

More on the Arts Festivals' Declaration's website at www.efa-aef.eu where 25 language versions of the Declaration can be downloaded! To sign up the Declaration, write to info@efa-aef.eu.

The **Arts Festivals' Declaration on Intercultural Dialogue** is an initiative of the [European Festivals Association](http://www.efa-aef.eu) in the framework of the [European Year of Intercultural Dialogue](http://www.efa-aef.eu).

EFA is a member of the [Rainbow Platform on Intercultural Dialogue](http://www.efa-aef.eu) and collaborates closely with the initiative [A Soul for Europe](http://www.efa-aef.eu).



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Education and Culture DG

