



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



swinging europe
exploring music - supporting talent

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Introduction

2020 was a year that in every way could not have been foreseen: With a more or less normal start, it was to turn out to take a turn from March - the corona pandemic found entry in not only the whole world, but also Denmark. International cultural projects had to look at their activities and partner meetings, as travel bans cemented themselves, and likewise, local and national projects also found themselves in trouble when social distancing became the mantra.

Despite these fundamental changes, we carried out a combination of international, national, regional and local initiatives in relation to our projects, which consisted of equal parts launching, as well as executing and facilitating cultural projects; internationally, we moved project management and partner meetings to the virtual Zoom service in the Creative Europe projects **MoSaIC** and **LIBERTY**, while the completion of our Nordic talent development project **Young Nordic Star** managed to escape the restrictions before the outbreak back in February. Selected young up-and-coming musicians from Denmark, Finland, Åland and Greenland went on a two-week tour in Uummannaq, where cultural and musical ties were created across national borders.

Locally and regionally, Swinging Europe as an institution set the tone in Herning's music scene, as meeting up internationally proved to be problematic; the local-based project **Museum as Muse** combined Herningsholm's historic setting with electronic music production during the lockdown period, while **MOORJAZZ Festival 2020** took a corona-friendly form with a series of concerts with well-known artists and up-and-coming musicians spread over various venues over a week.

We took the initiative to get live music out to isolated elderly people in the care centers in Herning Municipality with the **Mental Health Concerts** during the summer, to get both professional musicians at work, in the same breath as we took into account vulnerable people - with good distancing and hand sanitizers under orderly conditions. Likewise, 70 children had the opportunity to have fun and experience playful live music at full blast at the venue Fermaten, when we arranged a children's concert with the band **Ørehængerne**.

In a regional context, the second installation of **The Artist Revisiting - The Dancer Revisiting** - paved the way for a cultural meeting between toddlers and three professional dancers from **Black Box Dance Company** in daycare centres taking place, which became

a direct creative mutual inspiration between artist and children.

PLAY!GROUND LIVE 2020 took a new shape: HHHerning became the base for the selected young musicians, who had their 3-day bootcamp course, as well as the subsequent concerts for surrounding schools here. In this way, the amount of audiences could be regulated and a reasonable distance between the musicians could be enforced by Swinging Europe.

We participated in spreading the message about and were an active player in the local cultural life's revitalization with **HerningErKultur's** Cultural Reopening Manifesto. It emphasised the importance of being able to enjoy music and all other art forms together, as the first lockdown loosened its grip on the various cultural institutions with the hashtag **#herningerkulturheltsikkert!**

We want to continue to attract strong projects and partners to the municipality and in this way help to ensure a flourishing cultural life locally - while strengthening Herning's cultural connections - at both a national and international level. A continued focus on talent development and the unexplored opportunities inherent in interdisciplinary and cultural collaboration projects is of particular interest to Swinging Europe.

Our mission to create cultural synergy across both cultural, social and geographical borders has cemented itself in our international and national projects, and we are convinced that with our strong foundation in Herning and good international connections, we can continue to contribute to bring the municipality out into the world - and not least the world here, despite pandemics, which may skew our understanding of what is normal, from one day to the next.

We all wish you a very good read!

Executive Director - Marie Lilholt

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marie Lilholt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

2020: An Unexpected Cultural Year

2020 turned out to take an unexpected turn when news of a virus spreading at the speed of light came to everyone's attention; On March 12th, conditions in Denmark were also turned upside down from the given norm, when Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen appeared on TV with a serious face and foreshadowed the tumultuous months that would follow as a result - all parts of society would shut down, including cultural life with all its offers and enterprises.

At Swinging Europe's own office, there were also changes before the pandemic occurred: Executive Director Marie Lilholt took maternity leave from January - November 2020, when acting director Martin Damgaard took over the helm for the year - projects were launched and we left a local fingerprint on the cultural life of Herning with our efforts:

Despite the restrictions, Swinging Europe carried out and completed a number of local and regional projects, while adhering to the current guidelines for keeping the spread of infection down through social distancing and hand sanitizers: The project **Museum as Muse** combined an unvisited museum with music production; we made sure that children and older souls could enjoy live music through planned concerts with **Mental Health Concerts** and **Ørehængerne's children's concert**; and we supported the manifesto concerning Herning's cultural life. At an international level, we also continued to work on our European projects **MoSaIC** and **LIBERTY**, where, despite lockdown and travel bans, we produced works in the form of commissioned graphics and compositional music from young artists under the age of 30, as well as an artist-in-residency program and related concerts from a multicultural band.

In Swinging Europe's annual report 2020, you will be able to dive further into the current projects and initiatives, which the year included, as well as new projects in 2021.



1 About DSI Swinging Europe

1.1 Board Members

In 2020, there were changes in relation to Swinging Europe's board members; Birgit Jonassen left the post as Vice Chairman and took her exit from the voluntary work on the board, as board member Uffe Birk did the same. But new faces were invited in; in a reshuffle, Anne Damsgaard was appointed the new Vice Chairman, and new blood in the form of Brian Bruhn and Sara Dommergaard Thomassen was elected. Brian Bruhn is responsible for events at the Herning Library, and has experience from roles, such as former venue manager and general cultural enthusiast. Sara Dommergaard Thomassen joins the board with competencies as a high school teacher at Herning Gymnasium in Music and Danish.

Chairman of the Board	Niels Overgaard
Vice Chairman	Anne Damsgaard
Board Member	Ernst B. Knudsen
Board Member	Julie Jørgensen
Board Member	Brian Bruhn
Board Member	Sara Dommergaard Thomassen
Board Member	Esben Aarup

1.2 Employees

Acting Leader (January - November 2020)	Martin Damgaard
Executive Director (On maternity leave from January - November 2020)	Marie Lilholt
National Producer and Project Coordinator	Cüneyt Pala
Project Coordinator and Fundraiser	Anne Sophie Parsons
National Producer and Project Coordinator	Steen Norman Storm Mikkelsen
Accountant	Kristina Lindberg / Lindberg Economy

1.3 Contact



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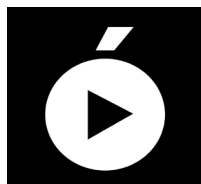
4.1 Collaborators and Network

Local, Regional and National Collaborative Partners



International Collaborative Partners

altonale



explora
IL MUSEO
DEI BAMBINI
DI ROMA



CENTAR E8



cesie
the world is only one creature



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SOUND
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Musik institutet
legato
Musikkopisto

Nordens institut
på Åland

Network

EUROPE JAZZ NETWORK

KULTURGÅRDEN I HERNING



midt
regionmidtjylland



Creative
Europe
DESK DENMARK



KULTUR
At Valen

KULTUR
Samarbejdet

2 National Projects

2.1 Museum as Muse

What happens when a young composer gets exclusive access to an otherwise closed museum for several days at a time? When he gets a unique opportunity to stay completely alone among all of Blicher's original objects in an old, authentic manor house that helped lay the foundation for the Central Jutland textile industry as we know it today?

The project **Museum as Muse** concerned itself with this question: From the 19th - 22nd May, musician **STENT** - also known by the more mundane name Andreas Stent Lundby - stayed at Herningsholm Museum to create newly produced electronic music - with direct inspiration from the museum's historical framework. In Denmark's first lockdown, museums stood empty with no visitors - and this was a way to reactivate cultural heritage and music in a new combination to inspire everyone.

In a completely new collaboration between the musician **Andreas Stent Lundby**, **Museum Midtjylland**, **Fermaten** and **Swinging Europe** as project manager, the focus was on thinking outside the box. One week in May, Andreas Stent Lundby, with the artist name STENT, replaced his sound studio in Copenhagen with Herningsholm Museum's historical setting. The collaboration arose as an interdisciplinary initiative, where art, culture and inspiration merged - and the museum became a muse for the musical process.

Museum Herningsholm became a refuge for an upcoming songwriter - and the usual framework for inspiration moved and created new musical work. The project therefore also connected to the history and DNA of Herning, where the shirt manufacturer Aage Damgaard in the 50's invited Poul Gadegaard to decorate the Angli factory and later in the 1960's, the artist Piero Manzoni was invited to work in Herning.

During his residency, STENT covered his work in the form of video diaries, which were made available on both Museum Midtjyllands, Fermaten and Swinging Europe's social media. The culmination of the collaboration will be a live concert at Herningsholm Museum in 2021. **Museum as Muse** was both covered by Herning Folkeblad in the form of a report and was a feature in TV Midtvest as a result.

Collaborating partners in the Museum as a Muse consisted of: Swinging Europe, Fermaten and Museum Midtjylland.

The project **Museum as Muse** will be further developed in 2021 to include more art forms and thereby support an interdisciplinary approach to the Central and West Jutland museums during the continuing corona crisis.



Portrætfoto: Sebastian Visitisen Toft Photography

HERNING

Udfordring som musikalsk herremand

Herregården Hørningsholm er omdannet til musikalsk technoværksted - og byder også på koncert med resultatet

AF SE LUNDQVIST
se@herning.dk

HERNING Jeg har smadret mig barmen i det gamle technoværksted ved siden af riddersalen...

Musikeren Andreas Skott Lundby har i disse uger slået liv på det lukkede Hørningsholm Museum. Men hverdagen i museet på den gamle, adelskøbe herregård er mildt sagt noget andet, end det var tænkt på, da bygningen blev opført i 1720. Elektronisk musik og sang stromer her nemlig ud fra facaden - efter først rytmisk, så senere melodisk.

Bagkatolog øget

Den 26-årige musiker, der er kendt under kæmpe navnet Skott, er flyttet ind på Hørningsholm som uafhængig, musikalsk herremand.

Museet serner har selvfølgelig undgået sig og spørgt: Hvad er, jeg skal på et Røche museum i Herning. Men efter at have været her siden i tre uger, så jeg bare konstatere: Det kan altså noget, beretter han.

Forud med besøget er at lade sig inspirere af musik - og det er lykkedes.

Det besøgte him Kristian var bagkataloget af sang. Og hvis alt det han også senere i herregården i køn-

MUSEET SOM MUSE

Coronakrisen har skabt et nyt samarbejde mellem musikeren Andreas Skott Lundby, Museum Midtjylland, Land, Formaten og Swinging Europe.

Samarbejdet er opstået som en tværinstitutionel satsning, hvor kunst, kul-

SE VIDEO PÅ HERNINGFOLKEBLADET

the walk - og et brop igennem de romantiske malerier i salen. Her står et klaver, som det Skott Lundby beretter, ting li- ker færdigere: han trodske på egne elektroniske instrumenter er stillet op i det lyse rum.

Mit mål er at lave noget, der ikke uden samtidig at tage tale til levende fællesskaber.

Museet som muse

Ideen til den usædvanlige udstilling som Museum Midtjylland le- ver som museet, kommer fra Europe.

Jeg sad i et kulturfor- bærket med museet i Livet. Han sagde, hver træls det var at st- fede museer, som var hilt på grund af corona, fort- Densgaard, der er dagl- Swinging Europe.

SA fra skott har at til

lvmy ■ Storkene LIVE ■ Seneste nyt ■ Se tv ■ Tip os

SØG Q MENU

CORONA LIGE NU: Byggeriet kan mærke at kommunernes anlægsloft er suspenderet

Andreas udnytter lukket museum til at lave ny musik

Gamle vægmalerier på et museum i Herning er lige nu inspiration for en ung musiker fra Silkeborg.

Få artiklen læst op

26-årige Andreas Skott Lundby arbejder 12 timer dagligt på museets øverste etage.

Foto: Sarah Møllested Andersen, TV MIDTVEST

© 22. maj 2020, kl. 21:04

Herning

2.2 MOORJAZZ Festival 2020

MOORJAZZ Festival 2020 took place, despite the onset of the corona pandemic across the country; major music festivals this summer had to stand at the back of the queue as restrictions were rolled out by the government, and while **Fermaten**, **Moorjazz** and **Swinging Europe** had planned an even bigger musical bang of a festival in 2020 than in 2019 in its second installation, corona made sure changes had to be included.

However, the festival was still a success: **MOORJAZZ Festival 2020** unfolded from 29th October to 8th November, where all health and hygienic conditions were complied with to support the far-reaching positive effect of live music. In its revised form, the festival consisted of a series of concerts spread over a week's duration with local and national artists, counting everything from up-and-coming musicians to nationally known names delivering jazz music from the best performers.

Instead of having **HHHerning** as main venue for the festival, the concerts took place at various local venues and with cultural actors on different days in order to spread out and control the number of concert-goers, as well as make sure that musicians had gigs during Covid-times.

The festival is supported by the Culture and Leisure Committee in Herning Municipality with a 3-year supportive frame for 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Collaborators in MOORJAZZ Festival 2020 consisted of: Herning Library, **DESIGNHUB**, **Scene7**, **HEART - Herning Museum of Contemporary Art**, **Carl-Henning Pedersen and Else Alfelts Museum**, **Vilbjerg School**, **Lundgård School**, **Fermaten**, **Herning High School** and **Gullestrup Church**





MOORJAZZ Festival 2020

22nd October + 30th October: **Niels Overgaard** – **MOORJAZZ Festival 2020 – What can we expect?**

19.00 /Herning Library and 11.00 – 14.00 in the DESIGNHUB shop

29th October - 16:00 – **Kosmos** / Herning Library

30th October - 20:00 – **Frekvens** featuring; **Caleido, Kosmos og Girls In Airports** / Scene7

1st November - 15:00 – **Ginne Marker** /HEART- Herning Museum of Contemporary Art

5th November - 17:00 – **Hvalfugl** / Carl-Henning Pedersen & Else Alfelts Museum

6th November - 09:00 – 09:45 – **Bremer & McCoy** /Vilbjerg School / 12:30 – 13:15 – Lundgård School / 21:00 – Fermaten

6th November - 11:00 – **The KutiMangoes** / Herning High School

7th November - 15:00 – **Kira Skov** / Fermaten

7th November - 21:00 – **Ibrahim Electric** / Fermaten

8th November - 15:00 – **Gustav Ljunggren/Emil de Wall + Midtvest Girl Choir** / Gullestrup Church

MOORJAZZ Festival 2020 featured: *Caleido, Kosmos, Girls in Airports, Ginne Marker, Hvalfugl, Bremer & McCoy, The KutiMangoes, Kira Skov, Ibrahim Electric, Gustav Ljunggren/Emil de Wall med Midtvest Pigekor*

2.3 The Dancer Revisiting

In the autumn of 2020, **Swinging Europe** completed the second instalment in **The Artist Revisiting**: The focus was dance, and was therefore given the working title **The Dancer Revisiting**.

In **The Dancer Revisiting**, 3 professional dancers from **Black Box Dance Company** visited a number of kindergartens through playing and dancing with the children in the, they were inspired to create a small dance performance for the children. Like its predecessor, **Jazz Revisiting**, the **The Dancer Revisiting** realised a creative cultural encounter between toddlers and professional dancers, which subsequently created a dance performance that was musically interpreted in collaboration with the jazz musicians from **Jazz Music Revisiting**.

The three dancers Christian From, Rosie Stebbing and Carl Hughes from **Black Box Dance Company** went to kindergartens to collaborate with the children to create new and unique dance-related results through the interpretive free framework.

In preparation and introduction to the children and stakeholders in the project, two webinars presented the project's goals, direct experiences and the opportunity to virtually dance with the artists:

This year's instalment of the project **The Artist Revisiting - The Dancer Revisiting** - was launched on 2nd November with a free webinar, where singer and music educator Morten Mosgaard, double bassist Frederik Sakham and Head of Department Alan Martinsen shared their experiences from last year's edition of the project **Jazz Music Revisiting**.

During the webinar, the special aspects concerning the concept of **The Artist Revisiting** were discussed. A project that in its simplest form is about letting children and artists meet, in the most natural way, namely through play.

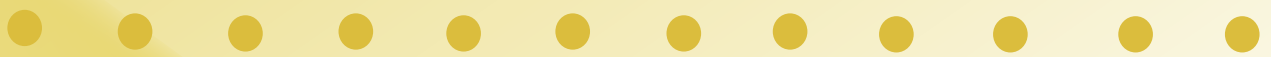
Among other things, the talk focussed on how important it is as an artist to have a sincere interest in what the child brings. This in itself can help to create a good relationship between artist and child. It's about being curious about the children and exploring the game with them.

On November 4th, a new webinar followed, where it became possible to book a digital 'visit' by the three professional dancers from **Black Box Dance Company**, who were ready to dance live with the children's institution or family. The virtual meetings were a way for the dancers to get inspiration by seeing how the children moved - all at a safe and hygienic distance.

Due to the country's corona situation, several of the elements of the project were organised according to the current guidelines. The process was therefore not concluded with a public performance for a live audience, but instead resulted in a video recording of the dance performance, which the dancers created, accompanied by music by the jazz musicians in the previous instalment, **Jazz Music Revisiting**. It will be shared online for the benefit of all participating parties and other projects in 2021.

Collaborating partners in The Dancer Revisiting consisted of: Black Box Dance Company, the day care institutions Gården in Ryde, Ejlsing Friskole's kindergarten, Spilophuset in Gjellerup, as well as the schools Magrethe Reedtz Skolen and Ryde Skole

The Dancer Revisiting was supported by the Culture Agreement in Central and Western Jutland, Færch Fund and the Nordea Fund



2.4 Mental Health Concerts

June meant music at all the carecenters in Herning Municipality, which we involved ourselves in with our project **Mental Health Concerts**: Swinging Europe believes in the healing effect of culture and especially live music, so with the support from the Culture and Leisure Committee in Herning Municipality, we organised a musical gift for all nursing homes and the rehabilitation center in Herning Municipality during three weeks in June.

It resulted in 17 concerts during three weeks with the two local musicians Morten Mosgaard and Mette Marie Jensen Ørnstrup.

The weather was fortunately showing its good side, when the two musicians visited the local carecenters and the residents in the care centers enjoyed remembering songs from the folk high school songbook, sang along to old Danish and even English earworms.

The following centers were visited by the musicians Morten Mosgaard or Mette Marie Jensen Ørnstrup: Rehabilitation Center (Herning), Søglint (Sunds), Sørvad Carecenter (Sørvad), Birketoft (Aulum), Kastaniegården (Aulum), Sandfeldgården (Kibæk), Engholmcentret (Sdr. Felding), Toftebo (Hammerum), Lind Carecenter (Lind), Bytoften (Tjørring), Fuglsangsø Carecenter (Tjørring), Fripkehjemmet Højbo (Arnborg), Rosenlund (Snebjerg), Vesterled Carecenter (Herning), Lindegården og HS - Bofællesskabet (Herning), Kildehøj (Vildbjerg) and Ørnhøj Fripkehjem (Ørnhøj).

With the hashtag **#herningerkulturheltsikker**, we spread the message of unity through safe distancing and the continued existence of cultural life, when the live music visited the elderly and the residents of the nursing homes.

2.5 Children's Concert with Ørehængerne

On Thursday morning of the 2nd July, two buses with 70 children from **Haderup, Tjørring and Lindbjergskolen's SFOs** rolled in front of **Fermaten**. We had arranged a concert with the band **Ørehængerne**, as part of summer holiday activities for children in Herning Municipality.

The musicians and Fermaten's technicians were happy to "get back to business" again, so the mood was good, when frontman Anders Boysen introduced the children to many different musical genres, well backed by a team of professional and well-playing musicians. The children got an experience of a real concert, at a real venue, provided by real musicians.

2.6 PLAY!GROUND LIVE 2020

PLAY!GROUND LIVE 2020 took place from 16th - 20th October 2020 with artistic director and musician Bo Stief in the usual role as conductor and mentor, where young up-and-coming musicians went through an intense bootcamp stay at **HHHerning** and a musical learning process with the mantra **learning by doing** as the current principle.

The 11 young musicians held a number of concerts for **Bifrost Primary School, Holtbjergskole, Højskolen Skærgården** and rejected asylum seekers from **Udrejsecenter Kærshovedgaard**, all of which were took place at **HHHerning**. The audience was divergent from each other and offered a direct experience for the musicians in terms of presence and performance on stage, commitment, teamwork and musical play.

PLAY!GROUND LIVE 2020 became a version that emphasised a settled location, where the musicians were able to participate in the bootcamp, played concerts with limited groups of spectators, as well as made a film recording to take the participants into account.

The recorded concert from **PLAY!GROUND LIVE 2020** can be found on Swinging Europe's Youtube channel.



2.7 National Meetings, Projects and Workshops

2.8 MoSaIC: Multicultural Day at Herning Library

On February 1st, we took part in **Multicultural Day at the Herning Library**, where we showed our 10 video-interviews with the musicians in the Danish-based **MoSaIC** band, where the nationalities range from Denmark, Finland and Norway to Ireland, Iran, Kurdistan and Syria. The **Multicultural Day at Herning Library** had a wide range of different cultural identities represented within the non-profit organisation field, where the idea of the positive impact of diversity was emphasised.

Exactly the concept of how to use music as a bridge-builder between different cultures is a topic that we have dived into and supported in our projects up to several times, among others in the now completed project **Grænseløs (Borderless)**, the Erasmus+ project **humARTS**, and the Creative Europe project **LIBERTY**.

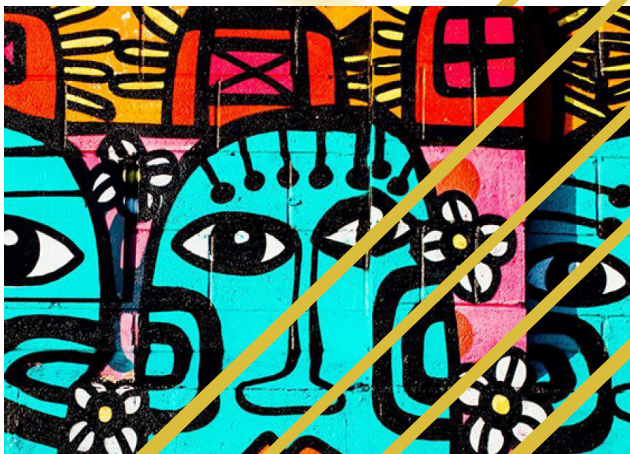
2.9 MoSaIC: Artist-in-residency and concert at HHHerning

Herning got a touch of world music from 25th - 28th September, when the band **MO-SAIK**, consisting of 10 musicians from a selection of European countries and the Middle East, including Denmark, settled at the former folk high school **HHHerning** in connection with a planned artist-in-residency. During the weekend, the musicians rehearsed together and fine-tuned the concerts that followed on Monday: The **MOSAİK** band played for both smaller children and young people, when classes from **Holtbjergskolen** and the music line **Herning Gymnasium** visited for concerts, where improvisational music, safe distance, hand sanitizer and subsequent artist talk was on the agenda.

The band **MOSAİK** originates from the Creative Europe project **MoSaIC - Music for Sound Integration in the Creative Sector**, where the partners **Ensemble Amadeus** (Italy), **Koor & Stem** (Belgium), **SOUND Cultural Foundation** (Romania) and **Swinging Europe** (Denmark), create the foundation for a internationally, as well as interculturally composed orchestra of 36 professional European and migrant musicians, can bridge across differences through the sonorous diversity of music.

Our local partners consisted of: HHHerning, Billig B & B, Gastro13, Herningholmsskolen and Herning Gymnasium and the implementation of the project was supported by Cultural Cooperation in Central and Western Jutland

MOSAİK consists of musicians and multimedia artists: Mette Marie Jensen Ørnstrup, Jacinta Madsen, Nini Julia Bang, Julie Kjær, Oda Mathilde Dyrnes, Carolyn Goodwin, Jenni Hannika, Salam Susu Yamour, Shohreh Shahrzad, Mizgin Ozdemir





2.10 HerningErKultur: Cultural Reopening Manifesto - #herningerkulturheltsikkert

On the 27th of May we signed up for the course in connection with **Herning Municipality's Cultural Reopening Manifesto**; Cultural life had gradually begun to reopen and society was still getting used to the fact that the conditions were not as they used to be after Denmark's closure. But the cultural institutions wanted to be guarantors that it would be **#heltsikkert!** to experience art and culture again.

In Herning Municipality, the cultural and art scene was ready to welcome the audience, when the first lockdown lifted its ban, so that the cultural actors together could re-establish the municipality's cultural life. In Herning Municipality, it was therefore safe to assure that it was safe to take part in cultural life, as the participating actors had the competencies to create a safe environment for everyone to e.g. experience live music again.

With the hashtag **#herningerkulturheltsikkert**, we helped support the start of cultural life in Herning Municipality again, and supported this with **MOORJAZZ Festival 2020**, the **children's concert with Ørehængerne**, the **Mental Health Concerts** during the summer, **Museum as Muse**, and **PLAY!GROUND LIVE 2020** as well as the concerts with **MOSAİK**.

Read the Cultural Reopening Manifesto in its entirety here: <https://bit.ly/2XNeBmz>

The participating cultural actors in the Cultural Manifesto were: **Swinging Europe**, **Kulturelt Samråd Herning**, **Scene7**, **Team Teatret**, **Huset No 7**, **Den Jyske Sangskole**, **Carl-Henning Pedersen and Else Alfelts Museum**, **Alhuset in Kibæk - Activity House**, **Herning Music School**, **Herning Libraries**, **Museum Midtjylland**, **HEART - Herning Museum of Contemporary Art**, **Fermaten** and **Herning Art School**

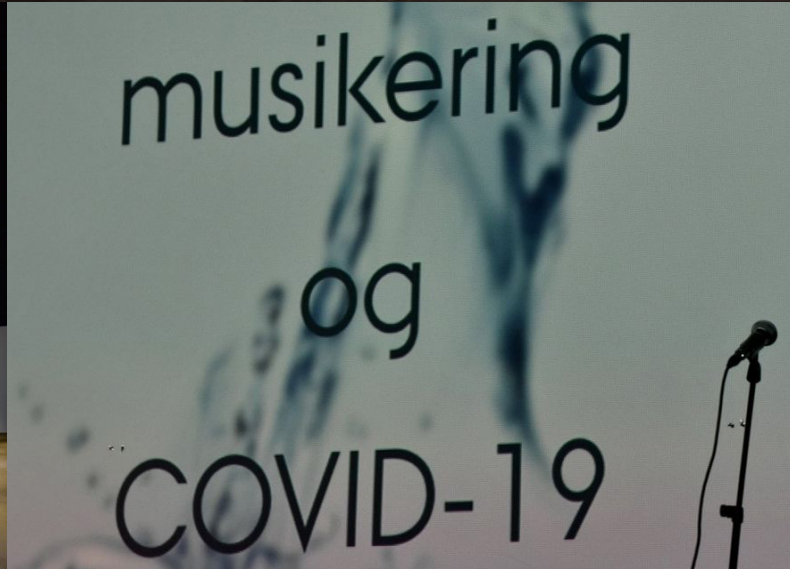
2.11 HerningErMusik: Music Meeting 2020

On 28th October, we participated in the **Music Meeting 2020 - Music Opportunities** at Fermaten, which was facilitated by **HerningErMusik**. With the headline "Music Opportunities", HerningErMusik focused on all that music can - even in the crisis situation that Denmark is still in. Acting leader Martin Damgaard from Swinging Europe's office presented the programme for the afterwork meeting:

Besides a big welcome from **Johs. Poulsen**, chairman of the Culture and Leisure Committee in Herning Municipality, the meeting consisted of musical elements with **Ensemble MidtVest** and **LAVA**; presentation of the possibilities of jazz with **Morten Mosgaard** and **Niels Overgaard**, as well as a presentation with music researcher **Steen Kaasgaard Nielsen** at Aarhus University.

HERNING
ER
KULTUR
-HELT SIKKERT!

HERNING
ER
MUSIK



2.12 Danish Music Jazz Awards and Children's Jazz Prize 2020: Nominations

In Swinging Europe's projects, we involve talented musicians from all over the country - and they also sometimes end up being nominated for respectable music awards:

Musician and composer **Morten Mosgaard** and the band **Hej Jazz** was nominated for this year's **Children's Jazz Prize 2020** on 7th November at Dokk1 with the project **Hej Jazz**; the project **Hej Jazz** is a Danish jazz orchestra, which plays songs, stories and instrumental numbers written from direct meetings with children and originates directly from the Swinging Europe project **Jazz Revisiting**, which took place in 2019 in the daycare centers of central and western Jutland.

Hej Jazz consists of: Nikolaj Bugge (guitar), Maria Dybbro (alto saxophone), Jonathan Schou (tenor saxophone), Frederik Sakham Lomborg (double bass), Frej Lesner (drums) and Morten Mosgaard (vocals).

Musician and composer **Kenneth Dahl Knudsen**, who was artistic director of our large Nordic collaborative project **Young Nordic Stars**, was nominated for the **P8 Jazz Award - Jazz Soul of the Year** at the **Danish Music Awards Jazz 2020** on 12th November.

The nominated projects for the Child Jazz Prize 2020 were:

-  **Hej Jazz**
-  **Body Rhythm Factory**
-  **Jorden Rundt med Malene Kjærgård**

The **Children's Jazz Prize** is part of the **Danish Music Award** and has been awarded since 2012. The prize is to recognise a band or an artist who has performed the best jazz for Danish children and thus made an extra effort to spread music to future generations. Unlike the other **Danish Music Awards Jazz Prizes**, the winner of the **Children's Jazz Prize** is not selected by adults, but by children.

The nominated names for the **P8 Jazz Prize - Jazz Soul of the Year** for the Danish Music Jazz Awards 2020 were:

-  **Kenneth Dahl Knudsen**
-  **Charlotte Bertelsen**
-  **Nana Pi Aabo Larsen**

**winter
jazz**



**AARHUS
JAZZ
FESTIVAL**

DOKK1



DANISH MUSIC AWARRDS JAZZ 2020



swinging europe



Charlotte Bertelsen



Kenneth Dahl Knudsen



Nana Pi



p8jazz

3 International Projects

3.1 MoSaIC -Music for Sound Intergration in the Creative Sector

The EU project **MoSaIC** - the abbreviation for **Music for Sound Integration in the Creative Sector** - is led by **Ensemble Amadeus** (IT) and involves partners **Koor & Stem** (BE) and **SOUND Cultural Foundation** (RO), in addition to **Swinging Europe**. The aim is to promote the inclusion of young migrants and refugees through musical collaboration and co-creation at both a national and long-term European level. The overall framework of the project is to engage migrants and Europeans, who are either professional musicians or amateurs in the musical field, through a common knowledge bank and collaboration that allows migrants to share their musical traditions from their individual home country.

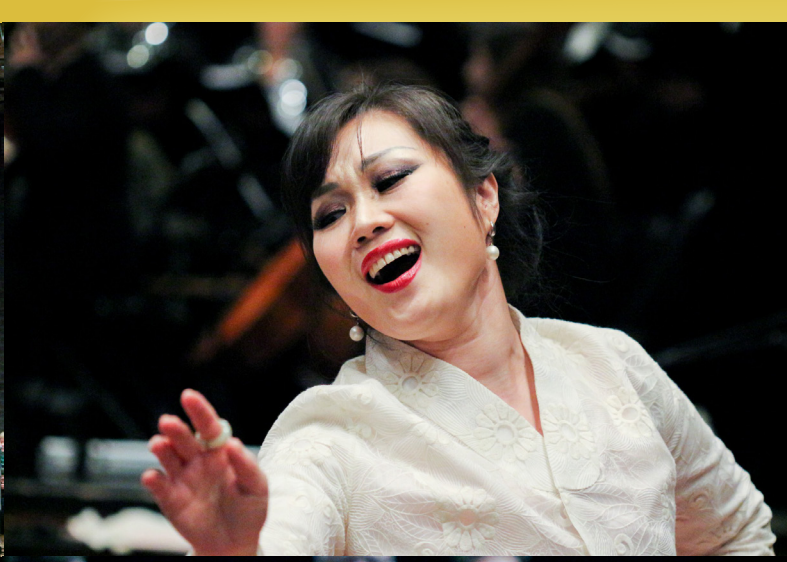
In 2020, the project ran into unforeseen restrictions due to the pandemic and had to think creatively; Zoom meetings were held monthly to keep the partners updated and towards 2021, the **MoSaIC** project was considered in inventive ways to activate the virtual space, as a way for the musicians to express themselves and thereby keep world music alive. This has happened through initiatives from Instagram Takeovers on the **MoSaIC** Instagram page for Italian community song transformed into a music video for traditional Christmas and holiday songs from the various nationalities represented under the title Home Feeling, as just examples of how the European project has managed to not meet physically, but rather on online platforms.

On 25th - 27th September, however, we managed to take part in a locally based artist-in-residency, as well as two subsequent corona-safe concerts at **HHHerning** for classes from **Holtbjergskolen** and **Herning High School** with our 10 female **MO-SAIK** musicians, which were also filmed and shared on social media subsequently.

One of the project's major planned activities was also carried out in the form of a physical transnational artist-in-residency from 17th - 19th January, which took place in Brussels before travelling would cause problems: An impressive selection of almost all the corners of the world was represented on a purely musical plan when the four partners in the Creative Europe project **MoSaIC** for the very first time combined the four diverse and multicultural composite bands and orchestras from Denmark, Italy, Belgium and Romania, respectively:

On 19th January, the four unique musical outputs and styles from each partner country were united in one joint concert, as a prelude to the **World Music Festival** in Milan as the final result of the **MoSaIC** project, which has been postponed till 2021 at the time of writing.





3.2 Young Nordic Stars

Half a year after **Young Nordic Stars'** summer tour in 2019 ended, the band reunited to complete the long-awaited second part, namely the Greenlandic tour, which took place from 15th - 27th February 2020. The musicians from Finland, Denmark and Åland met in and traveled from Copenhagen on February 14th to Greenland, where we were greeted with -22 degrees and a lot of smiling faces. The band was housed in two houses arranged by our partner **Uummannaq Orphanage**. The first few days were spent getting in place, refreshing the old songs and rehearsing the new songs that Kenneth Dahl Knudsen had written in the meantime.

Young Nordic Stars played a total of 3 concerts in Uummannaq: One concert for only the children and staff from the orphanage, one concert for all the students at the local school and the closing concert for the whole city, which became a double concert with the **Uummannaq Philharmonic Orchestra**. It is certainly not an exaggeration to say that both the city and the musicians have had an unforgettable experience of a lifetime and new connections created during the summer tour became stronger. That we lived in the city also gave the project the local anchorage and immersion as planned.

Young Nordic Stars - Concerts 2020:

February 18th - 16:30: Uummannaq Orphanage / Uummannaq

February 19th - 10:15: Atuarfik Edvard Kruse (School) / Uummannaq

February 23rd - 15:00: Concert: Uummannaq Hallen / Uummannaq

LIBERTY - Celebrating Freedom and Identity through Creative Integration - is an EU project that was applied for at the end of 2018 on behalf of the English art and culture festival, **ArtReach** under **Creative Europe**. The project was accepted and was thus able to launch at the end of 2019 with the initial partner meetings. **Swinging Europe** is a partner, together with **ALTONALE GMH** (GER), **Museo dei Bambini** (ITA), **CESIE** (ITA), **Teatru National Radu Stanca Sibiu** (RUM), **Aalborg Karneval** (DK), **Center Za Promociju Zdavnih Stilova Zivota** (SER), **CNC Danse** (FR), **Pionirski dom - Center za kulturo mladih** (SLO), **Trafo House of Contemporary Arts** (UN) and **European Educational Exchanges - Youth for Understanding** (BEL).

LIBERTY focuses on building a portfolio of exciting, young, innovative and high-quality European and migrant artists under the age of 30, who are artists in all art forms. The artists are recommended by the curatorial team, which enables the partners to identify and work with young artists from different countries and cultures, in order to support the opportunity to meet, collaborate and share inspiration with each other.

In 2020, physical partner meetings in the various partner countries were stopped and the meetings were moved to Zoom; **Swinging Europe** managed to take a trip to Aalborg on the 28th of January to meet with our other Danish partner in the project - **Aalborg Carnival** - to discuss practical details about hosting a partner meeting in May 2020, before the plan was thwarted by the pandemic. Acting leader Martin Damgaard also arrived in Hamburg from 3rd - 5th February to discuss the framework and curation of young artists within various art forms and countries for the major European collaborative project.

We established a connection between the project and the up-and-coming musical and artistic national talents we have in our network; Musician **MIRA** created three commissioned newly composed pieces for the interdisciplinary project **Sun Up, Rain Fall, River Rises** by **Phosphoros Theater** and with illustrations by **Pickle Illustrations** for **ArtReach's Journeys Festival International**. Through a mixture of recited pieces of text and compositional music, you as a listener were brought to three different countries through the authors' memories. The interdisciplinary work was made available online on October 12th:

In **The Dawning** by Goitom Fesshaye, the sun rises while Goitom bikes to work to his family's shop in Eritrea; in **After the Rain** by Syed Haleem Najibi, the narrator plays in his village after the rain and is entertained by his surroundings, while **My Life as a River** by Mohamed Abdu deals with the river bank and how the desire to be able to cross borders plays in.

The work is available via link: <https://bit.ly/3hU84zV>

For our Slovenian partner **Pionirski Dom's** graphic exhibition during **LIKfest Festival** from 5th - 8th October, graphic artist Eske Touborg from **Swinging Europe's** network created paintings, which were displayed together with the output of two local young artists, together with one other foreign artist.



The Dawning

I wake in the dark before sunrise. My torch tied to the front of my bicycle so I can see. I ride along the track, past potatoes and corn and tomato plants making shadows in the dark gardens. This is Kudo Isai in Eritrea. My family have a shop and it is my responsibility to get the bread in the morning.

You'll know the baker's house by the smell. Warm bread fresh from the oven. I pick the loaves in my basket, the hot yellow sun soaring out of the desert, warming my back. Birds waking up and chattering, telling all the lazy people it's morning.

You see outside my shop, all those people queuing already. The women in their colourful Zayra dresses and soft white scarves, smiling and calling my name. The men scowling under their hats, saying I am late even though the roost is droning off me from before.

That's how I like it. It means my friends can shop freely without making her suspicious. For dates, mangoes, coconuts. Shop. All the things they will need when they leave their homes.

We are always talking about it. How many days it takes to reach the border; the places people get caught. But it's far in the future. Whispering our dreams where the elders can't hear us. You know the ones! I mean – those old men in the shop, they love their own voices. Talking politics and football always trying to put themselves in our conversations.

I sweep with my broom, not getting too close 'cause I'm listening out for my friends. You'll hear them laughing and shouting before you see them whizzing round the corner on their bikes. My mum comes. They are late. I do more weaving, into all the corners.

Then I hear their names – from the old men's mouths. Talking about all the boys who had left in the night. My boys. My friends. Without waiting for me to be ready. They'd planned their leaving day together and I didn't know. This day is a black luck day. This day is the end of my childhood.

And after – nothing is the same. Half of me wants my friends to get caught and come home. And half wants them to reach Ethiopia so they'll be there to welcome me. I can't sleep, can't eat. All of life is still there. The birds gossiping. The wind disturbing the trees. The sun rising out of the desert. But it doesn't touch me. I stop paying attention to the world.

Something has to change. I have to get the courage to take the biggest jump of my life. I pretend to sleep till the chickens are still and the night is honest. I wake my

After the Rain

Let me take you to Meezan, a village in Nangarhar province in the East of Afghanistan. Imagine tall houses made from mud standing proudly together. Green fields tenderly planted with many different crops. And watching over everything the mulberry trees, rich with purple fruit. Now feel the heat from a forty degree sun that's barely troubled by clouds. So when the rain comes the joy it brings to this small boy and his friends is priceless.

We sit under the mulberry tree on a chahar payge bed and listen to the drops hitting the leaves. It's the sound of a musical instrument never heard on earth. The rain falls hard and straight, like daggers made of glass, hitting the ground and shattering. Then the rain stops just as suddenly and the sun shines again.

We run and run through the wet grass in the fields, our dusty feet turning soft and slippery. The blackbirds return in their hundreds, swooping and shrieking out to each other as they take back the sky. The mud walls of the houses darken like caramel, releasing the magical smell that entices children to press our faces close, wishing we could eat the fragrances. We only stop when one of the elders passes by, saying Salamu, our expressions nervous, forgetting our muddy noses give us away. Then best of all are the mulberry trees, their plump, glistening fruit demanding to be picked. We climb higher and higher to reach the best spots, then pluck handfuls of the sticky berries, cramming them in our mouths, heads tilted back, a beard of juice on our chins. The forest around us are sparkling, dew surfaces reflecting the sun like a forest of mirrors. The whole world feels washed and cleansed.

Except.

The man standing close against the wall of a house. Not smiling. Not listening. Scanning the roofs of the houses for antennas. He has a handful already in his hand, the broken metal flowers. He goes inside. Watching from our tree we hold our breath. This man has a gun. He comes out, holding a TV in his hands – the angles sharp and wrong, green. His white pehran torn as he lifts it and smashes it down. Glass everywhere. Real glass. That will stay in the earth for children's tender feet to stand on. He moves from house to house, as if a snake, collecting people's precious boxes to destroy. The ground is littered with glass, broken plastic, electrical parts.

And I remember. The reason the village is our playground. Why this boy and his friends play out all day climbing trees, smearing mud, filling ourselves with the songs of the rain and the blackbirds is because we are not allowed to do anything else.

Written by: Saeed Adnan Fikri and Saeed Adnan Fikri
Illustrated by: Saeed Adnan Fikri
Designed by: Saeed Adnan Fikri
Published by: Saeed Adnan Fikri

My Life as a River

The river Nile. Soul of Africa. My village Agordat in Sudan lies on the plain beside you. You see the longest river, the strongest river. The most complicated thing I have ever known. I used to talk to you when I was a child. I heard you. I felt you. I studied you to find out your secrets.

You are not one river but two, in the farm season you are fat and calm. Kind and generous. A place for people to swim. To fish. To grow their crops and feed their animals. Your water is so sweet I can drink it straight from my hands. You look after everybody. Protect us from harm.

But you are also a different river. When the rains come you gather power from the Ethiopian highlands, crashing everything on your path, raging through my country towards Egypt and the sea. The people who live here know the side of you. When your waters become red it is time to get ready. They build a wall of sandbags in front of their houses. Everyone helping each other racing against the hungry flood. You are not kind any more. You are frightening and dangerous. You take back the rich land that you gave us.

I wished I had this power. When my situation got so bad I had to leave the plains of my childhood and find somewhere new. I made a journey like you.

But where you cross mountains and countries to make them alive, I crossed them just to survive. Climbing over rocks, shattering under their bushes. Trying to follow the stars in the black night sky. I was hungry and thirsty. I felt weak and small. I thought I might be down and not wake up.

Then one day I heard the sound of water. I followed it, climbing higher through the sharp rocks and prickly grass. My mouth so dry it was cracking. At the top of the mountain I found a little stream. This stream was no wider than my arm, but it was cutting a path in the rock. Turning the dusty rocks around it green with life.

That was my motivation. When I felt like I could not carry on, that I would never be strong enough. You were small too once. But that trickle of water held the power for what you would become. I had the power inside me. The seeds of the man I would grow to be. I would cross borders and find new lands, however long it took. And one day I will change the world around me.

Written by: Mohamed Adnan and Saeed Adnan Fikri
Illustrated by: Mohamed Adnan
Designed by: Mohamed Adnan
Published by: Mohamed Adnan



3.4

New and Forthcoming Projects in 2021

With the year 2020 shaped by the pandemic's effect on cultural life at home and abroad, Swinging Europe kept 2021 in our eyesight as individual projects were either postponed to this year, or prepared projects will intentionally take place in 2021. In the following section, the reader can gain insight into what is on the plate from the office's side in both local, regional and national terms.

3.5 The Ideas

The project **The Ideas (Ideerne)** is an exhibition and serial performance in three parts from **Kunstteater**, which will take place in the **Sculpture Park in Birk Centerpark** between 20th - 22nd August 2021. Over the three days, the audience is introduced to the mentioned ideas, which appear in the form of a series of transportable sculptural works of art: A painted hot air balloon, a riot and a giant hand. As big thought bubbles, the ideas act as the focal point of a larger character gallery played by performers in various performing arts and musical disciplines. All these elements are part of a dramaturgical narrative, which during the three days will move towards a culmination point on the last day.

While the work is being erected, it will be filmed, edited live and transmitted to **Kunstteater's** Vimeo page, so that an external audience, who does not have easy geographical access to the Sculpture Park can stream and follow the work's construction off-site in real time. The live streaming also ensures that the project is at the forefront of being able to be implemented under any COVID-19 restrictions.

The production will involve around 25 artistic actors, where **Swinging Europe** is a partner, where we contribute with up-and-coming musicians to the project. As an annex to the total work, it is intended that the 3rd Idea in the spirit of the Sculpture Park's founder Aage Damgaard be left behind after the completion of the total work to be included in the park's sculpture circle. The sculpture is intended to be made in a less signed and numbered edition.

3.6 Winged Words

The project **Winged Words** will, through a municipally based interdisciplinary approach with live music combined with poetic lyrics, examine the field of personal narratives and mental health among vulnerable people in all age groups with sharpened pencils and fine-tuned instruments in the 7 Central and Western Jutland municipalities. Through citizen-involving cultural encounters, where the text, the written word and the music are embodied by narratives, perspectives, processing and reflection on the overall themes of "the past and future", which apply in the cultural encounters with young people in residences and residents in nursing homes. In a further developed form, the project will look further in relation to a dualistic framework of other themes in future installations.

Through citizen-involving and community-forming writing workshops and text performances with newly graduated musicians from conservatories and up-and-coming authors from the smaller publishing houses and writing schools, the mental health of the citizens of Central and West Jutland is examined when poetic texts and live music present a condensed result in weekly format.

With a high artistic level, the final result combines both poetry and the easily accessible musical; studies of the language's special music and the possibilities and language of music, the feather light in the very heavy in electronic or classical compositions forms the breeding ground and creates vastly different musical and poetic performances from each place.

3.7 Ripple Effects

Like ripples in water, creative and citizen-involving activities will be carried forth, when the regional and interdisciplinary pilot project **Ripple Effects (Ringe i Vandet)** establishes music as a tool to get more Central and West Jutland citizens into nature. The **Ripple Effects** project takes part in and uses selected specific locations in the Central Jutlandic nature, which has recently achieved a new and improved accessibility for a larger audience:

In a collaboration between **Swinging Europe, Silkeborg Municipality, Tvilum Church** and **Svostrup Tavern**, the young, talented composer **Mira Siegel** is housed in an environment by the Gudenåen's newly renovated trail to be inspired by water, nature, sounds, wildlife, history about the trail, the flora, the scents, to compose a work which is to be made available on various streaming services. After this, citizens can head out into nature and get one more dimension to their nature experience, by listening to the composer's interpretation of the nature in which they themselves wander.

3.8 A Symphony for Herning

The project **A Symphony for Herning (En Symfoni til Herning)** is created in a collaboration between **Swinging Europe** and **Ensemble Lydenskab**. The work is composed by Gorm Askjær for the classical ensemble Lydenskab, with lyrics by citizens, summarised by the award-winning author Ursula Andkjær Olsen. In Herning, a site-specific work will be created in citizen-involving processes. The process and the way the local community is involved will set the tone for the final result, which will take the form of a unique concert performance in Sekskanten in **HHHerning** (formerly Herning Højskole).

The symphony lasts approx. 60 minutes and will include well-composed music, sound installations, lyrics and scenographic elements. There will also be tools and artistic material that are developed throughout the project period and in this way a common narrative about Herning is created in parallel, which will finally be performed as a common symphony during the autumn of 2021.





IDEERNE / 20. - 22. AUGUST 2021 /
SKULPTURPARKEN, BIRK CENTERPARK





3.9 The Jazz Orchestra Moves Into the Lifestyle Folk High School

The Jazz Orchestra Moves Into the Lifestyle Folk High School (Jazzorkestret Flytter ind på Livstilshøjskolen) will through the implementation of live music in everyday life at **Højskolen Skærgården** in Herning Municipality investigate the field of mental well-being and self-improvement by not teaching or playing concerts, but seeking new innovative ways to use music in everyday life through dialogue with the school's staff and students, in respect of the daily life that is at the folk high school.

Prescription culture has in recent years proved, among other things in Herning Municipality, to be able to give citizens better well-being, greater health and a more positive direction for their lives. With the **Jazz Orchestra Moves Into the Lifestyle Folk High School, Swinging Europe** will in collaboration with **Højskolen Skærgården** focus on the link between mental health and the impact of live music by letting a jazz orchestra live and play at the college for a whole week. It is the project's main thesis that if the jazz orchestra moves into school, through building a relationship between musicians and the institution completely new opportunities to use music in everyday life at times and in situations no one would have imagined, music could have value will arise. It can be a meditation concert during the breaks, music recordings on the walk around the lake or a conversation between a student and a playing saxophonist.

The Jazz Orchestra Moves Into the Lifestyle Folk High School should have taken place by the end of 2020, but due to the far-reaching consequences of the corona pandemic, the project has been postponed to 2021, where it can be completed in a safe and restrictive manner.

3.10 LIBERTY: Tour 2021

At the beginning of 2020, 8 musicians were selected with the help of **LIBERTY's** 12 partners from 10 countries, where bandleader **Kenneth Dahl Knudsen** will be the mentor for the selected musicians. The original plan was to invite all the musicians to Denmark in August 2020 and tour, but that was not to be.

When corona hit Europe, we had to find new ways to start and keep the collaboration between the musicians going. Therefore, a Zoom meeting was planned and after that, an online collaboration was established between the musicians and the band leader. Initially, the tour was moved to March 2021, but as the second wave took place in all countries, this was also postponed until mid-June.

The new dates 12th - 22nd June 2020 have at the time of writing been selected and confirmed with the musicians, where the facilitating of the tour looks hopeful - not least in light of the new vaccine in the fight against Covid-19.

The selected musicians are:

Linus Kleinlosen - Sax and Clarinet (Germany)
Mbuyi Gemima Tshimanga - Sax and Clarinet (Congo)
Natasha Zamida -Vocals (Slovenia)
Bakri Hemmami -Vocal / Percussion (Syria)
Christopher Goddey - Bass (Nigeria)
Tadas Pasaravičius - Tenor Scissors / Ney Flute (Lithuania)
Mohannad Nasser - Oud (Syria)
Matias Fischer-Mogensen -Drums (Denmark)

3.11 MOORJAZZ Festival 2021

MOORJAZZ Festival will be held for the third time in 2021 as Herning's very own jazz festival will invite you to experience the most influential names in the world of jazz music, as well as upcoming musical talents who are still in the process of establishing their work. With the experiences from 2020 in our mental bag-pack, we take into account the continued effects of the coronary pandemic and is already in the process of planning how the 2021 version of the music festival can take place while restrictions and health factors are met.

INTERNATIONAL **moor** JAZZ FESTIVAL

3.11 PLAY!GROUND LIVE 2021: Anniversary

PLAY!GROUND LIVE is a national talent development orchestra for musicians aged 15-22. The internationally renowned bassist and music teacher Bo Stief is the artistic director and composes the music for **PLAY! GROUND LIVE** and thereby contributes with his great musical professionalism, both as a composer and musician.

12 talented musicians are selected annually by bandleader Bo Stief through national try-outs held in Jutland, Funen and Zealand. Emphasis is placed on musicality and social competencies, as well as an equal distribution of the sexes in the annual orchestra composition.

In 2021, the talent development project **PLAY!GROUND LIVE** has the opportunity to celebrate anniversaries in not only one, but two ways: The project can boast of having developed and supported young musicians' social and professional competencies for 20 years, and also artistic director in the project, conductor and versatile musician Bo Stief, will celebrate his 75th birthday. It is a musical year that will be celebrated in a proper and corona-secured way.

The run of the tour 2021 will consist of a 3-day intense musical bootcamp at **HHHerning** in Herning Municipality, as well as a scaled-down Jutland based tour during the period of Pentecost 2021 with selected public concerts at specific venues.



4 Epilogue - Looking back at 2020

The self-governing institution Swinging Europe continued its local, national and international work in 2020 with the current restrictions leading to national closures and reopening in shifts; the annually recurring new band composition of **PLAY!GROUND LIVE** played concerts at **HHHerning**, where the young musicians had the opportunity to immerse themselves in their bootcamp-stay and energetic efforts put into the concerts. We visited nursing homes and invited children to experience live music through concerts with professional musicians who got gigs during a tough period that has proven to extend over a long period that will also count 2021.

Jazz music survived in a revised form in the shape of **MOORJAZZ Festival 2020** with different playing locations and with **The Dancer Revisiting**, we explored the interdisciplinary field in the combination of jazz musicians and three committed and skilled dancers, who tried their hand at children's creative world.

Internationally, the Creative Europe projects were to a greater extent moved to virtual platform, but were also facilitated in the real world, such as local children's concert and an international **MoSaIC** concert. We also invited artists to the **LIBERTY** project, where the associated young European musicians are preparing for a Danish tour in 2021, which is being planned at the time of writing.

The talent development project **Young Nordic Stars** completed its second part of the big Nordic tour, where Greenland formed the stage backdrop for artistic director Kenneth Dahl Knudsen and the selected musicians.

Our work cannot and should not be done alone, and therefore we thank our partners and all the actors in our network, who all work to influence the cultural agenda.

We are very much looking forward to seeing what 2021 has to bring and to dive further into the inspiring and amazing cultural projects we create in collaboration with other local, national and European organizations, as well as individually.

