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1 March 2013

### **Report by the President 2012**

Dear SAR members,

2012 was a busy and important year for the development of the Society for Artistic Research.

At the conference and launch of the Research Catalogue (RC) in connection with the General Assembly of SAR in March 2012, the Executive Board officially took over the responsibility for the RC. The ARC-project, involving 19 different parties and funding from the RAAK programme was then terminated. The RC has become more and more important in the work of the Executive Board and will continue to be so. The Executive Board has therefore decided to request the succeeding Executive Board to adjust the Mission Statement of SAR in order to acknowledge the change in responsibilities in favour of developing and answering for the RC.

On 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012 the hosting of the server of the RC was successfully moved to the stable granite bedrock under the campus of the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm. This was the result of a very positive dialogue with the School of Architecture and the Vice Chancellor of KTH. The server agreement confirms that KTH has the responsibility for maintenance and backup of the server for the next 7 years. SAR has the responsibility for the maintenance and development of the software and covered the costs of transfer to Stockholm.

It was an important agreement for SAR to place the server within a stable, government-funded, academic environment. We were very concerned to guarantee the safe hosting of the growing RC server and to avoid a solution where we would have been dependent on private enterprise.

After an at times disorienting year in the administration of the Society (the model of moving the back office with the changing presidencies proved to be somewhat complicated and inefficient), we finally managed to establish a stable and continuous back office in summer 2012. It is based in Bern, Switzerland at the firm Silvia Müller, with Caroline Trebing as our main administrator. The new address and phone number of the back office is shown on our letterhead (above). Email for communications is: [backoffice@jar-online.net](mailto:backoffice@jar-online.net)

During 2012 the Portal Partner project was launched. We currently have five full Portal Partners: Artistic Research Archives, Norwegian Artistic Research Programme, The

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Hague Royal Conservatoire, University of Gothenburg and Zurich University of the Arts.  
Details are available here:

<http://www.researchcatalogue.net/portal/portal>

The Executive Board of SAR contributes as a member to the working group on Artistic Research in Higher Music Education of the Erasmus network for music *Polifonia*, coordinated by the Royal Conservatoire, The Hague, and the European Association of Conservatoires (AEC). This working group focuses on the content of 2nd cycle programmes as routes to artistic doctorates, and on a European register for research projects and peer reviewers in higher music education. A joint task group of SAR and Polifonia is investigating the use of the Research Catalogue.

SAR was represented at the ELIA/SHARE project and the ELIA biennial conference in Vienna in November.

In December 2012 the Executive board decided to create a pilot project exploring curated artistic residencies within the RC-environment. This project starts in 2013. It will be run by a curator, and will host within the environment of the RC two 'resident' artists over three month periods each. The Executive Board wishes to emphasise that the residencies will be open for all artistic disciplines. This pilot was initiated to stimulate discussion on content and formats within the RC and to investigate further the potential of the platform.

Gerhard Eckel and Florian Dombois have together created the symposium "Mind the Gap!" in Graz, which will precede the General Assembly. The symposium deals with different contexts for the presentations of musical artworks and how these influence our perception of the works. The works are presented in the black box and on the web within the RC. The format of the symposium has been conceived to stimulate discussion and solicit the audience's active participation in the event.

On behalf of the SAR Executive Board,

Kind regards,

Anna Lindal

President