

**Update of**  
**25 Years of ESTA**

1972 – 1997

**by**

**Marianne Kroemer**

updated until 2002 by  
Barbara Stroebel-Brack

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## Vth Chapter            The Presidency of Siegfried Palm

### V.4            25th International ESTA CONGRESS in San Lorenzo de El Escorial/Spain, 1 - 6 April 1997

In a former monastery, opposite the Escorial of Felipe II, ESTA was received for the first time by colleagues of the Spanish Branch. The brisk spring air in the mountains above Madrid stimulated the participants, as did the warm hospitality and the splendid food. In our work we focussed on Spanish music in general and music for string players in particular. Many contemporary composers were present themselves. The second area of special interest was the tradition and performance of Flamenco.

(Im grauen Kasten):

José Miguel Évora, Spanien E	Flamenco-Workshop
José Luis Turina, E	Works for Stings
Jaap Schröder, NL	Seminar
John White, GB	English Viola players
Ramón Barce, E	Works for Strings
Caroline Bosanquet, GB	Flageolets on the Cello
Enrique Jiménez, E	The Galician Violinist Manuel Quiroga
Dimitri Kolbin, Ukraine	Famous Spanish Musicians in Lvov
Tomás Marco, E	Works for Strings
Alvaro Marias, E	The Music School “Reina Sofía”
Dr. Ropers, D	Nowo Balance – Therapy
Felix Grande, E	Garcia Lorca and Flamenco
Cristobal Halffter, E	Works for Strings
Antonio Gallego, E	The History of Music Education in Spain
Yehudi Menuhin, GB	On the Training and Education of String Players
Raimo Sariola, Finland	Pedagogical Education of String-Players at the Sibelius Academy
Antonio Iglesias, E	Joaquin Rodigro’s Music for Strings
Roberta Guaspari-Tzavaras	Video Presentation of the “Fiddle Festival” in New York

*General Meeting of the Delegates* on 4 April, 1997, in San Lorenzo de El Escorial.

After words of welcome and thanks to the Spanish Branch for hosting this year's Congress by Prof. Siegfried Palm, Lord Menuhin, in turn, thanked the latter for his commitment to ESTA and to contemporary music.

There followed a report of activities by the Central Secretariat. A membership list of members was advertised for sale. The editors of the various ESTA publications were asked to pass on information of international interest to the Central Secretariat.

Treasurer Werner Schmitt presented the financial statements. Only 11 of the currently 24 member countries had paid their membership fees. France had to suspend its activities temporarily due to financial difficulties, nothing had been heard from the Czech Republic since the Branch had been divided. The same was true of Russia. So-called "stand-by" solutions were discussed and adopted by unanimous vote. John White, representative of the International Viola Society, suggested to intensify co-operation between this organisation and ESTA.

The current financial statements were not complete, which was partly due to the delay in the publication of the INL, as Kjell Hamren explained. This incompleteness was also subjected to a vote and accepted unanimously.

The Swiss members had collected more than 2000 SFR for the Solidarity Fund. The different levels of membership fee in the east and west were discussed as well, and the 10% higher contributions to be paid by the western countries were accepted after a vote.

Werner Schmitt reported that the budget had remained more or less unchanged compared to the last years. Contributions to UNESCO and the Council of Europe had risen. The next International Congresses in Trieste 1998, Portsmouth 1999 and Denmark 2002 were discussed as was the distribution of the various ESTA publications to all presidents, secretariats and editors. Kjell Hamren concluded by saying that he considered this to be necessary.

#### **V.5      26th International ESTA CONGRESS in TRIESTE, Italy, 12 – 17 September, 1998**

One of the reasons for the choice of this venue was to make it easier for Slovenia, the most recent member country with its President Ciril Skerjanec, to participate. Charmingly located at the sea and rich in beauty, culture and history, the city of Trieste provided an ideal backdrop at the intersection of the two countries. Renato Zanettovich, President of the Italian Branch of ESTA, had prepared the programme:

(in grauem Fenster)

Enzo Porta, Italy

The Italian School from the 19th Century  
until Today

Guiseppe Placentino, Italy

On the Definition of Locatelli's  
Virtuosity– the Roman Documents 1714-  
1723

Sabina Moretti, Italy	Suggestions on Didactics at the Conservatories of Central and Southern Italy
Terje Moe Hansen, Norway	A New Approach to Virtuosity on the Violin
Gerhard Mantel, Germany	Sound Motions
Peter de Leeuw, Netherlands	Instruction on String Instruments for Very Young Children
Jochen Brusch, Germany	The World of Kreisler
Antonio Pellegrini, Switzerland	Beethoven, Kreutzer and the French Revolution
Primoz Kuret, Slovenia	Slovenian Music – an Unknown Part of European Culture
Rok Klopčič, Slovenia	Fundamental Training and Education for the Development of an Artist

We had the pleasure of listening to many beautiful concerts: Igor Coretti, who had begun preparations for his “Young Musicians International Orchestra” project already at the 1988 Congress in Rome, played music with children from Austria, Hungary, Slovenia and Italy with works by Gluck and Sorkocevic and had individual children tell about their work in up to three languages. Winners of ESTA’s youth competitions in Italy furnished proof of their outstanding skills, virtuosity even, in some cases. Students of the international Scuola Superiore di Musica da Camera del Trio di Trieste, Valentino Dentesani, violin, and Andrea Ambrosini, piano gave a demonstration of their great musical talent and bowing technique rendering Beethoven and Brahms sonatas. Accompanied by the Friuli Venetia-Julia Chamber Orchestra, the little cellist Stefano Cerrato played pieces by Bloch and Nölk. Selected pupils demonstrated their abilities with works by Tchaikovsky and Bloch.

Finally, musical humour, organised by Janet Zadow, Italy, was also given its due: Vivaldi’s Concerto grosso with built-in etudes by Kreutzer and Rode, with ESTA members joining in, and a choir ESTA GLORIA ESTA.

*General Meeting of the Delegates on 15 September, 1998, in Trieste*

Siegfried Palm opened the Meeting with a minute’s silence in commemoration of the Belgian ESTA President, Leo Praet, who had passed away. From the Central Secretariat it was reported that Elspeth Iliff had represented ESTA at the IMC meeting in Rome and attended several meetings in Paris to reactivate ESTA France and to prepare an opening day at the Conservatoire of Paris. Contacts with other string organisations in the world, such as ASTA, AUSTA and STANZA, were maintained by Elspeth Iliff. They all had been invited to the Meeting, but time had been too short for travel arrangements this time. Hopes were expressed that participation and concrete, joint initiatives would be possible in the next years.

The secretariats were asked to specify on their membership lists also the instruments for more precise data acquisition.

In the Treasurer's report mention was made again of the difference which had arisen because of the time span between production costs for the INL and the receipt of payment from advertisers as well as membership fees still due. The budget showed no deficit. The travelling expenses for the members of the Central Committee were reimbursed. As regards the contribution to IMC, it was proposed to share it with other string teachers' associations. However, Siegfried Palm stressed that ESTA, in any case, remain a member of IMC. Asked by Rachel Goldberg about the merit of this membership, Werner Schmitt explained that it earned ESTA the status of an NGO, Non Governmental Organisation, with the Council of Europe. Considering that there were only three NGOs dealing with music, it was important that music education have a voice as well.

The delegation of Slovenia was welcomed and Slovenia was admitted unanimously to ESTA as the 25th member country. Mr. Frendo from Malta was welcomed as a guest and potential new member. Siegfried Palm said that he would continue fostering contacts with other string teachers' organisations during courses in New Zealand in 2000.

The next International Congress in Portsmouth 1999 was discussed. Kjell Hamren remarked critically that contributions came almost exclusively from Great Britain. The programme included, among others, the world première of a piece by Sir Rodney Bennett.

The Congresses 2000 in Odessa and 2002 in Denmark were discussed, with the Danish Branch celebrating its 20th anniversary on this occasion.

Kjell Hamren reported about the three years of his editorship of the INL. Financing it was still a problem. After a lot of support in the first years, costs ranged at £ 10,000 in the second year. In the third year each country was requested to procure one advertisement as otherwise Hamren did not see a way how to cope with the additional work load. Ann Inglis, editor of the British ESTA journal "News and Views", volunteered to review the next edition of the INL.

Copies of the new rules and regulations of the Koch Foundation were distributed for consultation. The ultimate decision was up to the Central Committee and the Branches were asked to submit their proposals to the Central Secretariat.

#### **V.6. 27th International ESTA Congress "Strings 99" in Portsmouth, 6 – 10 April, 1999**

This Congress was overshadowed by the unexpected death of Lord Yehudi Menuhin.

The social programme was determined by what a city located by the sea was able to offer – including a gala dinner onboard the HMS Warrior.

There were so many, almost too many, major events that they could not possibly be attended all by the participants:

(Im grauen Kasten:)

Karin Greenhead, GB  
Tamás Ittzès, Hungary

Dalcroze – Rhythm  
Kodaly

Jürgen Kroemer, Austria	The Universe of Baroque Dance and Seminars “Relaxation and Swiftiness” and “The Viennese Waltz”
John Savin, GB	Preparation of Sting Teachers for Teaching
Richard Crozier, GB	Course for Professional Further Education and Training
Malcolm Williamson, Ron Colyer, Vivien Mackie, GB	The Alexander Technique
Csaba und Géza Szilvay, Finland	Seminar “Colour Strings”
Margaret Campbell, GB	Grand Violinists throughout the Centuries
Pauline Nobes, GB	Violin solo : Partitas by Johann Joseph Vilsmayr (1663-1722), on the Baroque Violin
Sheila Nelson and Catherine Elliott , GB	Seminar: The Correct Method for String Players
Dr. Boni Rietveld, Netherlands	Violinjuries and Other String Players’ Strains
Margaret Campbell, GB	Grand Cellists throughout the Centuries
Reinhardt Goebel, Germany	Learning to Play the Violin the Other Way Round
Phyllis Young, USA	Playing the String Play: Vibrato
Simon Fisher, GB	Maintaining the Level of Professional Playing
Caroline Emery, GB	Bass Is Best!
Julia Goehr, GB	Maintaining a High Level in Teaching Instruments at School
Micheal Lewin, GB	Guitar and String Instruments

Given the diversity and the richness of the programme, only a few of the highlights can be mentioned:

The ensemble Hof-Dantzer, led by Jürgen Kroemer, offered a performance with authentic, historical choreographies on the dance movements of Baroque suites. In further lectures participants were encouraged to learn some basic forms of the Baroque repertoire of dance movements and of the Viennese Waltz. The seminar by Geza Szilvay was extremely well attended and much appreciated for its well-conceived method for beginners and developed further to the level of professional study. After a “finger buffet”, night concerts could be enjoyed late at night performed by the Albanian Tirana String Quartet presenting two Albanian quartets. One member of the Quartet received a new violin case – the result of a collection – as a small attempt to alleviate misery in this country. The concert by the Sorel Quartet, composed of four ladies, turned into an extraordinary event, equally the brilliant cellist Alice Neary. Further concerts were given by small quartets at beginners’ level with folkloremusic and jazz. Most impressive – the “Sea Stories”, an ingenious composition by Richard Taylor for pupils’ choir and orchestra and staged at the New Theatre Royal. Superb as always - Phyllis Young’s, Simon Fisher’s and Sheila Nelson’s performance. The “Final Concert” was played by the International Youth String Orchestra, conducted by Malcolm Layfield, and, with the

Concerto for Double String Orchestra by Michael Tippett, left a special impression.

*General Meeting of the Delegates on 9 April in Portsmouth*

Elspeth Iliff chaired the Meeting in lieu of President Siegfried Palm, who was unable to attend. She started with a minute's silence for the late Honorary ESTA President Lord Yehudi Menuhin and the cellist William Pleeth.

Solande Eggermont, Secretary of the Central Secretariat, reported on last year's meetings and the "re-opening" of the French Branch of ESTA. It was pointed out again how important the membership lists of the individual countries were and that they should be submitted to the Central Secretariat by the beginning of the year in order to prepare the accounts and to send out the INL – the International News Letter – on time.

Werner Schmitt, too, urged that membership fees be paid in due time so as not to hamper the work of the auditors.

Membership fees for western European countries were increased by 10%, the others remained unchanged.

The members of the Central Committee were newly elected: President Siegfried Palm, D, (elected for the 3rd time), Vice-President Elspeth Iliff, GB, (2nd tenure), Werner Schmitt, CH, Treasurer, Prof. Mikulas Jelinek, Slovakia, and Nina Murdvee, Estonia, were all re-elected unanimously.

Prof. Marianne Kroemer, A, resigned from her office as President of the Ernst-Koch-Foundation. Kjell Ake Hamren, Sweden, previous Vice-President, Dr. Lothar Stöckbauer, member of the Advisory Board of the Sinfonima Foundation of the Mannheim Insurance Company, were proposed as advisors together with Rodney Slatford and Werner Schmitt and elected by individual vote.

**V.7. 28th International ESTA-CONGRESS  
in ODESSA from 7 to 11 June, 2000**

This Congress was held at a venue of great historical significance for all string players, in the Stolyarsky School of Odessa, which had produced the most outstanding violinists of the 20th century. It was wonderful to see that this grand tradition is still very much alive today in spite of the political and – even more so – the economic climate. Moreover, Odessa is a lovely city at the Black Sea, which has been able to maintain its international culture and southern atmosphere..

(Grauer Kasten:)

Wladimir Köhn, Odessa

The Tradition of Teaching String  
Instruments in Odessa

Igor Ozim

Workshops with Students from  
Ukraine

Tatjana Markowska, Odessa  
Prof. Dr.med. G. Schnack, D

Bandura, Yesterday and Today  
Preventive Management for the  
Hands of Musicians



Bela Szedlak, CH, H, Georgiy Pavliy, Ukraine	Sperger without Compromise String Instrument Instruction in Ukraine Yesterday and Today
Victoria Kulikova, Ukraine	Holistic Teaching Methods on the Basis of the Algorithmic Model
Felicity Lipman, GB	The Alexander Technique Chamber Music for Early Instrumental Instruction
Sergey Yevdokimow, Ukraine	Systematic Instruction in the Production of Tones on String Instruments
Sabine Beyer, S	Chamber Music for Everyone – Project at the Music School of Haninge, Sweden
Tibor Varga, CH and H	Opportunities and Limits of Pedagogical Education
Dr. Lothar Stöckbauer, D	The Business Community's Responsibility for Culture – the Example of the Sinfonima Foundation
Dimitri Terzakis, GR und D	Workshops on the Interpretation of His Music for String Players
Karen Valeur, M. Eising, DK	Dualism and Totality – the Child as a Musical Landscape
Igor Andrievsky, Ukraine	Popular Tradition in the Context of Contemporary Ukrainian String Literature
Nina Dyka, Lidia Schutko. Oleksandr Kosarenko, Ukraine	Chamber Music for String Ensembles by Ukrainian Composers
Louis Pantillon, Werner Schmitt, CH	The Situation of Early String Education in Switzerland, Taking the Music School of Berne as an Example

Like in a shop window, the best of what can be accomplished was presented – from Ukraine including from Kiev, Charkov and Lvov. What was common to all children and teenagers playing before us was their quality of tone and strength of expression combined with admirable concentration. Almost all of them played by heart. Improving their somewhat lacking skills in stylistic differentiation was the target of workshops that were offered generously by Igor Ozim for selected pupils and students, who absorbed everything quickly and enthusiastically. Unfortunately, most of the children remained anonymous. All we learned were the pieces presented in the various programmes. Apart from the daily students' concert, the bandura, which had been built for the first time in this region some 5000 years ago, was presented by marvellously playing Tatjana Markowska. We had the pleasure of listening to several grand concerts for symphony and chamber orchestras with young soloists such as Natasha Korsakowa, Alexander Gritsayenko, Patricia

Kopaschinskaya, all of them violin, Alexander Kaschin, cello and Petru Iuga , double bass, with works by Shostakovich, Ravel and Sperger. Finally, at the end of the congress, Tibor Varga himself took up the baton. The Moskva Quartet with Siegfried Palm on the other cello gave an evening chamber music concert, and we were familiarised with Ukrainian music, which is not so dissimilar from the Greek one.

The prizes of the Koch competition were not awarded. Instead, one of the talented pupils, Alexej Seminienko, aged 11, received the amount in the form a scholarship to attend a course in Western Europe.

The very special congress, which had been supported by many institutions from abroad, ended with a lovely evening outdoors underneath old trees with captivating music, Russian one above all, delicious food and an atmosphere of genuine friendship.

*General Meeting of the Delegates* on 9 June, 2000, in Odessa

After the approval of the minutes, the presentation of the annual report and of the treasurer's report, in which it was stated that, while payment behaviour had improved, the Russian and the Czech Branches had to continue their "stand-by" status and that membership fees would remain unchanged, Albania and Malta were admitted as new members of ESTA. There followed a discussion on the next Congresses in Helsinki and Denmark. It was decided that a member of the Central Committee should be involved in the planning of International Congresses, and Nina Murdvee was appointed to do so.

Kjell-Ake Hamren reported that in future the International Newsletter would be co-distributed and co-produced by the journal STRAD to save costs, and that ESTA members could thus obtain copies of STRAD at a discount of 15%. The language of the INL is English. Summaries are provided in German and French. An ESTA homepage was established. Its address is: **www.ESTA-int.com**

## **V.8. 29th International ESTA Congress together with the Kodály Society from 6 to 11 August 2001 in HELSINKI**

The "super father " of Finish music, Jan Sibelius, has dominated the education of string players in Finland throughout history up to the present. Today, influences not only from Central Europe but also of immigrant musicians of renown are undeniable. Contemporary music has produced a number of remarkable composers, whose works were presented. The close vicinity of neighbouring Russia as well as of the Baltic states was brought to life in several concerts. The opportunity of a post-congress tour to St Petersburg was seized gladly by many participants, especially the American ones, who had attended the Kodály Congress.

(Grauer Kasten:)

Einojuhani Rautavaara, Finland  
Tuomas Haapanen, Finland

The Beauty in Music  
Some Thoughts on the  
Interpretation of Jean Sibelius's  
Violin Concerto

Satu Jalas-Risito, FIN and Italy	Finish Characteristics in the Music of my Grandfather, Jan Sibelius, with Demonstration
Anna Marton, CH	New Perspectives of Playing Shifts and Placing the Thumb on the Cello
Lajos Garam, FIN	Training and Educating a Gifted String Player
H. Lehto, A.Maja, M. Järvelä, FIN	Presentation of Various Forms of String Instrument Teaching
Felix Forrer, CH	Presentation of "Forrer's Shift Puzzle"
Géza Szilvay Csaba Szilvay Lasse Lagercranz Jussipekka Rannamäki, all FIN Matti und Silja Murto, FIN	Colour Strings and Colour Keys
Harri Wessman, FIN	Introduction to Teaching Material for String Players New String Music for Young Players
Ihar Vedzenin, Belarus Phyllis Young, USA	Education of a String Teacher Workshop

Combining the events of ESTA and of the International Kodály Society had the benefit that the musical focus was not only concerts by young and established string players but also on national choral work presented by outstanding choirs from Hungary, Estonia, Poland, Japan and Finland. ESTA contributed symphonic music (Tchaikovsky's 4th Symphony), string quartet (the Bartók-Quartet with Kodály's No. 2), the Violin Concerto by Sibelius played beautifully, with concentration and unsurpassed skill by Réka Szilvay, daughter of Géza Szilvay. A grandiose success - the Total Cello Show, a cello sextet conducted by Hannu Kilski, entertaining their audience with amusing pieces in virtuoso and witty manner. The ESTA Student of the Year Prize went to 19-year-old Kirsi-Marja Alanen from Finland, who thanked us by rendering part of her competition program.

*General Meeting of the Delegates* in Helsinki on 11 August, 2001

As always at the General Meetings of the Delegates, the finances were disclosed and found to have been properly conducted. It was requested again that the respective membership lists be submitted by 31 December. Werner Schmitt, CH, who had served as Treasurer for many years, resigned and passed on this office to his compatriot Käthi Gohl Moser, who was elected into the Central Committee unanimously. There followed a discussion on the forthcoming election of a successor to Siegfried Palm. Candidates proposed by the various Branches had to be announced 90 days prior to the election. Another point of discussion was the question of split membership fees for well-off and less well-off countries. It was decided by vote to maintain them at the same level for all members. A further issue was how to "attract back" Russia into ESTA. The professors Jelinek, Slovakia, and Murdvee, Estonia, resigned from the Central Committee to be replaced by Schmitt and Gohl

Moser. Last but not least, the countries hosting the ESTA Congresses until 2006 presented themselves.

#### V.9. **30th International ESTA Congress in Middelfart, Denmark from 15 to 19 October 2002**

This time ESTA met at Hindsgawll castle, a most picturesque conference venue on the island of Fyn, the birthplace of Hans Christian Andersen. The highlights of the social programme were a reception at the Town Hall of Middelfart and a trip to the Andersen and Carl Nielsen museums.

(Grauer Kasten :)

Anders Gran and Jorgen Nielsen DK	Stories in Music
Terje Moe Hansen DK	New Ways in Violin Playing and Master Classes
Lennart Winnberg S	From Ear to Heart
Bent Lorentzen	How to Compose a new Violin Concerto
Susanna Andres CH	Salsa per violinos
Licia Anna Ellero und Ennio Francescato I	The Willem Method
Peter Spissky SK/DK	The Dangerous "Old Music"
Knut Hamre N	The Harding Fiddle and the Norwegian Tradition of Folk Music
Eva Bogren S	"Little Things for Little Strings"
Harald Haugaard DK	The Violin in Danish Folk Music
Walter Mengler D	Left-handedness and Playing a String Instrument
Maria Mol NL	The Relationship between Improvisation and Theatrical Aspects in Music
Peder Holm DK	Works for Young String Players
Lowri Blake, Peter Buckoke GB	A Man, a Woman and a Double Bass
Mette Hanskow DK	Education from the First to the Last One
Elias Davidsson IS	Compositions for Strings – Music for a Better World
Valerie Girbal F	Early Beginning on the Viola
Tove Detreköy DK	Suzuki – Historical Reflections

As always, numerous concerts were presented: Morthen Zeuthen, cello, Elisabeth Zeuthen, violin and Tim Frederiksen, viola, played a wide range from Bach to Kodaly, the Albertslund Symphony Orchestra performed Nordic composers: Lorentzen, Svendsen, Grieg and Holst. Eskaer Trio pleased the participants with piano trios by Brahms and Chr. Barnekow. An entire concert with violoncello solo with works by Hindemith, Sibelius, Sweinson and Bentzon was arranged as a meditation by Erling. B. Bengtsson. The Nielsen Quartet performed music by Kuhlau, Hornemann and, of course, Carl Nielsen. A particularly entertaining evening in store for the audience was the



**VI. 1.            The German Branch of ESTA, founded in October 1972**

Membership:535

President:            Petru Munteanu (Hamburg and Rostock)

Vice-President:    Ulf Klausenitzer (Würzburg)

Treasurer        :    Agnes Stein-von Kamienski (Berlin)

Additional members: Ulrike Abdank (Stuttgart)

Walter Mengler (Aachen)

all since 2000, re-elected in 2002

Responsible for the ESTA journal, **ESTA-Nachrichten**, for the German-speaking Branches Switzerland Austria and Germany since 1993:

Barbara Ströbel-Brack in D-70184 Stuttgart, Rottannenweg 9, Tel. +49 711 24 14 73

Information below status as of 2002

**VI.2.            The British Branch of ESTA**

President: Christopher Bunting

Secretariat: Marion Seymour

**VI.3.            The Swedish Branch of ESTA**

Presidentin: Eva Bogren

Secretariat: Anna Braw

**VI.4.            The Swiss Branch of ESTA**

President from 1997 to 2000: Käthi Gohl Moser

Since 2001 Suzanne Vischer, Kaspar Zwicky Co-President

Managing Committee since1997: Eva Zurbrügg and Marianne

Aeschbacher (until 1998), Agnes Byland, Antonio Pellegrini ,

Christine Ragaz, Maya Wenger, Rudolf Bernet, Josef Hofer,

Laurent Rochat (until 2001), then Louis Pantillon for the contact with Suisse Romande

Secretariat: 1997 Nicole Gsell, 1998 until 2001 Hedy Hoffert, from 2001 Barbara Rufer

**VI.5.            The Austrian Branch of ESTA**

President: Michael Frischenschlager

Secretariat : Gundula Mohamed-Scholl

**VI.6.            The Dutch Branch of ESTA**

President: Roeland V. Robert

Secretariat: Edith Wijnen

**VI.7.            The Finish Branch of ESTA**

President: Merit Palas

Secretariat: Paula Hagman

- VI.8. The Icelandic Branch of ESTA**  
President: Gudny Gudmundsdottir  
Secretariat: Hildigunnur Halldorsdottir
- VI.9. The Italian Branch of ESTAESTA**  
President: Sabina Moretti  
Secretariat: Ennio Francescato
- VI.10. The Irish Branch of ESTA**  
President: Hugh Maguire  
Chairman: Elizabeth Csibi
- VI.11. The East German (GDR)Branch of ESTA**  
Since 1990 united with the German Branch
- VI.12. The Spanish Branch of ESTA**  
President: Francisco Comesana
- VI.13. The Danish Branch of ESTA**  
President: Anders Gron  
Secretariat: Karen Valeur
- VI.14. The French Branch of ESTA**  
President: Michel Strauss  
Vice-President: Valerie Girbal  
Secretariat: Frédérique Rouzeau-Pleintel
- VI.15. The Belgian Branch of ESTA**
- VI.16. The Norwegian Branch of ESTA**  
President: Lena D. Husebo, since 1997  
Further members of the Managing Committee: Kristin Kvam,  
Ragnhild E. Hagerup, Åse Mette Schøyen, since 2001, Torfinn  
Hoffart, since 2001, Liv Gismervik, since 2002
- VI.17. The Czechoslovakian Branch of ESTA, prior to the division**
- VI.18. The Czech Branch of ESTA, since 1992**
- VI.19. The Slovakian Branch of ESTA, since 1991**  
President: Mikulas Jelinek  
Vice-President: Jozef Podhorsky  
Secretary and Treasurer: Rafael Hrdina
- A National Congress with renowned speakers from abroad is held every year. The programme is complemented by seminars at conservatories and music schools.
- VI.20. The Russian Branch of ESTA, the Regional Committee of the Volga**  
President: Ludmila Volkova

- VI.21. The Estonian Branch of ESTA**  
 President: Urmas Vulp  
 Managing Committee: Niina Murdvee, Aino Riikjärv, Olavi Sild, Lembi Mets, Yuri Kukk
- VI.22. The Polish Branch of ESTA**  
 President: Mirosław Lawrynowicz  
 Vice-President: Melena Ostapowicz  
 Membership: 40  
 ESTA meetings are held twice a year, in Lancut in summer and in Olesnica in Lower Silesia in autumn or winter. Special emphasis is placed on the preparations for the competition invited by the Ernst-Koch Foundation.
- VI.23. The Hungarian Branch of ESTA**  
 President: István Kertész
- VI.24. The Latvian Branch of ESTA**  
 President: Juris Svolkovskis  
 Secretariat: Igors Dorins
- VI.25. The Lithuanian Branch of ESTA**  
 President: Daiva Vasiliauskiene  
 Secretariat: Egle Obotiene
- VI.26. The Ukrainian Branch of ESTA**  
 President: Tetyana Snizhna
- VI. 27. The Albanian Branch of ESTA, founded in March 2000**  
**Teachers' Association of String Instruments TASI**  
 Initiative committee:  
 Brunhilda Stefani, liaising with the Central Committee  
 Bujar Sykja  
 Arjan Paco  
 Pranvera Tego  
 Zhani Ciko  
 Edmond Sinani  
 Pjeter Guralumi
- VI. 28. The Maltese Branch of ESTA, founded in 1998?**  
**Malta String Teachers' Association MASTA**  
 President: Antoine Frendo  
 Secretary: James Scerri-Worley  
 Membership in December 1999: 26
- VI. 29. The Croatian Branch of ESTA**  
**Croatian String Teachers' Association**  
  
 President: Dobrila Bercovic-Magdalenic  
 Vice-President: Kristijan Petrovic



Membership in December 1995: 91

**Central Secretariat: Ursula Meyer, Berne, Switzerland**

The **publications** of the ESTA Branches:

The **International Newsletter, ILN**, for all members appear once a year.

For Germany, Switzerland and Austria: **ESTA-Nachrichten**, twice a year

For Great Britain: **ESTA News and Views**

For France: **ESTA Bulletin**, twice a year

For Denmark: ESTAvisen

The Finish, Estonian, Polish, Italian and Dutch Branches have their own ESTA publications as well.