REPORTS

National Committee Report - Austria

At the 2007 Annual Meeting of Austria’s National Committee held on December 11, 2007 in Vienna a new board with Regine Allgayer-Kaufmann, Christiane Fennesz-Juhasz, Gerd Grupe, Gerlinde Haid, Ursula Hemetek, and Thomas Nußbaumer was elected. The term of office is scheduled for two years.

The 2008 Annual Meeting was held on June 3, 2008 in Vienna. It started with a colloquium (chaired by Gerd Grupe) on the history of ethnomusicology based on a (so far unpublished) manuscript by Bruno Nettl (provided by the author’s courtesy) entitled: “Ethnomusikologie aus der Sicht des Jahres 2000. Zur Geschichte unsere Faches”. Bruno Nettl, unfortunately, had to cancel his participation this time.

As far as the National Committee’s future activities are concerned the members acclaimed the idea of a joint Annual Meeting with the National Committees of Austria’s neighbouring countries – following the example of Denmark and Sweden. Thus, for 2009 the members agreed to invite our colleagues from Slovenia to the castle of Seggau, a place in the Austrian province of Styria (near the Slovenian border).

The members of the Austrian National Committee give account of the following activities:

The Institute for Folk Music Research and Ethnomusicology has participated in the organization of two symposia:

1. “Echoes of Diversity: Music from Turkey in the Diaspora”, Vienna, November 23-24, 2007. The focus was on music making of immigrants from Turkey in different parts of the world. The symposium dealt with the different styles and the mechanisms of “music making” as well as the social and political background. There were inputs from Austria, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Italy, USA, and Canada. Thus, a comparative overview concerning the state of music making by immigrants from Turkey in different regions of the world, the different ways of musical expression as well as the political framework was gained. Ursula Hemetek and Hande Sağlam, who organized the symposium, are also in charge of the forthcoming publication (available by November 2008).

2. “Birth and Ritual – On the 65th Birthday of Gerlinde Haid”, Bad Aussee, April 18-19, 2008. This interdisciplinary symposium approached the topic from different perspectives, among them medicine, anthropology, religion and folk music research. There were practical as well as theoretical inputs. One of the results was that musicological research on lullabies definitely should be intensified on an international level.

The Austrian members have been active in participating in several ICTM Study Group meetings. Especially “Music and Minorities” has been very well attended by Austrian ICTM members. The meeting took place in Prague, May 24 – June 1,
2008, with Ursula Hemetek, the Study Group chair, being actively involved in the preparation.

The Institute of Musicology at the University of Vienna (Regine Allgayer-Kaufmann) in cooperation with the University of Wroclaw/Poland (Bozena Muszkalska) organized an international symposium on “MusicBodyEvent”, held on May 30-31, 2008 in Wroclaw/Poland.

Based on the fact that performance theories since the 1990s have drawn considerable attention to the phenomenon of embodiment, i.e. the strong presence of the human body on stage, we raised the question whether embodiment plays an important role in the performance of music, too. Performance artists claim for a greater awareness of the human body and its presence. To their mind, the body is not merely an instrument – although technically perfect – to achieve a specific effect symbolically. On the contrary, it is the body itself which claims for the audience’s attention. According to this understanding, feedback – loop and conjoint presence between the actors and their audience provide the base for a performance to really take place.

Contributions were given by Christa Brüstle, Jarosław Mianowski, Anna Czekanowska, Mirosław Kocur, Jürgen Arndt, Sławomir Wieczorek, Alina Mazur, Regine Allgayer-Kaufmann, Gerd Gruppe, Bozena Muszkalska, Barbara Alge, Adriana Galdynska-Mazan, Queila Rosa, Scott Laury, and Alfredo Moura. The proceedings will be published in 2009.

The Phonogrammarchiv, Austrian Academy of Sciences has (co-) organized the following meetings:


2. Workshop: "Rudolf Pöch: a Pioneer in Physical and Cultural Anthropology and in Media-Oriented Scientific Practice. Archival horizons: landscapes of knowledge and borders of perspective within the multimedia estate of anthropologist and explorer Rudolf Pöch", organised by the Anthropological Department of the Natural History Museum, Natural History Museum, Vienna, May 9–10, 2008 (The Phonogrammarchiv as project partner).


In October 2006 the Institute of Ethnomusicology of the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz (KUG) held an international symposium organized by Gerd Grue and Gerda Lechleitner entitled Virtual Gamelan Graz: Rules – Grammars – Modeling. Among the participants were experts from the USA, Great Britain, France, Germany and Austria, namely Bernard Bel, Benjamin Brinner,
Sophie Clark, Marc Perlman, Julian Rohrhuber, Rainer Schütz and R. Anderson Sutton. The papers will be published in late 2008.

KUG and the Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapas/Mexico (UNICACH) have started a cooperation focussing on the field of ethnomusicology. Several joint research projects on Central American marimba music are in preparation. A marimba workshop was held (organized by Helmut Brenner) from April 28 until May 7, 2008 by Israel Moreno Vaszques and Humberto Gordillo, both from UNICACH.

Publications:

2. Thomas Hochradner, ed. „Lieder aus dem Sammelgut des Arbeitsausschusses für das Volkslied in Salzburg (1908–1938)”. In: Corpus Musicae Popularis Austriacae (in preparation)

Regine Allgayer-Kaufmann

ICTM Liaison Officer - Guatemala

I would like to present in this first report from Guatemala the country’s oldest and most important institution in the field of ethnomusicological research: the Area of Ethnomusicology (Area de Etnomusicología) founded in 1977 at the Centre for Folklore Studies (Centro de Estudios Folkloricos, CEFOL), a multi-disciplinary research institute affiliated with the University of San Carlos. Alfonso Arrivillaga Cortés who is in charge of the Area since the untimely death of its first appointed researcher, J. Manuel Juárez Toledo, at the beginning of the 1980s, has managed to pursue its policy, i.e. the research into, preservation of, and dissemination of information about the many music traditions of the country, during the last two and a half decades in a difficult and at times openly adverse social, economic, and academic surroundings. At present, the Area’s staff includes two researchers: Arrivillaga and since a couple of years, the author of these lines. Moreover, working relationships are maintained with other research areas of the Centre, especially with the Area of Choreology whose researcher in charge has been since its foundation in 1984 Carlos René García Escobar.

Besides a few musical instruments the Area of Ethnomusicology has an archive of records mostly on analogue cassettes, still waiting for its transfer into digital form, as well as a growing number of documents recorded directly on DAT. Results of