Concluding Remarks

Since there have been no university careers in Ethnomusicology in Argentina, our traditional musics and dances have been studied initially by Folklorists and Musicologists, later by Anthropologists trained in music or dance, and in the last decade also by Sociologists and Music professors. This has probably contributed to the development of these studies as an interdisciplinary field involving different approaches and theoretical influences. In this sense, one of the main challenges to the researchers is to reach a fruitful synthesis between the aesthetic analysis of music and dance and the study of their socio-cultural contexts as well the experiences of their performers and audiences.

Finally, as this review shows, just a few researchers could participate in ICTM Events along these years, in part due to the comparatively high costs of traveling and registration for us and for other scholars from LatinAmerica as well. We hope this participation may increase in the next years which will certainly contribute to develop this promising field.

Austria
by Thomas Nussbaumer, Chair of National Committee

Symposium on Music Therapy

On 3 June 2012, the ICTM Austria National Committee held its annual general assembly. The event was preceded by a symposium on 2 June, entitled “Music as Therapy - Perspectives from Ethnomusicology and Music Therapy” (the symposium was held entirely in German, but for convenience, all titles will be presented in English).

Papers presented at ICTM World Conferences and Study Group Symposia


Following the opening address by committee Chair Nußbaumer, the keynote lecture was presented by Austrian/German music therapist, psychologist and medical doctor Wolfgang Mastnak. The keynote raised the question “Music as Therapy – Holistic Mystērion and Scientific Perspective, a Contradiction?” Mastnak produced examples and explanatory models from both evidence based medical studies, as well as from his own experience in intercultural music therapy research based in Eastern Asia, specifically in Shanghai.

In the afternoon, two additional lectures were given by August Schmidhofer, “Suggestion as an Efficiency Factor in Music Therapy”, and by Bernd Brabec de Mori on “Music Therapy in Shamanism: Magic of Contact, Contamination, and Mimesis from a Cultural Anthropological Perspective”. Schmidhofer suggested to develop a model based less on ethno-psychoanalysis (as his title would make us assume) but rather on sociological and social anthropological explanations of what happens in therapeutic sessions, exemplified on trombone practices in Madagascar. Brabec de Mori tried to explain the efficiency of music by switching epistemological perspectives and viewing music therapy, especially techniques involving “trance” or “altered states”, as a magical practice (in the way non-European praxis is often analysed), thereby deconstructing the category “shamanism”.

The symposium was concluded by a round table discussion with invited guest speakers Gerhard Kubik (ethnomusicologist, Vienna/Malawi), Ruth Kutalek (medical anthropologist, Vienna), Wolfgang Mastnak (music therapy researcher, München) and Monika Glawischnig-Goschnik (music therapist and medical doctor, Graz). Under the headline “Healing with Music, Healing through Music? Music Therapy from an Intercultural Perspective”, the discussion addressed the partial incommensurability of measures and methods among different human ontologies present in different societies, as well as modes of explanation of the efficacy of music in general, and specifically in therapy. Further on, the threat of a cultural neo-colonialism was discussed, questioning if music therapy in Europe may appropriate sounds and methods invented by non-European communities.

The three sessions were chaired by Thomas Nußbaumer, Ursula Hemetek, and Regine Allgayer-Kaufmann respectively. The symposium reached a relatively big audience and discussion was intense throughout the day (and the evening gathering thereafter). The topic is highly appealing for a variety of disciplines and the symposium contributed in fostering interdisciplinary cross-consultation and cooperation. Finally, on 30 August the Austrian Broadcast Company (ORF) aired a 25-minute report “Healing Sounds”, featuring interviews with various participants as a follow-up to the symposium; therefore the audience reached was exceptionally large for an academic event.

New homepage

The Austrian National Committee of the ICTM has polished up its web appearance. The site is hosted by the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz and provides details about members, as well as current and past activities. Please visit it here.

Further activities and publications by members of the Austrian National Committee

Institute of Folks Music Research and Ethnomusicology at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna

The Institute of Folk Music Research and Ethnomusicology at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna has been able to publish a new volume of the “klanglese” series, for the first time as an internet-publication: Ursula Hemetek (ed.): Music and Minorities in Ethnomusicology: Challenges and Discourses from Three Continents, Institut für Volksmusikforschung und Ethnomusikologie, Vienna 2012. See more on page 56.

Two members of the Institute, Ardian Ahmedaja and Ursula Hemetek, co-organised two Symposia of the ICTM Study Groups they chair, on Multipart Music (Tirana, Albania, April 2012) and on Music and Minorities (Zefat, Israel, August 2012) respectively. Read more about the Symposia on pages 55 and 57.

The institute was also active in hosting lectures of respected colleagues from abroad: Britta Sweers (University of Bern/Switzerland), Brigitte Bachmann-Geiser (Bern/Switzerland), and Mark Slobin (Wesleyan University / USA).

A cooperation with the Georgian em-
bassy in Vienna enabled the institute to invite the well known Georgian Rustavi Choir for the presentation of the book “European Voices II”, edited by Ardian Ahmedaja (Editor’s Note: featured in Bulletin of ICTM #120, page 51).

China
by Xiao Mei (萧梅), Chair of National Committee

The Shanghai Conservatory of Music held International Symposium “Traditional Music In The Contemporary Society”

In the occasion of the 108th Ordinary Meeting of the Executive Board of ICTM in late June, 2012, a series of academic events were held by the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Among them were a workshop lead by Executive Board Member Tran Quang Hai entitled “Discovery of overtone singing / Theory and Practice”, a premiere of the Chinese translation of the book May It Fill Your Soul, written by Executive Board Member Timothy Rice (UCLA), and on 29 June the International Symposium entitled “Traditional Music in the Contemporary Society” was held.

Among those who contributed greatly to the organisation of this meeting were the Anthropology of Music Division E-Institutes of Shanghai Universities, the Research Institute of Ritual Music in China (RIRMC, the key research Institute of Humanities & Social Science in Shanghai) and the Institute of Traditional Music in China.

During the symposium, ICTM Executive Board members from the USA, Croatia, Portugal, Brazil, France, the UK, Slovenia and Austria, alongside Chinese scholars from the Music Research Institute of the Chinese National Academy of Arts, the School of Music of Central China Normal University and Shanghai Conservatory of Music shared the subjects and accomplishment of their recent researches. Their enthusiastic discussion also presented us with brilliant intellectual virtuosity. The symposium acquainted us with the latest developments in international ethnomusicology.

Quite a few scholars paid close attention, theoretically and practically, to the subject of “how music can influence and even change dynamically or initiatively the environment in which it exists”. In his speech “Ethnomusicology in Times of Trouble”, Timothy Rice explicitly suggested this perspective, focused on the study of music’s role in solving or exacerbating contemporary problems instead of in a traditional “authentic” context.

Adrienne L. Kaeppler, ICTM President, posed the question of “to whom we study ethnomusicology”. In addition to these theoretical studies, the researches of ICTM Executive Board Member Naila Ceribašić (Croatia) and ICTM Vice President Salwa El-Shawan Castelo-Branco (Portugal) can be regarded as the practical aspects of the subject. The former gave a paper entitled “Production of heritage within UNESCO: Comparing Croatia and China as successful state parties”, and the latter examined “how music has been implicated in the articulation of the nation-state, nation belonging, politics of representation and power relations” during the time of dictatorship between 1933 and 1974 in Portugal, agreeing with the idea of “the centrality of cultural practice to the inculcation of political ideologies and hegemonic rule, and to the efficiency of resistance movements that eventually led to its overthrow”. Besides, the typical topic of the relationship with and significance of music for public life...