

# Reports from ICTM National and Regional Representatives

## Austria

by Bernd Brabec de Mori, Chair of National Committee



## European voices IV: Symposium and Concerts

The Research Centre for European Multipart Music of the Institute for Folk Music Research and Ethnomusicology of the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna organized the symposium “European Voices IV” from 27 to 29 November 2015. Almost 30 speakers from 17 countries and numerous participants from various Austrian institutions discussed questions regarding multipart music performed on solo instruments and in small ensembles, dominated by the fiddle in Central and Central-Eastern Europe.

The keynote address by Oskár Elschek (Slovakia) provided an historical overview on regional forms of these

traditions. The following presentations were based on different kinds of instruments and ensembles as well as on theoretical issues and concepts connected with the phenomenon of multipart music and interferences between playing, singing, and dancing in this framework (see [programme](#)).

Performances and accompaniment on reconstructed string and wind instruments from Ancient Greece (*cithara*, *aulos*) as well as on zither, *Raffele*, hurdy-gurdy, jew’s harp, Hardanger fiddle, violin, historical double-reed pipes, double flutes, bagpipes from several European areas, accordions, and *Schrammel* guitar, revealed in the first concert of the symposium some of the potentialities of multipart music on solo instruments for the large general public. Participation in the “66th Wiener Kathreintanz” in the second evening allowed participants to experience a ball in Vienna, and enjoying music by well-known bands from Austria and elsewhere in Europe. In the closing concert, the public was

delighted with bands of *Schrammel* music and Alpine folk music from Austria, the trio “Nepoții Iancului” (Transylvania) and the “Janusz Prusinowski Kompania” (Poland).

The main guidelines of all activities were the particular role by creative individuals in folk music traditions in Europe, and the importance of ensembles cultures, which often goes beyond regional boundaries. They will be made visible also in a forthcoming publication. More information can be found at [the website of the event](#).

## 50 years of the Department of Folk Music Research and Ethnomusicology

The Department of Folk Music Research was founded in 1965, one of the first research departments of the former Viennese Musikakademie, today’s University of Music and Performing Arts. The following short report was provided by department Chair Ursula Hemetek.



Participants of the international symposium and concerts “European Voices IV”. Vienna, November 2015. Photo provided by Bernd Brabec de Mori.

## A CENTRE FOR AUSTRIAN FOLK MUSIC

In the beginning, work at the department adhered to the so-called “Viennese school” of folk music research, with scholarly work and curriculum content concentrating on vocal and instrumental folk music from Austria. During the 1980s Rudolf Pietsch established research on instrumental folk music styles and practical approaches in teaching which have remained important to this day.

In 1994, with Gerlinde Haid as chair, the department cultivated a critical orientation towards cultural developments in society, thus successively expanding both the fields of research covered and the spectrum of methods employed.

## INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTION

A new thematic area that rose to prominence was the music of minorities, and international cooperative relationships were intensified. In 2001, Ursula Hemetek completed her habilitation thesis in ethnomusicology. The Austrian Universities Act was passed in 2002, and the impact of these developments can be seen in the addition of “Ethnomusicology” to the name of the department in the same year.

The Research Centre for European Polyphony (Chair: Ardian Ahmedaja) was established in 2003, and the department, still led by Gerlinde Haid, continued to develop into an internationally-recognized research institution.

In 2007, the department hosted the 39th ICTM World Conference. On 1 January 2011, Gerlinde Haid handed over the leadership of the department to Ursula Hemetek, who was thus able to take over a well-tended field. Since

2012, Ulrich Morgenstern has held a tenured professorship for history and theory of folk music.

## 50 YEARS OF RESEARCH

The celebration planned to mark the department’s 50th anniversary attempted to do justice to its colourful and eventful history, portraying and reflecting upon what had been achieved as well as on that which remains to be done. Some of the department’s current staff belong to the third generation of researchers after Walter Deutsch—who was himself present as a witness of the department’s history. The items on the celebration’s programme aimed to draw an arc across generations, to emphasize a diversity of themes, and—as it is usual in the methods of field research typical of this discipline—to involve views both from within and without. Prominent foreign colleagues (Oskár Elschek, Philip Bohlman, Svanibor Pettan) were in attendance to provide the latter.

The programme included musical contributions by current and former students, a film portrait of the department, and presentations of the most recent publications. A core component, the result of intensive research by the department, was the exhibition “50 Years of the Department of Folk Music Research and Ethnomusicology”. This presentation reflected the department’s characteristics and the emphases of its work: teaching, theses and dissertations, field research, archival work, research projects, publications, cooperative projects and relationships, events, and of course a *tabula personae* featuring the individual protagonists of these areas.

For further information please visit [the website of the 50th anniversary](#).

## Czech Republic

by Zuzana Jurková,  
*Liaison Officer*



At Charles University Prague, the programme of ethnomusicology summer schools is expanding. In addition to their regular summer courses on Romani and Jewish music, as well as methodological classes with renowned international lecturers, a new summer school on Music and Youth Cultures will be offered for local and international students in June 2016. The course, which will last for 10 days, will be taught by faculty member David Verbuč, who will also be joined by guest lecturer Luis-Manuel Garcia (a specialist in electronic dance music cultures), and by several local participants from various Czech youth music cultures. The students will attend lectures, engage in discussions with the guests, and explore and study Prague’s vibrant and diverse music venues and scenes. For any inquiries about the summer school, please [contact David Verbuč via e-mail](#).

## Georgia

by Rusudan Tsurtsunia,  
*director of the International Research Centre for Traditional Polyphony of the Tbilisi State Conservatoire*



The book of proceedings from the 7th International Symposium on Traditional Polyphony (22-26 September 2014) was published recently; the book was prepared by the International Research Centre for Traditional Polyphony (IRCTP) of the Tbilisi State Conservatoire, with Rusudan Tsurtsunia and Joseph Jordania as editors.