

Svanibor Pettan

Filozofska fakulteta, Univerza v Ljubljani
Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana

Marking the 70th Anniversary of ICTM and 20th Anniversary of CES Folk Slovenia: Music, Sound and Ecology

With this issue of the Musicological Annual, we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM, founded in 1947 in London) as well as the 20th anniversary of the Cultural and Ethnomusicological Society Folk Slovenia (founded in 1996 in Piran). At the time of publishing of the current issue, the headquarters of both societies are located at the Department of Musicology, Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana. ICTM is the leading international association of ethnomusicologists and has its office in Ljubljana from 2011 until 2017, while CES Folk Slovenia is a professional Slovenian association as well as the national branch of the ICTM. During the aforementioned period, I – the guest editor of this Musicological Annual – am serving as Secretary General of ICTM and President of CES Folk Slovenia.

Since 2011, both societies, the Department of Musicology at the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Arts, the Institute of Ethnomusicology at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the cultural Institution Imago Sloveniae are organizing an international symposium at the end of every August, which is part of the music festival Nights in Old Ljubljana Town. The presentation of scholarly papers at the symposium is generally complemented by music, usually in the form of concerts. The past events covered the following thematic frameworks: *Encounters between Traditional Music and Dance and European Musical Culture in Various Places and at Various Times* (2011), *Whither Accordion? Accordion and Traditional Music* (a roundtable discussion was organized instead of a symposium, 2012), *Music and Protest in Various Parts of the World* (2013), *Music and Otherness* (2014), *Music and Ecology* (2015) and *Audiovisual Ethnomusicology* (the first symposium of the ICTM study group with focus on this field, 2016).

In addition to reflecting the growing interest in sound in the context of interactions between humans and their inclusive local and global environments, the multidisciplinary symposium *Music and Ecology* (2015) also offered a great opportunity for the discussion of environmental strategies and planning, questions regarding policy legacies, sustainable development, and power relations from the perspective of music

and sound. We paid attention to the moves in scholarly research that contribute to the development of study fields such as acoustic ecology, soundscape ecology, ecomusicology, zoomusicology, ecoacoustics and sound studies. The presentations covered a vast array of different geographical and cultural spaces like Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Peru, Slovenia, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Taiwan, Vietnam and the United Kingdom.

A group of six scholars – carriers of the international research project City Sonic Ecology – presented selected aspects of the soundscapes of Bern (Britta Sweers), Ljubljana (Ana Hofman, Mojca Kovačič), and Belgrade (Srđan Atanasovski, Marija Dumnić, Ivana Medić). Most of their reworked contributions are available in this issue of the Musicological Annual. The emphasis is on police sounds (Atanasovski), soundscapes with religious overtones (Kovačič), conflict between bottom-up and top-down reculturation initiatives (Medić), as well as the creation of nostalgic soundscapes (Dumnić). The next three articles focus on connections between ecology and sound art in the works of some contemporary artists (Jonathan Gilmurray), the artistic response of a Taiwanese indigenous community to the legalized pollution of its habitat (Wei-ya Lin), and cultural



*Udeleženci simpozija Glasba in ekologija, Ljubljana, 2015.
Participants of the symposium Music and Ecology, Ljubljana, 2015.*

Z leve/From the left: Amra Toska, Huo Ta-Hsin, Ana Hofman, Andrea Vrekalič, Lasanthi Manaranjanie Kalinga Dona, Teja Klobčar, Matt Brennan, Wei-Ya Lin, Mojca Kovačič, Ljubica Ilić, Jonathan Gilmurray, Britta Sweers, Carlos Yoder, Svanibor Pettan, Bernd Brabec de Mori, Srđan Atanasovski, Marija Dumnić, Ivana Medić, Huib Schippers.

differences between rural and urban settings in Bosnia and Herzegovina in reference to the places where traditional music is performed (Amra Toska). The following two contributions are not based on the symposium presentations; they were added later due to the topical relationship and relevance for the theme of this issue. Each of them addresses the effect of sound on human wellbeing, using different approaches and referring to very different environments and situations. The first of these articles focusses on Sri Lankan traditional rural practice (Lasanthi Manaranjanie Kalinga Dona), while the second deals with the modern phenomenon of sound therapy with gongs in Slovenia (Albinca Pesek and Tomaž Bratina). The closing article offers a reflection on the (in)adequacy of the existing categories in scholarly research of the social uses of sound and takes us into the domains of zoomusicology and ecomusicology (Marcello Sorce Keller).

For different reasons, several authors of the symposium papers have not prepared their contributions for publication in this issue, and this includes my own introductory paper. Thematic frameworks of their presentations were: intangible cultural heritage in the context of an environmentally-conscious project with global implications (Huib Schippers), old dichotomy between nature and culture in light of new arguments (Ljubica Ilić), the analysis of proclaimed sustainability in the context of a festival (Matt Brennan), sonic interactions between people and their environments in the contexts of neoshamanism and popular culture (Bernd Brabec de Mori), and music, ecology, and existence (Kjell Skyllstad).