CALL FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS
23rd SYMPOSIUM OF THE ICTM STUDY GROUP ON MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
to be held in Co-operation with UVPA, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 24 – 27 March, 2021

Welcome to the 23rd Symposium of the ICTM Study Group on Musical Instruments taking place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 24-27 March, 2021!

Host of the Symposium will be the University of Visual and Performing Arts, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. In preparation of the symposium, accommodation was selected for recommendation near to the venue (in walking distance) and modalities of symposium management negotiated. The week before Easter holidays 2021 is again the time frame that may allow you to extend your exploration of this interesting island country.

The program committee had an intense exchange of ideas and finds necessary to state once more that all research outcomes, discussions, papers, or other forms of presentation should deal with new research that is not already published or presented somewhere else. Therefore, we start to switch to a two-only set of topics and leave out the third usual “New Research”. The two topics, of which one is a rather object related topic (close to the musical instruments’ features) and the other a rather socially and culturally embedded topic (embracing subtopics of interdisciplinary relevance) of the upcoming symposium are:

Re-Invention and Sustainability of Musical Instruments

Musical Instruments have a long and regionally intertwined history. Often, it is hard to say who invented a specific type first or later, where were musical instruments used symbolically or in any way supporting regional cultural aspects, or what feature of musical instruments brought the highest impact to it. Knowing these dynamics might be important to national efforts and the encouragement of cultural pride, yet current issues among communities and global developments may reveal a strong necessity to overcome fixations and to think of sustainability from different perspectives that include re-inventions and instrumental substitutes produced through modern technologies. This topic invites papers contributing to any of these phenomena and to the actual appearance of re-invented musical instruments and/or their sustainable appearance today.

Instrumental Music and Food

The use of banquet music was and is a well-known fact, be it as live event or as replayed music. Also, there are plenty of drinking songs and songs that have food (hunting, accessing, preparing, digesting) at the centre of their lyrics. Yet instrumental music is not well studied in this regard. Some important aspects concerned with musical instruments and food are “taboos” in instrumental music, i.e. that forbid its use during meals or celebrations that include meals, or instrumental music that is closely connected to hunting, fishing, but also elementary busking, obtaining food or parts of it as well as instrumental music which is played during consuming food at diverse occasions. Another broad field of research is dedicated to explore specific types of instrumental music played during food offerings to spirits, deities, or gods. In result, papers related to this topic may reveal joint features of instrumental music in this regard or invite more detailed studies focussing on daily life, rituals, and working processes important to specific communities practicing instrumental music.
Submission of Abstracts

Abstracts of papers or audio-visual demonstrations of not more than 250 words can be sent to any of the program committee members. The length of papers will be limited to 20 Minutes, that of audiovisual demonstrations to 15 Minutes plus 5 Minutes introduction or conclusion, each of them followed by 10 Minutes discussion with the audience. Poster presentations are also welcome if followed by a full paper submission. The language used in the symposium and for publication is English. Please, understand that presenters must be ICTM members or present together with an ICTM member. Membership can be obtained online and has to be valid for 2021.

The abstract submissions should consider only news topics or refinements of investigated topics that were not presented in any other public context. The symposium is to exchange knowledge, to provide the opportunity for future co-operations, and to publish the outcomes within the same year. Not surprisingly, the follow up of the symposium will consist of strict deadlines for final submissions, reviews, and revisions. Potential presenters, who are not willing to publish or to keep to these deadlines, should not try to send abstracts.

Important Note

Please, be aware that the Study Group has no budget and no support from any other organisation. Travel and accommodation will be all participants’ own responsibility. Visa can be obtained online. We will keep everyone informed about the valid link. Please, check, Sri Lanka has waved visa fees for many countries. However, we try to help issuing formal invitations that enable you to obtain funding from your institutions or to find any other support and we also keep the registration fee as low as possible (not exceeding the equivalent of 80 Euro to be paid in cash on arrival, only allowing for full and not for single day registrations), in order to avoid additionally burdening the successful presenters and the potential audience.

Important Dates:

Deadline for abstract submission 1 May 2020
Deadline for acceptance information 1 June 2020
Deadline for revised abstracts and attendance confirmation 1 August 2020
Letter with accommodation information to confirmed participants 1 October 2020 (early booking saves a lot of money)
Issuing the program online 1 February 2021

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Please, contact anyone of us in case you have further questions.

Gisa Jähnichen

Study Group Chair
(Chair of the Program Committee of the 23rd Symposium of the ICTM SG MI)