

## Report on the 22nd Symposium of the ICTM Study Group on Musical Instruments

Lisbon, Portugal, 10-13 April, 2019

This spring, the ICTM Study Group on Musical instruments held its general biennial symposium from April 10 till 13, 2019 in Lisbon, Portugal, hosted by the School of Social Sciences and Humanities NOVA University of Lisbon (Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa), and its Institute for Ethnomusicology – Center of Studies in Music and Dance. The Program Committee (Rastko Jakovljevic, Richard K. Wolf, Gisa Jähnichen, and Timkehet Teffera) reviewed and made selection from over fifty submitted proposals, while the Organizing Committee (João Soeiro de Carvalho, Salwa Castelo Branco, São José Côrte-Real, Maria Espírito Santo) provided flawless scientific and well organized logistic support from the host institution.

With over forty participants, renowned experts in the field of organology and anthropology of music, presenters displayed new research and findings in twelve individual sessions. The official program of this Symposium primarily focused in three main areas of investigation: 1) Musical Instruments and the Senses; 2) Mobility and Colonization of Musical Instruments and Instrumental Repertoires; and 3) New Research. Between each session, participants had an opportunity to develop substantial discussions on the matters of current ethnomusicological research, musical instruments, rising issues in methodology, and a large number of interdisciplinary topics.

A particularly interesting aspect of this symposium was the diversity of presentations and presenters, valued high in this study group and entire ICTM, with the participation of scholars and experts from many different countries, regions and almost all the continents. In addition, an increase in participation of the young scholars indicated a strengthening of membership and rising interest in the topics that this Study Group fosters.

In addition to the rich scientific program, there were diverse and entertaining social events, such as a visit to the National Museum of Ethnology, including a special exhibit on music makers and their building practices, traditional music performance and business meetings.

The business meeting was taking place after the last session of paper presentations. The next symposium of the ICTM Study Group on Musical instruments is to be held in 2021, with submission guidance, locations and host institution to be confirmed later. Discussed were the guidelines for the next publication of *Studia Instrumentorum Musicae Popularis (New Series)*, volume VI, as an official scientific collection of studies in musical instrument research, edited by Gisa Jähnichen, which should be published until the end of the current year.

Situating recent research in organology and its belonging contextual background as a field of inclusive contemporary theory, rather than pure analytical discipline, this meeting offered a place to discuss the place and role of ethnomusicology in general, future directions in research, as well as engagements of the ICTM and its many study groups in creating new ways of understanding music and musicianship beyond its canonical areas of interest and influences, classifications and general categorizations. This proved that the field is strengthening its interest within, between and beyond its main imagination of action, which is a rather positive movement in its disciplinary development. Following improvements in the past years, the ICTM Study group on Musical Instruments as one of the oldest chapters of this world research organization remained dedicated to the profound quality and excellence in contemporary ethnomusicology, following new initiatives in the field, and welcoming its growing membership from around the world.

Rastko Jakovljevic & Gisa Jähnichen



Figure 1: Massimo de Bonfils shows a new instrument under discussion (Photo courtesy by Gisa Jähnichen).



Figures 2 and 3: Scenes from the Symposium (photos courtesy by Ahmad Faudzi Musib).