

Report on the 23rd Symposium of the ICTM Study Group on Musical Instruments, hosted by the Music Faculty of the University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 24-27 March, 2021

The scholarly sessions of the 23rd symposium of the ICTM Study Group on Musical Instruments took place from 24-26 March 2021, hosted by the Music Faculty of the University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo, Sri Lanka. They were conducted all in online form. The sessions were recorded and will be made available to the participants and others on request.

The ICTM has 25 study groups with different structures. The Study Group on Musical instruments is one of the oldest Study Groups. It was founded in 1962 by one of the former ICTM presidents, Erich Stockmann. Since then, this study group had 22 symposia, all of them in different places of the world.

The 23rd symposium of the ICTM Study Group on Musical Instruments comprised presentations of 33 scholars from all over the world in 11 different sessions: Onny N. Pratama, Jocelyn Clark, Li Yujie, Rastko Jakovljevic, G. A.C Sri Palitha, Ahmad Faudzi Musib, Liu Xiangkun, C. M. Ramith Preshal Chandrasekara, Sahereh Astanehe, Rinko Fujita, Gisa Jähnichen, W.M.D.A.L.B. Tilakaratna, Maximilan Riefer, I. S. Weerakkody, Kirsten Seidlitz, Corey Moore, K. Eswaranunni, Karin Bindu, Andrej Kocan, Timkehet Teffera, Neil van der Linden, Carlos Ruiz, Huang Wan, Mitra Jahandideh, Katherine Palmer, Ho Chung Shih, Lahiru Gimhana Komangoda, Nishadi Meddegoda, Eshanta Peiris, Pamalka Manjitha Karunanayake, Manfred Bartmann, Chinthaka P. Meddeogda.

Over fifty abstract submissions had to be read and evaluated before the program could have been put up. Two main topics dominated the program: 1) Sustainability and re-invention of musical instruments; 2) Food and Instrumental Music. The presenters contributed to both topics very interesting and well documented facts that were intensely discussed among the participants, the presenters as well as the audience. In all sessions registered around 30-40 visitors, yet practically, there were more visitors as in places without pandemic restrictions, these sessions were screened on larger monitors for classes and specific groups of the scholarly community.

All presentations were pre-recorded items and replayed by the session chairs. At the same time, the IT team of the faculty kept back-up copies in case of difficulties. Luckily, there was no interruption or need to use these backup-copies. Yet, we believe, that the delivered material may be of use to the faculty in long term and can be stored respectively for further purposes.

In the business meeting of the Study Group held after the scholarly sessions on the third day, there was preliminarily decided that the next symposium may have to take again place in Sri Lanka as nobody could attend in person, not even the numerous Sri Lankan participants. It was also decided that no elections will be held until the next symposium. The agenda of the business meeting was sent on time to all attending ICTM members and strictly followed throughout the event.

According to the original construction of the program, an excursion to visit nature and exhibitions of the surrounding was planned for the fourth day. Yet the pandemic situation forced the Study Group to organise an online version of the symposium and it was decided to offer a seminar instead. This seminar with the title "Sources and References in Organology" was dedicated to a number of problems connected to scholarly works in organology, different linguistic aspects and applications of copyright in the digital era. The seminar speakers were Rastko Jakovljevic, Gisa Jähnichen, and Huang Wan. It was very well attended and gave space to many questions and clarifications.

One great progress of this symposium compared to previous symposia was the extended use of time for discussions and a truly fruitful exchange between scholars, musicians, instructors, teachers, students, and cultural administrators. This mixture of ideas was the birthplace of new ideas for the next program and applications in social practice. The Study Group Program Committee as well as the Study Group Chair expressed their thankfulness to the host organisation and the tirelessly working helpers in the team of the Music Faculty of UVPA.