«An entire ocean in a drop of water»:
Island Musics, Performance Identities, and Sound Archives

7-9 June 2023
Antonio Pasqualino International Puppet Museum
Palermo - Italy
A global history of music, from an ethnomusicological perspective, takes into account many and different sources: figurative, literary, dialogic, sound, audiovisual. We ourselves, ethnomusicologists, have become sources for the youngest musicians and singers, who turn to us, to our memory and to our archives, in order to nourish and renew their tradition. The problem of archives, of their nature and quality, of their arrangement and conservation, in this era of hasty technological innovation is crucial also in terms of methodological reflection and new questions on the roles of the observer and of the observed imposed by contemporaneity. Such a theme, fruitful and stimulating in itself, is declined in a specific way starting from the idea of an island, and from the many ways in which it can be articulated: in a geographical sense, first of all, but also in a linguistic, political, and cultural sense overall. There are islands within islands and there are networks of routes that connect complex archipelagos, and the latter often act as bridges to continents: small spaces at the intersection of large ones, not «a drop in the ocean» but «the entire ocean in a drop», as the great Persian Sufi poet Jalāl al-Dīn Muḥammad Rūmī (1207-1273) once said.

The growing mobility of cultures and the development of a new and more acute awareness of “other musics” and “local soundscapes” today opens up new inclusive and multicultural frames. They start from the learning of vocal and instrumental techniques of oral transmission, also through institutional training courses within the Conservatories, to project themselves into various forms of musical, theatrical, and cinematic performances characterized by a stratified hybridization of cognitive, executive, and compositional skills. The Palermo days of the second symposium of the ICTM Study Group on Global History of Music will take place under the sign of these preliminary reflections, with special reference to the following main themes:

1. Archives in motion: from the preservation of immaterial memories to their uses and functions in the contemporary world
2. Global paths of making music? Is difference the “third way”?
3. Islands sounds and the echoes of diasporic cultures.

Wednesday, June 7
8:30 Arrival and registration
9:15 Opening greetings

11:45 Session 2
Serena Facci (Chair)

11:45 Session 2
Giovanni Giuriati (La Sapienza University, Rome, Italy)
Crossing of time scales and global paths between colonialism and nationalism: three case-studies in the XX century history of Cambodian Music

ALLA BAYRAMOVA (Western Caspian University, Baku, Azerbaijan)
Azerbaijani Music Folklore in the Pushkinsky Dom

Costantino Vecchi (Ca’ Foscari University, Venice, Italy)
Heritages yet to be unlocked: reflections and proposals on the enhancement of archives in ethnomusicology

Silvia Bruni (University of Bologna, Italy)
New media, Moroccan musicians and the changing landscape of spirit possession: an analysis of YouTube videos

13:30 Lunch

15:00 Panel 1
Musical Heritage in Contemporary Audiovisual Narratives by Chinese Experience
Organizer/participant: Zhiyi Qiaoqiao Cheng (Shanghai Conservatory of Music, China). Participants: Xiao Mei, Liu Guiteng, and Yan Dujukun (Shanghai Conservatory of Music)
Thursday, June 8

II. What are the global paths of music making? Is difference the “third way”?

9:30 Session 5
Sergio Bonanzinga (Chair)

Keynote presentation
PETER WIEGOLD (Brunel University, Director of the Third Orchestra, London, UK) “Between two waves of the sea”: in search of the Third Orchestra’s performance identity

11:15 Coffee break

11:30 Session 6
Peter Wiegold (Chair)

MARK LOMANNO (Albright College, Reading, USA) Cosmic stones: sounding guanche and speculative indigeneity in the Canary Islands

KAIXUAN NIU and ZHIAN ZHAO (Communication University of China, Beijing) From banned to the shared memory of one billion Chinese: The example of the Teresa Teng Memorial Hall

13:15 Lunch

III. Islands sounds and the echoes of diasporic cultures

15:00 Panel 2
Exiled and re-exiled performance practices from African communities
Organizer/participant: GISA JÄHNICHEN (Shanghai Conservatory of Music, China).
Participants: CHINTHAKA P. MEDDEGODA (University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo, Sri Lanka), RASTKO JAKOVLJEVIC (New York Institute of Social Sciences and the Humanities, USA), and LIN ZHI (Putra University, Serdang, Malaysia).

16:40 Session 7
Nico Staiti (Chair)

XIANGKUN LIU (Shanghai Conservatory of Music) Khen as Boats among the Intercontinental Hmong Archipelagos

FRANCESCO SERRATORE (Zhejiang Conservatory of Music, China) Cultural Islands and Musical Identities: People and Cultures Flows Among the Chinese Migrants in Europe Today

17:30 Coffee break

17:45 Session 8
Francesco Serratore (Chair)

YAO CI (York University, Toronto, Canada) Negotiating Musical and Cultural Spaces within the Chinese Diaspora: The Toronto Chinese Orchestra as Case Study

BAYAN IGLIK and SAULE I. UTEGALIEVA (Kurmannzay Kazakh National Conservatory) Dominra music of the Kazakhs of the Xuar (Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region)

JULIA BYL (University of Alberta, Canada) When the Valiha Meets Valerius: Indian Ocean Flows and the Spectre of Comparison

19:00 Concert

Sounds from Sicily, Calabria, and Cyclades Islands (Greece)
Rosario Altadonna and Giuseppe Roberto (Sicilian bagpipe a paro), monocalamus and bicalamus cane flutes, accordion, jew’s harp, voice), Danilo Gatto (Calabrian bagpipe menzetto), Nico Staiti (frame drum), Antoniou Yiannis (tsampouna, lyra), Manos Vasilas (ntoumpaki)

Friday, June 9

9:30 Session 9
Ignaziac Macchiarella (Chair)

Keynote presentation
SERGIO BONANZINGA (University of Palermo, Italy) The Sicilian sound: overlapping waves in the wide sea of tradition

RIZZUTO (University of Palermo, Italy) An ocean to be discovered: chants and rites of Christian of East in today’s Sicily

11:30 Coffee break

11:45 Session 10
Fulvia Caruso (Chair)

Salvatore Morra (University of the Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy) From Tebourba to Naples: Sonic Dwelling and Tunisian Diaspora in Mejri’s “Fanfara Station”

Alberto Annarilli (Tor Vergata University, Rome, Italy) The Ghanaian Adventist community in Castel Volturno. Historical repertoire, contemporary practice

Judith Cohen (York University, Toronto, Canada) Diaspora and islands at home, inland: Changing music repertoires and identity in Portuguese Crypto-Jewish communities

Linda Cimardi (Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg, Germany)
Non-aligned encounters: musical experiences of African students in Yugoslavia

13:30 Lunch

15:00 Panel 3
History and ethnography of double clarinets in the Mediterranean area: a shared approach between ethnomusicologists and instrument makers and players
Organizer/participant: Nico Staiti (University of Bologna, Italy). Participants: Rosario Altadonna and Giuseppe Roberto (Sicilian makers and players of various pastoral airphones, Messina, Italy); Danilo Gatto (Conservatory of Nocera Terinese, Italy)

16:40 Session 11
Alla Bayramova (Chair)

IMAMUTDINOVA ZILIA AGZAMOVNA (State Institute for Art Studies, Moscow, Russia)
Musical religious traditions of the Dungan diaspora in Kyrgyzstan: traces of lost ethnic uniqueness

LORENZO CHIAROFONTE (University of Bologna, Italy)
Spirits, diasporic sounds, and digital spaces during the Burmese Spring Revolution

17:30 Coffee break

17:45 General discussion and the Study Group Business meeting

18:30 Sicilian Puppet Show
COMPAGNIA OPERA DI PUPI BRIGLIADORO
The Siege of Paris

19:45 Sicilian traditional supper at the Museum