

International Ethnomusicology Conference

The creation of a multimedia archive of music from the oral tradition: comparing experiences

This Intercultural Institute of Comparative Music Studies (IISMC) conference, organised by Francesco Giannattasio and Giovanni Giuriati, sets out to discuss with Italian and other European researchers the issue of what it means to manage and use a multimedia archive dedicated to music from oral traditions. The conference is being held at a time when the IISMC is about to create its own multimedia archive. This will involve not only consolidating and expanding its collections of audio, video and paper documents but also promoting fresh research and making the archive available to scholars.

We thus believed it would be very useful to bring together some leading experts on the grounds of their personal experience and the institutions they represent on the national and European scene. We wish to ask them a 'simple' question: 'If you had to advise someone setting up a sound and multimedia archive for music documents from the oral tradition today, on the basis of your experience, what priorities, objectives and needs would you take into account and what mistakes would you try to avoid in the management of this kind of archive?' Starting from this question, the discussion should thus make it possible to compare very different experiences and practices and to assess the possible advantages of co-ordination at national and European level of similar experiences, which could benefit from synergies and continuous systematic comparisons.

The conference also appears to offer a valid opportunity to think about the current challenges sound archives must tackle in converting to multimedia systems, which involves managing complex issues such as accessibility and use, cataloguing, the promotion of new research, the transition to digital technology, opening up to a non-specialist public, copyright and intellectual property rights, diffusion on the Internet, etc.

The conference has been divided into three sessions. In the first session, in addition to introductory papers, some IISMC documentary material and its major past and ongoing projects concerning music from the oral tradition will be presented. The following two sessions will feature papers from representatives of European archives (Berlin, Vienna, Stockholm and Warsaw) and Italian archives (The Central Institute for the Sound and Audiovisual Heritage, Accademia Nazionale di S. Cecilia), who will describe their own experience in research and managing sound archives. The conference will end on the afternoon of 11 July with a round table of Italian scholars, who will exchange views and experiences on the prospects for research and popularising sound archives in the current context of Italian ethnomusicology.

Conference programme

Friday 10 July, 9.00am

9.00am Pasquale Gagliardi, Secretary General, Giorgio Cini Foundation

Welcome

Giovanni Giuriati

Opening remarks. The IISMC archive: a brief history of the collections and development prospects

9.30am Francesco Giannattasio

Introduction with a showing of the film *Canta, canta el pescator. Musica popolare a Chioggia by F. Giannattasio (23', 1985)*

coffee break

11.00am Valentina Brandazza

The Danielou Bequest at the Giorgio Cini Foundation

11.30am Maurizio Agamennone, Giovanni Morelli, Matteo Del Negro

A research project on living polyphonies in Northeast Italy: the field, acquisition and conservation of sound documents

Friday 10 July, 3.00 pm

3.00am Lars Christian Koch (Museum of Ethnology, Ethnomusicology Department, Phonogramm-Archiv-Berlin)

Breathing life into material – Archiving oral concepts of sound aesthetics in string instrument-making

3.45am Gerda Lechleitner (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Phonogrammarchiv – Vienna)

The world's oldest research sound archive – a model for multimedia archives today?

4.30am Massimo Pistacchi, in collaboration with Francesco Baldi (The Central Institute for the Sound and Audiovisual Heritage – Rome)

Digitising activities at the Central Institute for the Sound and Audiovisual Heritage: issues and prospects

Saturday 11 July, 9.30am

9.30am Annalisa Bini (Accademia Nazionale di S.Cecilia - Rome)

History and the present, from the oral tradition to the great symphonic repertoire: the sound archives of the Accademia di Santa Cecilia

10.15am Dan Lundberg (Svenskt Visarkiv, Centre for Swedish Folk Music and Jazz Research – Stockholm)

Archive strategies – passive receiving or active collecting

coffee break

11.30am Ewa Dahlig-Turek (Institute of Art, Polish Academy of Sciences – Warsaw)

Polish Folk Music Archive: New European Perspective

12.15pm General discussion

Ethnomusic Sound Archives from a European perspective

Saturday 11 July, 3.00pm

3.00pm Round Table

Archives of music from oral traditions in Italy: current research prospects and popularising

Participants Giorgio Adamo (Tor Vergata University, Rome), Maurizio Agamennone (University of Florence), Francesco Giannattasio (La Sapienza University, Rome), Giovanni Giuriati (La Sapienza University, Rome), Febo Guizzi (University of Turin), Antonello Ricci (La Sapienza University, Rome).