Balzan Programme in Musicology
Towards a Global History of Music

Forthcoming Events in the academic year 2015-2016

25-26 October 2015, Department of Musicology, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem
Workshop: Musical cultures under relationships of power: Europe and the Middle East
Convenors: Anna G. Piotrowska, Ruth HaCohen

22-23 January 2016, Institut für Musikwissenschaft, Universität Wien
Workshop: Towards a global history of martial and military music: Comparative perspectives for the early and pre-modern period
Convenor: Morag Josephine Grant

16-17 June 2016, The British Academy, London
Workshop-Conference: Musical traditions and global modernity in South Asia and Africa
Convenors: Margaret Walker, Reinhard Strohm

Research Co-ordinators:
Marie-Alice Frappat (marie-alice.frappat@music.ox.ac.uk) for London and Oxford;
Angharad Gabriel-Zamastil (angharad.gabriel@gmail.com) for Vienna and Zurich.

The Programme
In collaboration with six university departments of musicology, the award-winner Prof. Reinhard Strohm (University of Oxford) has designed a programme entitled Towards a global history of music. This research programme is carried out in the academic years 2013-2017 by the Faculties/Departments of Music/Musicology at the following universities: Humboldt University, Berlin; The Hebrew University, Jerusalem; King’s College, University of London; University of Oxford; University of Vienna; University of Zurich. The Programme Director, Prof. Reinhard Strohm, and the Deputy Director, Prof. Laurenz Lütteken, are supported by a Steering Committee mainly representing the Music Departments of these universities. The programme also has an Advisory Board consisting of international specialists of musicology and ethnomusicology.

The Research Question
Towards a global history of music aims to promote post-European historical thinking. The programme is not intended to create a global history by itself, but to explore, through assembled case studies, parameters and terminologies that are suitable to describe a history of many different voices.

Project Overview
The idea of a global history of music, which may be traced back to enlightenment forerunners, and has been reiterated in the 1970s by the music historian Leo Treitler, among others. The present situation in various branches of western musicology is characterised by
specialisation – on European music history on the one hand, on ethnological or sociological
fieldwork on the other. Research on specific musical cultures sometimes lacks comparative
outreach or is insufficiently reflected in the wider discipline. The historical depth of other
civilisations is often underrated by western scholarship, and a concern for the world’s musical
past, shared with non-western speakers, is rarely visible.
Postcolonial critique has challenged the West’s self-ascribed position at the heart of world
history. In the light of this challenge, how might a historical understanding of western music
in the world proceed? How should it position, or justify itself? Who might be authorised to
speak for, or against, it? What would ‘western music’ look like in an account of music history
that aspired to be truly global?

Research Visitorships

The programme is now, 2015-2016, in its third year. It will again support, as in 2013-14 and
2014-15, researchers in musicology or ethnomusicology at an intermediate stage of their
academic careers (post-doctorates but not yet full professors with tenure) for short-term
research visitorships. These visitorships are not appointments by or at the respective
universities.

New Research visitors 2015-16:

Faculty of Music, University of Oxford

Dr Christina Richter-Ibañez (University of Tübingen, Germany): A global view on Bach

Prof. Andrea F. Bohlman (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA): Music and
Unofficial Media in Communist Poland

Dr. Luis Velasco-Pufleau (University of Salzburg, Austria): European new music festivals
and the emergence of an intercontinental history of contemporary art music

Institut für Musikwissenschaft, Humboldt-Universität, Berlin

Dr Gabriela Currie (University of Minnesota, USA): Sounding Alexander’s legacy: the
Gandharan nexus

Department of Music, King’s College, University of London

Dr James Mitchell (Khon Kaen University, Thailand, and Monash University, Australia): The
Rabbit and the Hound: A reassessment of the impact of western recording activities on non-
western music traditions (1900-1950), using Siam/Thailand as a new case study

Department of Musicology, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem

Dr Lisa Nielson (Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, USA): Concerning Music and
Musical Instruments: A 15th century collection of anti-samā treatises
Institut für Musikwissenschaft, Universität Wien

Dr Barbara Titus (University of Amsterdam): The West in musical retrospect: South African maskanda music as historiography

Musikwissenschaftliches Institut, Universität Zürich

Dr Avra Xepapadakou (University of Crete, Greece): Western European opera and operetta companies touring in the south-eastern Mediterranean during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries

Research visitors 2015-16 appointed in 2014:

Department of Musicology, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem

Dr Anna G. Piotrowska (Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland): Gypsy Music in European Culture. October-November 2015

Institut für Musikwissenschaft, Universität Wien


Department of Music, King’s College, University of London

Dr Margaret Walker (Queens University, Kingston, Canada): Orientalism and Exchange: The Indian “Nautch” as Musical Nexus. January-February 2016

Past Research Visitors

Visitors 2013-14

Humboldt Universität Berlin:

Prof. Jonathan Goldman (Faculté de Musique, Université de Montréal, Canada) The Invention of a Gamelan Tradition in Avant-Garde Music, 1970-1995

Dr Tobias Robert Klein (Humboldt Universität Berlin, Germany): Panafrika and the “Idea of Non Absolute Music”: An Exercise in the Global History and Aesthetics of Music

Prof Henry Spiller (University of California Davis, USA): Javanese and Sundanese music and dance in European historical reflections

King’s College, University of London:

Dr David R. M. Irving (School of Music, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia): Analogues of Antiquity: World Cultures, Ancient Greek Music, and Comparative Anthropologies, 1500–1800

Dr Suddhaseel Sen (Stanford University, USA): Intimate Strangers: Cross-Cultural Exchanges between Indian and Western Musicians 1880-1940
Faculty of Music, University of Oxford:
Dr Jason Stoessel (University of New England, Armidale, Australia): *The role of the singing voice and concepts of song in encounters between Latin, Persian and Mongol cultures during the time of the Mongol Empire, 1206–1368*

Prof. Estelle Joubert (Department of Music, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada): ‘Analytical Encounters’: *Global Music Criticism and Enlightenment Ethnomusicology*

Visitors 2014–2015
**Institut für Musikwissenschaft, Universität Wien:**
Dr María Cáceres-Piñuel (Institut für Musikwissenschaft, Universität Bern, Switzerland): *The International Music and Theatre Exhibition in Vienna 1892*

Dr Tomasz Jeż (University of Warsaw, Poland): *Music in the cultural strategies of Jesuits in Latin America (17th-18th centuries)*

Department of Music, King’s College, University of London:
Dr Jia, Shu Bing (Musicology Department, Central conservatory of Music, Beijing, China): *The dissemination of Western music through Catholic missions in High Qing China, 1662-1795*

Faculty of Music, University of Oxford:
Dr Melanie Plesch (Department of Music, University of Melbourne, Australia): *Towards an understanding of the rhetorical efficacy of Latin American art music: topics of landscape*

Musikwissenschaftliches Institut, Universität Zürich:
Dr Kim, Jin-Ah (Institut für Musikwissenschaft, Humboldt-Universität, Berlin): *Transfer, Reception and Appropriation of music: East Asia and Western Europe*