

Report on the 13th Symposium of the study group Mediterranean Music Studies
'Music, Power, and Space: A Mediterranean Perspective,' 23–28 September, 2021

The study group Mediterranean Music Studies held its 13th symposium virtually from 23–28 September, 2021, on the theme 'Music, Power and Space: A Mediterranean Perspective.' Originally slated to be hosted in June 2020 in Tangier, Morocco, by the Kasbah Museum of Mediterranean Cultures and the Tangier American Legation Institute for Moroccan Studies, the symposium was twice postponed due to Covid restrictions. The program committee comprised Fulvia Caruso, Oded Erez (study group secretary, 2016 - 2021), Anis Fariji, Salvatore Morra (study group secretary, 2021 -) and Olivier Tourny, with Vanessa Paloma Elbaz as program chair. Opening statements from the study group chair and the program chair were followed by a virtual welcome from Tangier by Yhtimad Bouziane, the associate director of the Tangier American Legation Institute for Moroccan Studies. Ms. Bouziane urged the study group to come to Tangier for another event in the near future.

The decision to hold the 13th symposium in Tangier aimed to build on the work of the 12th symposium held in Essaouira, Morocco, in 2018. This symposium — the first to be held in North Africa and indeed, outside Europe — was aimed specifically at encouraging and facilitating a wider participation of scholars from across the Maghreb and the Mediterranean region. As was the case for the Essaouira symposium, the ICTM made available funds through the study group allowance that would have contributed to the expenses of a sizable number of individual participants had the 13th symposium been held in person in Tangier. Thus the program included a significant presence of scholars from the Maghreb and other Mediterranean countries based in European, Turkish, Levantine, and North African institutions, as well as a colleagues from elsewhere in Europe and North America.

The wide diversity of themed panels included: Panel I – (Chair, Vanessa Paloma Elbaz) *Sound, Power and Inheritance : Ritual Spaces in the Eastern Mediterranean* with papers by Olivier Tourny, Ikbal Hamzaoui and Sahin Yaldiz; Panel II – (Chair, Matthew Machin-Autenrieth) *Movement, Space and Belonging : Hierarchies of Place* with Gabrielle Messeder and Jillian Fulton-Melanson presenting; Panel III - (Chair, Salvatore Morra) *Urban Music Redefining Power : Movement, Performance and Pleasure* with Ann Myriam Abdelhak, Liza Munk and Kendra Salois presenting; Panel V - (Chair, Judith Cohen) *Sociality, Music and*

Spaces of Negotiation in Moroccan Music had Eric Petzoldt and Jauk Armand ElMaleh presenting; Panel VI - (Chair, Jean Lambert) *Spaces of Tradition : Andalusí Music and Power* with Amin Chaachoo, Thilo Hirsch and Yassir Bouselam presenting; Panel VII (Chair, Fulvia Caruso) *Intimacy, Influences and Musical Infrastructures* with Ruth Davis, Salvatore Morra and Susannah Knights presenting; Panel VIII (Chair, Oded Erez) *Space, Language and Hierarchy : Power across genres and beliefs* had Maria Rijo Lopes da Cunha, Liqaa Marooki, Jennifer Sherrill and Richard Nedjat Haiem presenting; Panel IX (Chair, Olivier Tourny) *Mediterranean Musical Space : Archives, Collaborations, Strategies* Judith Cohen and Oded Erez presenting. Panel X (Part I) (Chair, Stefano Portelli) *Spirits of the Diaspora. The European Gnawa at the Frontiers of the Urban* included Helene Shehahaye, Stefano Portelli, and Antonio Baldassarre. This panel included Deborah Kapchan as a discussant. Panel XI - (Chair, Liqaa Marooki) *Amazigh Music : Power and Symbolism in Space* with Ghadir Elidrissi, Mohammed Oubenal and Ahmed Aydoun presenting; Panel XII - (Chair, Ruth Davis) *Microhistories of Sonic Encounter in Colonial North Africa : Representation, Symbolic Violence and Diplomacy* with Stephen Wilford, Matthew Machin-Autenrieth, Samuel Llano and Vanessa Paloma Elbaz presenting; Panel XIII (Chair, Dorit Klebe) *Music and Power in Medieval inter-religious musical spaces* Kirsten Beck and Ed Emery presenting; Panel XIV - (Chair, Anis Fariji) *Sonic Politics : Music in Egypt - Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries* with Severine Gabry-Thienpont, Jean Lambert and Kawkab Tawfiq presenting; and Panel XV (Chair, Maria M. Rijo Lopes da Cunha) *Real and Virtual Spaces of Exchange : Rewriting Expected Power Diads* with Dorit Klebe and Carolyn Ramzy presenting. Because of last-minute cancellations due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances, panel IV did not take place. We had presenters signing in from Cairo, Paris, Rabat, Washington DC, California, London, Marseille, Aberdeen, Toronto, Tel Aviv, Tunis, Italy, Turkey, Copenhagen and elsewhere. A salient feature of the virtual format was the opportunity it gave for a diverse spectrum of scholars and musicians who were not presenting to join for the discussions, such as occurred for the Gnawa session.

Program highlights included various cultural events planned for the Kasbah Museum and the Tangier Legation Museum, which were presented instead as online 'live' events. These included a concert by the Arabo-Andalusian Tamsamani Orchestra from Tetouan, filmed in the School of Traditional Arts in Tetouan, with English language introductions to the repertoire, poetry and performance practice given by the lead singer, Zaineb Afailal. This

pre-recorded concert, produced specially for the symposium, was generously underwritten by the ERC funded project Past and Present Musical Encounters Across the Strait of Gibraltar based at the Universities of Aberdeen, Cambridge, and Manchester. Another key featured event was the world-premiere screening of Antonio Baldassare's film *Mussem*, a multi-year project filmed during a pilgrimage outside of Meknes, Morocco, which provided a lived experience of the transformational power of trance and pilgrimage. The symposium also included one live performance in real time: a performance/presentation by composer – performer Ariel Lazarus, who spoke about his composition 'Scenes from a Mediterranean Childhood' on music and migration. He performed from his garden sukkah, a temporary dwelling built for the Jewish holiday of Sukkot (Tabernacles) which fell during the week of the symposium.

The symposium concluded with the business meeting led by Ruth Davis, study group chair. Given the limitations of the online format, the meeting agreed to save any conclusive discussion of important issues to the next business meeting, which would hopefully take place in person at the World Conference in 2022. Ruth Davis played tribute to the contribution made by Alessandra Ciucci, vice-chair since 2016, who had stepped down from her position in the early months of the Covid pandemic to attend to competing professional commitments. She noted that, prior to her election as vice-chair, Alessandra had played an active role in promoting the work of the study group among Maghrebi colleagues and encouraging their participation. Crucially, having served on the program committee of the 11th study group symposium held jointly with the IMS in Naples in 2016, Alessandra was instrumental in enabling the study group to hold its very first symposium in the Maghreb in Essaouira, Morocco, in June 2018, for which she also served as program chair, and in securing the support of a Global Humanities Project Grant from Columbia University, complementing the support provided through the ICTM Study Group allowance, then in its inaugural year. Ruth Davis also warmly thanked Oded Erez, study group secretary since 2016, who had stalwartly steered the study group through three symposia: Naples (2016), Essaouira (2018), and the present virtual 'Tangier' symposium, for which he had also served on the program committee. Ruth Davis noted that in addition to carrying out the regular administrative tasks, including managing the study group website and mailing list, Oded had performed an active role in the decision-making process of the executive committee, offering helpful insights with characteristic tact and diplomacy. Vanessa Paloma Elbaz, who

as both organiser and program chair for the present 'Tangier' symposium had effectively also been serving as de facto vice-chair, was formally elected to this position, and Salvatore Morra, who had played a pivotal role in liaising between the study group and the IMS for the 2016 joint symposium, was elected study group secretary. Ruth Davis also took the opportunity to announce the forthcoming publication *Music and Encounter at the Mediterranean Crossroads: A Sea of Voices*, edited by Ruth Davis and Brian Oberlander, based on selected papers from the Essaouira symposium, to be published by Routledge in November 2021: <https://www.routledge.com/Music-and-Encounter-at-the-Mediterranean-Crossroads-A-Sea-of-Voices/Davis-Oberlander/p/book/9780367442484>

The meeting offered a hearty vote of thanks to Vanessa Paloma Elbaz for her heroic determination and perseverance in steering the symposium through the vicissitudes of the Covid pandemic, and to Vanessa and the program committee for producing such a rich and diversified program.

Vanessa Paloma Elbaz (study group vice-chair and program chair)

Ruth Davis (study group chair)

Salvatore Morra (study group secretary)