

Message from the incoming Secretary General

by Ursula Hemetek



I studied musicology at Vienna University, where I earned my PhD and my habilitation.

From 1987 I have been working at the Department of Folk Music Research and Ethnomusicology of the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, which I have chaired since 2011.

This institution was founded in 1965 by Walter Deutsch, a well-known scholar in European folk music research. During his time the main focus of research and teaching was on Austrian folk music. Rudolf Pietsch, who worked in the Department for more than 35 years and retired in 2016, laid the groundwork for teaching folk music on both the theoretical and practical levels, which turned out to be

very influential in the Austrian folk music scene.

With the support of Gerlinde Haid, who chaired the Department from 1994 to 2010, I was able to establish a focus on music and minorities there.

Today the staff of the Department consists of scholars that work in different fields: Ardian Ahmedaja is Chair of the ICTM Study Group on Multipart Music, Hande Sağlam is an expert in Turkish Music, Wei-Ya Lin specializes in Indigenous Music, Marko Kölbl in Gender Studies, and Ulrich Morgenstern in musical instruments. Austrian Folk Music is taught by Daniela Mayrlechner. The department celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 2015, when the photo shown at the bottom of this page was taken.

There [are three publication series edited by the department](#) (*Schriften zur Volksmusik, klanglese, Tondokumente zur Volksmusik in Österreich*). The latest issue of a CD series was presented in October 2016, consisting

of my own fieldwork recordings on music and minorities. It was secretly prepared by the staff as a surprise in honour of my sixtieth birthday (the cover is shown below).



On the international level, the Department of Folk Music Research and Ethnomusicology has been rather successful in networking. This we owe mainly to ICTM.

I have been a member of ICTM since 1989 when the World Conference was held in Schladming, Austria. As a young scholar, this event opened my eyes to the tremendous opportunities that lie in the international network of an organization like ICTM. I began to make use of it in connection with my minorities' studies. In 1997 I was able to establish the Study Group Music and Minorities, together with Svanibor Pettan and Anca Giurchescu. I am extremely grateful to the Council for enabling me to enter the international network of ethnomusicology and to learn a lot. I am still learning, and every new challenge within ICTM has widened my horizon over the years: the organization of the first international symposium on Music and Minorities in Vienna in 1994, the chairing of the Study Group on Music and Minorities since 1999, the position on the Executive Board (2005-2013), and the organization of the World Conference in Vienna (2007). My dedication to the



Staff of the Department of Folk Music Research and Ethnomusicology of the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. Photo by provided by Ursula Hemetek.

Council is long-standing and enthusiastic.

Music and minorities turned out to be the major topic of my life, but only within ICTM, and together with colleagues from the whole world, I was able to establish it as an international research focus. Research on Roma music was the starting point, and this topic brought me into close contact with Svanibor Pettan. We established the Study Group on Music and Minorities together, one of the many activities that we shared. When Svanibor became Secretary General I was more than happy, and obviously he and Carlos have done wonderful job. It is now my great honour and pleasure to follow Svanibor in this position.



*Ursula Hemetek and Svanibor Pettan.
Photo provided by Ursula Hemetek.*

We share wonderful memories and many common efforts, often political ones, as the research on Roma demanded for action instead of staying in the “ivory tower”. The logical development of Svanibor’s ideas on ethnomusicology was to focus on the “application” of results. I see ethnomusicology as the most relevant discipline among the “musicologies” as we deal with music in its social relevance.

Guido Adler, a Viennese musicologist, first mentioned “comparative musicology” in an article in 1885. The discipline has developed tremendously since then into many different directions through-



The incoming Secretary General of ICTM. Photo provided by Ursula Hemetek.

out the world. To my mind, the social—and as a logical continuum socio-political—relevance of ethnomusicology is more important than ever in “a world in trouble”. Therefore, a symposium to welcome ICTM into the Department and the University will be dedicated to the topic of Ethnomusicology and Its Socio-political Relevance in Contemporary Societies. It will also take into account the 70th anniversary of the Council, which will correspond with the 200th anniversary of my university. The date of the symposium is set to 28-30 September 2017, and you are all very welcome to attend.

ICTM Seeks Website Reviews Editor for the *Yearbook for Traditional Music*

The *Yearbook for Traditional Music* requires a Website Reviews Editor to replace Barbara Alge, who will be stepping down from her position. The Website Reviews Editor is responsible for soliciting and editing up to six reviews of websites for each *Yearbook*. Reviews are sent to the General Editor by a

specified deadline; the Website Reviews Editor will then assist in liaising with reviewers to resolve any queries regarding submissions and their preparation for publication.

Applicants for the Website Reviews Editor position should be ICTM members in good standing. Experience in editing is an asset. Anyone wishing to undertake this important service to the ICTM membership should send a statement of interest and CV to the General Editor, [Kati Szego](#) by 15 March 2017.