

## NEWS ARCHIVE

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November 2009

### **BFE 2009 Membership Survey**

The British Forum for Ethnomusicology and Routledge are pleased to announce details for a 2009 membership survey. This survey has been created to allow you to feedback and comment on your experience of being a BFE member. Understanding the thoughts and opinions of our members is invaluable to us and we appreciate you spending a few moments of your time to provide us with your views on the society, the journal Ethnomusicology Forum and the BFE website. Your feedback will enable us to further address the needs of our members. The survey takes only a few minutes to complete and is completely anonymous. Most of the questions can be answered with a one click selection but there is also the opportunity throughout the survey for you to provide us with any comments you may have. Click "Next" to get started with the survey. If you'd like to leave the survey at any time, just click "Exit this survey". Your answers will be saved and you will be able to continue where you left off at a later time if you wish. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch. **The survey can be found here: [BFE 2009 Membership Survey](#).**

### **Recent appointments in ethnomusicology**

**Barbara Alge**, Junior Professor in Ethnomusicology at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Rostock (Germany). Many congratulations!

**Britta Sweers**, Professor in Cultural Anthropology of Music at the University of Bern (Switzerland). Many congratulations!

### **Veronica Doubleday and John Baily on Afghan television**

Veronica and John Baily featured in the BBC World Service Tamasha programme broadcast on 29 Oct 2009. Watch the documentary online here [http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/tv/2008/12/000000\\_ptv\\_tamasha.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/tv/2008/12/000000_ptv_tamasha.shtml)

### **Jesse Samba Wheeler on fieldtrip to Malawi**

In March 2009 I traveled to Embangweni, Malawi, where I acted as photographer, sound recorder/designer, and 2nd camera on the production of a documentary about health care and community. I had been invited to take pictures of birth practices for A Midwife's Guide, a manual for midwives in Malawi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, so while there Salome Chasnoff (Beyondmedia Education -- [www.beyondmedia.org](http://www.beyondmedia.org)) and I took advantage of our access to the inner workings of Embangweni Hospital to investigate how the interface of community practices and international aid is inscribed on and in the bodies of those reliant on the Hospital for health care. Embangweni Hospital serves over 100,000 people with one doctor. The working title of the documentary is Delivering Malawi, and a trailer can be viewed at <http://www.vimeo.com/6601365>. We plan to return in March to gather additional footage and record more music. It is hoped that the film will be ready for release in summer 2010. While there I met the members of the Sinda Jazz Band who make their own instruments on which they play acoustic dance music and sing topical songs about health, family, religion, poverty and more. We filmed them performing in their village and the documentary will feature some of their music. I am beginning conversations with a record label about producing a CD or DVD. A simple animation of my photos set to their song "Poverty Doesn't Kill" is viewable at <http://www.vimeo.com/7541606>. Below are a few of the pictures I took on the trip and which appeared in "Mother Child Mother," an installation with images, sound and video that I built for a

# NEWS ARCHIVE

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gallery in Chicago, Illinois, USA, in June.



## **Conference review, by Marnix Wells**

Dr Richard Widdess (SOAS, Indian Music head) organised a centenary conference at the Department of Music, Cambridge to celebrate the lifetime achievements of the late Dr Lawrence

## NEWS ARCHIVE

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Picken of Jesus College. Dr Alan Marrett, ex-student of Picken and researcher on the interpretation of ancient Togaku scores preserved in Japan, gave a lecture on the preservation of aboriginal music with a film of his participation in a 'burn 'em rags' funeral ceremony in Northern Territories. He argued that the preservation of this musical heritage was important culturally for the local community involved and hence environmentally since it was a mainstay of a people who possessed age-old knowledge of how to manage that environment. Dr David Hughes spoke directly of Picken's musical work on Sino-Japanese music in a panel which also covered his work in structural biology which was his original field, and his extraordinarily comprehensive classification of Turkish musical instruments from children's toys upwards. Hughes explained that Picken's principal thesis, in the reconstruction of classic Tang dynasty music from millennium old Japanese scores, argued for a greatly increased tempo in performance from that currently practised in Japan's gagaku orchestras. In this regard he and his 'pupils' were able to demonstrate that this music, hitherto viewed as solemn ritual, could be convincingly played as spirited folk melodies, often with a distinctly un-Chinese air, not surprising since many of them are known to have originated as imports from inner Asia via the Silk Road. Sadly, despite Picken's amazing longevity and years of labour, there has been a hiatus of publications by his successors in his 'Music from the Tang Court' publication series since his passing. It is hoped this silence will not be long sustained.

### **Call For Papers. ICTM Conference Theme: "Ensemble: Making Music Together"**

The common purpose of all 'bands', 'groups', 'orchestras' or 'ensembles' is to perform music or dance collectively. Whether casually formed for particular events or constituted as professional and legal institutions, musical groups are specialised social organisations which play a key role in 'soundly organising humanity'. The objective of this conference is to explore the performance dynamics, interpersonal relationships, organisational structures and shared socio-cultural values of dance and musical groups – and of course, of the music they produce. Of equal importance in this exploration will be the active role of audiences in the creation of performance contexts. Download the [call for papers](#) here.

### **PhD Studentships at City University London (UK)**

Deadline: 25th January 2010. Applications from ethnomusicologists welcome. See: <http://www.city.ac.uk/research/resdegrees/studentships.html>

### **New Book By BFE Member**

**Sacred Knowledge: Schools or Revelation? Master-Apprentice System of Oral Transmission in the music of the Turkic Speaking world**, by Razia Sultanova (Ed.) The articles in this book, written by outstanding scholars, together build a theory, concept and practical model of a significant training system of the oral musical tradition of the Turkic speaking world. The culture under discussion, spreading from south Siberia to the Mediterranean, comprises the art and music of numerous different ethnicities. Much music within this vast area is based on the phenomenon of oral transmission and the distinctive settings of the master-apprentice relationship. Today, at a time of globalization and the concomitant loss of cultural identity for many countries, research and documentation on performance in oral learning traditions can help to identify key issues of performance phenomena and allow a better understanding of the vast and increasingly important Turkic speaking world to emerge. It was the main subject of the International Workshop and the Conference held in 2006 under the auspices of the School of Oriental and African studies, University of London, initiated and organized by Dr Razia Sultanova during her time there.

## NEWS ARCHIVE

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### New Appointment in Ethnomusicology

Juniper Hill accepted a position of Lecturer in Ethnomusicology at University College Cork, Ireland, starting in January 2009. *Many Congratulations!* She also recently published the articles "The Influence of Conservatory Folk Music Programmes: The Sibelius Academy in Comparative Context" in *Ethnomusicology Forum* Vol. 18 (2): 205-239, and "Rebellious Pedagogy, Ideological Transformation, and Creative Freedom in Finnish Contemporary Folk Music" in *Ethnomusicology* Vol. 53 (1): 86-114.

### Music without walls – world and traditional music online

From Indian ritual music to bawdy English pub songs to Ugandan court music to Nigerian Highlife, the [British Library's collections of world and traditional music](#) are emerging from the shelves of the Sound Archive and appearing on the Archival Sound Recordings website. What's new:

- Traditional music in England - Ranging from rowdy pub sessions to intimate settings in exponents' homes, this collection represents a valuable resource for the study of repertoire and performance styles and provides unique insight into the folk scene of England.
- Music in India – Recordings of folk, devotional and ritual music from remote rural areas of India, recorded as part of a collaborative project between ethnomusicologist Rolf Killius, the Horniman Museum and the British Library.
- Decca West Africa Recordings – Commercial recordings from the British Library's holdings of the Decca West Africa yellow label series, issued on shellac disc between circa 1948 - 1961. The collection includes music recorded in Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and possibly Togo, encompassing a wide range of popular genres of the time including Highlife, Rumba, Calypso and early Nigerian jùjú as well as some more traditional performances.
- Peter Cook Uganda Recordings – Made between 1964 and 1997 these ethnographic field recordings of traditional, ritual and courtly music complement the collection of Klaus Wachsmann's Uganda Recordings from the 1940s and 50s.

The Traditional Music in England collection will continue to grow over the coming months, as will the ethnographic field recordings which will eventually include material from across Africa, Asia and Central Asia. To receive updates about new collections as they become live please sign up to the Archival Sound Recordings blog RSS feed. Archival Sound Recordings is a free resource from the British Library, funded by the JISC. All material on the website is available for free to licensed UK higher and further education, and where copyright permits to the general public as well. Institution librarians can request a licence from [asr@bl.uk](mailto:asr@bl.uk).

### Conference Review by Simon McKerrell

**ICTM: Durban, South Africa, 1st-8th July 2009.**

Having optimistically packed various pairs of shorts and loud short-sleeved shirts, I was amazed to find myself reaching for the long johns on my first night at the ICTM conference! It was of course summer in the Southern hemisphere and for this vitamin-D-deprived Scot, the prospect of a week or more in the sun was one of the principle enticements of the ICTM conference - my first major overseas conference. Needless to say, the majority of the week was spent inside, within of the University of Kwazulu-Natal's lecture theatres listening to a staggering variety of papers from scholars all over the world. My impressions of the conference were very favourable and this was an intellectually stimulating trip, only marred somewhat by the Lilliputian dimensions of the dormitory beds. Theory in ethnomusicology, sustainability, Africanist scholarship and postcolonialism were to me, the key concepts at the conference and there was a joyful variety of

## NEWS ARCHIVE

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music and dance laid on by the local organising committee. Our especial thanks are due to Dr Patricia Opondo, Professor Mazibuko and all of the ICTM board who obviously had worked very hard in preparation. The next one's in Newfoundland in 2011 and this time I'll be checking the forecast!

### **The North Atlantic Fiddle Convention 2010, 'Roots and Routes', 14-18 July 2010**

The North Atlantic Fiddle Convention 2010 will be the largest event of its kind in the UK. Following the great success of the previous two Conventions in Aberdeen in 2001 and 2006, and in St. John's Newfoundland in 2008, the Elphinstone Institute will again be celebrating the excellence of traditional fiddlers, fiddle music and dance from countries around the North Atlantic in partnership with the Scottish Culture and Traditions (SC&T), the Aberdeen based community education project. From 14-18 July 2010, NAFCo 2010 will combine an international festival with a conference to create an event devoted to the exploration of Roots and Routes from local traditions to transnational movements.



Further details are available in the [summary](#), [call for papers](#), and [flyer](#). For more information about NAFCo 2010, please contact: The Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen, MacRobert Building, King's College, Aberdeen AB24 5UA, Tel: +44 (0) 1224 272996, Email: [nafco@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:nafco@abdn.ac.uk), Website: [www.abdn.ac.uk/Elphinstone/nafco](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/Elphinstone/nafco).