Street Music and Narrative Traditions

International Conference of The Kommission für Volksdichtung

Palermo, May 22 - 26, 2017
“Street music” refers to a multitude of event typologies evolving in time. During the Middle Ages, musicians and singers participated in forms of popular drama and began to formulate styles and techniques of performance in part derived from the ancient tradition of aoidoi and rhapsodes, persisting through adapted forms, instruments, and themes proper to the times. The use of stringed instruments to accompany song may be considered a constant feature over the centuries. Only toward the end of the 19th Century do itinerant singers introduce button accordions and accordions. Other elements which contributed to the evolution of street performed narrative song are the introduction of printed song sheets, enhancing income through the market sale of broadsides and chapbooks reproducing song texts, and later by the invention of systems of sound reproduction which represented for street performers or cantastorie (song singers) an added means of income via the sale of vinyl discs, audiocassettes, and compact discs. Other forms of narrative street music regard songs and dances which in various regions persist on the occasion of religious celebration, Carnival, or seasonal ritual (i.e., New Year, May Day)—thus delineating a repertoire of dramatized musical forms embracing song, instrumental music, and recitation. Correlating with such themes are social and political actions where song and sound provide a primary function on symbolic and communal planes. And increasingly today musicians, singers, and performers in general, are assured a means of communication with their audiences and heightened impact thanks to the “virtual public square” of social networks. In such a perspective “street music” may refer to a rich and varied range of historical and contemporary forms that will be investigated throughout the Conference.
Tuesday, May 23

9:00 - 12:00

Palace of the Normans - Sicilian Regional Assembly
Mattarella Room

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Giovanni Ardizzone (President of the Sicilian Regional Assembly)
Fabrizio Micari (Rector of the University of Palermo)
Maria Concetta Di Natale (Director of the Department of Culture and Society)
Francesco Forgione (President of the Federico II Foundation)
Ignazio E. Buttitta (President of the Ignazio Buttitta Foundation)
Rosario Perricone (President of the Association for the Conservation of Folk Traditions)
Thomas A. Mckean (President of The Kommission für Volksdichtung)

Panel Session

Street Singers between Tradition and Modernity I

Chair: Luisa Del Giudice

Thomas A. Mckean (Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen, Scotland)

Hip-hop Ballads Made Anew on the Streets of Aberdeen

Marja Klobcar (Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Institute of Ethnomusicology, Ljubljana, Slovenia)

“My Name Is Blind Nejče…” Blind People as Itinerant Mendicant Singers in Slovenia

Giorlamo Garofalo (University of Palermo, Italy)

The Blind Singers in Palermo

Sergio Bonanzinga (University of Palermo, Italy)

The Blind Street Musicians in Eastern Sicily

International Puppet Museum Antonio Pasqualino

13:30 Lunch

15:00

Sicilian Puppet Theatre

Duel between Orlando and Rinaldo for their love of Angelica

15:45 - 17:45

Panel Session

Ballad Routes and Complexity I

Chair: Éva Guillorel

Simona Delić (Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research Šubićeva, Zagreb, Croatia)

An International Traditional Ballad from the Croatian Mediterranean Region and a Sword Dance Moresca

Arbnora Dushi and Hoxha Arben (Institute of Albanology, Prishtina, Kosovo)

Memory that Travels: A Ballad on the “Path to Nowhere”

Marjetka Golež Kaučič (Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts/Institute of Ethnomusicology, Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Infanticide: From Life into Ballad and Literature

Visar Munishi (Institute of Albanology in Prishtina, Albania)

“Aga Hasan Aga”, Another Romeo and Juliet
**Wednesday, May 24**

**INTERNATIONAL PUPPET MUSEUM ANTONIO PASQUALINO**

**9:00 - 10:30**

**PANEL SESSION**

**Ballad Routes and Complexity II**

**Chair:** **Matilda Burden**

**Ruth Perry** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA)

*Anna Gordon’s Ballad Repertoire and Gender in Early Modern Scotland*

**Sara Bell** (Sandhills Community College, Pinehurst, USA)

*My Heart Sings to Me: Lament, Identity, and Memory in the Performance of "Rine Rine”*

**Sigrid Reuwertz** (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz, Germany)

*Collecting Chapbooks and Anecdotes: Sir Walter Scott’s ‘hobby horsical*

**10:30 Coffee Break**

**11:00 - 12:30**

**PANEL SESSION**

**Ciara Thompson** (The TradSong Research Cluster, Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick, Ireland)

*The Mason’s Word – Balladry Within Lullabies*

**William Donaldson** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA)

*The Ballad and the Border: The Question of Authenticity in the Construction of Scottish Tradition*

**Gerald Porter** (University of Vaasa, Finland)

*No Longer Street Heroes. Narrative Songs of the Demobbed Soldiers of World War I*

**12:30 Lunch**

**14:30 - 17:00**

**PANEL SESSION**

**Music and Soundscapes of Urban Political Action**

**Chair:** **Sergio Bonanzinga**

**Éva Guillorel** (Université de Caen Normandie, France)

*Chansons de charivaris, rituels urbains et procédures judiciaires dans la France d’Ancien Régime (Rough Music, Urban Rituals and Judicial Proceedings in Early Modern France)*

**Maria Herrera-Sobek** (University of California, Santa Barbara, USA)

*Donald Trump and Cyberspace Corridos: The New Balladeering of the Twenty-First Century*

**Stefano Montes** (University of Palermo, Italy)

*Flashmobs and Guerrilla Gigs: Is There a Narrative Tradition?*

**Barbara Crescimanno** (Independent researcher and teacher, Tavola Tonda Traditional Music and Dance School, Palermo, Italy)

*The Bal-Folk Movement in Palermo: Collective Dance Practices and Socio-Cultural Identity Dynamics*

**Luisa Del Giudice** (Independent scholar, Los Angeles, USA)

*Beating the Drum: Italian Traditional Music Advocacy in the Diaspora*
17:00 Coffee Break

17:30
TRIZZI RI DONNA
Songs and dances of Sicilian Female Tradition

18:15 - 20:00
WALKING TOUR OF PALERMO

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Thursday, May 25

INTERNATIONAL PUPPET MUSEUM ANTONIO PASQUALINO

9:00 - 11:00
PANEL SESSION

The Marketplace: From Broadsides to “Virtual” Public Squares
Chair: THOMAS A. MCKEAN
DAVID ATKINSON (Kommission für Volksdichtung, London, UK)
Street Ballad Singers and Sellers, c.1730–80
ASTRID NORA RESSEM (National Library, Oslo, Norway)
A Broadside Producer Targeting the Seasonal Fishery of Cod
TERESA CATARELLA (Technische Universität, Munich, Germany)
The Ambiguous Narratives of mundus inversus Broadsheets
DELIA DATTILO (Independent scholar, Cosenza, Italy)
“Frog Went A-Courting”: An Example of Folk Song Transmission, from Broadside to iTunes

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 - 13:00
PANEL SESSION

Roots and Routes: Performative Aspects and Contexts I
Chair: INGRID ÅKESSON
INCORONATA NADIA INSERRA (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Honolulu, USA)
From the Street to the Stage and to the Workshop: Campania’s Tammurriata Folk Song Tradition Reinvented
SIMONA FRASCA (Independent scholar, Naples, Italy)
The Porous Song: the case of Tammurriata nera
ROBERT BOUTHILLIER (Independent scholar, Québec, Canada; Caen, France)
La ville, les médias et l’émergence d’une nouvelle tradition chantée en Amérique francophone

13:00 Lunch
15:00 - 17:00
PANEL SESSION

Street Singers between Tradition and Modernity II
Chair: David Atkinson
Hans Kuhn (Australian National University, Canberra, Australia)
Beggars and Buskers, Orphans and Jews: Songs about Marginal Figures in Nineteenth-Century Denmark
Giovanni Vacca (Independent scholar, Rome, Italy)
“Sentite che ve dice il Sor Capanna…”: The Latest Street-Singer in Rome
Judith R. Cohen (York University, Toronto, Canada)
Adultery, Conversion and Fires: Shared Themes of Yiddish and Judeo-Spanish Ballads
Nancy McEntire (Indiana State University, Terre Haute, USA)
“The Street is my Studio.” A Portrait of a Contemporary Street Musician in Salt Lake City, Utah

17:00 Coffee Break

17:30
Sacred and Profane Songs in the Sicilian Tradition
Giovanni Di Salvo (voice), Melchiorre Di Salvo (Sicilian bagpipe)
Giuseppe Giordano (voice, guitar), and Sebastiano Zizzo (violin)

19:00-20:00
BUSINESS MEETING

20:00
FOOD, WINE & MUSIC
OPEN MIC EVENING FOR CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

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Friday, May 26

INTERNATIONAL PUPPET MUSEUM ANTONIO PASQUALINO

9:00 - 11:00
PANEL SESSION

Street Performances: Sacred and Profane I
Chair: Gerald Porter
Oghenevwarho Gabriel Ojakoivo (University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada)
From Studentship to Itinerant Musicians: Life of Almajiri in Zaria Metropolis
Emmanuele Tumminello (University of Palermo, Italy)
Outdoor Singing and Dancing in Upper Svaneti
Simona D’Agostino (University of Palermo, Italy)
A Carnival Quadrille in Sicily
Olimbi Velaj (Aleksandër Moisiu University, Durrës, Albania)
Serenada, from Streets to the Stage: The Case of Korça’s Serenada

11:00 Coffee Break
11:30 - 13:30
PANEL SESSION

DANIELE ZAPPATORE (University of Rome “La Sapienza”, Italy)
New Urban Soundscapes: Angklung Buskers in Yogyakarta

FELICE CEPARANO (Museo etnomusicale “I Gigli di Nola”, Nola, Italy)
The Music of the Feast of the Gigli of Nola and the “Nolan popular market”

ANNA L. WOOD (Association for Cultural Equity at Hunter College CUNY, New York, USA)
Made in Italy: Harmony in Contrary Motion

CHRISTINE F. ZINNI (State University of New York at Brockport, Batavia, USA)
Ethnography as Storysinging: the Italian Diaspora, Italian American Street Music and Cantastorie in Western New York State

13:30 Lunch

15:00 - 17:00
PANEL SESSION

Roots and Routes: Performative Aspects and Contexts II
Chair: SIGRID RIEUWERTS
ARDIAN AHMEDAJA (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Austria)
“Albanian Soul and the Question of the Adaptations of Local Music
INGRID ÅKESSON (Centre for Folk Music and Jazz Research, Stockholm, Sweden)
Music and Dance as Narrative Elements in the Work of a Regional Theatre
KEIKO WELLS (Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan)
Sanshō-Dayu, or “Princess Anju and Prince Zushiō”: The Theatrical Tradition in Ningyō-jiōruri (Puppet Plays) and Kabuki (Classical Dance-and-Music-Drama)
E. WYN JAMES (Cardiff University, Wales)
A Welsh Interlude

17:00 Coffee Break

17:15 - 19:15
PANEL SESSION

Street Performances: Sacred and Profane II
Chair: MARJETKA GOLEŽ KAŬĆIČ
MATILDA BURDEN (University Museum, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa)
The Meaning of “Meaning” in Analysing Sacred Folksongs in Rural Afrikaans Communities
DAVID MARKER (Independent researcher, New York, USA)
Performing the Novena in Monreale and Palermo
MARIA RIZZUTO (University of Rome “La Sapienza”, Italy)
The Chant of the “Resurrection of Lazarus” in the Streets of Piana degli Albanesi and Santa Cristina Gela
GIUSEPPE GIORDANO (University of Palermo, Italy)
Ritual Calls in Some Villages of Western Sicily

19:30
CLOSING RECEPTION