ICTM Honorary Membership

I wish to propose Ricardo D. Trimillos for Honorary Membership of the Council. Just like Javanese gamelan in Indonesia, Maguindanao kulintang in the Southern Philippines, and gangsa gong music of Cordillera communities of the northern Philippines have main/louder sounding melodies as well as inner/softer sounding ones, Ricardo D. Trimillos has made contributions of both types for nearly half a century, and I will begin by describing the former. Ricardo D. Trimillos has served as ICTM board member for 15 years (1978-1993). He gave the Keynote lecture: “Music of “minorities” as lived experience and performed identity: the Philippines’ Sulu, America’s Hawai’i, and Japan’s Okinawa” at the 8th international symposium of the study group on music and minorities in Japan (2014). He was founding chair and long-time active member of what is currently the Study Group on Music and Dance of Oceania (1979-1983). For numerous years, he has provided support and advice as an Executive Committee member-at-large of the study group on the Performing Arts of Southeast Asia. He gave a Keynote lecture at a sub-study group symposium on the Performing Arts and the Royal Courts of Southeast Asia titled “Manipulating Notions of Southeast Asian Royal Court Performance: romanticising, appropriating, deconstructing, inventing, and imagining”.

Ricardo D. Trimillos was chair of the programme committee for the 24th International Folk Music Council (at the time) Conference that took place 13-18 August, 1977; Programme Committee Member for the 1st ICTM Colloquium in Poland (1981), and the 1981 and 1995 World Conferences in Seoul and Canberra, respectively. Guest Editor of the 1987 Yearbook for Traditional Music. Programme Committee Chair of the 10th ICTM Colloquium in Sweden (1990) and the 13th Colloquium in the Cayman Islands(1992). Member of the Commission on Copyright and Ownership in Traditional Music and Dance (1990–93). Chair of the USA National Committee (1993–99). Plenary session chair (Music of the World’s Cultures in Education) at the 34th ICTM World Conference in Slovakia (1997); and Programme Committee Member of the 45th ICTM World Conference in Thailand (2019). He contributed to the seminal volume Celebrating the International Council for Traditional Music: Reflections on the First Seven Decades on ICTM Colloquia. He was candidate for president (2021-2025) together with Samuel Araújo (Brazil) and Svanibor Pettan (Slovenia).

The inner/softer sounding contributions are his friendship, kindness, and selfless support to many. He has written in honour of deceased colleagues and friends such as Barbara Smith, Robert Günther, and Adrienne Kaeppler. He organized the year-long celebration of Barbara Smith’s 100th birthday (June 2020-2021). He organized Adrienne Kaeppler’s “Celebration of Life and Legacy” at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa Music Department. He has also quietly contributed both financially and through editing texts and other kinds of support for graduate students and early career scholars. As they say, “if you know, you know”. Ric, as he is affectionately called by many, has truly lived up to his middle name, “DIOSDADO”. For these reasons, both quantifiable and immeasurable, I believe he is deserving of Honorary Membership of the Council.