From the Chair…

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the latest newsletter of the ICTM Study Group on Music and Dance of Oceania. This newsletter marks my first as Chair, a role in which I am excited to serve over the next two years.

I would like to acknowledge the work of our previous chair, Kirsty Gillespie, for her leadership with the Study Group, and especially in organizing our 2014 symposium in Papua New Guinea and the presentations by several members at the Astana conference last year. We continue to be an active association within ICTM, and the announcements and forthcoming projects in this newsletter attest to the vibrancy of the Study Group.

I look forward to corresponding with you all in coming months and especially as plans take shape for our next symposium on Guam.

Sincerely,

Brian Diettrich
Study Group Activities

Festival Of Pacific Arts 2016
By Judy Flores

As a board member of the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency (CAHA), I extend our welcome to my fellow SGMD members who plan to attend. CAHA is responsible for the Festival programming; and our Chair, Monica Guzman, sits on the FestPac Organizing Committee. Each CAHA board director co-chairs an artistic discipline to plan activities with input from the artists. Please refer to the official GUAM FESTPAC 2016 website for contact persons within each artistic discipline. The latest information is being posted on this site. We look forward to seeing you in Guam during the Festival, May 22 to June 4, 2016!

9th Symposium of the Study Group
By Brian Diettrich

The ICTM Study Group on Music and Dance of Oceania will hold a symposium on the island of Guam in 2016. The meeting will coincide with the 22nd conference of the Pacific History Association (PHA) during 19-21 May, and it will directly precede the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts. The symposium theme of Performing the Past, Sustaining the Future aligns closely with that of the PHA: Mo'na: Our Pasts Before Us. This joint meeting between the Study Group and the PHA will allow for engagement across disciplines and within a large gathering of international Pacific specialists.

I am pleased to report that there was strong interest in our symposium with proposals received from New Zealand, Australia, the U.S., Guam, Japan, Austria, American Samoa, and Papua New Guinea. In total we received about twenty submissions, including a proposal to screen and launch a new documentary film and a roundtable on Chamorro music. My thanks to the organizers of the Pacific History Association, Anne Perez Hattori and Michael Clement, who have done a fantastic job in working with the 165 total proposals received for the full conference. My thanks also to the Study Group members who showed interest, and I look forward to greeting everyone on Guam. Because of the number of proposals received, it is likely that the symposium will extend over one day of the PHA conference. I will be reporting back as planning develops.

Those attending should be mindful of the upcoming deadlines posted on the PHA website. I will also start an email group for those attending so we can remain in touch.

Plaudits

During the Royal Honours ceremony for the Coronation of King Tupou VI in July 2015, Adrienne Kaeppler was invested with the Royal Order, “Commander of the Royal Tongan Household Order,” for Contributions to the Study of Tongan Culture.

At the General Membership Meeting of the 60th Society for Ethnomusicology Conference, in Austin, Texas, founding Study Group chair Ric Trimillos was among those inducted as honorary member of the Society (see photo below).
Induction of Ric Trimillos as honorary member of the Society for Ethnomusicology, December 2015, with Andrew Weintraub (left) and R. Anderson Sutton (right). (photo credit: Kathleen Kuo).

New Liaison Offers for Pacific Nations/States

Study Group members have been influential in supporting the appointment of the following new ICTM liaison officers from Pacific Nations/States:

• Simeon Adelbai (Palau National Museum), the new Liaison Officer for Palau
• Kuki Motumotu Tuiasosopo (American Samoa Community College), the new Liaison Officer for American Samoa
• Michael Clement (University of Guam), new Liaison Officer for Guam and Northern Marianas.

General News from our Members

In addition to the new Liaison Officers, the Study Group is pleased to welcome to our email list:

Jessica Schwartz (University of California, Los Angeles)
Savali Andrews (Victoria University of Wellington)
Angela Karini (Victoria University of Wellington)
Ojeya Cruz Banks (University of Otago)

Second Samoana Jazz and Arts Festival
By Richard Moyle and Kuki Motumotu Tuiasosopo

Richard Moyle was again the keynote speaker ("Samoa and Tonga: Who Copied Who?") at the second Samoana Jazz and Arts Festival in Samoa and American Samoa. SGMDO member Kuki Tuiasosopo organised presentations at the American Samoan Community College: by Chande Lutu Drabble "Tusi Pese Fatuga Tuai a Samoa" [a book of old Samoan song lyrics], Regina Meredith

The programme in Samoa included Tuatagaloa Joe Annandale speaking of his ukulele band, Seiuli Vaifou Aloalii Temese "O le Vii o le 25 Tausaga o le Papaigalagala" [The 25th Anniversary paean for the National University of Samoa], Falefatu Enari "Pese Lotu Faaleagaga" [Spiritual Songs of Worship], Peta Siulepa "A Tale of Two Samoas - the untold jazz story of American Samoa/Samo and Mavis Rivers - the youngest singer that started the course', and Joe Keil "The history of Contemporary Music told from a Family Perspective'.

All this in concert, so to speak, with many fine jazz bands from Samoa, New Zealand and USA. The 2016 event promises to be even more comprehensive, with participation from the Centre for Samoan Studies at NUS.

Richard Moyle (second right) is seen here during the ASCC Ethnomusicology Forum with (l-r) ASCC faculty member Luvismin Lim, Samoa filmmaker Galumalemana Steven Percival, and ASCC faculty member Tamari Mulitalo-Cheung. (Photo: J. Kneubuhl)
(L-R) Kuki Tuiasosopo (Chairman of the Fine Arts Department, American Samoa Community College, Matatumua Opeloge Ah Sam (Musician & Composer, PhD Candidate, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand), Poe Mageo (Associate Professor of Music, Fine Arts Department, American Samoa Community College). (photo shared by Kuki Tuiasosopo)

The Opeloge Ah Sam Quintet performs for the Fine Arts Jazz Week Festival at the American Samoa Community College. The Jazz week festival coincided with the island wide Samoana Jazz & Arts Festival in American Samoa. (photo shared by Kuki Tuiasosopo)
Ad and Lucia Linkels collection of Pacific Music

By Birgit Abels

The Cultural Musicology Dept. of the University of Göttingen (Prof Dr Birgit Abels) is now in possession of the "Ad and Lucia Linkels collection of Pacific Music". Among many other things, the collection contains audio-visual material and sound recordings from across the Pacific Islands but mainly Polynesia (recorded between roughly 1970 and 1985); we’re currently working on a detailed inventory, which will hopefully be ready by summer 2016. The photographs, footage and sound recordings will be digitized.

Recent Publications


Barbara B. Smith recordings from Palau on CD

By Birgit Abels

Published by the Phonogramm-Archiv Berlin, the CD "Chelitakl. Early Reel-to-Reel Recordings from Palau, Micronesia | Ongetel Tekoi Er A Belau Er A Ngaramong" contains field recordings collected by Barbara B. Smith in Palau in 1963. The 20 recordings on the CD include chesols, rebetii, keredekiil, kesekes, kelloi as well as music used to accompany the dances choulild, ngloik, ruk and matematóng. The final track of the CD is a rare recording of the Palauan version of Aloha Oe. Together with the CD "Wax Cylinder Recordings from Palau, Micronesia" published earlier by the Phonogramm-Archiv, this CD offers a most valuable insight into both the history of the music of Palau and the Barbara B. Smith collection of recordings from Micronesia in 1963. The CD will be available as of January 2016 and is accompanied by an extensive booklet.
Past Conferences

New Zealand Musicological Society
By Brian Diettrich

The New Zealand Musicological Society held its annual conference from 31 October – 1 November 2015. Among other papers, the following presentations about Pacific and Māori music may be of interest to members.

“Classical Polynesia: Competing Social Dynamics in German Samoa and the Development of the Shakespearean Samoan Comic Opera in Apia, 1880-1930”
Savali Andrews (Victoria University of Wellington)

“Kapa Haka, Cultural Identity, and Personhood in a Kaupapa Māori Forensic Psychiatry Unit”
Lauren E. Sweetman (New York University)

“Whose Tradition?: Alfred Hill's ‘Māori’ Songs, Historiography, and Nationhood”
Melissa Cross (Victoria University of Wellington)

“Performance and Historiography on Kosrae: Searching for Traditions in a Silent Past”
Brian Diettrich