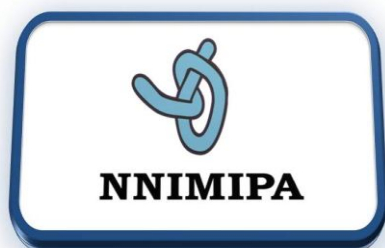


PROGRAM



**Nordic Network for the
Integration of Music Informatics,
Performance and Aesthetics**
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joins with



**Royal Musical Association
Music and Philosophy Study Group**

for a four-day multi-event in London

June 30-July 3, 2011 on the occasion of the inaugural annual conference of the RMA-MPSG which will be held at King's College London on 1-2 July 2011.

Friday, July 1, 2011

Day One of the Inaugural Annual Conference of the RMA-MPSG. NNIMIPA delegate **Helga Rut Guðmundsdóttir** (University of Iceland) chairs the session *Philosophy and Performance* 11:30-13:00 in Lecture Theatre S-1.06 during which NNIMIPA-delegate **Søren. R. Frimodt-Møller** (U. of Southern Denmark) presents '**Norms, goals and group consciousness: rethinking the dynamics of a musical performance**' and NNIMIPA-delegate **Stefan Östersjö** (Lund U./Orpheus Institute, Gent) presents '**Musical listening: the function of openness and the "horizon of the question" in the interaction between musicians**'. NNIMIPA delegate **David Hebert** (Grieg Academy, Bergen University College) chairs the discussion forum *Chinese opera, Chinese philosophy* 16:00-17:00 in the Anatomy Theatre. Please see the RMA-MPSA conference program for details.

Saturday, July 2, 2011

Day Two of the Inaugural Annual Conference of the RMA-MPSG. NNIMIPA delegate **Tere Vadén** (U. of Tampere) presents '**Music as symbols: how corrupted is it?**' as the second speaker during the session *Ethical Perspectives* 14:15-15:15 in the St Davids Room and NNIMIPA delegates **Cynthia M. Grund** (U. of Southern Denmark) and – via Skype – **William Westney** (Texas Tech University) present '**Pathways to authenticity in operatic interpretation**' in the Anatomy Theatre 15:30-16:15. Please see the RMA-MPSA conference program for details.

Sunday, July 3, 2011, 10:00-14:00.

**NNIMIPA Network Meeting
St Davids Room, King's College London.
All are welcome!**

10:00-10:30

Welcoming Remarks

Cynthia M. Grund

Associate Professor; Institute of Philosophy, Education and the Study of Religions, University of Southern Denmark (SDU)

Chief Coordinator for NNIMIPA and NNIMIPA-coordinator for SDU; NordForsk Project Manager

‘Art Music’ and the ‘Beauty of Technical Imperfection’: Amateur Choral Member’s Perceptions on Aesthetic Issues in Performance

The Case of an Amateur Bach Choir Performing
Bach’s Mass in B Minor

Sigrún Lilja Einarsdóttir

PhD Candidate in Sociology – University of Exeter
NNIMIPA Coordinator, Bifröst University, Iceland

This paper is based on socio-musical research carried out on one English amateur composer-oriented Bach choir in London. The research addresses amateur choristers' aesthetic experience of rehearsing and performing ‘art music’ and their perceptions of aesthetic issues in music performances, both from the perspective of the choristers as performers and as members of the audience. This talk will examine the attitudes of amateur choristers towards the somewhat problematic evaluation of a ‘good performance’, what a good performance must deliver to the audience and how the choristers themselves experience aesthetic dimensions while participating in a performance of a large-scale choral work.

The extent to which amateur choristers regard a ‘good performance’ as being dependent upon

- musical /technical perfection
- profundity of interpretation based on the performers’ awareness of the historical/emotional/socio-musical context of the work
- the extent to which the performers actually bond with the audience during the performance in a more personal or intimate way

will be discussed. This research is based on a single-case grounded theory research approach, using participant observation where I sang with the choir for one term (rehearsing and performing the Mass in B Minor), on semi-structured, in-depth interviews with choral members and on a paper-based survey that was used in order to collect demographic information about the choir.

Much interesting research on choir activities has been conducted (Richards & Durrant (2003), Bailey and Davidson (2005), Pitts (2005), Finnegan (1989), Hennion et.al.), but to my knowledge no research involving the direct participation of the researcher has been done at this point. Much has been written about Bach’s life and compositions, but no sociological research specifically aimed at Bach choirs and/or the performance of Bach’s large scale choral works from a socio-musical perspective has been carried out.

In this presentation I will use the concept of taste as performance (Hennion and Fauquet, 2004) to argue whether participation in a composer-oriented choir indicates a certain stage of cultural capital (Bourdieu, 1984) and how it affects the aesthetic perceptions of the choristers. The theory of John Dewey’s ‘art as experience’ (1980) and some issues regarding aesthetical boundaries separating professional from amateur music performances (Aristotle and Plato, Abraham (1974); Durrant & Himonides (1998)) will be discussed and demonstrated. This talk will conclude with an examination of how these boundaries are drawn with reference to the canonic values of the Western music tradition.

10:30-11:00

Musical Gestures and Musical Embodiment among Infants in a Musical-Social Context

Helga Rut Guðmundsdóttir

Associate Professor, University of Iceland (UI)
NNIMIPA Coordinator, UI

Music classes for infants with parents have become a widespread practice in many countries during the last two decades. Not many studies have been conducted on the phenomenon of parent-infant music courses and little is known about the direct effects of participation in such programs. There are some indications that parent-infant music courses may affect the participating parents' well-being. The effects of music courses on infants' behavior and learning remains to be explored, however.

From previous studies it is known that infants are discriminative listeners and learners of music. Remarkably early in life, infants seem to process and internalize the tonal, melodic and rhythmic information presented in music. Studies have reported musical behavior in infants in the home, interacting with parents and caregivers, and in nursery settings. Attention of researchers has to

a lesser extent been directed towards infants' musical or participatory behavior in parent-infant music classes.

The present study investigated the behavior of 8-9-month-old infants during ten music classes taught over a period of 5 weeks. Each class was videotaped from different angles with four cameras. The video recordings were categorized according to the ongoing activities. Then, selected activities were analyzed and coded according to the type of behavior elicited by the infants. The validity of the categorization was tested with a panel of independent judges. The repertoire of infant-gestures, when music was present, was catalogued and compared with infant-gestures when music was not present.

In this paper, the concept of musical gestures in infants will be explored in terms of theories on music and embodiment. Embodiment of music has been explored in earlier research in the context of dancers and music teachers. Empirical evidence of embodiment of rhythm has also been found in 6-month-old infants. The aim of the present paper is to shed light on musical embodiment among infants in a musical-social context.

11:00-11:30

Implications of Current Debates in the Philosophy of History for the Study of Historical Ethnomusicology

David G. Hebert

Professor, Grieg Academy, Faculty of Education
Bergen University College
NNMIPA Coordinator, GA-BUC

Across recent decades, historical ethnomusicology has been widely identified as a significant emerging subfield of ethnomusicology, and an active special interest group has been established by international scholars with an interest in global music history. The purpose of this paper is to consider some current issues and debates in the philosophy of history with implications for such international-comparative historical research on music. Several issues surround the notion of narrative within scientific forms of history, to which Hayden White has offered especially provocative and compelling contributions. At the most fundamental level of personal narrative – how we explain the story of our own lives to others – our perceptions are shaped by the impulse to rationalize retrospectively, which is why contemporary historians are increasingly interested in detailed discussion of the accumulation and interpretation of data as opposed to direct assertions regarding past events. We tend to see what we are encouraged to notice, which applies not only to the practice of magic but also to propaganda and more subtle forms of ideology. Historical theorist Aviezar Tucker argues that “*scientific history*”, rather than being a study of past events is actually the study of how evidence accumulates and progressive interpretations are proposed regarding the past. Simon Kaye identifies three common assumptions of traditional historiography that may arguably be prevented through transparent inclusion of “counterfactualist” narratives, meaning creative accounts that openly postulate possible outcomes had something occurred differently in the past: (1) *indispensability*, (2) *causality*, and (3) *inevitability*. I assert that counterfactualist accounts are likely to play an increasingly prominent role in future musical representations due to the new possibilities of “wikification” and “virtuality” afforded by recent digital technologies. Another related topic is the highly contested notion of “decanonization” in the sphere of musical knowledge. As Christopher Wilkinson explains in the book *De-Canonizing Music History*, we must admit that traditional “music history”, from the perspective of contemporary philosophy of history, has tended to be rather simplistic and misleading in its omissions, and I argue that the extent of this problem is comparable even to military history, which one might assume to be more inextricably linked to nationalistic politics and therefore saturated with bias. Wilkinson’s analysis of Donald J. Grout’s music history textbook demonstrates an arguably unbalanced fundamental narrative in what has been the most influential music history book among university music students in the United States for several decades. As discussed comparatively across three nations in my chapter from the same volume, the issue of *disjunctures* in historiography, or gaps in historical narrative also calls for systematic analysis in relation to “the notion of ‘replaceability,’ or whether trajectories would likely have changed had particular events not occurred or had they taken place within different power structures.” Finally, some ethical issues to be opened for brief discussion in this paper include judicious approaches to the exposure of both misinformation and unbalanced interpretations in cultural memory, perennial challenges of cultural translation, and the extent to which deceased musicians may still be afforded certain rights to privacy.

11:30-12:00

A Program of Practice-based Research Designed to Examine Listener Reaction to Olivier Messiaen's *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus*

Morten Heide

Pianist and Choral Director, member of NNIMIPA representing The Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, Southern Denmark (AMDA), Odense, Denmark

Messiaen's purpose for writing music was essentially a simple one. As he wrote, "My faith is the grand drama of my life. I'm a believer, so I sing words of God to those who have no faith. I give bird songs to those who dwell in cities and have never heard them, make rhythms for those who know only military marches or jazz, and paint colours for those who see none".

Messiaen's devotion to Catholicism is evinced in his writing and in the manner in which he provided titles for his compositions. A non-believer myself, it fascinates me that when I perform – as I have in several concerts - or listen to *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus* I feel a kind of spiritual devotion and devoutness akin to that of a religious person that no other composer's music has managed to evoke in me. During the winter 2011 I recorded the complete cycle as part of a larger project involving practice-based research. Reflection upon the ongoing process of rehearsing and preparing for the recording sessions has shed further light upon the elements in Messiaen's musical language that make such a strong impact not only on me but certainly also on many others who listen to Messiaen's music. In my ongoing investigation I am attempting to come closer to the core of what it is in Messiaen's music that often evokes such a sensation of spirituality even among non-believers.

Theoretical and methodological issues which need to be addressed in a study such as this one will be raised and discussed during the presentation, and exemplifying material from *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus* will be performed.

12:00-12:20 **Break**

12:20-12.30 Brief report from Dāvis Ozoliņš and Josue Moreno (both representing The Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, Finland), regarding the work they did in March at the **fourM's Laboratory** at the University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway on behalf of NNIMIPA.

12.30-13:00

Music Listening from an Ecological Perspective

Anders Friberg

Associate Professor, Speech, Music and Hearing, KTH, Stockholm
NNIMIPA Coordinator, KTH

In ecological acoustics there has been an emphasis on *everyday listening*, meaning that we normally analyze sounds in our environment with regard to the source properties rather than the quality of the sound itself (i.e. Gaver, 1993). This is quite natural considering that the human perceptual system always tries to understand and categorize sensory input.

As shown in several studies we can estimate the source properties from the sound regarding physical properties of the objects, such as size and material (Giordano and McAdams, 2006). This type of perception is evident for environmental sounds, but is the same mechanism also active in music listening? If we extend the ecological approach to humans the answer is clearly yes. A person's voice can be used for estimating features such as identity, distance, effort, and emotion. A person's footstep sounds can be used for estimating gender and other properties (Li et al., 2006). As pointed out by Clarke (2005) it is hard to make any distinction between everyday listening and music listening. Thus, we can assume that both kinds of listening involve the same kind of perceptual processing. We will present a broad spectrum of features related to source properties that can be motivated from an ecological/survival point-of-view and discuss their potential relevance in music listening. A tentative categorization of these features can be in terms of *source separation, identification, classification* (human/biological/environmental), *object properties* (size, distance, direction, speed, energy), and *human properties* (emotion, skill, sincerity/authenticity, intention).

There has been limited empirical research directly investigating the ecological perspective in music listening. One exception is the estimation of *energy*. Ladefoged (1963) asked listeners to estimate the loudness of the voice using recordings of different speech utterances. The loudness estimation was found to correlate with the physical *work* in terms of the subglottal pressure and airflow rather than the acoustical sound level. It was later suggested that the listeners were in fact rating the effort rather than the loudness of the voice (Eriksson and Traunmüller, 2002). Energy is also indirectly coupled to dynamic level. It is easy to recognize the dynamic level of for example a piano performance from recordings regardless of the played volume. This ability will provide a better understanding of the environment since both distance and effort can be determined independently.

We will argue that by analyzing music listening using an ecological perspective we can provide suggestions for understanding the meaning of many different musical aspects ranging from instrumental sounds and melody to motion and emotion.

13:00-13:30

Auditory Memory Model for Feature Estimation

Kristoffer Jensen

Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, Aalborg University
Esbjerg
NNIMIPA Coordinator, Aalborg University Esbjerg

Audio feature estimation involves measuring key characteristics from the audio. It is possible to estimate features using an auditory memory model. In order to do so, an onset detection is necessary to identify new audio components to insert into the auditory memory, and an algorithm is necessary to combine the characteristics of the current interval with the characteristics of the audio components in the auditory memory. The auditory memory model mimics the attention process, and the storing, retrieval and forgetting processes. The feature estimation using the auditory memory model has been applied to the estimation of sensory dissonance. The feature estimation using the memory model is an important step in the improvement of the accuracy of feature estimation. Furthermore, the dissonance values are together with the characteristics of the auditory memory found to be of interest in music categorization.

It is believed that feature estimation using the auditory memory model will bring the field significantly forward. The details of the auditory memory model consists of two parts. The onset detection can be compared to the attention human beings pay to the sound. The memory model is based on the knowledge of the short-term memory, and contains a homogenous decay and displacement mechanism that calculates the activation strength of the components in the auditory memory as a function of the number of components in the memory model, and the total duration of the model. The memory model mimics the storing, retrieval and forgetting of the human auditory short-term memory.

Based on experiments, it has been shown that the number of elements and duration behaves in a manner that is compatible with the human auditory short-term memory in the current state of knowledge.

As the sensory dissonance is shown to be additive for partials in the same time frame, it is here modeled additively also for the partials that belong to the auditory components in the memory. These partials are thus modeled as giving rise to beats together with the partials in the current time frame. The resulting sensory dissonance is shown to be more smooth, and as having a larger magnitude.

Both the characteristics of the auditory memory model, with regard to the duration and number of components, and the sensory dissonance calculated using the model, are shown to be informative regarding the song from which the features are obtained. For instance, pop songs typically contain more auditory components in the memory model, and jazz songs have longer durations of the memory. Furthermore, the dissonance of the pop songs is much higher than the dissonance of the jazz songs. It seems promising to use the auditory memory model, and the sensory dissonance calculated using it, for music information retrieval purposes.

It has furthermore been shown that the sensory dissonance calculated using the auditory memory model performs significantly better than the sensory dissonance calculated without the memory model when compared to human dissonance assessment. Finally, a discussion of key elements regarding our knowledge of human memory shows the further perspectives of this approach.

Soundmapping the Genes

Fredrik Søgaard

Assistant Professor, The Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, Southern Denmark (AMDA)
NNIMIPA Coordinator, AMDA

www.myspace.com/zoegaard2
www.soundmappingthegenes.com

SOMATHEGE is a research project working with the use of biological data in musical composition and improvisation. A specially developed MIDI interface translates the complete genetic code of the H1 histonin protein of the rainbow trout. This interface can produce a melody from the code but it can also act as a controller of electronic music-equipment. The projects output is presented in an ongoing series of concerts and the project has also been subject to several trans-disciplinary workshops, where SOMATHEGE has been discussed by various boards consisting of biologists, musicians, datalogists, philosophers, etc.

A research report describing the translation and background has appeared in *JMM: Journal of Music and Meaning* at <http://www.musicandmeaning.net/issues/showArticle.php?artID=8.5>. Here is the introduction from that research report:

"Art is the sedimentation of human misery." (Adorno 2004).

The above remark by Adorno implies that art has its own way of preserving human experience, using a metaphor from geology and zoology, as well as its own languages for so doing (painting, musicmaking, sculpturing, etc).

Biology also has its own way of preserving some of the information about living beings and a language for so doing – the DNA coding sequences present in all biological beings.

SMTG is a project involving music composition and improvisation based on biological data – the complete DNA genetic code of the H1 Histone protein of the rainbow trout.

Nature has always been one of the dominant aesthetic ideals for artists of any art form. Painters have used nature in their work from cave paintings up until our day, and composers and musicians have dedicated numerous works to the celebration of nature (see Adorno 2004).

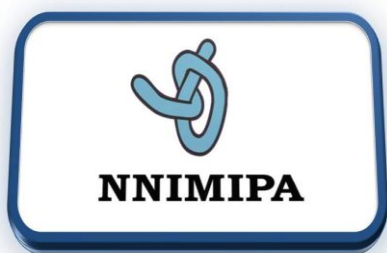
In music, however, there is an ongoing discussion regarding exactly how nature is relevant in a musical context. What does a sunset sound like? Or a sea?

In 1986 Japanese-American Biologist Susumu Ohno from the Beckman Research Institute of The City of Hope, Duarte, California, created a system for composing music from DNA code sequences, transcribing the four nucleotides into the diatonic scale according to a set of rules formulated by Ohno (Ohno 1986). SMTG is a contemporary project in this tradition, using the DNA coding sequence from one protein of the rainbow trout to form e.g. the melodic structure, the rhythmic, the dynamic, etc. Structures in the 642-nucleotide-long H1 Histone protein code sequence are transcribed into the chromatic scale and transferred into the MIDI (Musical Instruments Digital Interface) language. Thus the code sequence can be used as a chromatic melody or as MIDI information, controlling chosen musical parameters in electronic and digital environments. In this way, nature itself can appear as a 'controller' – via pitch or MIDI information – of the music in the form of the structural characteristics of the genetic code sequence. In addition to providing pitch information and creating melody and/or MIDI information to control electronic parameters, this complete H1 Histone coding sequence also brings a specific form to the music, as this coding sequence is different from every other existing sequence.

Adorno, T. W. (2004). *Aesthetic Theory*. London and New York: Continuum.

Ohno, S. & Ohno, M. (1986). "The All Pervasive Principle of Repetitious Recurrence Governs Not Only Coding Sequence Construction but Also Human Endeavor in Musical Composition". *Immunogenetics* 24, 71-78.

. . . and the music can be seen/heard on the homepage: <http://www.soundmappingthegenes.com>



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NNIMIPA: Nordic Network for the Integration of Music Informatics, Performance and Aesthetics aims at shedding new light upon traditional and contemporary questions within music research employing approaches which regard music from a vantage point where information and communication are the focal points, aided by the tools under rapid development within information technology, practice-based research and the new perspectives arising within aesthetics as a result of new technologies for studying and producing music.

NNIMIPA was officially established during the 2007-2008 academic year, when funding provided by the University of Southern Denmark at Odense was matched by **Nordplus** in order to establish this Nordic cooperative initiative. Nordplus continued to provide funding for NNIMIPA activities held during the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 academic years in the form of grants which were matched by the participating institutions. **NNIMIPA became a research network under NordForsk (www.nordforsk.org) on September 1, 2010, with funding during 2010-2013.** The decision to award the grant was made by the director of NordForsk following an evaluation carried out by a panel of independent experts.

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- William Westney bill.westney@gmail.com (Hans Christian Andersen Guest Professorial Fellow at SDU 2009-2010; Paul Whitfield Horn Professor of Piano, Browning Artist-in-Residence, School of Music, Texas Tech University; piano, music pedagogy and philosophy of performance)

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Lauri Vakeva lauri.vakeva@siba.fi (Music Education) NNIMIPA/NordPlus Coordinator 2007-2008: Ulla-Britta Broman-Kananen; NNIMIPA/NordPlus /NordForsk Coordinator 2008-2010: David Hebert.

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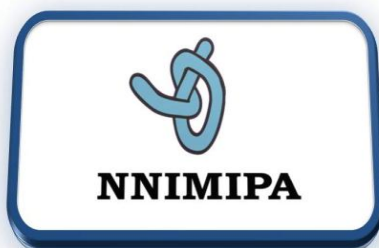
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