

“Towards a Global History of Martial and Military Music: Comparative perspectives for the early and pre-modern period”



A workshop of the Balzan Research Programme in Musicology

“Towards a Global History of Music”

Research Director: Reinhard Strohm

Convenor: Morag Josephine Grant

Friday 22 January 2016, 14:00-19:00

Saturday 23 January 2016, 9:30-17:00

Institut für Musikwissenschaft, Universität Wien

Universitätscampus AAKH, Hof IX

Spitalgasse 2-4, 1090 Wien, Österreich



International Balzan Prize Foundation

This workshop investigates the nature, transfer and development of the musical traditions of war, with a focus on the early modern and pre-modern periods. Histories of military music have tended to focus on the eighteenth century onwards, when European armies – under the influence of the Ottoman empire – began to expand their military bands, which then became the model for military and civilian bands the world over. While these developments are relatively well documented, the longer global history of martial and military music has not received the same attention. Drawing on a range of specific examples, the workshop thus hopes to make a significant contribution to the history and anthropology of the music of war. Lead questions include the following:

- What commonalities do the traditions discussed demonstrate?
- Are these commonalities evidence of cultural contact and transfer, of reference to common sources (e.g. sacred writings), or do they derive from practical or psychoacoustic qualities of the instruments used?
- What functions is music meant to fulfil in these traditions?
- How are martial and military musical traditions represented within the relevant cultures; how are they viewed by outsiders?
- What qualities, powers, symbolic value are attributed to the musical instruments used in martial contexts?
- What role have war, sieges, and colonial encounters played in the distribution of martial music traditions in the period in question?

Friday – 22 January 2016 – 14:00-19:00

14:00 **Welcome and general introduction**

14:30 **Morag Josephine Grant (independent researcher, Berlin)**
A global history of martial music? An introduction to the workshop

15:00 **Bruce Gleason (University of St. Thomas, Minnesota)**
Middle Eastern and European Cavalry Kettledrummers
and Trumpeters: Crusades to the Eighteenth Century

16:00-16:30

Coffee break

- 16:30 Silke Wenzel (HFMT Hamburg)**
Martial Music in the European 16th Century.
An affective command system between denotation and improvisation
- 17:30 Keith Howard (SOAS, University of London)**
Blowing and Hitting: Korean envoys, processions and martial music

Saturday – 23 January 2016 – 9:30-17:00

- 09:30 Ralph Martin Jäger (Universität Münster)**
Mehterhâne and trumpet/kettledrum ensembles:
Musical representations of state power at Ottoman
and Habsburg legations in the 17th Century
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee break**
- 11:00 Vivien Estelle Williams (University of Glasgow)**
Beyond Scotland: the European phenomenon of military bagpiping
- 12:00-13:30 Lunch break**
- 13:30 Nina Reuther (independent researcher, Konstanz)**
Singing Borders, Creating Alliances and Territories through Sound:
Warfare Songs seen from a North American First Nation's Perspective
- 14:30-15:00 Coffee break**
- 15:00-17:00 Closing discussion**

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Cover image: detail from John Derrick's "The Image of Irelande" (1587) showing the Irish warpipes. Image © The University of Edinburgh.