

Foreword

EXTRA! EXCHANGE TRADITIONS – ON THE PROJECT

The publication *Music in Motion. Diversity and Dialogue* is part of the *ExTra! Exchange Traditions* project which is coordinated by the *European Music Council* (EMC) and funded by the Culture 2000 Programme of the European Union. The main aim of the project is to enhance the exchange of musical traditions existing nowadays in Europe with a special focus on minority and migrant cultures, which form a vital part of the musical diversity in Europe.

The ExTra project runs from July 2006 until June 2009 and embraces important political developments in terms of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. Firstly, the UNESCO *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* was endorsed in October 2005 and entered into force in March 2007. This convention is an intergovernmental paper confirming the equal dignity of all cultures and fostering the links between culture and sustainable development, stating that “development shall be based on the economic growth as well as on the flourishing of social groups and individuals and their cultural expression.” Secondly, the EU Commission published a Communication on a European Agenda for Culture in May 2007 that was endorsed by the EU Council of Ministers in November 2007. Among the main objectives of this agenda are intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity. The agenda’s overarching aim is to raise awareness for cultural aspects in all political fields (‘culture mainstreaming’) and on different political levels (local, national, European). Thirdly, the EU proclaimed 2008 the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, which encouraged many cultural operators to get together, cooperate and exchange ideas on cultural diversity in Europe. When the ExTra! project was planned, this EU thematic year had not even been announced. The *European Music Council* was far-sighted in choosing a most exigent issue: How to build bridges through music in a diversified Europe.

For the ExTra! project, the EMC has gathered six cooperation partners which have promoted the idea of the project through a variety of different activities. The *Association Nationale Cultures et Traditions* from France organised a variety of activities in the small town of Gannat (Massif Central, Auvergne) such as exchange sessions for musicians (local and from abroad),

panel discussions on traditional music on the fringe of the *World Cultures Festival*, which takes place every year in July and an 'Artist in Residence Programme' for Sinti and Roma musicians.

The *Cité de la musique* in Paris organised a one-week Summer Academy that reached out to music students from conventional music conservatoires, offering a course to raise awareness of other musical traditions and become familiar with musical and performing practices of traditional music of migrant and minority cultures. The selected musical traditions were: classical Ottoman music (teacher: Kudsî Ergüner, *ney* flute), classical Andalusian music from Morocco (teacher: Taoufik Himmiche, violin and *rebab* fiddle), Transylvanian music (teachers: Csányi Sándor and Adrian Mezei), *sabar* drums from Senegal (teachers: Doudou Ndiaye Rose and El Hadji Moustapha Ndiaye Rose).

The *Fondazione Adkins Chiti: Donne in Musica*, based in Italy, programmed a series of concerts with migrant and Italian musicians. The concerts took place in Rome and gave attention to the use of the drum, plucked instruments and the voice in different musical traditions.

The *International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation*, based in Belgium, organised two workshops, one focusing on 'Green Music' and taking place within the framework of the *Kaustinen Folk Music Festival* in Finland, and the other one in Slovakia, focusing on the musical encounter of Brazilian *capoeira* artists and Roma musicians.

The *Music Information Center Austria* (mica) has developed a download platform, which offers music for downloading according to the conditions of the *fair music* approach. To help musicians get acquainted with the possibilities of online distribution, mica has also held workshops alongside other ExTra! events, such as the Summer Academy in Paris and the Exchange Sessions in Gannat.

The final event of the ExTra! project will be organised by the Greek project partner *En Chordais*. This final event will give an overview of what has been achieved during the project period and will look into how the ExTra! project idea can be continued in future. The conference will discuss how music can serve as a tool for integration in education as well as in a political context.

A vital part of the ExTra! project is this publication, which complements the project activities by giving a scientific and theoretical dimension.

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The EMC appointed a Scientific Committee as an advisory body, which consists of Patricia Adkins Chiti (Italy/UK), Alenka Barber-Kersovan (Germany/UK/Slovenia), Bernd Clausen (Germany), Gilles Delebarre (France), Reguina Hatzipetrou-Andronikou (France/Greece), Ursula Hemetek (Austria) and Eva Sæther (Sweden). The role of the Scientific Committee was to give advice on the outline of the publication and to identify authors to invite so they could contribute to the publication. We heartily thank all the members of the Scientific Committee for their tremendous work. An Editorial Board was formed from the Scientific Committee which includes Bernd Clausen (chairperson), Ursula Hemetek and Eva Sæther. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to these three outstanding scholars as they have put an enormous amount of time, effort and personal commitment into the publication; without their expertise this book would not exist as it does now.

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Finally, we would like to thank the European Union for supporting this project, without whose financial support this publication would never have been possible.

We heartily hope that this publication will contribute to enhancing the understanding of each other's cultures as well as to fostering an intercultural dialogue in Europe and beyond.

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