

## Preface

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Dear readers,

Before you is the result of dedicated work that has spanned several years, a work of love and appreciation for the major international organization dedicated to the study of music and dance, and for its members from more than one hundred and twenty countries and regions worldwide. ICTM continues to bring us together to share research-based knowledge and contribute to a better understanding, not only of sounds and movements, but also of the world in which we live. Through the various types of scholarly meetings, publications, and communications within organizational units, such as the World Network and the ever-growing study-group circles, ICTM also enriches and strengthens our theoretical and methodological toolkits, and enables us to improve the quality of our research, publications, and our pedagogical and other types of professional engagement. A resulting social network is often characterized, not only by collegiality, but also by friendly relationships that span our entire careers. Indeed, it would be difficult to imagine the lives of ethnomusicologists and ethnochoreologists without the professional and human benefits offered by this truly international organization.

This book is ambitious in its scope, encompassing numerous chapters and relying on the voices of more than one hundred scholars of different backgrounds, ages, genders, research interests, and schools of thought. It is a unique source of knowledge gathered over seven decades in different parts of the world, with much new written and visual information to help us learn from the past for the present and future of the Council. Working on this book provided the editors and authors with a unique opportunity for mutually beneficial communication. The search for missing data or for a deeper understanding of the situations or people described sometimes required multiple contacts with living eyewitnesses both inside and outside the Council's membership roster. All of these efforts paid off in every way. The editors' newly discovered detective skills and the multiple advantages resulting from the pooling of personal strengths have resulted in a representative publication that has all the prerequisites to become a standard item in many university and other libraries. At the same time, thanks to University of Ljubljana Press, the publication is legally a freely accessible online resource for researchers, teachers, and other users around the world, regardless of local financial circumstances and possibilities.

To provide even more, this book is accompanied by an online gallery where additional photo documentation for specific chapters can be found. This gallery is intended as an open repository that can be constantly enriched with new visual material. Therefore, I would like to encourage all readers, ICTM members, and those who hopefully will become members, to contribute to the enrichment of the gallery by sending selected visual material to the Secretariat, which is then responsible for sending them to us.

Six of our distinguished colleagues who contributed their expertise to this book did not live long enough to see its publication. Five of them—Peter Cooke, Adrienne L. Kaeppler, Bruno Nettl, Selena Rakočević, and Barbara B. Smith—wrote or substantially contributed to chapters, while Trần Quang Hải provided items from his rich photo collection. This book helps keep our deceased fellow contributors alive in our fondest memories.

I hope you enjoy reading *Celebrating the International Council for Traditional Music: Reflections on the First Seven Decades* and are inspired and encouraged to actively participate in the continued flourishing of ICTM and the promotion of peace, respect, and understanding in the world.

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