

Orality and Improvisation in East Asian Music

Ninth International CHIME Meeting

Agenda >
East Asia

1-4 July 2004
Paris, France

East Asian Music is supported by a large body of prescriptive theory and playing instructions. Quite a few musical genres in East Asia allow for little or no improvisation and rely primarily on a tradition of written music scores. Yet, orality is of major importance in the transmission of this music, and countries like Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and China have steered their own courses towards musical modernity, exploring realms like rock music, avant-garde (contemporary composition) and, to a lesser degree, also areas like world music and jazz. So what do orality and improvisation mean in East Asia today? And what do they mean in the context of

continuing traditional genres, from temple ceremonies to teahouse performances?

The Ninth International CHIME meeting will be preceded and followed by a week of workshops in which, on special invitation, Chinese and Western musicians will join forces in various cooperative and improvisatory projects. Among the musicians invited are: the Shanghai Conservatory Percussion Ensemble and the Shanghai Jianguan Sizhu Ensemble led by Chen Xiaolu. We urge conference participants to bring their own musical instruments for spontaneous music making in the leisure hours in-between conference sessions,

or indeed, for illustrating points made in their papers.

Abstracts of upto 300 words for individual papers related to the theme of 'Orality and Improvisation in East Asian Music' are welcomed and should be sent in before 1 March 2004. <

Contact and proposals:

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The Internet and Elections in Asia and Europe

Agenda >
General

18-20 March 2004
Singapore

Scholars and analysts from across the political spectrum have commented on how information technologies are transforming political, and especially electoral processes. Although it is unclear whether the Internet is 'democratizing' politics, there is little doubt that the Internet is a rich and valuable resource for candidates, parties, political organizations and citizens who seek to provide or acquire political information and engage in political action. Few empirical studies, however, have systematically explored the nature of the structure for political action provided by different types of actors within the electoral system. Moreover, no studies have been conducted to date comparing the use of the Internet in elections across countries. And, because of the cultural and political context in which much of the research has been framed (primarily in North America and Western Europe), analysis and policy issues arising from this work tend to overlook contextual factors prominent in many Asian countries that may to mediate the role of the Internet in political activity.

The scientific objective of the overall study is to understand how the Internet is employed by a wide range of political actors during periods of concentrated electoral activity in different national contexts. The central research question guiding the project is: In what ways and to what extent are online structures produced within different political systems during electoral campaigns in a manner that facilitates political action?

The workshop is designed to train a group of Asian and European scholars planning on conducting a long-range international comparative study of how websites are being used during election campaigns. This proposed ASEF workshop is intended to contribute towards the launch of this international study in which Asian countries play a prominent role. <

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Lies, Conspiracy and Propaganda

Agenda >
General

26 September 2004
Canberra, Australia

The histories of Europe and Asia are studded with conspiracies and rumours of conspiracy. The idea of powerful forces working behind the scenes to shape events and to conceal their power from the public has deep roots both in historical evidence and in popular imagination. From the Protocols of the Elders of Zion in Europe to the death of Lin Biao in China and the Gestapo coup in Indonesia, the combination of fragmentary information, political interest, and fertile imagination have given rise to a vast range of conspiracy theories.

This conference will examine conspiracies, real and imagined, along with the lies and propaganda, used on the one hand to conceal reality and on the other to create suspicion and mistrust. Prospective contributions are invited on relevant topics including:

- specific and/or comparative studies of the conduct and effects of conspiracies in Europe and/or Asia (including Australia)
- efforts to create the suspicion of conspiracies where none existed
- the public and media appetite for conspiracy theories
- the historiographical treatment of conspiracies

Note that proposed titles with 200-400 word abstract should be submitted by 14 December 2003. <

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The Impacts of Space Technology in Southeast Asia

Agenda >
Southeast Asia

August 2004
Bangkok, Thailand

Many in the worlds of politics, academia, and media today, consider space technology to be a high-technology engine for economic growth. Unsurprisingly then, numerous Asian nations have readily embraced new developments of space technology, as prove the applications in a plethora of fields, prominent among which are: telecommunications, meteorology, and research as well as exploitation of environmental resources. Certain recently initiated and innovative applications in the fields of health and telemedicine, distance education, crime pre-

vention, disaster monitoring and poverty mitigation (e.g. food and agriculture planning and production), behold potential revolutionary effects for these Asian nations.

Turning our eye to the developing nations of Southeast Asia, a number of them have adopted programmes by which they actively pursue the increased application of space technologies in their economies. Simultaneously, they seek to acquire their own capabilities, by means of small satellite developments and technology transfer. These satellite technologies and oper-

ations, as well as their impact on Southeast Asian communities, culture, and commerce, are the focal points of the symposium 'Space Technology Developments in Southeast Asia and its Impact on Culture, Commerce and Communities'. This meeting will provide opportunities for academics and professionals to interact outside their own specialist disciplines and to discuss and share information and knowledge to solve common problems of sustainable economic growth. We warmly welcome abstracts from space engineers and scientists, sociologists, rural

and urban planners, economists, political scientists, legal experts, educators, and satellite service providers (telecommunications, earth observations, meteorologists). The deadline for the submission of abstracts is mid-February 2004. <

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A symposium website will be established by the end of November 2004.

The Life and Work of the Sixth Dalai Lama

Agenda >
Central Asia

The year 2006 might very well be the 300th anniversary of the death of Tshangsdbyangs rGya-mtsho, the Sixth Dalai Lama. And then again it might not. As with many enigmas, some of us think we know things that others know we do not; some of us boldly comment upon texts about whose provenance we are not, and cannot ever be certain. Nonetheless, these enigmas provide a forum for possibilities and interpretations. They offer us a site within which we are able to interrogate myth and beauty alongside the perhaps more solid concerns of politics and history (iography).

Such problems are central to the life and work of the Sixth Dalai Lama. We invite scholars to contribute papers for a proposed volume, to be published in 2006. Papers may be submitted on all areas of Tshangsdbyangs rGya-mtsho studies – textual, historical, political, biographical, linguistic, and contextual. Given the controversy surrounding the Dalai Lama's death, this may be a good place to investigate what might have happened during the period between 1706 and 1746. Please contact us with an idea of what you wish to contribute, so as to avoid duplication. Our deadline is January 2005. <

Contact and proposals:

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