CENTRE FOR
SYSTEMATIC MUSICOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14
1 October 2013 – 31 December 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

The main highlight of the previous 15 months was the appointment of psychologist Annemarie Seither-Preisler to our lecturer position in May 2014. We are lucky to have been able to attract an outstanding researcher with international reputation and experience. In the following months, she completed and published a major study (with Peter Schneider, Heidelberg) in the Journal of Neuroscience on the positive effects of musical practice on children with dyslexia and ADHD. The findings were discussed in numero media reports and in her presentation to TEDx Graz on 12 November 2014. Seither-Preisler also co-edited the book “Der musikalische Mensch: Evolution, Biologie und Pädagogik musikalischer Begabung” (Hildesheim: OLMS; co-editor Wilfried Gruhn), which appeared in 2014.

Seither-Preisler replaced Bernd Brabec de Mori on expiry of his four-year contract in April 2014. Brabec’s contribution to the centre has been enormous in terms of research output, innovative teaching, and support for other centre members. In recognition of his doctoral thesis, the University of Göttingen trust (Stiftung) awarded him the “Dr.-Walther-Liebeheinz-Prize for outstanding contributions to cultural musicology/ethnomusicology”. We wish him well in his new position at the Department of Ethnomusicology, University of Music and Performing Arts, Graz (KUG).

Brabec and Martin Winter organised a conference entitled “Auditory Knowledge Cultures” (Auditive Wissenskulturen) on 18-21 June 2014 at KUG that brought together the contrasting
epistemologies of ethnomusicology, sociology, cultural studies and philosophy. Mainly international speakers addressed fundamental issues of music perception, reception and interpretation.

Erica Bisesi continued her FWF-funded research on expression and emotion in (piano) music. In January 2014, she presented a lecture-recital “Music and Emotion” in Meerscheinschlossl, University of Graz, with pianist-researcher collaborator Jennifer MacRitchie (Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana). In February she performed as a piano soloist and with Sabrina Sattmann (flute) at Klavierhaus Streif in Graz. In March-April, she gave lectures and lecture-recitals at the University of Tel Aviv and the Hebrew University and Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem. In October she was awarded a fellowship to study music theory by Gruppo Analisi e Teoria Musicale, Italy. In November 2014 she performed the “Concerto per galassie e pianoforte: Viaggio dal big bang all’origine della vita” at Teatro Miela in Trieste, with astrophysicist Massimo Ramella. Beyond a string of other presentations and publications, she started new collaborations with colleagues in Graz, Stockholm, Montreal, Bologna, Como, and Yerevan. She was assisted in her research by FWF-funded student assistants Marlies Bodinger and Florian Eckl.

Tatevik Shakhkulyan, from Komitas State Conservatory in Yerevan and the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, has been a postdoctoral guest researcher at the centre since September 2014. She is researching the structure and perception of traditional Armenian music, and her approach combines traditional music theory, analysis and history with computer-based analyses of a music database. We congratulate her on the publication of her book entitled (in Armenian) “Komitas: His Early Creative Period” in 2014.

In August, student assistant Sabrina Sattmann was upgraded to a project assistant funded by the University of Graz (“Initiative Forschung”). In October, we welcomed two new student assistants, Daniel Reisinger and Valentin Grbic. We are grateful to our previous student assistants Andreas Fuchs and Andreas Gaich for their many contributions to our research.

Two other centre members were externally funded. Hande Sağlam became a member of the centre on 1 October 2013 in a project entitled “Music, Religion and Integration” funded by Land Steiermark. Stefan Reichmann joined us from March to August 2014 for a qualitative evaluation of a sonification platform for climate data, funded by FWF.

Another highlight was the evaluation of the centre by the University of Graz’s Performance and Quality Management unit. On 15-16 May, we were visited by Alan Marsden (UK) and Jukka Louhivuori (Finland). In their report, they praised the academic performance and collegiality of the unit and recommended that we focus more strongly on music psychology in the future.
STAFF DURING 2013/2014

Director
Richard Parncutt

Lecturers
Bernd Brabec de Mori (until April 2014)
Annemarie Seither-Preisler (from May 2014)

FWF Postdoc Researcher
Erica Bisesi

Student Assistants
Andreas Gaich
Andreas Fuchs
Marlies Bodinger (FWF)
Florian Eckl (FWF)
Valentin Grbic
Daniel Reisinger

Project assistants
Sabrina Sattmann (Pitch perception in musical sounds)
Hande Sağlam (Music, religion, integration)

Guest Lecturers
Manuela Marin (University of Vienna)
Martin Winter

Doctoral students
Karim Weth (University of Salzburg)
Zuzana Cenkerová (Comenius University, Bratislava)

Secretary
Michaela Schwarz

Advisory board
Andreas Dorschel, Department of Music Aesthetics, University of Music and Performing Arts Graz
Gerhard Eckel, Department of Electronic Music and Acoustics, Univ. of Music and Performing Arts Graz
Research Partners and Collaborations

Richard Parncutt
- Anders Friberg (Speech, Music and Hearing, KTH Stockholm)
- Ali Cenk Gedik (Department of Ethnomusicology Dokuz Eylul U, İzmir)
- Gerd Grupe (Department of Ethnomusicology, U Music and Performing Arts, Graz)
- Graham Hair (Department of Contemporary Arts, Manchester Metropolitan U)
- Susan Hallam (Institute of Education, U London)
- Martina Koegeler-Abdi (Dept. of English, Germanic and Romance studies, U Copenhagen)
- Silke Kruse-Weber (Dept of Music Education, U Music and Performing Arts, Graz)
- Craig Sapp (Department of Music, Stanford University)
- Peter Sedlmayr (Institute of Cell Biology, Histology and Embryology, Medical U Graz)
- William Forde Thompson (Department of Psychology, Macquarie U, Sydney)
- Kathi Vogt, Visda Goudarzi (Dept Electronic Music, U Music Performing Arts, Graz)

Bernd Brabec de Mori
- Estelle Amy de la Breteque (INET-MD Universidade de Lisboa)
- Miguel A. García (Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Filosofía)
- Matthias Lewy (Departamento de música, Universidade de Brasilia)
- Sandra Cruz Rivera (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Antropología)
- Hein Schoer (Maastricht University, Sound Studies)
- Victor A. Stoichită (Centre de Recherche en ethnomusicologie, CNRS, Paris)

Annemarie Seither-Preisler
- Monika Brunner (Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic, University Hospital Heidelberg)
- Wilfried Gruhn (Academy of Music, Freiburg)
- Manuela Paechter (Department of Educational Psychology, University of Graz)
- Susanne Reiterer (Center for Language Learning and Teaching Research, Univ. Vienna)
- Peter Schneider (Department of Neurology, University Hospital Heidelberg)

Erica Bisesi
- Mario Baroni (Istituto Liszt and University of Bologna)
- Sylvain Caron (University of Montréal)
- Anders Friberg (KTH Stockholm)
- Antonio Grande (Conservatorio di Como)
- Dieter Kleinrath and Christian Utz (KUG, Graz)
- Jennifer MacRitchie (Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana; University of Western Sydney)
- Tatevik Shakhkulyan (Komitas State Conservatory in Yerevan)
- Caroline Traube (BRAMS, Montréal)
- Andreas Woyke (Piano, University for Music and Performing Arts Graz)
RESEARCH GRANTS


Höldrich, Robert; Vogt, Katharina; Goudarzi, Visda; Steiner, Andrea; Kirchengast, Gottfried; Parncutt, Richard. *SysSon, A systematic procedure to develop sonifications.* 1 March 2012 – 28 February 2015. k€ 201 (FWF)

Schneider, Peter; Seither-Preisler, Annemarie. *AMseL: Audio- and neuroplasticity of musical learning.* 1 April 2009 – 31 October 2015. >k€ 1500 (German BMBF)

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Brabec, Bernd; Winter, Martin: *Auditive Wissenskulturen. Das Wissen klanglicher Praxis,* University of Graz, University of Music and Performing Arts, Graz, 18 – 21 June 2014.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles


Edited Books


Contributions to Edited Books


8


**Book Reviews**


CONFERENCES

Keynotes


Seither-Preisler, Annemarie; Schneider, Peter (2014, July 1). *Musical ability and music learning from a neuro-cognitive perspective: results from attendant research investigating German school children*. Keynote presented at Language Learning, Music and the Brain, Vienna, Austria.

Proceedings Contributions


Spoken Presentations


Parn-cutt, Richard; Fuchs, Andreas; Gaich, Andreas Erwin; Kaiser, Fabio (2014, July 5). The perceptual history of consonance and dissonance: Counting vertical pitch-class sets in vocal polyphony. Paper presented at Medieval and Renaissance Music Conference, University of Birmingham, Department of Music, Birmingham, UK.


Seither-Preisler, Annemarie (2014, November 12). An instrument for every child. Paper presented at TEDx Graz: Horizon - There’s no such thing, Graz, Austria.


Posters


Juwan, Andreas; Eckel, Gerhard; Parncutt, Richard (2014, September). *Loudness war and hypercompression: Quantifying the perception of compression effects*. Poster presented at International Conference of Students of Systematic Musicology (SysMus14), London, UK.


Seither-Preisler, Annemarie; Schneider, Peter (2013). *Abnormal synchronization patterns of left and right auditory cortex in children with ADHD*. Poster presented at 19th Annual Meeting of Organization for Human Brain Mapping, Seattle, USA.

Serralach, Bettina; Parncutt, Richard; Seither-Preisler, Annemarie; Schneider, Peter (2014, May-June). *Benefit of musical ability and practice on the auditory profile of children with attention deficit (hyperactivity) disorder (AD(H)D) or dyslexia – a combined MEG- and MRI-study*. Poster presented at Neurosciences and Music, Dijon, France.

OTHER RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Presentations by Centre Members

**Bisesi, Erica** (2014, March 24). Sketching the trajectory from Schubert and Liszt to Expressionism in an emotion-based approach to music analysis. University of Tel Aviv, Tel Aviv, Israel.

**Bisesi, Erica** (2014, March 27). How does music expression depend on structure? University of Tel Aviv, Buchman-Mehta School of Music Tel Aviv, Israel.


**Bisesi, Erica**; MacRitchie, Jennifer (2014, March 13). The sound of emotion. Meerscheinschlössl, University of Graz, Austria.


**Parncutt, Richard; Sattmann, Sabrina; Gaich, Andreas** (2014, July 8). Root and scale-step compatibility of musical chords: A methodological comparison. Auditory Cognition Group, Institute of Neuroscience, University of Newcastle, UK.

**Seither-Preisler, Annemarie** (2014, March 21). Legasthenie und musikalisches Lernen - Erkenntnisse aus der JeKi-Begleitforschungsstudie AMseL, Musikonservatorium Bern, Switzerland.


Presentations by Guests of the Centre

**Arthurs, Yuko** (Sheffield, UK). Consonance and pleasantness of musical chords: Effect of context and timbre, 2013 November 12.


**Ginsborg, Jane** (Manchester, UK). Collaborative performance: Learning from the use of visual and auditory cues by musicians with hearing impairments, 2014 May 27.

**MacRitchie, Jennifer** (Lugano, Switzerland). Analysing the aural and visual communication of expressive intentions, 2014 January 14.


**Weth, Karim** (Salzburg, Austria). Why we listen to sad music, 2013 December 3.

**MEDIA REPORTS**


2014 February 24. *Galileo und seine Freunde*. Newspaper debate section by various authors including *Bernd Brabec de Mori*. Der Standard, Austria.


2014 August-December. Over 60 reports in Austrian and International media including Der Standard and Die Presse, on research by *Annemarie Seither-Preisler* with titles such as *Musik kann alles*, *Grazer Forscher weisen Einfluss von Musikunterricht auf Gehirn nach*, *Das Spielen eines Instruments verbessert die Hörwahrnehmung bei Kindern*, *Wer musiziert, kann besser lesen und schreiben*, *Instrumentalunterricht beeinflusst die Gehirnaktivität von Kindern*, *ADHS: Musikstunden fördern Hirnentwicklung*.

**THESIS AND DISSERTATIONS**


Sattmann, Sabrina (2014). *Aspects promoting the occurrence of chills while listening to music* (Unpublished Bachelor’s thesis). University of Graz, Austria. Supervised by Parncutt.

