

Dance, Age and Politics

Proceedings of the 30th Symposium of the
ICTM Study Group on Ethnochoreology



Edited by
Vivien Apjok
Kinga Povedák
Vivien Szónyi
Sándor Varga



nka
Nemzeti Kulturális Alap



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DANCE, AGE AND POLITICS

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Editors:

Apjok, Vivien
Povedák, Kinga
Szőnyi, Vivien
Varga, Sándor

Language Proofreaders:

Bibra Wharton, Anne von
Mellish, Liz
Nahachewsky, Andriy

Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology
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Program Committee:

Georgiana Gore (Co-Chair)

Daniela Stavělová (Co-Chair)

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Maria Koutsouba

Mats Nilsson

Local Arrangements Committee:

Sándor Varga (Chair)

Vivien Apjok (Administrator)

Vivien Szőnyi

János Fügedi

Editors: Vivien Apjok, Kinga Povedák, Vivien Szőnyi and Sándor Varga

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Sándor Varga
Editor

Greeting words

(Speech delivered at the opening of the Symposium on July 28, 2018)

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Let me introduce myself: my name is Sándor Varga, Chair of the Hungarian Association of Ethnochoreology, and Chair of the Local Organizing Committee of the 30th Symposium of the ICTM Study Group on Ethnochoreology.

I would like to welcome you here in the Szent-Györgyi Albert Agóra, the most important cultural and community center of Szeged. Let me express our thanks to the director Hedvig Orbán, and all her colleagues, who will help us during this symposium.

There are three institutions contributing to the work of the Local Organizing Committee: the Institute for Musicology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of the Szeged University; and the Hungarian Association for Ethnochoreology. All three organizations are committed supporters of culture, research and education.

The Institute for Musicology has a small division, which was managed for many years by György Martin, which has dealt with research into the traditional dance cultures of the Alpine-Carpathian region since 1965.

The Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of the Szeged University was the first among the Hungarian academic institutions dealing with the research of folk culture. It was established in 1929. Since 2006 we have had a specialisation here on dance folkloristics and dance anthropology on both BA and MA levels and we have dance research as subject among our PhD courses as well.

We are also part of a very important international Erasmus Mundus joint programme. The Choreomundus MA programme investigates dance as Intangible Cultural Heritage within the broader contexts of Ethnochoreology, the Anthropology of Dance, Dance Studies, and Heritage Studies. Our partner institutions are: the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim; the Université Clermont Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France and the University of Roehampton, London, United Kingdom.

The Hungarian Association of Ethnochoreology was established in 2011. The aim of the founders was to create a platform where the Hungarian dance researchers, and the members of the dance-house movement, and stage-dancers could meet and share their experiences.

This event is a momentous one for us, for all three organizing institutes. The success of Hungarian dance folkloristics in the past was appreciated not only in Hungary, but in international forums as well. Nowadays we are in a period of change. A complete reorganisation of the Hungarian academic life is underway, making new demands on us, which we must confront, without losing the real aims of our work. I believe this is only possible within an international framework. Your presence here is very important at this moment.

Let me introduce three colleagues of mine who are also members of the Local Organizing Committee: Viven Apjok and Vivien Szőnyi, PhD students at the University

fo Szeged, and Prof. János Fügedi of the Institute for Musicology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Three technicians among us are also our colleagues, and the assistants you have met already by the registration are or were our students as well. I would like to express my thanks to them already in advance of the work to come.

It is a great honour for us to host you here in Szeged, and we hope you will enjoy your stay and your work here.

I wish a successful symposium for every participant.

Thank you!

Sándor Varga