

Safeguarding the Musical Traditions of Eastern Christianity Salvaguardare le Tradizioni Musicali del Cristianesimo Orientale

24-26 May / maggio, 2015

Rome Global Gateway, University of Notre Dame, Via Ostilia 15, 00184 Roma
<http://sacredmusic.nd.edu/special-projects/safeguarding/>

Co-sponsors: Sacred Music at Notre Dame
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Abstract: Safeguarding the Musical Traditions of Eastern Christianity

Since 2003, 155 countries have ratified the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Convention recognized oral traditions, languages, performing arts, “rituals and festive events” among the kinds of heritage that need to be “safeguarded,” against the “grave threats of deterioration, disappearance and destruction” posed by the processes of globalization, social change, even intolerance. This description of intangible cultural heritage aptly fits the musical traditions of Eastern Christianity, which consist of about 25 ancient communities located in Europe, Africa, and Asia: from Greece stretching through Russia to Armenia, and from Ethiopia to India. Many of these Christians are Orthodox, some are Catholic, a few are Protestant. Their musical traditions have been transmitted for centuries through the techniques and practices of pre-modern pedagogy and training. But such methods are increasingly difficult to maintain today, due to changes in culture and education, political pressures, and widespread emigration away from the traditional homelands.

According to the 2003 UNESCO Convention: “Safeguarding’ means measures aimed at ensuring the viability of the intangible cultural heritage, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion, enhancement, transmission, particularly through formal and non-formal education, as well as the revitalization of the various aspects of such heritage.” It is also essential “to ensure the widest possible participation of communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that create, maintain and transmit such heritage, and to involve them actively in its management.” Our conference, to be held in May 24-26, 2015 at the International Global Gateway Rome Center of the University of Notre Dame, will open an international dialogue about how these longstanding traditions can be safeguarded, preserved and passed on to new generations, based on the UNESCO convention, the Kyiv Statement of 2010 on the Protection of Religious Properties within the Framework of the World Heritage Convention, and other international standards.

Salvaguardare le tradizioni musicali del cristianesimo orientale

Dall’anno 2003, 155 stati hanno ratificato la Convenzione UNESCO per la salvaguardia del patrimonio culturale immateriale. La Convenzione ha riconosciuto “tradizioni ed espressioni orali, ivi compreso il linguaggio,” “le arti dello spettacolo,” “gli eventi rituali e festivi” tra i tipi di patrimonio che hanno bisogno di “salvaguardia” contro “gravi pericoli di deterioramento, scomparsa e distruzione” minacciati dai “processi di globalizzazione e di trasformazione sociale,” ed il “fenomeno dell’intolleranza.” Questa descrizione del patrimonio culturale immateriale si adatta giustamente alle tradizioni musicali del cristianesimo orientale, che consistono in circa 25 antiche comunità presenti in Europa, Africa, ed Asia: dalla Grecia fino alla Russia e l’ Armenia, dall’ Etiopia fino all’India. Molti cristiani orientali sono ortodossi, alcuni sono cattolici, pochi sono protestanti. Le loro tradizioni musicali sono state trasmesse per secoli attraverso le tecniche e le pratiche pedagogiche e la formazione orale. Ma tali metodi sono sempre più difficili da preservare oggi, a causa dei cambiamenti nella cultura e nell’istruzione, le pressioni politiche e la diffusa emigrazione verso paesi lontani dalla patria di origine.

Secondo la Convenzione dell’UNESCO del 2003: “Per ‘salvaguardia’ s’intendono le misure volte a garantire la vitalità del patrimonio culturale immateriale, ivi compresa l’identificazione, la documentazione, la ricerca, la preservazione, la protezione, la promozione, la valorizzazione, la trasmissione, in particolare attraverso un’educazione formale e informale, come pure il ravvivamento dei vari aspetti di tale patrimonio culturale.” È anche essenziale “per garantire la più ampia partecipazione di comunità, gruppi e, ove appropriato, individui che creano, mantengono e trasmettono tale patrimonio culturale, al fine di coinvolgerli attivamente nella sua gestione.” La nostra conferenza, che si terrà a 24-26 giugno 2015 nel Centro Romano dell’Università di Notre Dame, darà avvio ad un dialogo internazionale su come queste antiche tradizioni possono essere salvaguardate, conservate e tramandate alle nuove generazioni, in base alla convenzione UNESCO, la Dichiarazione Kiev del 2010 sulla protezione delle proprietà religiose nel quadro della Convenzione del Patrimonio Mondiale, e le altre norme internazionali.

Sunday 24 May, 4-6 PM

OPENING RECEPTION WITH SNACKS

The Nazrani Choir: Performance of Syriac chants from the liturgy of the Syro-Malabar Church.

Margot Fassler (University of Notre Dame, USA), Film: "Where the Hudson meets the Nile: Teaching Coptic chant in Jersey City, USA"

Monday, 25 May

9:00-10:30, OPENING SESSION, WELCOMES BY DIGNITARIES

9:00-9:15 S.E.R. Mons. Carlos Alberto de Pinho Moreira Azevedo, Titular Bishop of Belali, Delegato del Pontificio Consiglio della Cultura, Sezione per il Settore dei Beni Culturali e della Musica

9:15-9:30 Rev. Monsignor Vincenzo De Gregorio, Preside del Pontificio Istituto di Musica Sacra

9:30-9:45 Rev. Samir Khalil Samir, SJ, Pro-Rettore del Pontificio Istituto Orientale

9:45-10:00 Rev. P. D. Jordi-Agustí Piqué I Collado, OSB, Preside del Pontificio Istituto Liturgico

10:00-10:15 Ms Aparna Tandon, Project Specialist, Sound and Image Collections Conservation, International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property

10:15-10:30 Prof. Theodore J. Cachey Jr., Albert J. and Helen M. Ravarino Family Director of Dante and Italian Studies at the University of Notre Dame, and Academic Director of the Notre Dame Rome Global Gateway

10:30-11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:00-11:30 SESSION 1: INTRODUCING THE THEME OF THE CONGRESS

11:00-11:30 Bert Groen (Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, Österreich), "The UNESCO Chairs of Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue and the Preservation of Religious Popular Culture (including Sacred Music)"

11:30-12:00 Peter Jeffery (University of Notre Dame, USA), "Safeguarding the Musical Traditions of Eastern Christianity"

12:00-2:00 LUNCH

2:00-3:00 SESSION 2: BYZANTINE-RITE TRADITIONS

2:00-2:30 Daniel Galadza (Universität Wien, Österreich), "Safeguarding Orthodox Musical Traditions in Ukraine: The Example of the Kyiv Caves Lavra and the Lviv Brotherhood"

2:30-3:00 Giuseppe Sanfratello (Københavns Universitet, Danmark), "The Liturgical Chant Tradition of the Sicilian-Albanian Community: Techniques of Oral Transmission and Written Safeguard"

3:00-3:30 John A. Graham (Princeton University, USA), "Preserving Georgian Orthodox Chant: Practicalities and Challenges"

3:30-4:00 Peter Dufka (Pontificio Istituto Orientale, Roma), "The traditional Christian Music of Eastern Slovakia"

4:00 BREAK

4:15-5:45 WORKSHOP ON BYZANTINE CHANT, with Axion Estin Foundation's Soloists

7:00 CONCERT AT SAN GIORGIO IN VELABRO, Via del Velabro 19. 00186 Roma
(church doors open at 6 for performers)

7:00-7:30 Mgaloblebi Choir (Georgian Orthodox Church)

7:30-8:00 Coro dei Papadhes di Piana degli Albanesi, Sicily (Albanian Greek Catholic Church)

8:00-8:30 Axion Estin Foundation's soloists (Greek Orthodox Church)

Tuesday 26 May

9-10:30 SESSION 3: SYRIAN TRADITIONS

9:00 Tala Jarjour (University of Notre Dame, USA), "Knowledge, Transmission, and Archiving in Syriac Chant"

9:30 Jason Hamacher (Lost Origin Productions, USA), "From Club to Cathedral: How a Punk Drummer Discovered and Recorded Ancient Syrian Chant"

10:00 Toufic Maatouk (Pontificio Istituto di Musica Sacra, Rome/ Antonine University-Lebanon), "An Outline of a Modal Grammar of the Syrian Hymns of the Maronite Office for Holy Week"

10:30-11 COFFEE BREAK

11:00 SESSION 4: DIASPORAS

11:00-11:30 Alexander Khalil (University of California, San Diego, USA), “Preaching to the Choir: Preservation and Change in Eastern Chant Traditions in Diasporic Communities in America”

11:30-12:00 Kay Kaufman Shelemay (Harvard University, USA), “Transmitting Ethiopian Orthodox Music and Liturgy in Diaspora: New Challenges for a Venerable Tradition”

12:00-12:30 Tsehai Birhanu (Ethiopian Orthodox Church, New York), “Music in the Eastern Orthodox Churches”

12:30-2:00 Lunch

2:00 SESSION 5: ARCHIVES

2:00-2:30 Robert Simon (University of Notre Dame, USA), "Building the Collection of Eastern Christian Musical Traditions at Notre Dame"

2:30-3:00 Nicola Tangari (Pontificio Istituto di Musica Sacra, Roma, Italia) “The Collections of Audio Recordings of Eastern Liturgical Music Now Preserved at the Accademia Santa Cecilia and the Istituto di Beni Sonori e Audiovisivi of Rome”

3:00 BREAK

3:30-4:30 WORKSHOP WITH MGALOBLEBI GEORGIAN CHOIR

4:30-5:15 FILM PRESENTATION

Joseph Palackal (Christian Musicological Society of India), “Jesus and India: A Connection through the Aramaic Language and Music.”

5:30 WRAP-UP