

NEWSLETTER

of the
ARNOLD BAKE SOCIETY
Autumn 2020

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News, articles and reviews etc. for the Arnold Bake Society Newsletter are welcome and can be sent to [bakesociety\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:bakesociety[at]gmail.com). The next issue will be Winter 2020-21.

Website: arnoldbakesociety.nl

Announcement: ALV to go ahead on Zoom, 7 November

Although the next Arnold Bake activities day was planned for Saturday 7 November 2020 at the Universiteitstheater of the UvA, due to the corona restrictions it has had to be postponed once more. However, we are holding the Algemene Ledenvergadering (ALV, or Annual General Meeting) on 7 November anyway, through video conferencing on internet (Zoom). Bake Society members will be sent the Zoom invitation a couple of days before the 7th, plus some handy hints about Zoom for those who haven't used it yet. The meeting will start at 13.00 hours, and continue up to 15.00 hours. The agenda, last ALV minutes and financial report for 2019 have already been sent round to members. If you have not received them please let us know.

It looks like we'll have to postpone the activities day till spring 2021. For April this year we had already arranged a full programme (before the lockdown), that we were then hoping to present in November. Some of the presentations will be moved to the next "live" day, and for others, we are thinking of interviewing the speakers and putting the video recordings on the internet – on our website or on YouTube for instance, we will see.

Amsterdam Fonds voor de Kunst – subsidy application

In the autumn of 2019, the board of the Bake Society decided to make an application to the Amsterdam Fonds voor de Kunst (AFK) for the four-year subsidy plan, 2021-2024. We went to the AFK offices for a "Speed date" to get some information in addition to the AFK website, and made a plan for extra activities of the Bake Society which would need financing. We submitted the application at the beginning of February this year (2020) and were informed in August that our application was turned down. Our idea was to add house concerts, presentations at museums and workshops to our activities, and start an archiving project for world music and dance publications. Now we will go in search of support from other sources!

Arnold Bake Society website

The new website is up!

arnoldbakesociety.nl

We have a lot more to add to it.

The Endendijk Collection website

www.tradmusictrails.com

The Endendijk Collection contains folk and traditional music from Western Europe to Central Asia with a strong emphasis on the Balkan. It also includes recordings from the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia. At the Arnold Bake Society Day on 9 November 2019, Peter Endendijk gave an introduction to the collection, which is held by him and Annemiek den Uijl. The couple met in 1982, and travelled frequently to the Balkan and Central European countries. The website has recently been reworked, and contains information on the collection, its history, stories, links to the catalog and a multimedia menu item where you can listen to tracks which have already been digitized.

Extract from one of the “stories” on the website – from the menu: about/stories/Epiphany in Northern Greece:

Volakas – Arapides

Volakas is a small quiet village in the Nevrokopi mountains near the Bulgarian border. The inhabitants, around 1000 work in the marble industry, tourism and agriculture. Many Volakas people, who worked in Germany in Stuttgart and Wolfsburg returned home when they retired. Around the 5th of January Volakas is not quiet anymore. The tradition of Epiphany starts! After dinner in our hotel around midnight men came in with black painted faces, dressed with animal skins and with many heavy bells around their waist. What a noise! They were “the Bears” from Crete and cheated each other and the guests. Many people got black stripes on their faces being touched by them. Some minutes later the “Arapides” from Volakas came in. They looked the same as the “Bears” from Crete, but their bells were much heavier and even noisier. They jumped around wildly and guests who had not yet been touched got the black markers too on their face. The old year is over, everyone is prepared now for the New Year! Καλή Χρόνια, χρόνια πολλά!

Next morning 6th of January the New Year’s Vesper starts in the church of the Prophet Elias. It’s a tradition to bid on the church’s icon after the Vesper and the one who bid at the moment the time is up (that means the moment the egg timer rings!) may have the icon in the house for the coming year. The lucky one had to invite in return all the inhabitants at home New Year’s Eve for a drink! After the celebration in the church the priest and his acolytes came to the little pond on the village square to bless the water. After sanctifying the Holy Cross the priest threw a little cross in the pond. As quick as a haze a young boy jumped in the water and got the little cross. He got his special blessing for 2018! Everyone who wished to be blessed could now go into the water. People at the square start singing and the circle of dancers becomes wider and wider. On top of the circle the lucky woman with the icon and the man with the Holy Cross.

To start the ritual of the young couples the musicians with gaida and dacharedes arrive. In 2017 three young couples married. We all went slowly to the house of the first couple, singing and dancing. We got small drinks and snacks from the family and the procession returns to the pond with the first young couple. There they walk into the knee deep water to be blessed for the New Year. And we repeat our trip for couple two and three.

The 7th of January early in the morning the village is full of activity. Many households prepare the dressing of the “Bears”. The “Arapides” wear black pastoral cloaks that cover the entire body and impressive goatskin head masks. On their waist they place three large bells, “batali” (large bells) or “kypri” (smaller bells), which are harmonically matched. They also hold a large wooden sword and a small bag of ashes, which they gathered during the Twelve Days of Christmas. It takes hours to have the bells in the right way around shoulders, back and waist. Other people are preparing the mountain tea and the chicken tomato soup at the village square. And tsipouro and wine is free available to keep you warm.

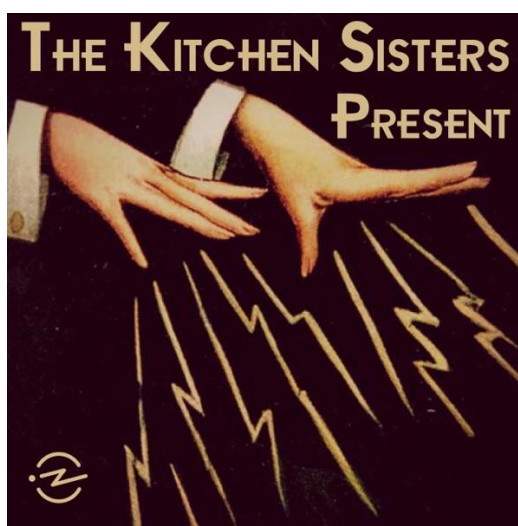
According to the tradition like the kallikantzaroi this night different stuff is “stolen” and exposed on the village square. We see chairs, lamps, a fence, toys for children, etc. The owners can get their stuff back for small money.

The first “Arapides” and the accompanied masculine bride and groom arrive after noon. They move in a typical way around each other. It’s a kind of waddle and toddle. The bells sounds as a mantra. More groups arrive from other directions. The climax is a “clash” between the different groups and the trophy is a kidnapped bride, who was exposed to the people on the balcony of a nearby house. Victory for one of the groups. And victory had to be shared. More drinks, more snacks! More singing and dancing! So for many people it was a long and happy night!

Rabindranath Tagore – 100 years since his visit to the Netherlands

Some personal thoughts contributed by Ludwig Pesch, with links.

Listen to 148 - The International Congress of Youth Voices from The Kitchen Sisters Present in Podcasts:
<https://podcasts.apple.com/nl/podcast/the-kitchen-sisters-present/id814067846?l=en&i=1000489121564>



Strangely - or rather happily - reminiscent of Tagore's ever so inspiring ideas on (lifelong self-) education. Not merely "ideas" but also daily activities and daring experiments, all along risking his reputation as writer (Nobel Prize 1913) while exploring other fields like music, dance drama, visual arts, informal education, social activism, intercultural and rural economics (e.g. Sriniketan and having his son Rathindrath educated in America to get a better understanding of the possibilities offered by science). All things we tend to take for granted but easily feel disheartened in the face of the challenges involved, obviously. And then the courage and eloquence of the youngsters interviewed by "The kitchen sisters"! - both formerly with National Public Radio radio which you know to be so important for America's nonconformist movements for decennia when the commercial media tended towards polarisation:

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kitchen_Sisters

(for another episode see More Kitchen Sisters, below)

Okay back to us here and now as well as a hundred years ago - I happened to listen to their unusual and highly "musical" radio program in between re-reading Reba Som's marvelous music biography, *Rabindranath Tagore: The Singer and his Song* (Penguin Viking New Delhi 2009 ed.) where she highlights the following feature of education at Santiniketan, at least as long as he was personally involved:

pp. 131-2 “From his travels abroad, Rabindranath would send notes of reminder to Dinendranath that morning and evening he had to distribute to the children their daily quota of music. [14]

Children studying in school in Santiniketan were brought up in a free atmosphere, unstifled by regulations and restrictions. Tagore, who had disliked the experience of school himself, sought to raise children in the bosom of nature. Songs composed specially for children, Tagore hoped, would see them participate in the glories of the seasons and understand the little mysteries of life. Trying to imagine the world from the perspective of a child Tagore acquired a childlike - though not childish - curiosity which kept him forever young and full of humour. He often referred to his school as the school of truants and sang along with his students such compositions as - *We are not a goody goody lot and that is our only qualification* [15] or *We are a bunch of vagabonds quivering like drops of water on the lotus leaf of life* [16].”

[14] while crossing the China Sea in 1916

[15] Bhālo mānush noyi ré morā bhālo mānush noyi/Gunér modhyé oyi āmadér gunér modhyé oyi.

[16] Āmra lokhi (lakshmi) chhārar dol bhaubér poddo (padma) potré jol shaudā koricché tololomol.

There couldn't be nicer counterpoint to relish amidst the serious issues constantly weighing on most of Tagore's contemporaries - and ourselves. (World War I then in full gear, revolts and virulent colonialism/racism/castism with violent repression in the air right there and then, the same plus climate change for today's young just as those among us whose skepticism made us alert to the impending dangers of globalisation since the 1970s and waiting in vain for reason to prevail amongst "world leaders".)

And a counterpoint to remember as well (hopefully with a nice rendition of the above mentioned songs): like on the occasion of *Tagore's visit to the Netherlands exactly a century ago in September this year (September 1920)*.

Which also reminds me of my meeting with Reba Som, a learned Rabindra Sangeet exponent herself, in the glamorous premises of the Kolkata Rabindranath Tagore cultural centre. I hadn't read her book yet, so missed the above character trait she brings out so eloquently, but gifted her with a copy of a children's musical picture book I co-created with musician artist Arun V.C., as tangible follow up an ambitious research project in Kerala (in collaboration with the Bern University of the Arts), touching upon similar themes and described here in some detail along with freely accessible video contents:

Sam, Reflection, Gathering Together!

https://sam.mimemo.net/Vaitari_book_01.html

Going by Reba Som's colourful description I feel confident that our creative, unconventional effort would have met with Tagore's wholehearted approval: to stimulate joyful collaboration through music, movement in a light hearted manner where most needed, and often a distant dream - even today!

Which I take as being corroborated by Tagore's views on innovation cited in another book:

"It is not the distinctive quality of man to be a mere repetition of his ancestors. Animals cling to the nests of their effete habits; man expresses himself age after age in new creations." - Rabindranath Tagore in 1931, *Tagore on Gandhi* (Rupa and Co., New Delhi 2008, p. 31)

And brings us back to the spirit of the podcast I warmly recommend, as a much needed "moral boost" not to be missed!

Translingual Discourse in Ethnomusicology

The **TDE vol. 5 (2019)** journal is now online.

The journal contains a mixture of texts from the pioneering days of comparative musicology/ethnomusicology and more recent articles.

There are 5 articles, which can be downloaded from the site, both translated into English and in the original language:

<https://www.tde-journal.org/index.php/tde/issue/view/348>).

1. The common Javanese cipher notation (The Kepathihan notation from Solo) [1940], by J.S. Brandts Buys
2. The appreciation of exotic music throughout the centuries [1942], by Jaap Kunst
3. Introduction to A Panoramic View of Popular Music in Argentina [1944] by Carlos Vega, with an essay on the science of folklore
4. Religious music and its role in preserving and promoting Iranian national music [2006], by Hassan Mashun
5. The categorization of musical heritage in oral tradition societies [2008], by Simha Arom, Nathalie Fernando, Susanne Furniss, Sylvie Le Bomin, Fabrice Marandola and Jean Molino.

Music museums

Not only do music museums in the Netherlands have a difficult time – see this example in Nepal.

<https://kathmandupost.com/art-culture/2020/07/21/a-disconcerting-time-for-nepal-s-only-music-museum>

Should the Bake Society send a message of support?

Recently this music instrument museum won the Nikkei Asia Award 2020:

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Nikkei-Asia-Prizes/Saving-Nepal-s-musical-instruments-from-fading-into-the-past>.

Sent in by Dunya Verwey, Museum Geelvinck

More Kitchen Sisters

Last-minute addition sent in by Ludwig Pesch, 3 November 2020

While listening to an earlier episode missed until today I realized this one reflects what many of us have been discussing during Bake days, with mixed outcomes given the sheer amount of stuff to be not just preserved but indexed and shared. And all of that in ways that work, rather than overwhelming or doomed to fail for financial reasons etc.

Some fellow members may get a moral boost out of this episode, in a different manner than the one recommended earlier.

So if there's space and patience for it, here's a last minute contribution worth considering- see below why!

Ours being difficult times for chores requiring persistence in the field of culture, it may help to see we aren't alone in this task, and remaining in touch is more important than ever. And as told here, we have to keep future users in mind even if unsure of appreciation or support right now.

More easily said than done, but don't we know from our personal success stories that exploring paths off the beaten track is what makes a difference? And is rewarding in its own right? (I believe so.)

Listen to 138 - The Keepers - Archive Fever, with host Frances McDormand from The Kitchen Sisters Present in Podcasts.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/nl/podcast/the-kitchen-sisters-present/id814067846?l=en&i=1000469349660>

The Keepers, from The Kitchen Sisters and PRX with host, Academy Award-winning actress Frances McDormand. Stories of activist archivists, rogue librarians, curators, collectors and historians. Guardians of history, large and small. Protectors of the free flow of information and ideas. Keepers of the culture and the culture and collections they keep.

In this hour, Bob Dylan's Archive, Henri Langlois' legendary Cinémathèque in Paris, The Keeper of the National Archives, Nancy Pearl: the first librarian action figure, The Dark Side of the Dewey Decimal System and stories of Prince's epic Vault in Minneapolis. All these tales and more.

Festival Sacred Songs in The Hague

Concerts in the third edition of Festival Sacred Songs are planned from 21 November to 4 December 2020, if the corona restrictions allow it (currently, theaters must close for two weeks from 4 November. Cinema nights on 5, 12 (and 19?) November presumably cannot take place). Festival Sacred Songs is an initiative of the Zuiderstrandtheater and the Culture Connection foundation. The program has been developed in collaboration with partners from The Hague, including De Vaillant, De Nieuwe Regentes and Initiatives of Change. Jeanneke den Boer is the festival curator.

Concerts in the Nieuwe Kerk

Saturday 21 November – Nieuwe Kerk, The Hague: “Sufi Spirit” – Belgian-Tunisian singer **Ghalia Benali** presents the program ‘Hadret Ishq’: an anthology of the rich repertoire of Sufi poets through the ages.

Saturday 28 November – Nieuwe Kerk, The Hague: “Sacred Nature” – **Trio Merope** with singer and *kankles* (Baltic harp) player **Indre Jurgeviliciute**, guitarist **Bert Cools** and flutist **Jean-Christophe Bonnafous**. The trio is teaming up with **Petites Planètes**, a collective consisting of the French experimental filmmakers **Vincent Moon and Priscilla Telmon**.

Sunday 29 November – Nieuwe Kerk, The Hague: “Women’s Voices” – In this new production curated by Festival Sacred Songs, **Wishful Singing** presents the repertoire of strong medieval women including Kassia (810-867) and Hildegard von Bingen (1207-1291), and contemporary composers such as Mathilde Wantenaar. For this production Wishful Singing is collaborating with spoken word artist **Siela Ardjosemito-Jethoe**, philosopher **Stine Jensen** and dance company **Kalpanarts**.

Friday 4 December – Nieuwe Kerk, The Hague: “The Real Gospel Experience” - **G-Project Choir, conductor Leo Davelaar**. The members of this choir represent different cultures and Christian communities and come from the Rotterdam-The Hague region. They perform black gospel.

Various other events are planned as part of the festival during this period in The Hague; see www.festivalsacredsongs.com
culture-connection.org

ICMPC16-ESCOM11 Call for papers 28-31 July 2021

Virtual time-zone locations: Australia, Middle-East, West-Europe, Americas

Papers are invited for the 16th International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition jointly organised with the 11th triennial conference of ESCOM to be held 28- 31 July 2021 across multiple timezones for virtual participation.

The conference welcomes all papers whose primary purpose is the systematic investigation of musical behaviour and cognition. The theme of *connectivity and diversity* draws special attention to variations in cognition across individuals and contexts, whilst acknowledging the role of 'connectedness' whether between people, material and environment or sites of neurological processing. Papers specifically addressing the conference theme will be highlighted in the programme. There is no expectation that all papers address the theme.

Participation in the conference will be through virtual attendance. All presentations will be part of a global programme that integrates presentations from different timezones, facilitating discussion, networking and socialising across locations.

CfP dates:

7 Dec 2020 - Deadline for abstract submissions

February 2021 - Review outcomes

For details of the conference organisation and the guidelines for submissions, please go to the website: <https://icmpc2021.sites.sheffield.ac.uk/home>

If you have any queries about the conference, please contact the organisers at: icmpc-escom2021@sheffield.ac.uk

ICAS 12, 24-27 August 2021 in Kyoto, Japan

The Twelfth International Convention of Asia Scholars

From the ICAS Secretariat & ICAS 12 Organising Committee:

The submission deadline for ICAS 12 was four weeks ago and the review committees are reading the large number of proposals that have been submitted with much interest. The review process will take some time and the committee expects to inform all proposal submitters before 31 December 2020 about the result.

The committee is very pleased to have received a large number of different proposals and to see that so many are interested in joining ICAS (again or for the first time) in Kyoto, Japan. They are expecting more than 1500 Asia specialists and representatives of civil society to participate in panels, roundtables, book presentations, PhD pitches and poster presentations. There will be an array of other activities in Kyoto ranging from exhibitions, cultural activities and film/documentary screenings, to an Asian Studies Book Fair with many local and international publishers and institutions having a booth. The ICAS 12 organising committee is also exploring alternative online formats including virtual presentations and online networking modes for those who are unable to participate in person in Kyoto, allowing them to still experience the ICAS vibe.

See the latest article about ICAS 12 and the IBP in IIAS' *The Newsletter* and also the website <https://icas.asia/> for the latest news and updates.

In light of the current global pandemic ICAS 12 is exploring alternative formats including virtual presentations.

3 November 2020

Bake Society board: Robert Cirillo, Fred Gales, Jane Harvey, Saskia Smith.

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