

SWISSINO MUSICAL TALENT STUDY

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The project SwisSino Musical Talent Study started in the summer of 2017, is based on a collaboration between the Lucerne University of Music, Geneva University of Music, Beijing Normal University, the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music, Soochow University (PRC), National Taiwan University and National Chiayi University (ROC), aims to identify similarities and differences in the concept of talent development education in the area of primarily globalized art music of European tradition, in places with different pedagogical and cultural traditions. The project aims to collect data on conceptions in East China (Taipei, Chiayi, Beijing, Suzhou) and Switzerland (Geneva, Lucerne) – on the one hand from the perspective of students (by researching their biographies and their musical self-concepts), and on the other hand from an institutional perspective (by describing music education contributions and their assessments by professionals). The results of the project should enable a deeper understanding of culturally different developments of musical talent education, so that the differences of musical talent development in intercultural settings can be defined. Furthermore, this project aims to develop strategies for supporting musical talent development in researched contexts.

The project takes the fact into account that the art music of European tradition is dominated by conservatoires not only in Europe but also in Eastern Asia (in this case PRC and ROC). There is an exchange between lecturers and students from both regions, especially by many young people from China studying in Europe. In this exchange, equalization tendencies as well as culture-specific factors are important influences in the conception of talent development in higher music education institutions. Although comparative education has taken up issues of talent development in various fields, it has hardly been explored in the domain of European art music. The project should therefore provide the first answers on how to differentiate or harmonize talent promotions in the context of globalized music education.

In this international project SwisSino Musical Talent Study on comparative genealogy in the field of European art music, I took over the role as a scholarly consultant. I supported translation of the central concepts incorporated in the SwisSino Musical Talent Study, such as “giftedness” or “music” into Chinese, and mediated and the pre-structured interview questionnaires between the Swiss project partner Marc-Antoine Camp and the Taiwanese research partner Tseng, Yu-Fen, as well as participating the discussions during September 1th to 7th in Taipei.

Because of my research project Bi-/Multimusicality (2016-2017) at the Department of Folk Music Research and Ethnomusicology at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (mdw) on the one hand, I was invited by the Taiwanese partner Tseng, Yu-Fen for a lecture on September 22nd at the Taipei National University of Arts in Taiwan. This gave an insight of the talents studying and working at the mdw, such as the musical and artistic facets and outputs of bi-/multimusical students and teachers.

Between September 7th and 11th I travelled with the Swiss partner to National Dong Hwa University in the Huanlien City of the eastern part of Taiwan for establishing further possible cooperation. Since Taiwan President Tsai, Ying-Wen intends to develop strategies for empowering indigenous communities; an university from the indigenous perspectives should be authorized by the Taiwanese parliament in the beginning of 2018.

The Swiss partner Marc-Antoine Camp (also a board member of the Swiss UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage committee), Johannes Kretz (department dean of the Department of Composition, Electro-Acoustics and Tonmeister Education), Bernd Brabec (well-known ethnomusicologist in South American indigenous study) and myself (ethnomusicologist with 12 years experiences with Taiwanese indigenous study) could apparently give constructive suggestions for this preparation process. The future director of this indigenous university, at the same time the dean of the Ethnology College of the National Dong Hwa University – Pu, Chung-Cheng and one of the associated professor in anthropology in the same college – Yang, Cheng-Hsien wished to invite us again in 2018 for an international conference for discussing more details about this indigenous university establishment. Also they wished to invite us for an on-month lecture at the National Dong Hwa University in Autumn 2018.

From September 12th to 20th I was able to visit the Lanyu Island, where the indigenous group Tao people live, and with whom I conducted research for my doctoral thesis, accompanied by Johannes Kretz, Mahdieh Bayat and Bernd Brabec. I could record five hours of traditional songs, what were not able to be involved in my PhD thesis. And at the same time, these songs are disappearing today in the Tao people's everyday life.

This trip to Taiwan was fruitful, and all these mentioned persons in this report wish to continue exchanges between Taiwan and Europe, especially with Austrian scholars and artists, in the future.



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