



WORLDWIDE MUSIC CONFERENCE 2024 GENEVA

The Statement on Global Musical Culture

(Draft v.2)

Introduction

At present, when humanity is facing the prospect of ecological and humanitarian catastrophes of planetary scale, when international, civil, economic, and religious confrontations are escalating, cultural heritage is in significant danger, art and creativity are receding into the background.

One of the most valuable assets of humanity is music. Music is among the highest expressions of human nature, it is an important and indispensable part of human and societal life. The peoples of the world have created an exceptional diversity of musical cultures, each not only unique but representing a distinct artistic world. Each contains universally significant aesthetic values and carries special meanings and forms of music, revealing its distinct facets.

Meanwhile, of all kinds of creativity, music is the most vulnerable; its creations and traditions are the easiest to destroy and the hardest to restore. The scale, value, and diversity of the world's musical cultures are far from comprehended by humanity. Society has not fully revealed the depth of the humanistic potential of music and the profoundness of its content. Most musical creations of universal significance are not widely perceived by the global community; they exist within the confines of the national cultures in which they were made or are the subject of interest of a narrow circle of connoisseurs.

Compared to other cultural spheres, music receives the least attention, and the resources allocated for its needs are the most modest.

The modern situation is characterised by the fact that, for the first time in history, conditions have arisen where the music of all peoples can become accessible to everyone on earth. But never before has the diversity of musical cultures been so close to extinction.

In the context of globalisation and technological development, the musical experience of humanity can expand substantially, reaching a fullness impossible in the past. Everyone can turn to the music created by any people, whether large or small, influential in the world, or existing in isolation. We have the opportunity to embrace the multifacetedness of music, not only achieving a new level of its perception but also discovering unknown prospects for musical creativity.

And at the same time, before our eyes, the musical cultures of many peoples are disappearing, and the traditions of folk and professional music are being promptly destroyed and lost. The musical art of indigenous peoples is in the greatest danger. This art, which largely defines the global diversity of music, has accumulated precious experience over millennia and created works of immense aesthetic value, but has universally approached the brink of extinction in just a few decades.

We have a one-of-a-kind chance that will be irretrievably lost if immediate measures are not taken.

Now more than ever, we must realise that the musical art of all peoples is a common treasure of humanity, and we cannot afford to lose this treasure in disagreements and conflicts. We must come to understand our responsibility towards music, acknowledging that our duty to ourselves and to all generations that have created the wealth of musical cultures is to defend music as a great good of civilisation.

The heritage of music can only be saved and its future ensured by the united efforts of the entire global community. There is a need for unanimous consensus within the global community that even in our time, when priorities are dictated by the urgency of addressing climate change, hunger, inequality, and confrontation, the resolution of problems faced by music cannot be postponed.

Immediate measures are required, and the first step towards taking these measures is the collective agreement of nations and states on the importance of music and the recognition of the core objectives for its support and safeguarding its heritage.

The Clauses

By supporting the Statement on Global Musical Culture, the global community makes an invaluable contribution to the protection of the world's cultural heritage, art and creativity.

Adhering to the following clauses will ensure that musical heritage is protected from threats, that the art of music withstands the challenges faced by the peoples of the world, and gains the prospect of fruitful development and prosperity in the future.

Priority

1. The support of musical art, care for its heritage, and ensuring its fruitful existence are common tasks for all nations and states and are among the urgent priorities of the global community.

Heritage

2. The musical heritage of humanity should be conveyed to future generations in all its diversity and completeness. Under the reliable protection of society should be musical works and traditions created by all peoples throughout all times.

Endangered cultures

3. Special attention should be given to the musical cultures of indigenous and small-numbered peoples, as well as to musical monuments of the past, which constitute an exceptionally valuable and most vulnerable part of the world's musical heritage. Urgent and large-scale measures are required for documenting and archiving the musical art of peoples whose cultures are on the verge of extinction.

Access

4. It is necessary to ensure full and easy access for everyone to works belonging to any musical culture, regardless of the place and time of their existence, as well as to information about these cultures.

Status

5. Music deserves high social status and should be recognised as an indispensable form of activity without which the mental and moral life of humanity would be significantly impoverished. High respect and support should surround the musical creativity of representatives of traditional cultures, the work of professional musicians, music researchers, and educators, as well as the engagement with music by all people without exception. Society should encourage musical creativity and familiarity with the musical cultures of the world in each of its members.

Education

6. Attention should be paid to the quality and accessibility of initial music education, to popularising knowledge about music. It is important to support the exploration of diverse forms of music education appropriate for different social conditions and regions with their specific musical traditions. General music education should develop as an instrument for the humanization of society, facilitating people's acquaintance with music in its national and historical diversity.

Research

7. The significance of scientific knowledge of music is extremely important not only for understanding its nature and principles but also for human self-knowledge and understanding of the scientific picture of the world as a whole. Music research should become a highly developed, leading branch of knowledge; it is important that the scientific community recognises the significance of this research and actively participates in them.

Conditions of prosperity

8. It is necessary to ensure the fruitful existence of music in the present and future. To achieve this, it is required to support various forms of musical creativity, both traditional and innovative, amateur and professional, continuity in the transmission of knowledge and experience, creative exploration and comprehension of new forms and possibilities of music, institutions that facilitate the development of musical art, and work on documenting, disseminating, and researching its heritage. Conditions should be created to enable musically gifted individuals to realise their potential.

Diversity

9. The musical art of every nation and every era should become a part of the cultural life of all humanity. The musical cultures of the world, in all their diversity, should be perceived by the global community not only as attributes of national differences but as a common heritage. It is important that acquaintance with this heritage enriches the cultural experience of people worldwide, fosters mutual understanding and respect between nations, and helps overcome distrust and prejudices.

Equality

10. The paramount requirement is the equality of musical cultures, acknowledging that the value and significance of the musical heritage of nations are independent of their numerical strength and influence on the world stage.