

MAiA | Music & Arts in Action

Editorial

Welcome to the fourth issue of *Music and Arts in Action* (MAiA). This is the first in an annual series of themed issues published by MAiA, and focuses on the role of the arts and music in conflict transformation and peace building. We are delighted to have received manuscripts on a wide range of topics that highlight different aspects of this theme and together make a robust contribution to empirical work in this emerging research area.

The issue begins with a guest editorial by MAiA editor Arild Bergh and John Sloboda, Emeritus Professor at Keele University and psychologist of music. This thematic editorial provides an overarching review of the emergence of music in particular and art more generally within the field of conflict transformation and peace building. Some notes from Bergh's recent work are also used to contextualise the valuable contributions made by the individual papers in this issue. In these papers a variety of issues in conflict transformation and peace building are examined using novel case studies. These range from power, politics and identity issues in an Israeli-Arabic orchestra by Solveig Riiser; the role of sing-alongs in sustaining anti-war movements in the U.S. by Jeneve Brooks; cultural identity theory as unpacked in action research in Craig Robertson's ethnographic study of a Bosnian multi-ethnic choir; the bureaucratic constraints on evaluating community theatre interventions in Northern Ireland by Matthew Jennings and Andrea Baldwin; and the combination of academic and practitioner intervention in conflict transformation work by Svanibor Pettan's look at applied ethnomusicology.

We are also looking forward to the next three issues of MAiA, which will showcase exciting research on an array of topics. First, the fall/winter 2010 general issue will feature contributions examining applied drama, urban dance, female rock musicians, and opera production; forthcoming articles will be listed on the "[Forthcoming](#)" section of the MAiA website. Second, the next 2011 themed issue will examine music and the arts in health promotion and wellness; the [call for papers](#) for this issue remains open on the MAiA website. Finally, we are preparing our first "special issue," which will be published as an addition to our regular general and themed biannual issues. This peer-reviewed issue will document a recent seminar at the University of Exeter on improvisation in the arts, and include contributions ranging from Nubian poetry to Japanese community music therapy.

THE EDITORIAL TEAM, *MUSIC AND ARTS IN ACTION*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are very grateful to University of Illinois Press for the permission to publish a shortened version of Svanibor Pettan's paper *Applied Ethnomusicology: Bridging research and action*. A longer version of this article is published in the forthcoming book *Music and Conflict* (eds. John Morgan O'Connell and Salwa el Shawan Castelo Branco, University of Illinois Press).

Music and Arts in Action would not be possible without the generous help and support of a number of individuals. The most invisible, yet most important, of these are the reviewers, to whom we are extremely grateful. The authors, editors, and readers of MAiA have all benefited enormously from your ideas, suggestions, and thoughtful comments. We are also indebted to MAiA's diligent copy editors and proofreaders. Finally, we would like to thank the authors in this issue for their hard work and creativity in producing exciting papers for us all to share.