



## **Computer Analysis of (Scottish National) Folksongs**

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In 1997 I achieved a doctoral dissertation in which I developed a method of semiautomated folksong analysis and classification. The method is based upon a system developed at the end of the eighties at the University of Essen / Germany and called EsAC (Essener Assoziativ Code). With this code, which in turn has strong links to the Chinese Jianpu-Code, it is possible to transfer one part melodies into machine readable ASCII digits by hand or by midi-keyboard. Today some 20.000 songs from different regions of the world are stored by EsAC and are publicly available. The EsAC-Code can be converted by simple programs into other codes, such as MIDI, darms and Hundrum.

The intention of my article is to describe the melodic characteristics of the Scottish national songs in comparison with the songs from the reference regions Ireland, Luxembourg and Lorraine. I have encoded into EsAC more than 1000 songs of these three regions before. Two questions are on the focus of interest:

- 1) What are representative melodic traits in Scottish songs?
- 2) Do geographical close folksong regions have similar musical traits?

Finally there are two more general questions:

- 1) How can for future investigations supplementary stereotype processes be automated?
- 2) What other operations must be assumed to realise an atlas of folksong regions?

Keywords: folksong research, automated analysis, dialectological typology, characterisation.

## **Biographical Notice Curriculum Vitae**

### **English**

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“1st prizes” at the Conservatory of the City of Luxembourg; “Künstlerische Reifeprüfung” at the University of Music in Cologne, MA at the University of Cologne, PhD at the “Freie Universität” Berlin, Musician and conservatory teacher until 2003, I was appointed associated professor at the new founded University of Luxembourg in the same year. In 2005, I was authorized in directing research projects.

I earned my doctorate in ethnomusicology with a dissertation based upon folksong research. Further interests and publications: Folksong research, wind music research, research in music education and research of the sociology and history of music in Luxembourg. I’m also music performer and arranger giving regularly concerts in Luxembourg and abroad.

### **Recent Research activities**

#### **Selected recent publications**

- 1) “Ida Gotkovsky”, online article at *Music and Gender on the Internet* (MUGI), <http://www.mugi.hfmt-hamburg.de/> (9/2009)
- 2) “My Nanny O. Haydn and Scottish Songs”, in Russian language, including an English translation, in: *Problemy Muzikal’noi Nauki (Music Scholarship)*, 2009/1 (4), ed. by Ljudmila Nikolayevna Shaimukhametova, pp. 58-71.
- 3) “Education for Wind Band Musician in Luxembourg”, in *IGEB-Mitteilungsblatt* 1/2009, pp 5-12.
- 4) “The Notion of Humankind According to the Music-pedagogical Conception of Former Socialist States, Exemplified in the Former German Democratic Republic”, in *Music & Politics*, II/2, Summer 2008, ed. by Patricia Hall, <http://www.music.ucsb.edu/projects/musicandpolitics/>.

#### **Selected recent international conferences**

- 1) “Haydn’s Arrangements of Scottish Folksongs”, conference Celebrating Haydn: His Times and Legacy, August 2009, York University à Toronto/Canada
- 2) “Interaction between Scottish Folksong and the Music of the Viennese Classical Period”, paper presented at the conference *Music in 19th-Century Britain*, 23-26<sup>th</sup> July 2009, Bristol/GB.
- 3) “Building a Map of Folksong Idioms with EsAC”, paper presented at the *XIX EUROPEAN SEMINAR IN ETHNOMUSICOLOGY*, in Warsaw, (9/2008).

#### **Selected forthcoming publications**

- 1) together with Alain Nitschké, „Le rôle de l’orchestre à vent dans l’oeuvre de Laurent Menager,“ will be published in *Alta Musica* 27, ed. by Bernhard Habla et al., Schneider Tutzing 2009 (2010).
- 2) „Joseph Haydns Volksliedbearbeitungen. Stilistische Beobachtungen.

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für sein Gesamtwerk", will be published in *The International Review of the Aesthetics and Sociology of Music (IRASM)*, probably 2/2009, ed. by Stanislav Tuksar.

3) „Musik im Land der roten Erde“, article to appear in *Terres Rouges - approche interdisciplinaire et transnational* in collaboration with FONDATION BASSIN MINIER, éd. par Michel Pauly.

***Recent Research projects funded by the University of Luxembourg***

1) The arrangements of Scottish Songs by Joseph Haydn (2006-2008).

2) Gender & Music (7/2007-7/2010).

3) Music in Luxembourg (7/2007-7/2010).