



# Intangible Cultural Heritage: Preservation, Sustainability, & UNESCO

Keith Howard

# Simon and Garfunkel's 'El Condor Pasa'



El Condor Pasa-Simon And Garfunkel from www.traditionalmusic.co.uk

El Condor Pasa-Simon and Garfunkel

Em G  
I'd rather be a sparrow than a snail  
Yes I would, if I could, I surely would Em  
G  
I'd rather be a hammer than a nail  
Yes I would, if I only could, I surely would Em

C  
Away, Id rather sail away  
G  
Like a swan that's here and gone  
C  
A man gets tied up to the ground  
G  
He gives the world its saddest sound  
Em  
Its saddest sound

Em G  
I'd rather be a forest than a street  
Yes I would, if I could, I surely would Em  
G  
I'd rather feel the earth beneath my feet  
Yes I would, if I only could, I surely would Em

C  
Away, Id rather sail away  
G  
Like a swan that's here and gone  
C  
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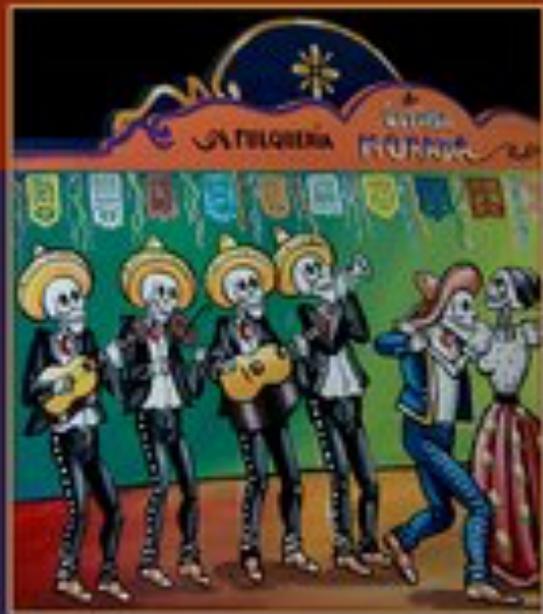


*Memory: the tangible and the intangible  
belong together*



# SUSTAINABLE FUTURES FOR MUSIC CULTURES

*An Ecological Perspective*



Edited by  
Huib Schippers & Catherine Grant

# music endangerment

HOW LANGUAGE MAINTENANCE CAN HELP



Catherine Grant



EDITED BY  
SVANIBOR  
PETTAN  
JEFF TODD  
TITON



The Oxford Handbook of  
APPLIED  
ETHNOMUSICOLOGY



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*Cultural policy* =

administrative and budgetary practices, procedures (for preservation and encouragement), provision of the basis for cultural action by the state or other organizations (Max Peter Baumann, 1992)

## L. P. Hartley

‘The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there’ (*The Go-Between*, 1953)





## *A past that is alive and venerated*

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The nature of tradition is not to preserve intact a heritage from the past, but to enrich it according to present circumstances, and transmit the result to future generations’ (Laurent Aubert 2007: 10)



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Hollywood... 'ventriloquize the world' (Ella Shohat and Robert Stam 1994)



# Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

- Intangible as 'a mainspring of cultural diversity and a guarantor of sustainable development'
- Globalization has brought 'grave threats of deterioration, disappearance, and destruction'
- Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
- 172 member states are signatories (June 2016)
- Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, 365 'elements'
- = 31 Chinese, 21 Japanese, 19 Korean,
- = 0 US, 0 Canada, 0 UK, 0 Australia, 0 New Zealand, 0 Norway/Sweden/Finland, Denmark



# Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity

- ▶ 2001: 19, including 1 each from China, Japan, Korea; Semeiskie (Russia), Georgian polyphony, Garifuna language, dance and music of Belize
- ▶ 2003: 28, including 1 each from China, Japan, Korea; maqam (Iraq, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan/Tajikistan, + other Europe, Africa, South East Asia, South Asia, Polynesia, South America, Caribbean
- ▶ 2005: 43, including 1 each from China, Japan, Korea; 8 Asia, 9 Africa, 11 Europe, 4 Middle East, 7 South America, Caribbean, 4 multinational



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There's an active process in the disappearance of many traditions around the world. Some of them are being disappeared by majority groups... others are being disappeared by missionaries or religious groups...others are being disappeared by copyright legislation' (Anthony Seeger, at <http://musecology.griffith.edu.au/About>; website now deleted).

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# Five Domains

- ▶ *Learning and Teaching*

*Orange*: Systems, informal vs formal, notations vs oral, analysis, practice

- ▶ *Musicians and Communities*

*Red*: Roles, positions, everyday reality, technology/media/travel, remuneration, activities, community support

- ▶ *Contexts and Constructs*

*Green*: Cultural contexts, influences, identity, authenticity/judgements, diversity, obstacles to maintenance

- ▶ *Infrastructure and Regulations*

*Purple*: Places to perform, teach, practice, create, availability of resources, regulations, obstacles to maintenance

- ▶ *Media and the Music Industry*

*Blue*: Dissemination, commerce, performance formats, patrons, sponsors, funding bodies



# China, ICH items inscribed on the Representative List

- ▶ Uyghur Muqam of Xinjiang (2008; from 2005, Masterpiece)
- ▶ Farmer's dance (nongak) of China's Korean ethnic group (2009)
- ▶ Gesar epic tradition (2009)
- ▶ Manas (2009)
- ▶ Mongolian art of singing, Khoomei
- ▶ Tibetan opera



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- ▶ Tibetan opera
  
- ▶ (Mongolia, khöömei, 2010)
- ▶ (Republic of Korea, nongak, 2014)
- ▶ (Kyrgyzstan, Manas epic trilogy, 2013)



# Academic involvement in ICH:

- 1. Nostalgia:
  - Loss common theme in conservationist interventions (Henry Cleere 2001; Lynn Meskell 2002; Cornelius Holtorf 2006; Michael Rowlands 2007)
  - Maintain the old to counter cultural grey-out brought by modernization (Alan Lomax 1972)
  - Capture and compare music traditions before they disappear (Erich von Hornbostel, 1901)
- 



# Academic involvement in ICH:

- 2. Tangible CH vs Intangible CH:
- Longer history of engagement with Tangible CH
- Documenting and evaluating; collecting and archiving
- Easier to fund museums/galleries of objects than creation and performance of crafts/arts



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- Participatory roles offered and accepted
- Academics as expert witness and expert guides
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  - 4. Subsequently, though
    - Academic role reverts to observation
- 