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CENTRE FOR RUSSIAN, EAST-CENTRAL EUROPEAN AND POST-SOVIET MUSIC STUDIES

A new Centre for Russian, East-Central European and Post-Soviet Music Studies (CRECEPS) is being established at Heidelberg University. It is thought of as the fulcrum of a network of scholars and institutions interested in the study of the music history of the countries of the former Soviet Union and their Eastern European neighbors. The Centre sees its main task in creating a permanent exchange of Eastern and Western musicological research via website and newsletter, offering regular programs for graduates and doctorands such as online lecture cycles, summer schools and workshops, as well as organizing conferences and publications.

Thanks to Dorothea Redepenning, the Musicological Seminary at Heidelberg University has been promoting research on Russian and Eastern European Music for some decades, this tradition is now being upheld by Christoph Flamm. The initiative is started together with Levon Hakobian, head of the department of music theory at the Russian State Institute of Art Studies. It seems to us that, despite of all technological advancements and digital availability of publications, musicology in East and West is still not used enough to share its knowledge, yet a common discourse over the complex cultural heritage of these countries is indispensable in order to overcome old stereotypes and ideological prejudices on both sides, the more so since political tensions are increasingly threatening the cooperation between our nations.

In such perspective, the overall aim of the Centre will be building bridges and facilitating cultural exchange. As a first step, the network will try to gather together the main institutions with musicological research in the respective countries, as well as the interested institutions and individual scholars from other parts of the world. The first enterprise will consist in a series of online lectures to take place in May-June 2021, provisionally entitled 'Differences in Perspective'.

Interested institutions and scholars are invited to express their wish for collaboration to

Levon Hakobian (levonh451@yandex.ru) or

Christoph Flamm (christoph.flamm@zegk.uni-heidelberg.de)

Participating institutions will be signing a common Memorandum of Agreement based on which the Centre is going to apply for funding of bigger projects.

Looking forward to our common future,

Levon Hakobian & Christoph Flamm