

GEECT CONFERENCE
MUSIC AND SOUND DESIGN IN FILM/NEW MEDIA
(When Theory meets Practice)
Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre LMTA
Vilnius, 28-30 September 2017

The GEECT AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2017: MUSIC AND SOUND DESIGN IN FILM/NEW MEDIA (When Theory meets Practice) hosted by LMTA, took place in the National Library of Lithuania, Vilnius Lithuania, 27-30 (Wednesday-Saturday) September 2017, with 44 registered participants from CILECT (including 2xCAPA, 3xCNA, 1xCIBA).

From the hosting school LMTA 16 people took part in the event. The list of participants counts 70 names from 27 countries, guests and observers included (in Appendix at the end of this report).

Attendees and guests stayed in *Hotel Amberton* and *Hotel Ratonda* (where lunches also took place).

Prior to the GEECT Conference, LMTA also organized the INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE-BASED WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS: CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE OF SOUND from Monday September 25th until Wednesday 27th, in MISC (Music Innovation Studies Centre, LMTA). The main building of the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre (LMTA) is in the heart of Vilnius. MiSC is focusing its activities on the synergy of arts and research, and is a very well equipped venue. Head of the workshop was Vilnius University Assoc. Professor **Titas Petrikis**, who was assisted by MICS director lect. **Mantautas Krukauskas**.

The workshop focused on how emotional signification with sound can be created in a film or audio-visual artwork. For a sequence of *Dracula* (Tod Browning, USA 1931) participants created different sound-work. The purpose of this practice-based exercise was to learn and test how sound works with audio-visual media, and, more specific, what the artistic considerations are with the spherical sound (24 speakers setting). The workshop participants were able to create and construct their original soundtracks (from the provided library sounds, from original sound-recording, or even from newly composed and recorded music).

GEECT Conference attendees that arrived on Wednesday 27th were invited to experience the results of this workshop in the main building of the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre (LMTA). Guided tours were organized for the guests, who were then invited for an opening reception as a welcome, in the very trendy Restaurant, named *Alive*, on the famous Gedimino Street.



Group listening to the sound of people coming up the stairway of CAC?

The next day, on Thursday 28th September, Prof. **Antanas Kučinskas**, Composer, and Head of the Film and TV Department LMTA, opened the Conference, inviting the Rector of LMTA prof. **Zbignevas Ibelgaupas** and Chair of GEECT **Bert Beyens** to deliver the welcome speeches.

Then, moderator **Arūnas Gelūnas**, PhD philosophy, former Minister of Culture and UNESCO Ambassador for Lithuania, introduced the first key speaker, well renowned **Claudia Gorbman**, PhD (University of Washington, USA) for her lecture *Music Heard and Unheard for Audio-visual Media*, followed by a second key speaker **Val Kuklowsky** (University of Hertfordshire, UK, GEECT) with *The Hollywood Sound in Everyone's Backyard*.

The afternoon of the first day was then set up in Parallel Sessions, the first labelled *Seeing through Hearing*, with 4 presentations.

Professor **Francesco Ronzon**, PhD (Academy of Fine Art-Verona, Italy) *Ecology of Media. An anthropological reflection about the socio-cultural links between seeing and hearing in old and new media. Three ethnographic case studies.*

Professor **Luís Cláudio Ribeiro**, PhD (Lusófona University, Portugal, GEECT) *Sound and Fragment in Artistic Practices.*

Michael Kowalski (Chapman University, USA, CNA): *The Cocktail Party Effect: Where Psychoacoustics Meets Cinematic Storytelling.*

Dr. **Dan-Stefan Rucareanu** / Stefan Damian: *Connective listening - a new mode of listening and its application in VR* (UNATC, Bucharest, Romania, GEECT)

The 4 presentations (*Migrating Genres*) in the 2nd Parallel Session, were:

Professor **Laura Lazarescu-Thois**, PhD (UNATC, Bucharest, Romania, GEECT) *Sound Design in the Animated Film. About the sound aesthetics, techniques and particularities in animation movies.*

Assoc. prof. **Svenn Jakobsen** (Oslo School of Arts, Norway, GEECT): *Artistic use of sound in non-fiction films.*

Professor **Jörg U. Lensing** (FHD Dortmund University, Germany, GEECT) *Director of Sound vs. Sound-Operator*

Dr. **Richard Stevens** (Leeds Beckett University, UK, GEECT): *Mario, Mickey-mouse and Morricone: Interactivity and Synchronization in Video-game music.*

In a plenary session, *Challenges and New Approaches to Teaching Music and Sound in Film/New Media*, moderator **Arūnas Gelūnas** gave the floor to **Jack Beck**, Rochester Institute of Technology, USA, CNA, composer **Jurre Haanstra**, NFA-Conservatory of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, GEECT, and **Ross Williams**, School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, CAPA, to give insight in their personal approach to teaching Music and Sound Design.

The first day concluded with a wonderful GEECT dinner in restaurant *La Bohème*.

On day 2, September 29th, a first Key speaker was assoc. prof. **Aner Preminger**, PhD (Sapir Academic College, Israel, GEECT) *The power of sound in creating Humour: Chaplin - a pioneer of audio-gags and of sound design.*

French independent researcher-writer and composer **Michel Chion** could not physically attend the conference because of a health condition, and therefore his text *Twenty-Year Minimalism in Film Scores: A Universalist Utopia?* was read while being illustrated simultaneously. Then, from Paris, prof. **Michel Chion** engaged in a conversation with participants via Skype.

The second day continued the format of Parallel Sessions. In the screening room *Discovering Paths* was the title, with following presentations:

Adele Fletcher (University of Hertfordshire, UK, GEECT): *Emotional Approach to Sound Editing.*

Ben Zijlstra (Netherlands Film Academy, GEECT): *Sound Design in Production Sound Recording.*

Prof. **Klas Dykhoff** (UNIARTS, Sweden, GEECT): *Non-linear work methods as a pedagogical tool in teaching film.*

Dr. **Martine Huvenne** (KASK, Ghent, Belgium, GEECT): *Transmitting an experience: starting from sound to develop an audio-visual work.*

In the other room *A Sense of Origin* had following lectures: Prof. **Marchwica Wojciech**, PhD (Jagiellonian University, Institute of Musicology, Krakow, Poland): *Symbolic and transcendental elements in Zbigniew Preisner's film music.*

Jeronimo Sarmiento (Lusófona University, Portugal / Tallinn University, Estonia, GEECT): *Cinematic polyphony in Lucrecia Martel's Cinema - The musicality of narrative film.*

Levan Bagration-Davitashvili, PhD (TAFU, Georgia, GEECT): *Basic of Georgian Film Music for Students of Theater and Film University.*

Prof. **Antanas Kučinskis**, PhD (Head of the Film & TV Department LMTA) and **Mantautas Krukauskas** (LMTA, Lithuania, GEECT): *Soundscape in Natural and Virtual Spaces: Recent developments in Lithuania within Artistic Context*.

Sudipto Acharyya (Film and Television Institute, Pune, India, CAPA): "*Brother, I too wanted to live*", and *disavowal of the Mother figure in Ritwik Ghatak's Cloud Clapped Star (Meghe Dhaka Tara-1960)*

After lunch, the participants were taken on a bus tour through Vilnius (with a visit to the Frank Zappa Memorial).

At 7pm a special **Michel Chion** program was presented at the CAC, Contemporary Arts Museum (with Michel Chion's short film *Eponine* from 1984, and his (registered on film) music piece *Requiem*).

The second day ended in the nearby Restaurant *Saula*, with a traditional Lithuanian food degustation.

The 3rd (closing) day started with **Andor Márton Horváth** (SzFE, Budapest, Hungary, GEECT) with *A new approach to film sound theory*.

Originally announced as 2 master classes *Rethinking the Soundtrack: How decisions about sound impact on the production of films* Prof. **Stephen Deutsch**, (composer, sound designer, theorist, Bournemouth University, UK, GEECT), and **Larry Sider** (sound designer, editor, Director of the School of Sound, Goldsmiths University of London, UK) immersed in a very provocative (and often funny) dialogue on the actual state of affairs of sound teaching. (Larry Sider via Skype).

Last but not least Sound Designer **Vytis Purnas**, (LMTA, Lithuania, GEECT) talked about Film Sound Restoration in *I wasn't here: tiptoeing through the sound restoration process of the anthology of Lithuanian documentary Cinema*.

After summarizing closing remarks by GEECT Chair **Bert Beyens**, Conference Coordinator **Giedre Kabasinskiene** had the honour to close the event; she also thanked everyone who made this event possible and said goodbye. (Cheers from all benches).

APPENDIX: PARTICIPANTS

Attendees, Speakers, Presenters and Observers

1. Sudipto Acharyya, Film and Television Institute, Pune, India, CAPA
2. Levan Bagrationi-Davitashvili, TAFU, Georgia, GEECT
3. Beata Baublinskiene, LMTA, Lithuania, GEECT
4. Jack Beck, Rochester Institute of Technology, USA, CNA
5. Bert Beyens, RITCS, Belgium, GEECT
6. Yaron Bloch, The Steve Tisch School of Film & TV, Tel Aviv University, Israel, GEECT
7. Patrick Boullenger, Aalto University, Finland GEECT
8. Michel Chion (via Skype), France

9. Giselle Elena Cruz, EICTV, Cuba, CIBA
10. Johan Derycke, KASK, Belgium, GEECT
11. Stephen Deutsch, Bournemouth University, UK, GEECT
12. Florian Dittrich, FABW, Germany GEECT
13. Klas Dykhoff, UNIARTS, Sweden, GEECT
14. Inès Eshun, RITCS, Belgium, GEECT
15. Adele Fletcher, University of Hertfordshire, UK, GEECT
16. Vytenis Gadliauskas, LMTA, Lithuania, GEECT
17. Arunas Gelunas, former Minister of Culture and UNESCO Ambassador, Lithuania
18. Jean Gibran, Saint Joseph University, Lebanon, GEECT
19. Claudia Gorbman, University of Washington, USA
20. Renaldas Gudauskas, Director National Library, Lithuania
21. Jurre Haanstra, NFA - Conservatory of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, GEECT
22. Andor Horvath, SzFE, Budapest, Hungary, GEECT
23. Pavel Hruda, Tomas Bata University, Czech Republic, GEECT
24. Martinne Huvenne, KASK, Belgium, GEECT
25. Zbignevas Ibelgauptas, Rector LMTA, Lithuania, GEECT
26. Svenn Jakobsen, Oslo School of Arts, Norway, GEECT
27. Jonas Jurkunas, LMTA, Lithuania, GEECT
28. Andrius Juskys, LMTA, Lithuania, GEECT
29. Giedre Kabasinskiene, LMTA, Lithuania, GEECT
30. Michael Kowalski, Chapman University, USA, CNA
31. Jan Krawitz, Stanford University, USA, CNA
32. Mantautas Krukauskas, LMTA, Lithuania, GEECT
33. Antanas Kučinskis, Head of the Film & TV Department LMTA, Lithuania, GEECT
34. Tetyana Khoroshun, National Music Academy, Ukraine
35. Val Kuklowsky, University of Hertfordshire, UK, GEECT
36. Laura Lazarescu-Thois, UNATC, Bucharest, Romania, GEECT
37. Jörg Lensing, FHD Dortmund University, Germany, GEECT
38. Vincent Lowy, ENS Louis-Lumière, France, GEECT
39. Jonas Maksvytis, LMTA, Lithuania, GEECT
40. Wojciech Marchwica, Jagiellonian University, Institute of Musicology, Krakow, Poland
41. Massimo Mariani, Civic School of Cinema Luchino Visconti, Italy, GEECT
42. Su Nicholls Gärtner, IFS Cologne, Germany, GEECT
43. Mika Niinimaa, TUAS, Finland, GEECT
44. Rune Palving, The National Filmschool of Denmark, Denmark, GEECT
45. Titas Petrikis, Head of Workshop, Vilnius University, Lithuania
46. Chris Petter, London College of Communication, University of the Arts, UK, GEECT
47. Joseph Pitchadze, The Steve Tisch School of Film & TV, TAU, Israel, GEECT
48. Valeria Popova, NATFA, Bulgaria, GEECT
49. Luc Pourrinet, La Fémis France, GEECT
50. Aner Preminger, Sapir Academic College, Israel, GEECT
51. Vytis Purnas, LMTA, Lithuania, GEECT
52. Janis Putnins, Latvian Academy of Culture, Latvia (observer)
53. Luis Claudio Ribeiro, Lusófona University, Portugal, GEECT
54. Rima Rimsaite, LMTA, Lithuania, GEECT
55. Francesco Ronzon, Academy of Fine Art-Verona, Italy

56. Dan-Stefan Rucăreanu, UNATC, Bucharest, Romania, GEECT
57. Jeronimo Sarmiento, Lusófona University, Portugal / Tallinn University, Estonia, GEECT
58. Larry Sider (Via Skype), School of Sound, Goldsmiths University of London, UK
59. Darius Silenas, LMTA, Lithuania, GEECT
60. Richard Stevens, Leeds Beckett University, UK, GEECT
61. Carl Svensson, Norwegian Film School, Norway, GEECT
62. Raimonda Tamulevičiūtė, LMTA, Lithuania, GEECT
63. Daniela Trastulli, Civic School of Cinema Luchino Visconti, Italy, GEECT;
64. Mindaugas Urbaitis, LMTA, Lithuania, GEECT;
65. Jan Verschoren, RITCS, Belgium, GEECT,
66. Algirdas Vezevicius, LMTA, Lithuania, GEECT
67. Ross Adrian Williams, School of Art, Design and Media, NTU, Singapore, CAPA
68. Wojciech Wrzesniewski, LFS, UK, GEECT
69. Ben Zijlstra, NFA, The Netherlands, GEECT
70. Judita Zukiene, LMTA, Lithuania, GEECT



<http://filmsoundmedia.lmta.lt/film/>