

Towards a Common Regional History of Our Nation Building Strategies

Traveling Directors, Musicians

Visegrad Grant Project 2020–2022

- Visegrad Fund



Institute
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About

During the 19th and 20th centuries, the process of nation-building took place, though shifted in time, with similar strategies in the countries of the region. The (musical) theater was one of the central institutions of nation-building; researching its history brings us closer to understanding the complex cultural processes that characterizes this multilingual region. In the framework of a previous Visegrad Grant project (*The Network of the Musical Theatre Companies in the Multilingual East-Central Europe*, Project No. 21720187), the survey of the region's source material from the period 1860–1920 (*Regional Source and Bibliographical Database*) has already been carried out by this research group. Continuing this pioneering work, the recent project focuses on personalities – theater directors, composers, and prominent singers; most of their careers are connected to a number of cities in East-Central Europe. Currently, these biographical studies are only partially or superficially available; moreover, there is no regional overview at all. The main purpose of this project is to make progress in this respect and, as a result of our joint work, to present the regional network that promoted the creation of the nationally oriented music theatrical industry in the very period as the cosmopolitan genre of the opera was acclimatizing in the major multilingual and multi-ethnic cities of East-Central Europe.



The common history of our nation building processes also outlines a region. It may seem evident in cultural life, but within humanities, the attempts to remove historiography out of national boundaries are still at an early stage. It was due to the international character of the music theatrical source materials that their thorough processing has been neglected by the nationally-biased research. Our project is pioneering in a narrow professional sense, too, but we are particularly keen to make our research results available for a wider audience. Our regional network researches, as well as the planned conference on regional historiography, can generate broader interest by drawing direct attention to our common values and tasks.

Outputs

The past decades in the V₄ countries have been defined by national historiography, and national narratives have not included regional connections, nor the acknowledgment of the cultural and ethnic diversity of the region as a whole. Through biographical research on theater directors and musicians we can shed light on international cultural transfers as well as the regional network that implemented nation-building strategies. We wish to release our results on multiple levels and in different forms, targeting various types of audiences. Research results are primarily summarized in a biographical database (which will be accessible on the project's website), studies will be published in the series *Olmützer Studien*, and lectures will be held, among others, at an international conference to be organized by our group (Budapest, May 27–28, 2022) on regional (music)historiography. Wider audiences will be addressed by lecture recitals (Budapest, Bratislava, Olmütz, Krakow) featuring the region's repertoire. As far as the education is concerned, our results will be presented in the form of university lectures.

Participants

Members of the research team are university professors, full-time researchers, and young research assistants from prominent research facilities and universities. Hungarian, Slovakian, and Czech team members started their joint work 2017-2018 with the Visegrad Grant project *The Network of the Musical Theatre Companies in the Multilingual East-Central Europe* (Project No. 21720187). Our Polish partner joined our research team in 2020.

Czech Republic

doc. PhDr. **Lenka Křupková**, PhD, Head of the Department of Musicology, Faculty of Arts, Palacký University Olomouc.

doc. PhDr. **Jiří Kopecký**, PhD, Associate Professor at the Department of Musicology, Faculty of Arts, Palacký University Olomouc.

Hungary

Katalin Kim, PhD, Senior Research Fellow and Head of Department for Hungarian Music History of the Institute for Musicology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Eötvös Loránd Research Network.

Lili Veronika Békéssy, Research Assistant, Department for Hungarian Music History of the Institute for Musicology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Eötvös Loránd Research Network.

Rudolf Gusztin, Research Assistant, Department for Hungarian Music History of the Institute for Musicology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Eötvös Loránd Research Network.

Pál Horváth, Research Assistant, Department for Hungarian Music History of the Institute for Musicology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Eötvös Loránd Research Network.

Gabriella Murvai-Bóke, Professional Staff Member, Department for Hungarian Music History of the Institute for Musicology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Eötvös Loránd Research Network.

Emese Tóth, Professional Staff Member, Department for Hungarian Music History of the Institute for Musicology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Eötvös Loránd Research Network.

Zsolt Vizinger, Professional Staff Member, Department for Hungarian Music History of the Institute for Musicology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Eötvös Loránd Research Network.

Poland

Tomasz Pudłocki, PhD, Professor in the Institute of History, Faculty of History, Jagiellonian University.

Slovakia

Jana Laslavíková, PhD, Research Fellow, Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

Jana Magdaléna Májeková, PhD student, Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

Selected Publications

Czech Republic

Lenka Křupková: *Studie ze života a díla Vítězslava Nováka* [Studies from the Life and Work of Vítězslav Novák] (Olomouc, Palacký University, 2006).

Lenka Křupková: “Beethoven und deutschsprachige Stadt Olmütz”, in: Helmut Loos (Hg.) und Klaus-Peter Koch (Red.): *Beethoven-Rezeption in Mittel- und Osteuropa* (Leipzig, Gudrun Schröder Verlag, 2015), 107–123.

Jiří Kopecký: *Opery Zdeňka Fibicha z devadesátých let 19. století* [Zdeněk Fibich's Operas from 1890s] (Olomouc, Palacký University, 2008).

Jiří Kopecký – Markéta Koptová: *Richard Batka a hudební život Čechů a Němců v Praze na přelomu 19. a 20. století* [Richard Batka and Music Life of Czechs and Germans in Prague on the Turn of 19th Century] (Olomouc, Palacký University, 2011).

Jiří Kopecký – Lenka Křupková: *Provincial Theater and Its Opera. German Opera Scene in Olomouc, 1770–1920* (Olomouc, Palacký University, 2015).

Jiří Kopecký – Lenka Křupková et alii: *Czech Music around 1900* (New York, Pendragon Press, 2017).

Hungary

Katalin Szacsvai-Kim – Miklós Dolinszky (eds.): *Erkel Ferenc: Bátori Mária. Opera in two acts*. Issued by the Institut for Musicology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Association with the Széchényi National Library (Budapest, Rózsavölgyi és Társa, 2002) (= Ferenc Erkel. Operas I/1–2).

Katalin Szacsvai-Kim (ed.): *Erkel Ferenc: Hunyadi László. Opera in four acts*. Issued by the Institute for Musicology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Association with the National Széchényi Library (Budapest, Rózsavölgyi és Társa, 2006) (= Ferenc Erkel. Operas II/1–3).

Katalin Szacsvai-Kim: *Az Erkel-műhely. Közös munka Erkel Ferenc színpadi műveiben (1840–1875)* [Erkel Workshop. Collaboration in the Stage Plays of Ferenc Erkel (1840–1857)]. PhD thesis (Budapest, Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music, Musicology Department, 2012).

Lili Veronika Békéssy: “Celebrating the Habsburgs in the Hungarian National Theater, 1837–67”, in *Musicologica Austriaca* 6/4 (2021), <https://www.musau.org/parts/neue-article-page/view/102>.

Rudolf Gusztin: “The Institutionalization Of The Choral Movement In Nineteenth-Century Hungary”, in *Musicologica Austriaca* 6/4 (2021), <https://www.musau.org/parts/neue-article-page/view/105>.

Pál Horváth: “Untying the ‘Musical Sphinx:’ Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 in Nineteenth-Century Pest-Buda”, in *Studia Musicologica* 61 (2020), 33–50.

Tóth Emese: “Zichy Miklós hegedűje avagy az óbudai Zichy család zenei műveltsége a 18. században” [The Violin of Miklós Zichy or The Musical Culture of the Zichy Family in the 18th-century Óbuda], in Noémi Népessy (ed.), *Óbuda története* (Budapest: Óbudai Múzeum, 2020), 276–280.

Poland

Tomasz Pudłocki: “Entertainment or National Duty? The Role of Music in the Life of Eastern Galician Provincial Towns 1867–1914”, in: Michaela Mojžišová (ed.): *Cultural and artistic transfers in theatre and music: past, present, and perspectives* (Bratislava: VEDA Publishing House of the Slovak Academy of Sciences 2021), 58–80.

Tomasz Pudłocki: “Leisure time or another field of the intelligentsia mission? Austrian Galician university professors and high schools teachers on holiday at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries”, in: Martin Kohlrausch (ed.) – Peter Heyrman (ed.) – Jan de Maeyer (ed.): *Leisure and Elite Formation. Arenas of Encounter in Continental Europe, 1815–1914* (Berlin: De Gruyter 2020), 57–77.

Tomasz Pudłocki (ed.) – Kamil Ruszała (ed.): *The War That Never Ended, Postwar Continuity and New Challenges in Central Europe, 1918–1923* (New York - London: Routledge 2022).

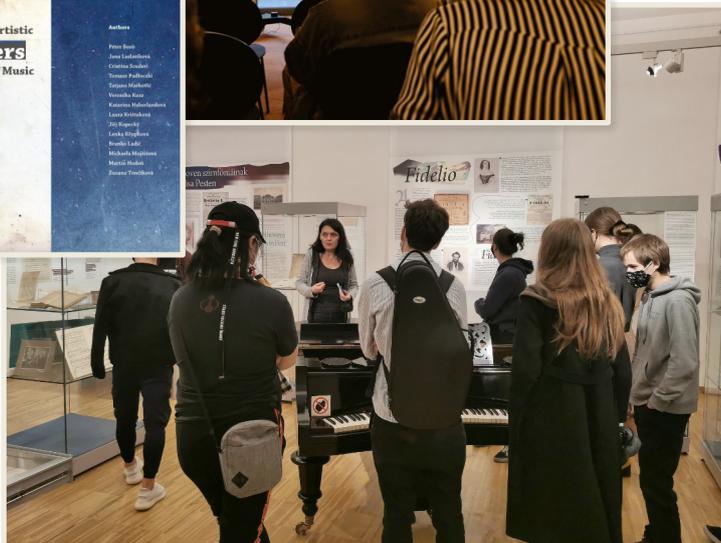
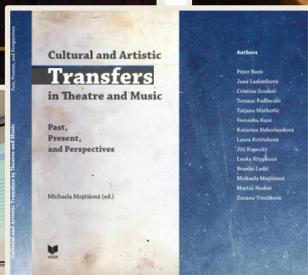
Slovakia

Jana Laslavíková: “Historická budova Slovenského národného divadla a jeho repertoár na pomedzí národných a kultúrnych identít v multietnickom meste Prešporok/Bratislava” [The Historical Building of the Slovak National Theatre and Its Repertoire in Between National and Cultural Identities in Multiethnic Pressburg/Bratislava], In: Gabriela Dudeková Kováčová et al.: *V supermarkete dejín. Podoby moderných dejín a spoločnosti v stredoeurópskom priestore* (Bratislava: VEDA, vydavateľstvo SAV; Historický ústav SAV, 2021), 317–337.

Jana Laslavíková: *Mestské divadlo v Prešporoku na sklonku 19. storočia. Medzi provinciou a metropolou* [The Municipal Theatre in Pressburg at the Close of the 19th Century. Between Province and Metropolis] (Bratislava: Hudobné centrum; Historický ústav SAV, 2020).

Jana Laslavíková: “Max Reinhardt und Theaterleben in Pressburg am Ende des 19. Jahrhunderts = Max Reinhardt a divadelný život v Bratislave na sklonku 19. Storočia”, In: Miloš Mistrík (Ed.): *Max Reinhardt und Pressburg* (Vienna–Bratislava: Theatermuseum, Veda, vydavateľstvo SAV Bratislava, 2019), 77–97.

Jana Magdaléna Májeková: “Lanfranchi – the Scientist Who Changed the Shape of the Danube”, In: Lora Taseva–Radka Argirova–Dilyana Boteva–Maria Luisa Grilli–Tächiță Vlad–Bubulac (Ed.): *Science without Borders: Alexander von Humboldt’s Concepts in Today’s World: Proceedings of the Humboldt-Kolleg Varna, September 18 – 21, 2019* (Sofia: Faber Publishing House, 2020), 45–51.



Organizer of the project:

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For further details and upcoming dates see the project website:

<http://zti.hu/index.php/hu/mzt/projektek/visegrad-grant-2020>