

SEMINAR OF THE MUSIC COUNCIL OF THE THREE AMERICAS (COMTA)

Porto Alegre, 6 to 7 April, 2009

A. INTRODUCTION

The **Music Council of the Three Americas (COMTA)**, created in 1995, is the only Regional Council of the three Americas that is recognized by the International Music Council (IMC). Its aim is to promote the musical heritage and musical diversity of the three Americas region.

The **International Music Council (IMC)** is a membership organization created in 1949 by the Director General of UNESCO as the advisory body to the agency on musical matters. It is based at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris and maintains a formal associate relationship with UNESCO. IMC has direct access to over 1000 organizations across the world and is speaks to governments, institutions and regions to support the promotion of diverse music and the role of musicians in the context of social, cultural and economic development.

One of the goals of IMC is to strengthen national and regional councils around the world as a way of bringing together the different stakeholders of the music sector to discuss issues facing the current challenges involving social, political and economic factors. IMC's role is to facilitate the dialogue and actions of the national and regional councils around the world, as well as setting up forums to provide knowledge transfer and cross-fertilization among national and regional councils around the world.

The Seminar on the Music Council for the Three Americas (COMTA) is the first event that aims to bring together all Presidents of IMC National Music Councils as well as representatives of music organizations in South, Central and North America, distinguished guests and representatives of the government and private initiative to discuss the role of COMTA as a main player on the development of the music sector in the region.

IMC expects that in the near future the Music Council of the Three Americas can develop a network system that can allow them to share new ways of facing professional and market challenges of global demands. IMC also aims to promote, through its World Forum on Music, a dialogue structure whereby regional councils can share their expectations and challenges regarding the music sector.

This Seminar is an initiative of the Executive Board of IMC in cooperation with COMTA, and is co-promoted by the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul and the Santander Cultural, Porto Alegre, Brazil.

B. AIMS

The aims of the Seminar are to:

- Discuss ways in which we can create new National Music Councils (NMC) in the Three Americas countries and find ways in which we can enhance the current practices of the existing National Music Councils of the Three Americas.

- Devise a sustainable working plan for COMTA that involves the establishment of projects with the academic institutions, third sector, industry and governments.

C. **PRELIMINARY PROGRAM** (*subject to modifications and confirmations*)

MONDAY APRIL 6th

9:00 **Opening Ceremony**

9:30-11:00 **Session 1: National Music Councils of the Three Americas:
Exchanging models of management**

Chair: Sonja Greiner

Presentations from 8 countries

11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30–12:30 **Session 2: Sharing Knowledge on Representativeness and
Advocacy Work within the Three Americas**

Chair: Beata Schanda

Presentations from Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay followed by questions & answers

12:30-14:00 *Lunch/Concert (tbc)*

14:00–14:30 **Session 3: IMC: A vision *for* and *from* COMTA**

Chair: Lupwishi Mbuyamba

14:30-15:30 **Session 4: Regional Music Councils: European and African
cooperation models**

Chair: Silja Fischer

Presentations followed by questions & answers

15:30-16:00 *Coffee break*

16:00-17:00 Plenary Discussion

17:00-17:30 Setting up of the working groups for Day 2

19:00 Cultural activities/Dinner

TUESDAY APRIL 7th

**9:00–10:30 Session 5: Sharing Knowledge on Networking,
Information Centers and Fundraising**

Chair: Liane Hentschke

Presentations followed by questions & answers

10:30–11:00 Coffee break

11:00-14:30 Working Groups discussions (*parallel meetings*)

**14:30-16:00 Reports from the groups and concluding discussion:
Strategic plan - Towards expanding and strengthening the
Music Council of the Three Americas**

Chairs: Sonja Greiner and COMTA representative

16:00-16:30 Closing ceremony

16:30 City Tour (optional)

20:00 Dinner at Churrascaria (Barbecue place)