

Postscript

Folk music research, as part of the social sciences, is of course not liable to produce definitive, irrefutable theories. Comparative ethnomusicological research on Turkic peoples is also far from being consummated. Not only are entire groups of people missing, but there are also many unfinished tasks concerning the folk musics under study.

Collecting work should be continued, the relics of traditional melodies and the present-day repertoire should be assessed; it is important to create a digital archive (accessible via the worldwide web) that is as extensive and well-documented as possible, to conduct monographic research on the music of certain small areas and ethnic groups, to carry out a comparative analysis of the melodic world of Islamic folk religion, to carefully study the repertoires of instrumental music and professional/semi-professional performers, among many other tasks. It also belongs to the tasks of the future to include some more Turkic and non-Turkic folk musics in the research, and to continue and deepen the research already begun. Most of these tasks will also be delegated to local colleagues and international working groups, such as the *Music of the Turkic-speaking World* ICTM working group that I founded.

Despite the many tasks to be accomplished, I am confident that, following in the footsteps of great predecessors, my achievements in collecting and comparative analysis can help to improve our understanding of the music of this vast area.

I am also confident that my analytical and comparative research will assist both ethnomusicologists working with the methods of comparative music folklore and cultural anthropology, and will lay the foundations for an even broader, more multi-ethnic Eurasian comparative music research. The ethnomusicological survey of this vast Eurasian area will also provide data for confirming or even modifying and rethinking some of the results of Hungarian ethnomusicological prehistory. Finally, the classified and organised folk music material can be of great service in general folk music education, and the large folk music database may facilitate the illustrative presentations of the musical culture of these peoples.