

Newsletter of the International Jew's Harp Society



BoardMatters FeatureComment

Thoughts on the IJHS
The Karinding of West Java
Ilham Nurwansah

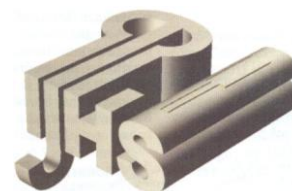
RegionalNews
PictureGallery
AndFinally...
Correspondence
NoticeBoard
Membership



May 2011
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Board Matters – From the President	Page 2
Feature Comment – Thoughts on the IJHS: Michael Wright; The Karinding of West Java: Ilham Nurwansah	Page 3
Regional News	Page 5
Picture Gallery	Page 9
And Finally...	Page 12
Notice Board	Page 12

To contribute to the newsletter, send your emails to jewsharper@btinternet.com or post to:
Michael Wright, General Secretary, IJHS Newsletter, 77 Beech Road, Wheatley, Oxon, OX33 1UD, UK
Signed articles or news items represent the views of their authors only. .
Cover photograph of Whitby Folk week Workshop participants, courtesy of Michael Wright



(above)
Franz Kuml

(below)
Michael Wright,
photograph by
Debbie Wright



Editorial

I realised recently that I've actually published ten newsletters since the Congress in Amsterdam and at last many of us will be meeting at the 7th Congress in Yakutsk, so I'll be able to thank everyone who has contributed over the years in person. For me the joy of the Newsletter had been to receive such a variety of articles, news items, images and comments. It shows what a dynamic and friendly community we are all part of and I've been delighted to have played my part in sharing your news and information with everyone.

After the next Congress, though, we may decide to share our ideas in another way. A newsletter by its very nature tends to follow the events it reports on, so access to the internet and the immediacy of contact through that medium might be a way of keeping in touch in the future. Whatever members and supporters decide, however, some form of news network will, I'm sure, be part of the Society. If you are not going to be there, I suggest you contact your local Board member with any views you might have.

This issue has the same diversity of articles from contributors as before. I was delighted to get an article from a new member, Ilham nurwansah, and some great photographs from Spiridon Shishigin and Aron Szilagyi, not to mention a mass of website links from Tran Quang Hai, plus various pieces of regional news and a few odds and ends for the And**Finally** section.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed. I expect the next issue to be a bumper edition!

Michael Wright

p.s. please note my new home email address is
jewsharper@btinternet.com

BoardMatters

Dear friends,
There are several days left until the big event in Yakutsk, in my opinion the Mecca of the Jew's harp. I promise, it will be worth all the nerves and money spent on organizing your trip and getting there! I guess, you have read the 5 Bulletins in preparation for the festival.

Therefore, there is no need to repeat advice and information. This 7th Festival-Congress will be also of importance for the future of the International Jew's Harp Society for several reasons

- we need to draw lessons learned from the past 13 years of existence of the IJHS
- we need to agree on a strategy for the next decade in regard of structure, management, responsibilities and activities of the IJHS
- we need to agree on possible changes of the Statutes and of the legal status of the IJHS
- we need to confirm and/or elect new members of the board as well as the main functions including mine
- we need to agree on the next sites plus timing for the 8th and 9th Festival-Congress

Dear friends, for me a circle is closing in Yakutsk. 20 years ago I happened to be in Yakutsk during the 2nd IJHF, with a Maultrommel in my pocket. How astonished I was to learn that my little pocket-instrument is not only played in alpine Austria! I got known and became friends with the organizers Ivan Alexeyev and Spiridon Shishigin, and I decided to initiate and organize a similar event in Molln, Austria. This became the 3rd IJHF in 1998, where we established the IJHS. Since this time I have the honor to be President of this organization. I am sure, that one can do more than I did, ... but probably also less. I am willing to continue as president if really needed, but I like the idea of handing over the duty of President in the city where my administrative-organizational participation in the international jew's harp movement had started some 20 years ago.

Thank you all for your support and I am very much looking forward to meeting you all in Yakutsk!

Franz

Thoughts on the IJHS

The expansion of the Jew's harp community and the involvement of a new generation of players is something the IJHS is justly proud. From relatively modest objectives in 1998 at Molln and Rauland in 2002 it will have achieved: the development of the Congress concept; the publication of five Journals; a regular Newsletter; the creation of a Website – all allowing the Society to create a presence within the Jew's harp community over the past 12 years. Outside the Society, the expansion of Regional Societies and the creation of a museum specifically for the Jew's harp have been equally impressive. All that has been achieved by the IJHS has been under the stewardship of Franz Kuml and I'm sure I speak for all in expressing my appreciation for Franz's leadership, guidance and support over the past years. His diplomatic and language skills have been fundamental in holding together the various regional approaches to the promotion of an international musical instrument.

The present

I thought it would be interesting to assess where we are and what we might consider when looking at the future of the Society.

Being a relative newcomer to the Society – having been asked to join the Board in Amsterdam, 2006, and taking on the General Secretary role in 2007 – it has taken me a while to take on board what the Society is truly about and where we are now, as opposed to where it was at its beginning in 1998.

The first thing that impresses me is the truly international nature of the membership. I never fail to be excited and impressed by the material I get for the Newsletter. This has proved beyond any doubt to me that players, researchers and enthusiasts around the world want and need a means of letting their voice be heard. Whether a Newsletter in its present form is relevant is discussed below, but the principle of having a forum for members to articulate their thoughts and ideas is to my mind, established.

If I look at the aims as expressed in 'The purpose of the Society' in Newsletter 1, I would comment as follows:

To bring together people with any kind of interest in the Jew's harp – Given the above, I think this is being achieved, all be it in a rather ad-hoc manner. As things stand, the community is almost totally reliant on the pulling together and disseminating of their thoughts via the Newsletter. The website is certainly a way forward and should probably eventually replace aspects of the Newsletter, but we are still at an early stage of website development and I'm not clear yet as to how we can make this a dynamic site and the first place everyone – members or interested parties – should go to, as they do for the Jew's Harp Guild or the other regional and national sites.

To exchange and disseminate information on the instrument in past and present – At present this is catered for by the Newsletter, though I am conscious that this tends to reflect recent past events rather than up and coming ones. The website, again, is the most logical place for that information. The Journal has sadly missed the guiding hand of Fred and it has been a

struggle to find a replacement editor, though John Wright's agreement to take over as Guest Editor for Issue 5 gets us out of a hole. However, the reality is that to publish a journal that has gravitas and authority takes a lot of time, but, in my opinion, it is an extremely important means of not only sharing some truly fantastic research, but is also a critical means of raising the academic profile of the instrument and the Society.

To support national activities – National festivals grow and prosper. What role the IJHS can have / should have is a bit of a mystery to me. We have very little money (see below) and, as pointed out above, because of the timing of its publication, reports tend to be retrospective in the Newsletter, so there's not a lot of promotion beforehand.

To coordinate global activities – Let's be frank, organizers of international events have struggled with funding and that has had a big impact on bringing us all together for a proper Congress since 2006. Great efforts have been made and we have had a lot of bad luck, what with the global recession, but the truth is we haven't managed to get everyone together for a long time.

To generally promote the instrument – Again, individuals and regional societies are doing their bit, but if there is one area we haven't done very much on as a Society, it's this one.

In addition and not in the list – One of the reasons I was interested in being on the Board was the common desire to involve the younger generation of emerging players. This has notably happened at both the international, national and individual levels. I would suggest that this, while not a direct purpose of the Society as stated above, is one of its great successes.

Over view of above?

We have an expanding worldwide interest in the Jew's harp as a musical instrument and an instrument of significant international and historic importance. There appears to still be a desire to see the Society as a mechanism of dissemination, but, and in spite of repeated requests over the years, membership drives and making subscription payments easy through PayPal, the number of members actually paying their subs diminishes every year. This raises the difficult question of what members and potential members actually want from the Society. Why, in fact, should anyone join the Society at all?

Where next?

The challenge we all face is how to balance our specific interests, our life needs and expectations and the commitments of the Society (mainly time, but nevertheless demanding). What we need is a strategy for the future of the Society that reflects the regional diversity and that provides a vision for the development of the Society, but which has a robust and workable structure to deliver. This can either be a small band of individuals working with limited Society aspirations, or a much larger group tackling aims that are more ambitious.

I anticipate that our meeting in Yakutsk will not only resolve what direction we go in, but also determine who has the skills, experience and, most importantly, the time to deliver it.

Interesting times ahead.

Michael Wright



(above)
Ilham Nurwansah,
photograph by
Andi Gita Lesmana

All other photo courtesy of
Ilham Nurwansah

The Karinding of West Java

Dear friends of the International Jew's Harp Society, This is the first time I have become aware of an international society of people who care about all the different kinds of world Jew's harps. I think it's very important and I was interested in joining the society because my country (West Java, Indonesia) like many other regions, has a unique bamboo Jew's harp too, called a *Karinding*. Reading the 10th issue of this Newsletter I found an articles about the *Karinding* written by Phons Bakx from The Netherlands. That information was a very good introduction on the *Karinding*, so in this article I would like to explain more about the *Karinding* of the *Sundanese* traditional society.

The *Karinding* is the *Sundanese* Jew's harp that can be made of special a bamboo called *awi gombong* (*Gigantochloa pseudoarundinacea*/*Gigantochloa verticillata*) palm leaf branch *kawung* (*Arenga pinnata*/*Arenga accharifera*), both of which are found in many areas of Western Java. It is quiet rare to see a *karinding* made of palm material nowadays, but I find the *karinding* made of bamboo more often. In the past it was used in many religious rituals of the ancient *Sundanese* society, but also as an expression of love and for entertainment. Some places in West Java still have a productive *karinding* maker and in several towns, such as Tasikmalaya, Sumedang, Garut, Bandung, Cianjur and also in Baduy community, they use the traditional ways and tools.

The *karinding* shape is similar with Philippines *Kumbing* or *kubing* bamboo Jew's harp, but there is a thick part at its end.



Bamboo Karinding

The two different materials and shapes refer to different users and philosophy. The two needled palm *karinding* has a shorter length and usually played by men. The one needled bamboo *karinding* is usually played by women, although both genders do, in fact, play any *karinding*.



Bamboo Karinding



Kawung (palm) karinding

Because of its shape, a *karinding* has a special technique of playing that is quite rare. The player has to hit the thick piece with his thumb or with his others fingers, or even the whole hand and there are four old basic techniques to play the *Karinding*. They are *tonggérét*, *tutunggulan*, *iring-iringan* and *rereogan*, though these days the *karinding* technique playing is more developed and has many variations. The *Karinding* usually has a different pitch in every instrument, but several makers tune it to the *Sundanese* traditional tuning system of *salendro* or even the modern chromatic scale.



Today the *karinding* is performed in many musical shows in West Java. Besides played in the *Sundanese* traditional musical groups it is also played to give a new musical taste to modern contemporary and even underground music.



Regards,
Ilham Nurwansah

RegionalNews

Austria

Jour fix of the Austrian Maultrommelgesellschaft is still meeting on the 4th Wednesday of each month.

Concerts and presentations:

A highlight was the little jew's harp-festival at the renaissance-castle Feldegg of our member Bernhard Hanreich on 4 June 2011. Concerts by Mollner Maultrommler, Maul- und Trommelseuche and Ing LOOP with Bernhard Hanreich were followed by intensive and great session-playing on various overtone-instruments, which we all enjoyed until late at night.



Ing. LOOP and Bernhard Hanreich have produced a youtube video. [Wabba Dubu](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pYuNI-gPwE) (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pYuNI-gPwE>) is a first cut of a new album by the "**LOOPING jaw harp orchestra**", which will be released in autumn.



Wolf Janscha: Wolf Janscha played a jew's harp solo concert on the "Eröffnungsfest (=opening festival) im PANKRATIUM Gmünd 2011", on 7 May 2011. It was a great event with over 400 visitors, and the different contributions of the artists produced a really creative, joyfully mood. Dancers, musicians, sculptors, painters and a fire-artist, presented their art. Take a look on the webpage: www.pankratium.at



Bernhard Mikuskovics: led evening classes on jew's harp playing techniques for beginners in Vienna between March and May 2011. On 17 July he will be performing with his band NAM at "Ancient Trance Festival".

Mollner Maultrommler: After attending the IJHF 2011 in Yakutsk, the Mollner Maultrommler will have some nice events in 2011. At 15 Sep 2011, they will play a special concert in "Haus der Völker" in Krems/Austria.

At 23-24 Sep. 2011, Manfred will give a workshop in Jew's Harp playing at the Eyblhammer in Ybbsitz (see www.eyblhammer.at). The workshop will end with the concert "iron-groove" in the historical place of a blacksmith.

Look for all concert-details at

www.myspace.com/mollnermaultrommler



Albin Paulus: Concert «Wondrous Instruments», Palace of Arts, Budapest am 29th of May 2011:

"...The best result was without doubt the *Albrechtsberger's Concerto für classical jew's harp and strings (...)* Albin Paulus was simply brilliant on the jew's harps!..."e-kultúra, Ungarn

Next shows: 15 July, Zagreb, Festival of Ancient Music, 16 July Styriarte Graz (A) «Ein Fest für Fux», 22 July, «Wackelsteinfestival» Amaliendorf (A), 28/ 29 June Folkfestival Korro (Sweden), 6 august «MoreOhrLess» Lunz (A), 9 august «Glasgow Folk Festival», 27 August «Folkfestival Meißen (D)

New CDs from Austria:

Albin Paulus, Hotel Palindrone, Album: "Jodulator" www.hoanzl.at

Albin Paulus, Ensemble baroque de Limoges: "Entre Ciel et Terre" Johann Georg Albrechtberger www.ebl-laborie.com

Workshops and others:

All our musicians offer **workshops** and teach Maultrommel: Wolf Janscha (www.wolfsonium.com), Albin Paulus (pietsch@mdw.ac.at, www.albinpaulus.folk.org), Manfred Russmann (www.maultommel.com) Simone Prein (www.steirisches-volksliedwerk.at) and Bernhard Mikuskovics (www.mikuskovics.info).

Plans for the near future:

We are ready to go to Yakutsk! Our group will consist of 14 participants, with three ensembles ("Mollner Maultrommler", "Maul- und Trommelseuche" and the trio "Albin Paulus-Wolf Janscha-Bernhard Mikuskovic", out of which the three latter musicians will all take part in the virtuoso-competition. The jew's harp smith Sepp Jofen will use the possibility of virtual participation in the Makers' Competition. We are very grateful to the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture for partial funding of our participation in the 7th International Jew's Harp Festival-Congress.

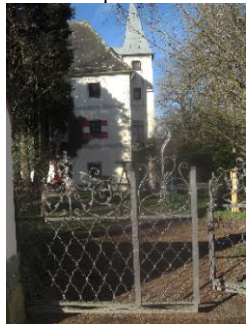


(above)
Franz at Freidegg
Photograph courtesy of
Franz Kumpl

(far right)
Mollner Maultrommler
Photograph courtesy of
Franz Kumpl

(right)
Feldegg-Ing LOOP
Maul u Trommelseuche
Mollner Maultrommler
Photograph courtesy of
Franz Kumpl

(below)
Schloss Freidegg
Photograph courtesy of
Franz Kumpl



(below)
Maul-und Trommelseuche
Photograph courtesy of
Franz Kumpl



(right)
Wolf Janscha
Photograph courtesy of
Franz Kumpl

France

Herewith are some video clips I filmed in Hanoi at the beginning of April 2011

<http://haidanmoi.multiply.com/video/item/385/385>
Đức Minh performs the Jew's harp in duet with Trần Quang Hải playing the spoons



<http://haidanmoi.multiply.com/video/item/383/383>
Đức Minh improvisation shown with spectral pics by Overtone Analyzer



<http://haidanmoi.multiply.com/video/item/382/382>
Tran Quang Hai Duc Minh in an improvisation April 2011



<http://haidanmoi.multiply.com/video/item/373/373>
Đức Minh plays the Chinese Jews Harp KOU XIANG with 5 small jews harp in one



<http://haidanmoi.multiply.com/video/item/370/370>
HIP HO P Spoons and Jews Harp in an experimental performance



<http://haidanmoi.multiply.com/photos/album/33>














Trần quang Hai plays the Vietnamese DAN MOI Jew's Harp at different moments of his life

43 new video clips on the JEW'S HARP have just been posted on my blog:

<http://haidanmoi.multiply.com/video>

(right)
Tran Quang Hai website

Dàn Môi / Jew's Harp / Guimbarde		
Home	Notes	Blog
Photos	Video	Music
Calendar	Reviews	Links
Type	Subject	Comments
	Jaw harp, basic technique Posted on Apr 27, '11 3:29 AM for everyone "3 fevr. 2009 jews harp / jaw harp, basic technique"	0
	playing the kuding, a bamboo jaw harp Posted on Apr 27, '11 3:21 AM for everyone "16 oct. 2010 Do you want to learn how to play the Kuding? Nicky is giving some l..."	0
	Neptune playing Double Plastic Cards at the International Jews Harp Festival, 2010 Posted on Apr 27, '11 3:13 AM for everyone "29 oct. 2010 Neptune Chapotin on stage at the 6th International Jews Harp Festiv..."	0
	Neptune playing Moorsing at the International Jews Harp Festival 2010 Posted on Apr 27, '11 3:08 AM for everyone "29 oct. 2010 Neptune Chapotin on stage at the 6th International Jews Harp Festiv..."	0
	Neptune ft Deirdre in a Gengong-Danmoi duo at the International Jews Harp Festival, 2010 Posted on Apr 27, '11 3:02 AM for everyone "31 oct. 2010 Neptune Chapotin on stage with Deirdre Morgan at the 6th Internat..."	0
	TRAN QUANG HAI dans MAP: la guimbarde, VIET NAM Posted on Apr 26, '11 3:12 AM for everyone "2 août 2009 TRAN QUANG HAI dans MAP: la guimbarde"	0
	Rajasthan Desert Festival Evora 2007, RAJASTHAN, INDIA Posted on Apr 26, '11 3:03 AM for everyone "6 juil. 2007 Rajasthan Desert Festival Evora 2007 Festival Evora Classica 2007 P..."	0
	Darbar Morchang Party: Rajasthan Desert Festival Evora 2007, RAJASTHAN, INDIA Posted on Apr 26, '11 2:59 AM for everyone "6 juil. 2007 Rajasthan Desert Festival Evora 2007 Darbar Morchang Party Festival..."	0
	Morchang, RAJASTHAN, INDIA Posted on Apr 26, '11 2:54 AM for everyone "27 oct. 2008 This instrument belongs to Langa Community of western Rajasthan. It..."	0
	murchung ma royel, NEPAL Posted on Apr 26, '11 2:51 AM for everyone "20 juil. 2010 new latest nepali morden song 2010 by murchungama royel,artist -sh..."	0
	Chunga Chunga Crazy Murchunga, RUSSIA Posted on Apr 26, '11 2:42 AM for everyone "3 janv. 2009 Nepal Mini Murchunga"	0

(far right)
Artwork by Aron Szilagyi

The video clips are about Jew's harp making in Vietnam, India, Austria, Russia, Nepal, Bali, Also performances of different famous Jew's harpers: John Wright (UK), Nadishana (Russia), Tran Quang Hai (Vietnam), Spiridon Shishigin (Yakutia), Kim Borisov (Yakutia), Aron Szilagyi (Hungary), Leo Tadagawa (Japan), Luca Recupero (Sicily), Lucy Wright (UK), Michael Wright (UK) Byong Kai (Japan), Wang Li (China), Ma Guo Guo (China), Sylvain Trias (France) and some unknown but refined players. Just surf on this blog and you will discover many talented performers of this tiny instrument.

Tran Quang Hai

Germany



(right)
Gerd Conrad, photograph
courtesy of Gerd Conrad

My hormones of happiness are dancing. Soon I will meet my Yakutia friends and all the other Jew's Harp players of the world. Since I was in Yakutia for the first time in 1998, I have felt very close to this country and its people, especially my friendship with Spiridon Shishigin that has led to extraordinary experiences. As his manager I organized several concerts for him in Germany and realized two CD productions. There exists film material from all these events, though they have not been edited yet.

Whilst in Yakutia I filmed Shishigin and other khomus players and Shishigin introduced me to the 'Keskil-

Women'. The material from this visit will be presented as DVD at the festival.

In 1999 I recorded Spiridon Shishigin's and Ivan Alexejev's music at 'Wunderwelten' for a special CD edition named "Healing sounds of peoples". Because of changes in the publishing house this material has never been published, but now it is possible to release it. For publishing this very special music we are looking for an influential company.

"preussischblau" (Sören Birke, Gerd Conrad) will come to the festival with a special guest: Dirk Michaelis, a well known rock poet. With his support "preussischblau" will thrill the audience with their shamanic blues.

Gerd Conrad

Hungary

Jew's harp jamboree:



1-2 July 2011 - Doromb Jamboree in Matko, just outside Kecskemét, Hungary. The venue is the magical Gero Ranch with its wonderful organic buildings, hand-built with the most ancient techniques. If you cannot go to Yakutsk, or you feel like having a great international after-party, just visit our jamboree. You will be able to see the fresh and crunchy photo-presentations from Yakutsk; take part in workshops; play on the stage on our superb PA; stare at the logfire or the wonderful visuals projected on the whirly walls. Bring your tent, yurt, tipi or sleeping bag!

Our event is not a Festival in its classical form. (We are not organizing the Hungarian Jew's Harp Festival this year, though we will do it in 2012.) This is a weekend of Jew's harpers: being together, enjoying the good company. There are no paid performers, but there are great players from whom you can learn, you can listen to – or maybe you are one! Furthermore, you can play on stage, off stage, anywhere with anyone. This is a free spirit event where everybody is a performer and everybody is a visitor. The wonderful ambience embraces you; the anciently built walls absorb the sound of the Jew's harp. It's worth coming for each other, for the Jew's harp and for the place!

It is a kind of after-show party the following weekend of the Yakut festival. It's ideal for those who cannot afford the far East Siberian travel but would like to meet Jew's harp people. We will share the fresh and crunchy news from the festival with videos, images and stories. This place is a quiet relax zone after Yakutia for

those who don't want to fly back overseas right away and can hang around in Europe for a while. The sound system and the visuals will be brilliant, no worries. The place is 50 minutes South on the highway from Budapest.

Oh, and I nearly forgot: besides the spiritual food, your starving body can also get what it deserves: there will be yummie vegetarian food cooked in large pots, served at your taste.

We don't have sponsors. You are our only sponsor.

You, who register and participate. The whole weekend from Friday afternoon until Sunday morning costs 3000 HUF or 11 EUR or 15 USD each. For this price you can participate and pitch your tent, yurt, hammock or whatever you want to sleep in. (No caravans or mobile homes!) If you want to come, please send your name and e-mail address in the form at:

http://www.doromb.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=151%3Adoromb-jamboree&catid=1%3Ahirek&Itemid=96&lang=hu.

Roughly a month before the event we will publish the names of those acknowledged players who will also participate, just to make sure, you will be in a good company:-)

See you in June-July.

(far right)
Lithuanian Jew's harp musician event

Aron Szilagyi
www.doromb.com

Indonesia



(right)
'Karinding Record' from
pikiran-rakyat.com
courtesy of Ilham
Nurwansah

On the 20th April 2011, a new record was achieved at the Indonesia Museum of Record (MURI). 370 karinding players played together at the same time in celebration of the 370th year birth day of Bandung regency. A video shot by my friend can be found at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeAO1NF0xwc>
RAMPAK KARINDING (rekor muri) [HQ].mp4

nyanz666 6 videos



(far right)
Photograph by Olga Prass

(right)
Rampak Karinding
on YouTube

Lithuania

Dear friends, chers amis, liebe Freunde, cari amici!

2011 year in early June was the **first** Lithuanian Jew's harp musician event. The musicians played together, shared their experiences on Jew's harp playing technique, taught who want to learn how to play. There was a lot of debate about the Jew's harp history, about tradition of playing in Europe and around the world. It was well-spent time and we agreed to meet again next year!

We are sending best wishes to you and look forward for news from 7th International Jew's Harp Congress, Yakutsk 2011.

Lithuanian jaw harp players greetings for colleagues around the world 2011

DainiusJucius 20 videos



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMe6RTNONx0>

On behalf of the participants,
Kind regards

Dainius Jucius
Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel. +370 620 57521

North America

For the latest news from the New World can be found in the Guild newsletter that recently came out.

http://www.jewsharpguild.org/jhgnewsI.html#Back_issues_in_PDF_format:

Deirdre Morgan

Russia

For photographs taken at the 1st Moscow Jew's Harp Festival. 6-7 March 2011, organized by the band, Turbodzen, go to the **PictureGallery**, pages 9 & 10.



Sakha Republic

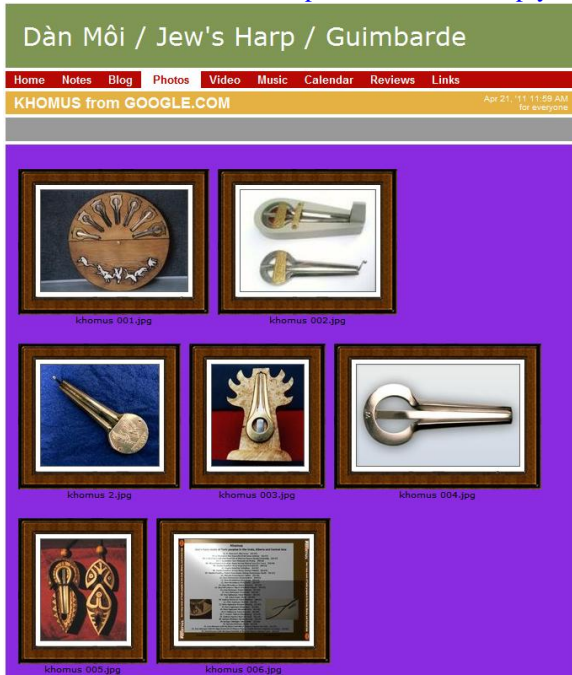
Go to

http://haidanmoi.multiply.com/journal/item/103/Category_7th_ICF_Khomus_Trump_in_the_World_Cultural_Space_YAKUTIA_23-26_june_2011

Category: 7th ICF 'Khomus (Trump) in the World Cultural Space', YAKUTIA, 23-26 june 2011

plus many articles on khomus, pictures and video clips focused on Yakut Jew's harp

Please click on this link : <http://haidanmoi.multiply.com>



(right)
Tran Quang Hai website

(far right)
Michael Wright's
'jewsharper.info' website
'performances' page

Follow the link and you go to the website of the international Jew's harp and music centre in Yakutsk. (in which is located the museum as well)

http://rus.ilkhomus.com/?page_id=55&paged=3

Harm Linsen

UK

Things chug along here in the UK. We keep finding new players and the UK association is now nearly 70 members strong. We have two new members from Scotland – Allan McDonald and Grogair Lawrie. Allan has appeared on BBCTV's 'Highland Sessions' and like Angus Lawrie of Oban (one of the most important inspirations of the Wrights, though sadly, only from recordings for most of us), Allan is a piper, and a leading exponent of Scottish traditional trumpet playing. Grogair Lawrie is one of the few living members of the Lawrie family playing the Jew's harp and we very much look forward to hearing Grogair and Allan in Yakutsk as both have been invited.

Also going will be myself, brother John and Jonathon Cope from London. We are also hopeful that Keith Howard, Professor of Music at SOAS, University of London, will be going to show off the DVDs and CDs they produced from a visit made a few years ago.

Sadly it looks unlikely that Lucy and David Wright will be able to make it. Lucy is touring with her new band, Pilgrims' Way, which while focussing on traditional songs, does feature the Jew's harp on occasion. Their debut EP is out with a full Cd to follow and for more information go to their website, <http://www.pilgrims-way.net/>.

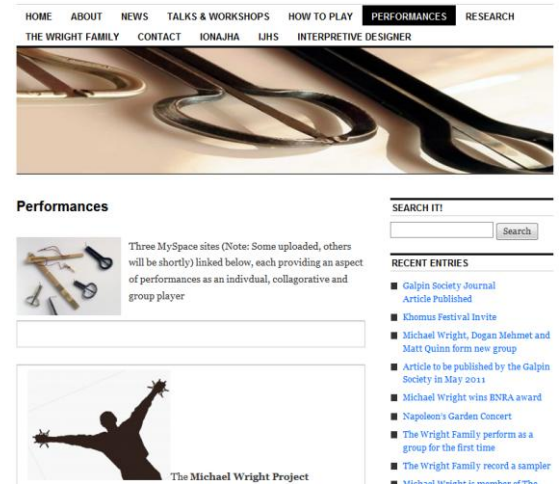


(right)
Pilgrims' Way Website

My new website with extended information is pretty much up and running, www.jewsharper.info with links under 'Performances' to three MySpace sites: Michael Wright – examples of the traditional playing that are my roots; The Wright Family – examples of all the Wright Family; The Michael Wright Project – snippets of pieces from a CD I've been working on most of this year and I'm hoping to have a sampler with me in Yakutsk.

The Jews Harper

The most Ancient of musical instruments with a most modern sound



One of the joys of being part of the Society is that we meet new friends and I was delighted when contacted by Aleksey Khoroshev from Perm, Russia, who was touring with the 'Big Ballet' (who are fantastic, by the way). We had an all to short session in the dressing room, but Aleksey is hoping to be in Yakutsk.



I've been involved in two American based projects. In January I was contacted by a group filming the origins of their National Anthem called 'Anthem' and a promo video can be found at:

www.mymmedia.org/anthem_promo.php

Also, my article 'The Jew's Harp Trade in Colonial America' has been published by the Galpin Society Journal.

And finally, IoNAJHA has its own webpage, so anyone interested in what's going on in the UK should go to <http://jewsharper.wordpress.com/ionajha/> Clicking on the latest Newsletter image there is an article on Jonathon Cope, various events we've been involved in, recording we know about and a research section.

Michael Wright

All photographs courtesy of Spiridon Shishigin.

Left to right in all cases:
Algy's Ivanov; Best young
Khomus-player and
Sponsor; best Khomus
player with mother.



'The song with Khomus';
Director of the
Khomusmuseum .Nikolay
Schischigin and the leaders
of the children groups;
Iliya Jirkov.

A young khomus-player;
Khomus group leader n
Agafiya Efremova und
Schuhlerin; Children's
Group from Megino-
Kangalasskiy ulus.

Children's Group from
Churapcha; Childrens
Group from
Churapchinskiy ulus.
Children's group from
Nyurbinskiy uluis.

Children's Group from
Tomponskiy ulus:
Children's Group from
Yakutsk;
Children's Group from
Yakutsk.

Spiridon Schischigin with
two very young khomus
players; Museum sponsor;
Vova Dormidontov.

1st Moscow Jew's Harp Festival. 6-7 March 2011.

Organized by the band, Turbodzen.

Acknowledgements: Self portrait with Nikolai Sobolev is taken by Aron Szilagyi; photographs by Olga Prass are credited in the corner; all other photographs; workshop pictures and "Aron+students" images are taken by Aksentiy Beskorovny.





AndFinally...

We thought you might appreciate the extent to which Jews harps are entering the popular imagination!

Angel Impey (UK)



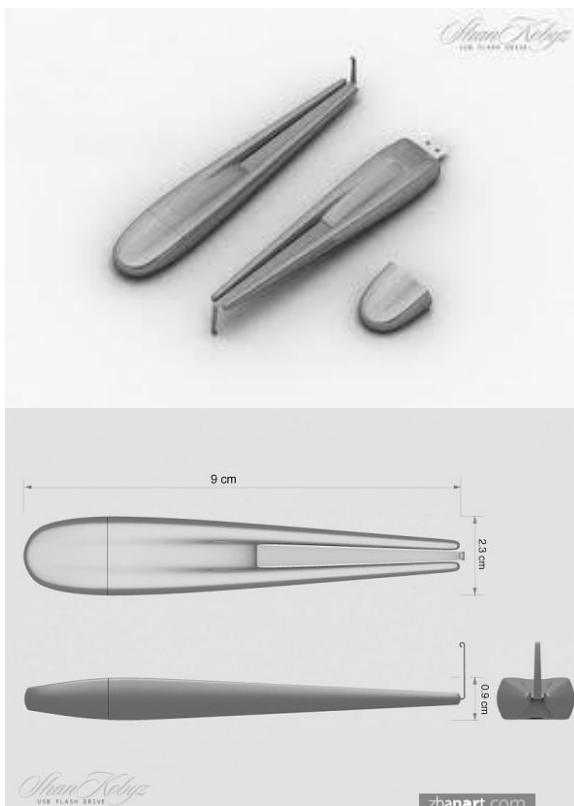
(right)
Wine bottles in a
UK supermarket
Courtesy of Angela Impey

---oOo---

The extent to which Jew's harps have reached the popular imagination is also illustrated by the following sent by Harm Linsen...

With this Jew's harp from the artist Zhanar Turekurov of Almaty, Kazakhstan you really are playing a modern instrument of today. I found these pictures on the website <http://www.behance.net/gallery/USB-drife-ShanKobyz/184155> where you can also find a link to Zhanar's website.

(far right)
x-ray image from website



(right & below right)
Zhanar Turekurov's
memory stick
from website

(far right)
Svetlana Suhanova and
Vladimir Markov
from website

Two tidbits from "Munnharpa" #49 sent by Bernhard Folkestad

Pirate-munnharpe

Edward Teach (c. 1680 - November 22 1718, better known as "Blackbeard", was a notorious English pirate who operated in the waters of the West Indian islands and on the east coast of the American colonies right at the beginning of the 18th century. In the wreckage of his ship, Queen Anne's Revenge, the archaeologists have dug up a large quantity of artifacts of many kinds, weapons, tools, private treasures, etc. This X-ray photograph shows the only musical instrument one has found, a munnharpe, entirely encased in sediment.

For more information, please check

<http://www.qaronline.org/artifacts/pastime.htm>



Per Spelmann...

The Norwegian folk tune "Per Spelmann" played on munnharpe (NMF member Vladimir Markov) and piano (Svetlana Suhanova). This duo named "1046" has published on the Internet several songs which they call 'a sonic journey into world music'. Their music can be listened to and downloaded from

<http://veskimo.livejournal.com/59775>

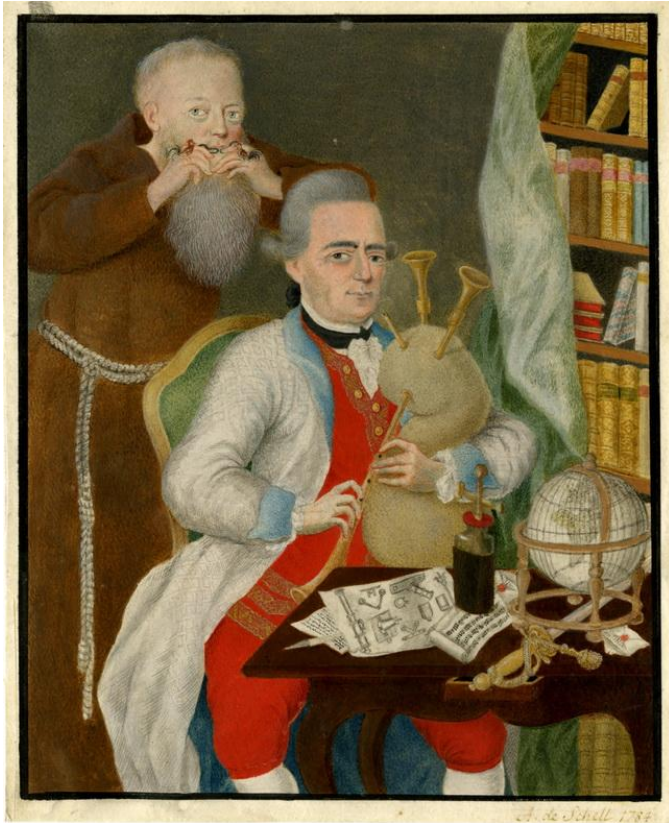


NoticeBoard

It is intended that the whole issue of Membership will be discussed at the 7th IJHC in June.

Harm Linsen

Astonishing Jew's harp player of the old times Discovery of a new 18th century image



Legend: 1 (large)

Major Count Sedlnitzky playing bagpipe, by A. de Schell, 1784, gouache on vellum mounted on cardboard, 23 x 18.8 cm, Inv. Bi 2234. Courtesy Sammlungen der Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Wien.



Legend 2 (player's portrait)

The two Jew's harps seem to belong to a type which has existed; the frame is closed and surrounds entirely the tongue, more surprising are the two small colourful cock figures mounted on each ring finger.

One of the most crucial missions of the International Jew's harp Society is to share and disseminate knowledge about the Jew's harp, and this could not be done without the close collaboration of its members. Here is the latest example of such teamwork we would like to dedicate to Fred Crane.

Our member from Germany Uta Henning informed me last February that an unknown 18th century painting depicting a Jew's harp player had been on sale during the last Stuttgart Antiquarian Bookfair and that the image was published on page 96 in the general catalogue (Verband Deutscher Antiquare (ed.), 2010, *Wertvolle Bücher, Autographen, illustrierte Werke, Graphik. 50. Verkaufsausstellung 2011, Stuttgarter Antiquariatsmesse vom 28. Bis 30. Januar 2011*. Elbingen. Verband Deutscher Antiquare). The price was 1.200 €.

After contacting the seller, Antiquariat Patzer & Trenkle in Konstanz, I was told that the image was actually sold during the Bookfair. Nevertheless, Patzer & Trenkle had been very kind and contributed to put me into contact with the new owner, the Archiv, Bibliothek und Sammlungen der Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Vienna. Its director, Prof. Dr. Biba, kindly allowed us to publish the painting in the IJHS Newsletter issued for the 7th International Festival and Congress in Yakutsk.

Though the artist is still unknown, Patzer & Trenkle could identify that it is the portrait of Major Count Sedlnitzky („Sedlizky“) von Choltitz playing bagpipe, and behind him a Franciscan monk playing two Jew's harps, one in each hand. On the reverse of the painting there is the following poetic sentence inscribed in French: “Ami, dis moi quelle Avanture peut avoir fait naitre un tableau d'un goût si bizarre et nouveau?”

Finding such a new image is quite rare. In this case we should first acknowledge Patzer & Trenkle who identified and documented the painting which meant that it did not escape the sharp eye of Uta Henning. In fact, as this painting contains some rather enigmatic elements, we are awaiting your comments or remarks (please send them to me: phidkat@bluewin.ch) as we intend to publish this image with some further analysis (all contributions will be mentioned).

Philippe Dallais

Special thanks to: Uta Henning, Jürgen Patzer, Prof. Dr. Otto Biba, and Ingrid Leis.