Martin Stokes: “On Musical Icons”

Icons are more than representations, and musical icons are more than icons. This talk considers the ways in which icons engage the senses and the social, and what difference music makes. The focus will be on sentimental icons, figures of cultural intimacy, where political issues can be sharply concentrated. There will be two middle eastern case studies: the waning fortunes of Abd al-Halim Hafiz in Egypt, and the rising fortunes of Neset Ertas in Turkey, both of which I will try to contextualise in terms of the political upheavals in both countries.

Martin Stokes is the King Edward Professor of Music at King’s College, London. Currently, he is in residence at UC Berkeley as the 2013 Bloch Professor. To date, his work has focused on questions of ethnicity, identity, globalization and the history of ethnomusicology and folk music study. He has particular interests in Turkey and Egypt, with broader interests across the Mediterranean and Europe.

His article on “Music and the Global Order” won the Jaap Kunst Prize from the Society for Ethnomusicology in 2004. His most recent book, The Republic of Love: Cultural Intimacy in Turkish Popular Music (University of Chicago Press, 2010) won the Society of Ethnomusicology’s Merriam Prize in 2010. He was awarded the Dent Medal by the Royal Musical Association in 2010, and was elected as a Fellow of the British Academy in 2012.

FREE

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