

Dimitri Conomos is a Byzantine musicologist who lives in Oxford, England. He has taught Medieval and Contemporary musicology at several universities in Europe, North America and Australia. He has written several books and a large number of articles on various theoretical and historical aspects of Eastern Church music (see Dimitri E. Conomos, *The Late Byzantine and Slavonic Communion Cycle: Liturgy and Music*, Dumbarton Oaks, 1985; Dimitri E. Conomos, *Byzantine Hymnography and Byzantine Chant*, Hellenic College Press, Brookline MA, 1984). Every year he visits the Holy Mountain where he continues his research in the Romanian, Greek, Russian and Serbian archives.

Maria Grajdian was born in 1977 in Bucharest, Romania. After having studied musicology at the National University of Music in Bucharest, Romania, she majored in Musicology/Ethnomusicology, Japanese Studies and French Philology at the University of Cologne, Germany. She achieved her PhD at the University of Music and Drama in Hannover, Germany, with a thesis on cultural construction of modern Japanese identity on the basis of all-female musical theater Takarazuka Revue's marketing and performance strategies. Currently, she is postdoctoral researcher in the research project *Hidden Grammars of Transculturality: Migrations of Encyclopedic Knowledge and Power* (D11) within the Cluster of Excellence *Asia and Europe in a Global Context: Shifting Asymmetries in Cultural Flows* at the University of Heidelberg. Among her main publications there are: *Takarazuka Revue and the Conquest of Tradition* (2005), *The Japanese Animation: Towards a Scientific Approach* (2008), *Liquid Identity: The Postmodern Love, Takarazuka Revue and the Quest for a New Enlightenment* (2009), *Takahata Isao* (2010).

Valentina Sandu-Dediu graduated 1990 musicology at the National Music University of Bucharest, teaches since 1993 at the same institution. She wrote over 30 studies, 300 articles, and 7 books (see *Rumänische Musik nach 1944*, Pfau Verlag, Saarbrücken, 2006; *Alegeri, atitudini, afecte. Despre stil și retorică în muzică*, Edit.Didactică și Pedagogică, București 2010), she conceived series of broadcastings for the Romanian Radio. She also plays piano in chamber music (CDs released in Romania with Aurelian Octav Popa, in Germany/ Neos with Dan Dediu, and in Boston / Albany with Ray Jackendoff).

Valentina Sandu-Dediu was fellow of *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*, she is a permanent fellow of *New Europe College*, Bucharest, and received in 2008 the *Peregrinus-Stiftung Prize* of Berlin-Brandenburg Akademie der Wissenschaften.

Thomas Beimel, composer, musicologist, violist was born in 1967 in Essen, Germany. Starting as a viola player, he finalized music studies and instrumental pedagogics at Hochschule für Musik im Rheinland. In 1989 he founded together with other musicians the ensemble *Partita Radicale*, specializing in the field between improvisation and composition. Since 1993, the ensemble worked with outstanding Romanian composers (there are two CDs with contemporary Romanian music released by *sonoton*, Munich).

Since 1991, Thomas Beimel has made several musicological researches resulting in book publications on the music of the Belgium composer, Jacqueline Fontyn and of the Romanian composer Myriam Marbe. Since 1998, he realized many broadcasts on topics like contemporary music in Romania and Latin America, classical modern music in Eastern Europe, music and rhetoric.

Since 1994 Thomas Beimel works also as composer. In the summer of 1997 he studied privately composition with Myriam Marbe, Bucharest. In 1999, his first opera was premiered at Stadttheater Mönchengladbach, Germany. Stage activities were continued in June 2001 by the theatre music for the first integral drama adaption of Franz Kafka's novel *In der Strafkolonie*, operahouse, Wuppertal. In 2002, *faltenbalg*, a stereophonic composition for five orchestras of accordions, was premiered.

Thomas Beimel received a special award for composition, *Impulse*, 2004. He was 2005-2006 composer-in-residence, *Internationales Künstlerhaus Villa Concordia*, Bamberg.