THE USEFULNESS OF COMPUTERS IN ETHNOMUSICOLOGY

SUMMARY

Usage of computers in ethnomusicology represents a revolutionary change equal to that of discovery and usage of sound recorders. The traditional music is composed of many structural elements, some of which are characteristic for the individual interpreter, others for several interpreters, the third ones for a certain area, or an ethnic group. It is a task of the ethnomusicologist to endeavour to establish the laws and causes of all phenomena of traditional music. Basic data are usually obtained from good and accurate transcriptions of collected material.

As well as by the ethnomusicologist, sound recordings can be made by a computer, too. Does an ethnomusicologist - have to be a computer word processing expert as well? It is certainly not the case with all ethnomusicologists. Howewer, each of them should be able to work with a computer, while ethnomusicologist-specialist should be entrusted with preparation of special programms. The ethnomusicologist should know when and for what purpose the computer can be used. The computer word processing, at the end of the century, has caught us fully unprepared. We shall obviously have to change our present way of thinking before long, and adjust as soon as possibile to the new options offered by computer. In the event of one not doing so, the ethnomusicology will considerably lag behind other branches of the science.