Call for Proposals:
Music and Global Health: Toward Collaborative Paradigms
DEADLINE MARCH 15, 2013

Pre-Conference Symposium
November 13, 2013 – Indianapolis

In Conjunction With
Society for Ethnomusicology 2013 Annual Meeting
November 14-17, 2013 – Indianapolis

The field of global health offers fertile ground for exploring the collaboration between the medical arts, the creative arts, and the social sciences. Medical researchers have noted that the successful ability to address communal health issues and solutions relies heavily on understanding and working with local populations. Global health campaigns, in turn, regularly use the arts to disseminate medical knowledge among local populations, creating numerous forms of “Education-Entertainment” (or Edutainment) and Theater for Development to promote health solutions. These efforts, however, only scratch the surface: increasingly, humanities scholars are noticing how deeply local populations integrate their own understandings of health into their creative expressions, offering commentary on both indigenous views of health and global health efforts in the process. Music scholars have recently taken a leading role in this conversation, producing a growing literature in “Medical Ethnomusicology,” and helping to shape the field of global health and the arts more generally. At the heart of this endeavor is the continued challenge to integrate effectively the needs of medical researchers with the expertise of humanities scholars in order to address health inequalities at all levels.

The SEM 2013 Pre-Conference Symposium offers a major opportunity to develop these collaborations further. We are in the process of partnering with the IU School of Medicine, the IU Center for Global Health, the IUPUI program in Medical Humanities and Health Studies, and the IUPUI Global Health Student Interest Group for what we hope will be a transformative day of collaboration and discussion.

This preconference aims to address both new and existing collaborative projects between ethnomusicologists and health researchers. To this end, we invite SEM members to propose joint presentations with health sciences collaborators based on comparative methodologies and agendas, project design, data collection, grant writing and funding, and publication venues. In addition, we will consider paper proposals on topics related to global health and/or medical ethnomusicology, particularly those that place projects within the broader health science ecosystem.

Please send 250 word abstracts, with titles and the names of all project participants, to Judah M. Cohen (cohenjm@indiana.edu) by MARCH 15, 2013. Accepted presenters will be notified by mid-March.

Looking forward!
The SEM 2013 Preconference Committee:
Judah M. Cohen, Associate Professor, Indiana University Bloomington
Daniel B. Reed, Associate Professor, Indiana University Bloomington
Theresa A. Allison, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Family & Community Medicine, University of California, San Francisco