

CITES Musical Instrument Certificate CoP20

1. Background and Summary

Musicians perform with valuable and culturally significant musical instruments legally crafted decades and even centuries ago. A number of these instruments contain small amounts of ivory, shell, reptile skin, tree species, or other materials regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). The international use of musical instruments by musicians and professional and student ensembles is essential to advancing diplomacy, sparking artistic innovation, and supporting vital international cultural activity. For species for which CITES permits are required, individual musicians and ensembles report that the required time and financial expense of obtaining and putting to use the MIC has often left no option but to forgo travel with their best musical instruments or use instruments that compromise that quality of performances.

In partnership with CITES parties and the conservation community, music stakeholders have undertaken efforts to increase compliance with current permit requirements while simultaneously pursuing policy improvements that will alleviate unnecessary burdens. **While continued improvement and fine-tuning of existing permit procedures would be appreciated, the most effective way to minimize the burden of the permit process is to appropriately exempt noncommercial movement of musical instruments from permit requirements during the listing and annotations process, and to provide simplified procedures for those activities that do not constitute a threat to the conservation of protected species.**

We ask the Parties to expand the mandate for future work on simplified procedures for the Rapid Movement of Musical Instruments during consideration of [Doc. 61](#), consider the implications for musical instruments during future action on the purpose code “P” under [Doc. 55](#), and support the mandate for consideration of musical instruments in next steps on e-permitting under [Doc. 56.1](#).

2. Musical Instrument Certificate - A Consolidated Permit

The Musical Instrument Certificate (MIC) is not an exemption from the permit process. It is a consolidated permit. The MIC streamlines the requirement for obtaining multiple CITES export permits when an instrument contains CITES material and is not exempted from permit requirements by an annotation or a personal effects exemption. Musicians using the MIC apply to their CITES Management Authority for issuance of a single permit, which **must then be credentialed by CITES enforcement officials at each designated port through which an instrument travels.** Musical instruments accompanied by a CITES Musical Instrument Certificate may be hand-carried, in checked luggage, or transported via cargo for larger ensembles. The purpose code P is indicated on a certificate for personal use by individuals, and purpose code Q is indicated on a certificate when a larger ensemble may be considered a traveling exhibition of multiple instruments on a single permit.

The costs associated with obtaining the documentation needed to support a permit application, required fees, and extra travel expense for reaching a CITES-designated port are a barrier for musicians, and the process of issuing and credentialing these permits is extremely variable from country to country. Limited ports are available for credentialing permits and enforcement officers are available at limited hours, which can prevent musicians from traveling efficiently and affordably. The process is in urgent need of harmonization in order to fully facilitate noncommercial travel with musical instruments.

3. Personal Effects Exemption

The personal effects exemption **does not** provide full solutions for traveling musicians. The extensive challenges in applying the personal effects exemption and in using the MIC were detailed in [CoP19 Inf. 18 \(Rev. 1\)](#), *Consideration of Additional Efficiencies in the Movement of Musical Instruments for Non-Commercial Purposes*. In this information document, the United States authorities noted that inefficiencies in the MIC as well as the personal effects exemption have led to clearance delays, seizures, and canceled performances. **The personal effects exemption is *only* available for Appendix II-listed species, is unevenly accepted across CITES Parties, and is not available for large ensembles shipping instruments by cargo.**

4. Rapid Movement of Musical Instruments

At the 16th Conference of the Parties (CoP16), Resolution Conf. 16.8 was adopted on *Frequent Cross-Border Non-Commercial Movements of Musical Instruments*, creating a multi-use Musical Instrument Certificate. At the 17th Conference of the Parties, clarifications were adopted in [Resolution Conf. 16.8 \(Rev. CoP17\)](#) to improve and clarify related procedures. At the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18), [Decision 18.171](#) was adopted, including a directive for the Secretariat to prepare draft guidance on Simplified Procedures that “should include consideration of other types of specimens in addition to those identified in document [CoP18 Doc. 56](#), paragraph 13, with a focus on the international movement of CITES specimens where the trade will have a negligible impact on the species concerned.” At the 19th Conference of the Parties, Decision 19.160 directed the Standing Committee to:

“consider the need for the development of further appropriate mechanisms, including guidance and capacity-building on simplified procedures in accordance with the recommendations in Part XIII of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) on Permits and certificates, to facilitate the efficient international movement of wildlife samples for diagnostic purposes and/or conservation purposes and the non-commercial movement of musical instruments for purposes of performance, display or competition, for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties”

Musical Instrument stakeholders have participated in the working group on Rapid Movement of Wildlife Diagnostic Samples and of Musical Instruments and support the decisions in the Annex to Doc. 61, which would gather essential information about the implementation of permit requirements and exemptions, identify relevant challenges Parties are facing, and develop for publication on the CITES website a webpage bringing together information on the available mechanisms for noncommercial movement of musical instruments. This resource would include a register of Parties’ existing arrangements with a link to country-specific information. The proposed one-page simplified guidance would be a helpful resource to musicians and ensembles attempting to navigate these procedures. The music stakeholder community stands ready to partner in these potential next steps and encourages the Parties to identify a rapid timeline for implementing these resources, **however we respectfully disagree with the working group’s finding that CITES simplified procedures as outlined in the relevant resolutions “work.”**

Immediate steps are urgently needed to consider revisions that will substantially improve noncommercial movement of musical instruments. An increasing number of CITES parties, including the European Union, require a traveling exhibition certificate (TEC) issued by the first entry country even if there is a TEC presented that was issued by the country of departure, and no longer recognize traveling exhibition certificates issued beyond their borders that are

compliant with the terms of a Musical Instrument Certificate, due to new domestic regulations. This means that ensembles, management authorities, and enforcement officials alike would need to forgo the efficiency of a single permit for a group of instruments and instead seek multiple documents for travel. These barriers may be overcome with simple revisions to the relevant CITES resolutions.

We request an expansion of the draft decisions proposed under Doc. 61 Annex A to examine Resolution Conf. 16.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Frequent Cross-Border Non-Commercial Movements of Musical Instruments*, Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Permits and Certificates*, Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Control of Trade in Personal and Household Effects*, and any other relevant resolutions for possible amendments to advance for consideration at CoP21.

5. Electronic Systems and Information Technology

As we await opportunities for improvements to the permit process, we strongly support the efforts among CITES parties to institute an electronic permit system. **Electronic permitting would help to streamline and make more efficient the process of acquiring, using, and invalidating musical instrument certificates.** Currently, musicians holding individual permits must void them before their instruments are included on a group permit. Given the narrow timeframe between engagements, this is impractical. An electronic system would help speed the permit issuance and the invalidation processes, while reducing the burden on enforcement authorities. Additionally, for individual musicians who retain ownership of their instruments over time, the permit burden would be lessened by streamlining the permit renewal process. Electronic systems also hold potential for relieving the burden posed by the requirement to physically credential permits at each border crossing. They would also enhance transparency and allow real-time data exchange between management and enforcement authorities, thereby improving conservation oversight.

At the 19th Conference of Parties, [Decision 19.151](#) was adopted, including the following two actions directed to the Standing Committee of relevance to the Musical Instrument Certificate:

c) recognizing the importance of the requirement for endorsement of permits and certificates at export, explore possible alternatives to the physical endorsement;

and

g) consider ways in which electronic CITES permitting systems can simplify procedures for the non-commercial movement of musical instruments;

While some progress has been made to explore 2D bar code implementation for permits, [SC78 Doc. 51 \(Rev 1\)](#) indicated the following regarding Decision 19.151, g):

Non-commercial movement of musical instruments

27. Regarding Decision 19.151, paragraph g), no progress has been made on ways in which electronic CITES permitting systems can simplify the procedures for the movement of musical instruments. However, the Secretariat notes that this is linked to Decision 19.160 on the rapid movement of wildlife diagnostic samples and musical

instruments and suggests renewing Decision 19.151, paragraph g) until work on Decision 19.160 as reported in document SC78 Doc. 56 has been completed.

We support the draft decision proposed in Doc. 56.1, 20.BB., (f), which would renew and extend consideration of ways that simplified procedures for non-commercial movement of musical instruments can be supported by electronic CITES permitting systems.

Endorsements

American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada
afm.org

American Federation of Violin and Bow Makers (AFVBM)
AFVBM.org

American String Teachers Association
astastrings.org

Association for the Performing Arts / Scène ensemble
scenensemble.com

Association of British Orchestras
abo.org.uk/

**Association of Czech Musical Instruments Makers /
Asociace Vyrobcu Hudebních Nastrojů (AVHN)**
avhn.cz

**Association of Danish Ensembles, Orchestras and Opera Institutions /
Danske Ensembles, Orkestre og Operainstitutioner (DEOO)**
deoo.dk/

Association of Dutch Orchestras / Vereniging van Nederlandse Orkesten (VvNO)
vvno.nl/en/

Association of Finnish Symphony Orchestras / Suomen Sinfoniaorkesterit (SUOSIO)
sinfoniaorkesterit.fi/en/

Association of French Orchestras / Association Française des Orchestres (AFO)
france-orchestres.com/

**Association of German Violin and Bow Makers /
Verband deutscher Geigenbauer und Bogenmacher e.V.**
geigenbauerverband.de/

Association of Hungarian Orchestras / Magyar Szimfonikus Zenekarok Szövetsége
aho.hu/

Association of Independent Musicians Austria / IG Freie Musikschaffende Österreich
igfmoe.at/en/

**Association of Latvian Professional Music Collectives /
Latvijas Profesionālo mūzikas kolektīvu asociācija**
facebook.com/p/Latvijas-Profesion%C4%81lo-m%C5%ABzikas-kolekt%C4%ABvu-asoci%C4%81cija-61552169233484/

**Association of Luthiers and Bow Makers for the Development of Instrumental Making /
Association des Luthiers et Archetiers pour le Développement de la Facture Instrumentale du
quatuor (ALADFI)**
Aladfi.com

Association of Orchestras in Switzerland / Orchester.ch
orchester.ch/

**Association of Regional and City Theaters in Austria /
Bühnenverein Österreichischer Bundesländer & Städte**
buehnenverein-oesterreich.at/

**Association of Slovak Theatres and Orchestras /
Asociácia Slovenských Divadiel a Orchestrov (ASDO)**
asdo.sk/

**Association of Spanish Symphony Orchestras /
Asociación Española de Orquestas Sinfónicas (AEOS)**
aeos.es/

**Association of the Czech Symphony Orchestras and Choirs /
Asociace symfonických orchestrů a pěveckých sborů České republiky (ASOPS)**
asops.cz/index.php?lang=en&page=home

**Association of the Professional Theatres in the Czech Republic /
Asociace profesionálních divadel České republiky (APD ČR)**
asociacedivadel.cz/en/

Australian Music Association
australianmusic.asn.au

**Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, Federal Guild Musical Instrument Manufacturers /
Wirtschaftskammer Österreich, Bundesinnung der Kunsthandwerke, Musikinstrumentenerzeuger**
wko.at/diekunsthandwerke

Band & Orchestra Division of YAMAHA Corporation / ヤマハ株式会社 B&O事業部
jp.yamaha.com/

**Bulgarian Association of Employers in Culture /
Balgarska asotsiatsia na rabotodatelite v oblasti na kulturata (BAROK)**
barok.bg/

C.F. Martin & Co., Inc.
martinguitar.com

Chamber Music America
chambermusicamerica.org

Chamber Orchestra of Europe (COE)
coeurope.org/

The College Music Society
music.org

Comusica
comusica.com

Confederation of European Music Industries (CAFIM)
cafim.org/

Cyprus Symphony Orchestra Foundation (CYSO)
cyso.org.cy/

Danish Guild of Master Violin Makers / Violinbyggernes Mesterlaug i Danmark
violinbyggerlauget.dk

Danish Performing Arts Association / Dansk Scenekunst
danskscenekunst.dk/

Dismamusica Italy
dismamusica.it

**Dutch Association of Performing Arts & Music Organisations /
Nederlandse Associatie Podiumkunsten (NAPK)**
napk.nl/

European Early Music Network / Réseau Européen de Musique Ancienne (REMA-EEMN)
rema-eemn.net/

**Federation of Employers in the Performing Arts /
Fédération des Employeurs des Arts de la Scène (FEAS)**
feas.be/

**Federation of Specialized Vocal and Instrumental Ensembles /
Fédération des ensembles vocaux et instrumentaux spécialisés (FEVIS)**
fevis.com

Fender Musical Instruments Corporation
fender.com

Filipa A. Mateus Unipessoal Lda.
oficinadosviolinos.pt

Folk Alliance International
folk.org/

**French Association Artistic Luthiers & Bow Makers /
Groupement Des Luthiers Et Archetiers D'Art De France (GLAAF)**
glaaf.fr/

**French Employers Organization for Opera Houses, Orchestras and Lyric Festivals /
Les Forces Musicales**
lesforcesmusicales.org

French Guitar Luthier / Association Professionnelle des Luthiers artisans en Guitare (APLG)
aplg.fr

French Musical Instrument Organization / Chambre syndicale de la facture instrumentale (CSFI)
csfi-musique.fr/

**German Theatre and Orchestra Association /
Deutscher Bühnenverein - Bundesverband der Theater und Orchester (DBV)**
buehnenverein.de/de/startseite.html

**Ibero-American Network of Symphony Orchestras /
Red Iberoamericana de Orquestas Sinfónicas (RIOS)**
ibermusicas.org/index.php/rios/

Independent Society of Musicians (ISM)
ism.org

International Alliance of Violin and Bow Makers for Endangered Species / Alliance International
alliance-international.org/

International Artist Managers' Association (IAMA)
iamaworld.com/

International Federation of Musicians / Fédération internationale des musiciens (FIM)
fim-musicians.org

International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative France Europe
ipci-france-europe.org/fr/

International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative Germany
ipci-deutschland.org

International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative-USA
ipci-usa.org

**International Society of Violin and Bow Makers /
Entente Internationale des Maitres Luthiers et Archetiers D'Art**
EILA.org

Irish Traditional Music Archive
itma.ie

**Italian Association of Performing Arts Organisations /
Associazione Generale Italiana dello Spettacolo (AGIS)**
agisweb.it/

Japan Musical Instruments Association / 一般社団法人 全国楽器協会
zengakkyo.com

Johannsson Violins
hansjohannsson.com

League of American Orchestras
americanorchestras.org

Live Performance Australia (LPA)
liveperformance.com.au/

Madinter Trade SLU
madinter.com

Malta Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO)
maltaorchestra.com/

Megaron - The Athens Concerthall
megaron.gr/en/

Music Industries Association (MIA)
mia.org.uk

Musicians Union of Ireland
mui.ie

Musicians' Union
themu.org

National Association for Music Education
nafme.org

**National Association of German Musical Instrument Manufacturers /
Bundesverband der deutschen Musikinstrumentenhersteller**
musikinstrumente.org

National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM)
namm.org

National Theater of Costa Rica / Teatro Nacional de Costa Rica
teatronacional.go.cr

Orchestras Canada / Orchestres Canada
oc.ca/en/

Pearle* - Live Performance Europe
pearle.eu/

Pedra Angular
terrassemsombra.pt

PERFORMART / Associação para as artes performativas em Portugal
performart.pt/

Performing Arts Managers and Agents Coalition (PAMAC)
artsrelief.org

Platform for Arts Organisations / Overleg Kunstenorganisaties (oKo)
overlegkunsten.org/en

PRS Guitars
prsguitars.com

Recording Academy
recordingacademy.com

**São Paulo Symphony Orchestra Foundation /
Fundação Orquestra Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo**
osesp.art.br

**Sindimúsica – Musical Instruments Industry Union /
Sindicato das Indústrias de Instrumentos Musicais**
sindimusica.com.br

Society of Polish Philharmonics / Zrzeszenie Filharmonii Polskich (ZFP)
zfp.art.pl/

SVM, Guild of Swedish Violinmakers / SVM, Sveriges Violinbyggarmästare
violinbyggarmastarna.se

Swedish Performing Arts / Svensk Scenkonst
svenskscenkonst.se/

**SYMEV - National Union of Voluntary Auction Houses /
Syndicat National des Maisons de Ventes Volontaires**
symev.org

Symphony Services Australia
symphonyinternational.net

Taylor Guitars
taylorguitars.com

UK Music
ukmusic.org

VÖG Association of Austrian Violin Makers / Verband Österreichischer Geigenbauer
geigenbauverband.at/

Warwick Music Limited
pbonemusic.com