

The WITCHCRAFT Project: A Progress Report

Frans Wiering

IMS Study Group Meeting, Zürich, 10 July 2007





Talk outline

- CATCH programme
- WITCHCRAFT project
 - aim and team
 - partners and their contribution
 - results and plans
- Beyond WITCHCRAFT
- MIR and Musicology

IMS Study Group Meeting, Zürich, 10 July 2007

CATCH

- Continuous Acces To Cultural Heritage
 - research programme funded by Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
- 10 4-year projects
 - Computer Science partner
 - Cultural Heritage partner
 - funding for postdoc, programmer and PhD student
 - employed by CS parter
 - hosted by CH partner
- CATCH projects are (among other things) about
 - automatic annotation and semantic interoperability
 - searching image collections, radio archives and archaeological objects
 - personalised access to collections
- Important aspect: community building and exchange
- CATCH 2 is under development

IMS Study Group Meeting, Zürich, 10 July 2007

3

WITCHCRAFT overview

- partners
 - Meertens Institute (MI)
 - research and documentation of Dutch popular culture
 - folkloristic traditions, multiculturality
 - popular song from Middle Ages to the present
 - valorisation
 - Department of Information and Computing Sciences, Utrecht University (ICS)
 - broad view of computing
 - content-based Music Information Retrieval (MIR)
- WITCHCRAFT
 - What Is Topical in Cultural Heritage: Content-Based Retrieval Among Folksong Tunes
 - 1 May 2006-1May 2010
 - aim: to develop a fully-functional content-based retrieval system for large amounts of folksong melodies stored as audio and notation







WITCHCRAFT: the team

- Anja Volk: Postdoc
- Jörg Garbers: Postdoc/Implementation
- Peter van Kranenburg: PhD
- Frans Wiering (project leader)
- Remco Veltkamp (co-leader)
 - head of Multimedia Algorithmics Group, ICS
- Louis Grijp (co-leader)
 - professor of History of Dutch Song, UU and head of DOC Lied, MI
- DOC Lied
 - Martine de Bruin
 - Ellen van der Grijn
 - Ineke van Beersen

IMS Study Group Meeting, Zürich, 10 July 2007

5

Meertens Institute (1): Liederenbank



- Database of Dutch Songs
- metadata c. 125.000 songs
- Middle Ages-present
- www.liederenbank.nl
- online since 22-6-2007
 - English interface in September?
- successfull tracing of 'lost melodies' e.g. by means of metrical structure
- missing: searching musical content



IMS Study Group Meeting, Zürich, 10 July 2007

MI (2): Onder de groene linde

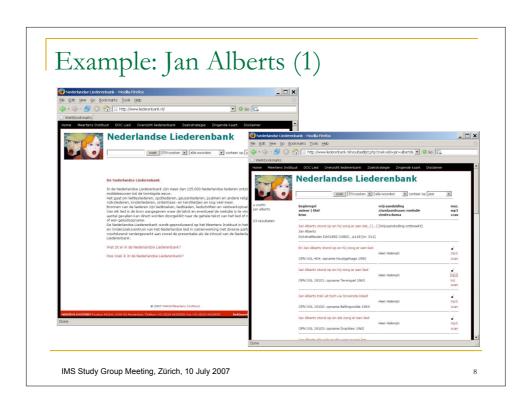
- 7.000 field recordings by Ate Doornbosch et al., 1957-1994
- ballads
- last traces of a song tradition that has now almost completely disappeared
- singers: mainly old ladies remembering songs from their youth

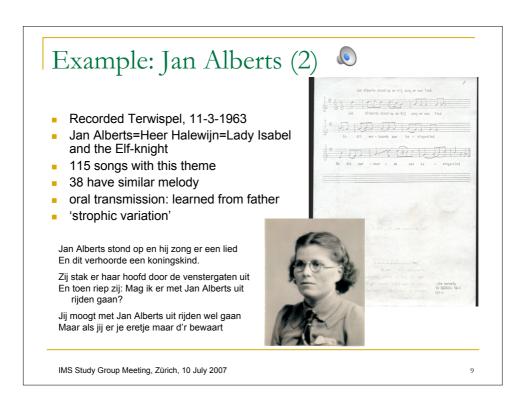


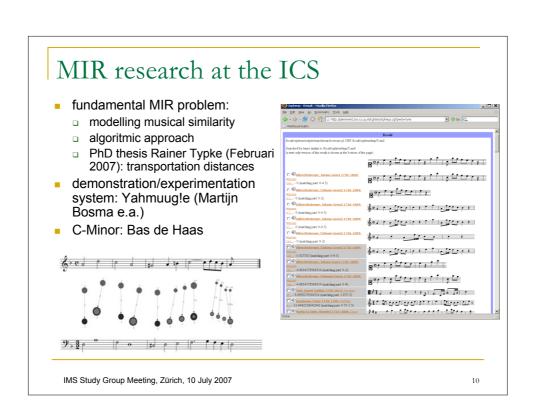


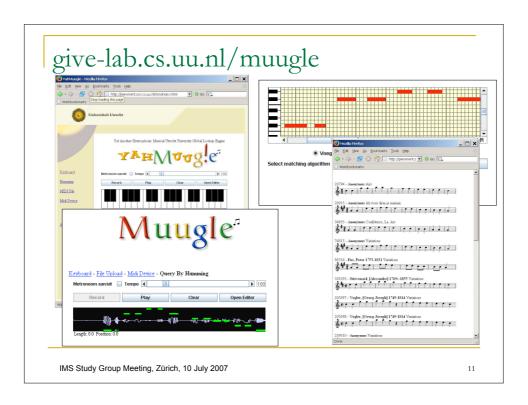


IMS Study Group Meeting, Zürich, 10 July 2007



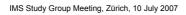






Searching the musical content

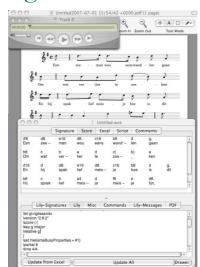
- motivation: metadata are insufficient
 - no concept of authorship
 - 'contrafacts'
- identification
 - questions from general public
 - supports performers
 - 'melody norm': determine historical relationship between melodies
- oral transmission
 - variability of melodies (and texts) related to cognitive processes
 - modelling oral transmission has added value for each of the partners
 - MI: modelling results in better understanding of the transmission process
 - UU: better models result in better retrieval





Result 1: corpus building

- OGL songs available as:
 - digital audio
 - manual transcription (scanned)
 - no encoding
- WitchCraft Editor
 - integrates number of tools for Mac
 - simplified Lilypond encoding
 - conversion to MIDI and humdrum
 - preserves verse lines of song
- Test corpus version 1
 - 141 encoded melodies
 - melody groups assigned by specialist
- Dutch Song as Musical Content
 - 2-year project for corpus creation
 - tool for online data entry
 - June 2007: c. 750 melodies encoded by students



IMS Study Group Meeting, Zürich, 10 July 2007

13

Result 2: design/evaluate retrieval methods

- Inner Metric Analysis (Anja Volk)
- Graph matching and indexing (Alberto Pinto, Reinier van Leuken, Fatih Demirci)
- Query-by-group (Jörg Garbers)
- Testing environment (Jörg Garbers)
 - collaboration with Daniel Müllensiefen et al. (Goldsmiths)
 - simplifies experimentation with parameter settings
 - saves intermediate results

IMS Study Group Meeting, Zürich, 10 July 2007

Next steps

- Integration with Liederenbank
 - deadline 1 November 2007 for 1st iteration
 - for internal/expert use only
 - demo of present functionality -> software presentations
- further evaluation of similarity measures
 - includes audio (chroma) matching--collaboration with Bonn (Meinard Müller)
- modelling of oral variation by means of
 - investigation of stable features
 - expectation-realisation
 - constraints

IMS Study Group Meeting, Zürich, 10 July 2007

13

Ideas for going beyond WITCHCRAFT

- Collaboration with other popular song/folksong projects
 - 18th-century French song
 - Hungarian folksong (Zoltán Juhász)
- RISM
 - much experimentation done with RISM A/ii
 - time to make 'official' connection
- Search technology in digital (critical) editions of music
 - example: Corpus Mensurabilis Musice Electronicum (Ted Dumitrescu)
- Access to music archives
 - several candidates in the Netherlands
- Creative industry

IMS Study Group Meeting, Zürich, 10 July 2007

MIR and Musicology

- MIR is not computational musicology
 - mismatch MIR and folksong research (Peter van Kranenburg)
 - simplistic ideas about music
 - get better methods in exchange for data
 - ground truth and explanation
 - □ Willard McCarty: Humanities Computing (2006)
 - subtle ideas about interdisciplinarity
 - understanding through modelling
- Can humans benefit from MIR?
 - Information Retrieval and 'aboutness'
 - music as text, creator's perspective
- 'Beyond MIR'
 - music is meaningful--how is meaning generated?
 - MIR as enabling technology for (for example) research and educational applications

IMS Study Group Meeting, Zürich, 10 July 2007