



# **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOUND**

## **2020-2021**

**Education and Outreach on Sound for Society and the World  
Culture – Creativity – Nature – Health – Science – Technology  
Development – Education – History  
Outcome of the UNESCO Charter of Sound**

**[www.sound2020.org](http://www.sound2020.org)**

## **Newsletter August 2020**

This Newsletter provides a report on the first 6 months of the International Year of Sound and an overview of the actions into the future.

### **1. Background**

The International Commission for Acoustics declared the Year 2020 as the International Year of Sound (IYS 2020). The IYS 2020 has a structure similar to that of an International year sponsored by UNESCO but in many ways is more diversified and reactive which has been shown to be of great advantage in coping with the conditions brought upon us by the 2020 pandemic. The primary structure includes initiation of events, activities and resources centrally by the IYS 2020 steering committee, regionally and nationally by the ICA members Societies and related organisations

The IYS is a global initiative to highlight the importance of sound in all aspects of life on earth and an understanding of sound-related issues at the international level. It is endorsed by the three International Organizations, the ICA is affiliated to: International Science Council, International Union of Pure and Applied Physics and the International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics. The IYS followed naturally as an important contribution to the UNESCO Charter of Sound. This charter was largely achieved by the UNESCO Week of Sound (La Semaine du Son - LSdS), which is a partner with the ICA in this celebration.

The organisation structure for the IYS is:

- Liaison Committee to coordinate the IYS 2020 comprising Michael Taroudakis (ICA) Marion Burgess (ICA) and Jean-Dominique Polack (ICA and LSdS), Christian Hugonnet (LSdS) and Nicolas Lounis (LSdS).
- Steering Committee comprising regional representatives to encourage and promote events/activities meeting the mission of the IYS.
- Coordinating Committee comprising representatives of national ICA Member Societies and International Affiliates responsible for ensuring that national activities are registered and that reports and supplementary material are provided for a lasting legacy of the IYS.

## **2. Extension of the IYS 2020 to 2021.**

The IYS 2020, came into existence at the opening in Paris on 31 January 2020. Soon after this opening it became clear that the impact of Covid-19 would curtail the outreach events that had been planned throughout the year and around the globe. The approval for the extension of IYS 2020 into 2021 was granted by the ICA Board. Thus, the IYS will be a two years celebration: IYS 2020-2021 or IYS 2020+ Rather than completely change the logo, it has been slightly amended to include the + at the end

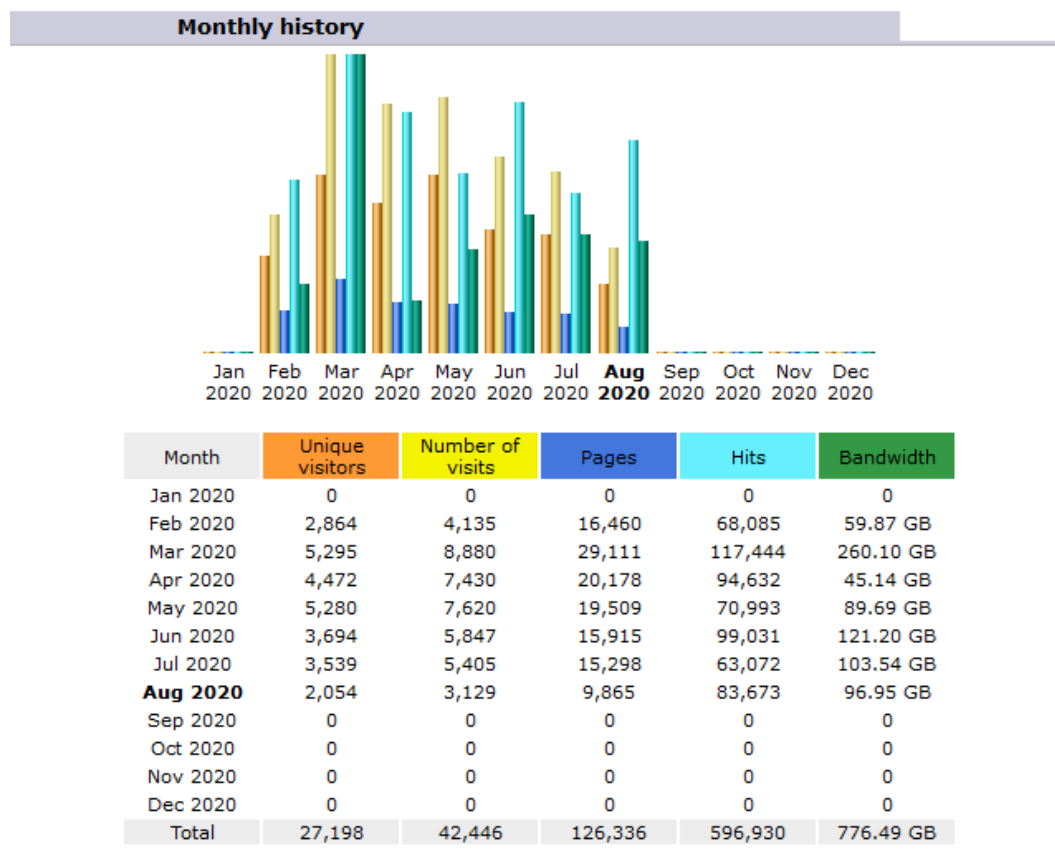
## **3. Website**

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of Mike Stinson the website, [www.sound2020.org](http://www.sound2020.org), continues to be fundamental to the IYS 2020. He has promptly updated, amended and followed up with many event organisers for details. Without his continuous attention the web page would not have been the effective means of communication that it has

become. The home page provides the links to the event calendar (currently 109), the resources and special projects (currently 36), the student competition plus news and reports. It not only provides information but also stores reports for the future. Mike continues to adapt the site as circumstances change and to encourage stories and reports.



The figure below shows the site visitors from February through to mid-August. On average there are about 3800 unique visitors and almost 20,000 page views each month. This reflects the interest in the ICA initiative for an International Year of Sound.



## Opening

The opening of the IYS 2020 on the evening of 31 January 2020 in the Grand Amphitheatre of the Sorbonne was an outstanding success. The efforts of Jean Dominique Polack in liaison with the Sorbonne were critical to the success of this event. Representation from a range of premier international and national scientific organisations, coupled with cultural performances provided a worthy event. The report on the opening including photographs and a link to its video recording is at <https://sound2020.org/news/spectacular-opening-ceremony/>. One photo of historic value is reproduced below and shows those who have guided the IYS to fruition over almost a decade.



**From Left:** Sergio Luzzi, organiser of the student competition; Christian Hugonnet, President LSdS; Michael Vorlander, Past Past Past President ICA; Marion Burgess, Past Past President ICA; Michael Taroudakis, Past President ICA; Mark Hamilton, President ICA, Jean-Dominique Polack, Board Member ICA.

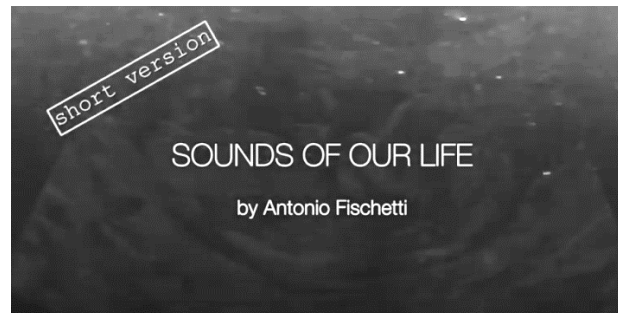
## 4. Film

The video on the importance of sound in our world “Sounds of our Life” was produced by Antonio Fischetti in time for the premier showing at the opening. The full 9 minute version is supplemented by a shorter 2 minute version. Soon after the opening both versions were made available freely from the website for downloading and in May were made available from

YouTube. Broader promotion will increase the utilisation of these two options. The film was sponsored by the I-INCE and is freely available.



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=eK-ApCMQNhY&t=8s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eK-ApCMQNhY&t=8s)



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6HgT1uijwQ&t=2s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6HgT1uijwQ&t=2s)

## 5. International Student Competition

The Student competition was first launched in late 2019 and the deadline for submissions is the end of 2020. The rules for the participation of individual students or group of students from primary and high schools have been posted in the IYS 2020 web-site. The students of the primary schools are asked to produce drawing inspired by the motto of IYS 2020 "Importance of Sound for Society and the World" and, possibly, by melody and refrain of the song "The Sound of The World", which was the main subject for students of the high schools. These students are asked to write a stanza of 4 verses (lines) in mother tongue and/or in English, inspired by the melody and the refrain of the song "The Sound of The World" as well as by the motto of IYS 2020 "Importance of Sound for Society and the World"



The enthusiasm and efforts of Sergio Luzzi and his team in Italy has been outstanding. Entries are coming in and there will be further promotions via ICA member societies and the website. Sergio and his team have prepared short video clips promoting the competition. These clips are available from <https://sound2020.org/society/promotional/> . There has been a particularly heart warming entry from non vocal students in a special school in Spain.

This Student Competition is being sponsored by the HEAD-Genuit Foundation.

## 6. Competition organized by La Semaine du Son:

In conjunction with the International Year of Sound, the partner organisation, La Semaine du Son, has launched a competition for tertiary students "2068, MAKE PLACE FOR SOUND!". The aim of this competition is to encourage students specializing in space design to collaborate with students specializing in sound by developing thoughts on the sound design of our living spaces, beyond the question of noise control, in order to imagine the soundscapes of to-morrow's public places. This competition is open for students of architecture, urban planning, landscape, design, art, engineering, audio engineering, music, engineering, design, etc. The link to the LSdS competition through the IYS web site is



<https://sound2020.org/society/student-competition/llds/>.

A further competition for students is to be launched by La Semaine du Son on the theme the "WHEN SOUND CREATES IMAGE" The students are provided with a sound track composed by a well respected film score composer and the challenge is to provide a video to complement the music.

## 7. Events/Activities/Resources

The website has become the primary reference location for the events/activities/resources. Mike Stinson has provided much care with the entries to ensure that they meet with the requirements of the IYS and adapted the website as needed to deal with those activities we had not anticipated in the planning stages. There has been constant revision needed as restrictions due to Covid-19 led to the cancellation and postponement of meetings. In recent months some events have changed their format to e-conferences and unfortunately had to cancel their special IYS associated activity.

However we continue to be amazed at the innovation and creativity to ensure that the intent of the IYS continues during this challenging time. Just a few examples show the diversity. The Wiki for Sound initiative continues with on line workshops. A Linkedin group was set up for

collaboration on monitoring Soundscape under Covid-19. For international Noise Awareness Day a global initiative of Hush City Soundwalks was set up. A week in mid-June has been defined as BioAcustiamo Week, a citizen science project to capture and archive a diverse range of sound the files. Helping the River Sing is a contribution from Australia to help re-frame the discussion about the health of a waterway using sound. A virtual immersive audio concert Recreating Notre-Dame Cathedral's 850th anniversary performance of 'La Vierge'. The Acoustical Society of America has continued with its diverse program developing education material and promoting the IYS 2020 through its publications.

It is noticeable that the IYS has also inspired other International Organizations to support or promote activities or products related to the International Year of Sound. For instance the International Science Council posted news related to a musical composition based on the protein chain structures within the Covid-19 virus. This composition was devoted to the IYS 2020.

All of these projects are listed on the website and identified as an IYS activity. Into the future this listing will provide a valued resource to truly highlight the importance of sound in our world.

In addition to the communication by member organisations via their emails, newsletters, journals etc, there were various publications and presentations in the media from the members of the IYS steering committee. Some examples include the article on the motivation for the IYS and its continuation into 2021 by Marion Burgess and Michael Taroudakis published under invitation in the 2020 Loudspeaker Industry Sourcebook and a similar editorial in the Hearing Journal. The IYS also featured in an article on 'Sortir du bruit : penser notre environnement sonore de demain' and published in Le Monde and written by a group of French academics and Marion Burgess.

## 8. Sponsors

While the main efforts for the International Year of Sound have been voluntary by the members of the organising, liaison and steering committees, the key activities would not have been held without the support of our sponsors and the non-financial support provided by peak international organisations. Additional sponsorship has been obtained for the Opening Ceremony. These sponsors and supporting organizations appear below

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|---|--|
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| Additional Sponsors for the Opening         |  |