

2nd Symposium of the ICTMD Study Group on Sacred and Spiritual Sounds and Practices

Roots and Routes: Ritual and Liturgical Creativity in Sacred and Spiritual Music Traditions.

October 9-11, 2026. University of Szeged, Hungary.

Tentative program

Friday, 9th October 2026	
9:00–9:30	Registration
9:30–10:00	Conference Opening
	Words of Welcome & Opening Remarks Prof. Mihály Racsmány Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (University of Szeged) Dr. habil. Sándor Varga Head of the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology (University of Szeged) Prof. Svanibor Pettan ICTMD Past President Dr. Irene Markoff ICTMD SSSP Study Group Chair Dr. habil. Kinga Povedák Local Arrangements Committee Chair
10:00–11:30	Panel 1 (Part 1) Blendings and Multimodalities in West African and Caribbean Sacred and Spiritual Rituals <i>Chair: Daniel Kodzo Avorgbedor</i>

	Daniel Kodzo Avorgbedor	Slouching towards the Secular? Bodily-Visual and Sonic Creativities in Contemporary Ghanaian Rituals and Ceremonies: Challenges of Social Media Appropriations and Representations
	Steven Friedson	Veiled Atmospheres: The Black Atlantic Pulse
	Marie Agatha Ozah	Nsibidi, Masquerade, and the Acoustic Archive: Multimodal Ritual Communication in Ejagham Ekpe Sacred Music
11:30–12:00	Coffee Break	
12:00–13:30	Panel 1 (Part 2)	
	<i>Chair: Daniel Kodzo Avorgbedor</i>	
	Andreas Meyer	Presenting Ritual Practice – The Salaka Feast in Tobago (West Indies)
	Genevieve Nrenzah	Reconceptualizing Sacred and Secular Boundaries in Contemporary Music in Ghana
13:30–14:30	Amos Darkwa Asare	Embodied lineages: Musical knowledge, spiritual mediation, and cultural stewardship in the priesthood of Baba Gasese
	Lunch Break	
	Panel 2	
	Rerouting South Asian Sacred Sound	
14:30–16:30	<i>Chair: Christian Poske</i>	
	Eben Graves	Imaginal and Material Routes of Devotion in the Sung Poetry of Bengal
	Christopher L. Ballengee	Sounding Ancestral Arrival: Ritualizing Migration in Indian Caribbean Musical Performance
	Pankaj Rawat	Drum Beats of Devotion: Ritual Jāgar Music and Community Identity in Uttarakhand Himalayas, India
16:30–17:00	Ayushi Koul	Embodying Mazloomiyat: Singing Vulnerability in Precarity
	Tea Break	

17:00–19:00	Panel 3 Reaffirming, Negotiating, and Transforming Heritage in Monotheistic Sacred Musical Practices <i>Chair: Christiane Strothmann</i>	
	Dóra Pataricza	Szeged Synagogue Soundscapes: 120 years of Liturgical Music
	Ivana Perkovic & Drazena Todorovic	When the Root Resists the Route: Serbian Folk Church Chanting and Compositional Practice in Vlastimir Perić's Kto Bog velij (Who Is A Great God But Ours?,1998)
	Maria Giangkitseri	Between East, West and Folk Song: Liturgical Traditions and Practices of Holy Week and Easter in Greece.
	Stephanie Molea	Theoretical Elements of Psaltic Music in “Bazul teoretic și practic al muzicii bisericești sau gramatica melodică [Theoretical and Practical Basis of Church Music or the Melodic Grammar]” by Protopsaltis Anton Pann
19:30	Reception	
Saturday, 10th October 2026		
9:00–11:00	Panel 4 Global Christianities: Orality, Musical Liturgy, and Spiritual Intersectionality <i>Chair: Monique M. Ingalls</i>	
	Monique M. Ingalls	Music Of and Beyond Belief: Conceptual Tools and Cross-Purpose Conversations for Research on Spirituality and Music-Making
	Anna Niedźwiedź	Between Tradition and Innovation: Orality and Sound in the Spiritual Practices of Ghanaian Catholic Women
	Henriette Stierlin	In the Lure of Magical Sounds: The Role of Music in the Jesuit Missions in Moxos (Bolivia) and its Effects Until Today.
	Isabel Frey & Ioannis Christidis	Provincializing Roman Catholicism: Sacred Sounds in a Postmigrant Vienna Neighborhood

11:00–11:30	Tea Break	
11:30–13:00	Panel 5 Between Preserving and Reconfiguring Bön and Buddhist Sonic Ritual Practices <i>Chair: Christiane Strothmann</i>	
	Christiane Strothmann	The <i>Precious Bundle</i> - A Grammar of Tibetan Ritual Melodies? Melody (ké), Textual Modularity, and Ritual Creativity in Tibetan Yungdrung Bön
	Lars Gajda	Ritual Practice Beyond the Monastery: A Case Study of a Former Tibetan Monk
	Edris Voet	Magical Melodies: Musical Notation in the Five Great Mantras, 1485
13:00–14:30	Lunch Break	
14:30–16:00	Panel 6 Blurring the Boundaries of the Sacred and the Secular <i>Chair: Svanibor Pettan</i>	
	John Plemmenos	"God May Have a Sense of Humour": Religious Parodies in Modern Greek Culture
	Mira Kopanarov	Do Letters Sing? A Glagolitic Perspective into Sacred Sound, Rhythm and Lyrics.
	Nathan Myrick	What Counts as Participation? Neurodivergent Children and Worship's Participatory Infrastructure
16:00–16:30	Tea Break	
16:30–18:00	Panel 7 (Part 1) Alevi and Alevi-Related Expressive Culture: Embodiment and Alevi Cem Rituals <i>Chair: Irene Markoff</i>	
	Mark Soileau	Tradition in Motion: The Ritual Re-Synchronization of the Alevi Mirağlama

	Manami Suzuki	Voicing Grief: Women’s Voices as Ritual Practice in Alevi Cem
	Çiğdem Abda	Music as a Medium of Divine Encounter: Sacred Sound and Embodied Ritual in Otman Baba Cem Practices
18:00–18:15	Short Break	
18:15–19:45	Panel 7 (Part 2) Alevi and Alevi-Related Expressive Culture: Khorasani/ Alevi-Bektashi Minstrelsy and Sung Mystical Poetry <i>Chair: Irene Markoff</i>	
	Ameneh Youssefzadeh	Ebrāhim Adham in Performance: Sacred Narrative and Musical Transmission in Khorasan
	Irene Markoff	The Confluence of Traditional Roots and Transnational/Intercultural Routes in the “Becoming” of a Contemporary Alevi Aşık (Minstrel) and Composer: The Case of Ahmet Ihvani”
	János Sipos	Secular melodies? Religious melodies? A Case Study of the Musical Repertoire of Select Sufi Orders in Turkey
Sunday, 11th October 2026		
9:00–11:00	Panel 8 Politics / Resistance <i>Chair: István Povedák</i>	
	Fatma Belma Oğul	Choreopolitics of the Grave: Raghs-e Soog as Embodied Resistance in Post-2026 Iran
	Christian Poske	In the Cauldron of Conflict: Political Trajectories of Christian Cultural Expressions in Contemporary Naga Music Culture
	Indira Anna Hajnács	(Re)Sounding the Steppe: Re-enchantment and Neo-Pagan Imaginaries in Contemporary Hungarian Folkloresque Music
	Brenda Sailsman	Reggae Music and Rastafari Spirituality
11:00–12:00	Business meeting	

12:00–13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30–16:00	Panel 9 Revivals and Transformations <i>Chair: Kinga Povedák</i>	
	Michelle Collins	Voicing Grief Beyond the Wake: Keening, Affect, and Contemporary Ritual Practice
	Paweł Karolczyk	Following the Sounds. Ritual Songs Circulation among Native Faith Communities in Poland
	Nana Amowee Dawson	Re-Authoring the Sacred: Ritual Negotiation, Media, and Artistic Translation in Mekra
	Helena Varga & Lili Kriston	Songs, Community, Identity: Autoethnography and Video-Elicitation in Romani Religious Musical Transformation
	Kinga Povedák	Sonic Agency and the Reconfiguration of Sensory Regimes in Roma Vernacular Religious Practices
Farewell Dinner		