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** *Chair: Daniel Kodzo Avorgbedor*

	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)** *Chair: Daniel Kodzo Avorgbedor*	
	Andreas Meyer	Presenting Ritual Practice – The Salaka Feast in Tobago (West Indies)
	Genevieve Nrenzah	Reconceptualizing Sacred and Secular Boundaries in Contemporary Music in Ghana
	Amos Darkwa Asare	Embodied lineages: Musical knowledge, spiritual mediation, and cultural stewardship in the priesthood of Baba Gasese
13:30–14:30	**Lunch Break**	
14:30–16:30	**Panel 2** **Rerouting South Asian Sacred Sound** *Chair: Christian Poske*	
	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
	Ayushi Koul	Embodying Mazloomiyat: Singing Vulnerability in Precarity
16:30–17:00	**Tea Break**	

17:00–19:00	**Panel 3** **Reaffirming, Negotiating, and Transforming Heritage in Monotheistic Sacred Musical Practices** *Chair: Christiane Strothmann*	
	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 Peričić'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		
9:00–10:30	**Panel 4** **Global Christianities: Orality, Musical Liturgy, and Spiritual Intersectionality** *Chair: Monique M. Ingalls*	
	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.
10:30–11:00	**Tea Break**	

11:00–12:30	**Panel 5** **Between Preserving and Reconfiguring Bön and Buddhist Sonic Ritual Practices** *Chair: Christiane Strothmann*	
	Christiane Strothmann	The *Precious Bundle* - 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
13:30–14:00	**Lunch Break**	
14:00–15:30	**Panel 6** **Blurring the Boundaries of the Sacred and the Secular** *Chair: Svanibor Pettan*	
	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
15:30–16:00	**Tea Break**	
16:00–17:30	**Panel 7 (Part 1)** **Alevi and Alevi-Related Expressive Culture**: **Embodiment and Alevi Cem Rituals** *Chair: Irene Markoff*	
	Mark Soileau	Tradition in Motion: The Ritual Re-Synchronization of the Alevi Miraçlama
	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
17:30–17:45	**Short Break**	
17:45–19:15	**Panel 7 (Part 2)** **Alevi and Alevi-Related Expressive Culture: Khorasani/ Alevi-Bektashi Minstrelsy and Sung Mystical Poetry** *Chair: Irene Markoff*	
	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	A Special Melody of the Bektashis in Thrace
Sunday, 11th October 2026		
9:00–11:00	**Panel 8** **Politics / Resistance** *Chair: István Povedák*	
	Fatma Belma Oğul & Seyede Moozhan Ayatollahi	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** *Chair: Kinga Povedák*	
	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		