



41st ESEM

September 17–22, 2026

Palanga/Kunigiškės, Lithuania

Program



Nacionalinė
M. K. Čiurlionio
menų mokykla



VILNIAUS
ETNINĖS
KULTŪROS
CENTRAS

17 SEPTEMBER, THURSDAY – ARRIVAL	
18:30–...	Informal Party
18 SEPTEMBER, FRIDAY	
8:30–9:00	Breakfast
8:30–10:00	Registration
10:00–10:30	Opening Ceremony
10:30–11:00	Coffee break
SUSTAINING MUSICAL PRACTICES (Chair: Fulvia Caruso)	
11:00–11:30	FRANK KOUWENHOVEN (CHIME Foundation, Leiden, The Netherlands) Can Rural Song Cultures in Gansu (NW China) Survive State Politics? Yes! No!
11:30–12:00	ELNAZ MOHAMMADZADEH ROSHTKHARI (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Austria) Improvisation, Transmission, and Musical Sustainability in Eastern Khorasan, Iran
12:00–12:30	VAIVA AGLINSKAS (Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore, Lithuania) “Do You Hear the Rustling?”: Soundtrack of Contention of the Lithuanian Environmental Movement
12:30–14:00	Lunch
THE POLITICS OF MODERNIZATION AND TRANSFORMATION (Chair: Britta Sweers)	
14:00–14:30	REBECCA HUFF (University of Limerick, Ireland) State-Made Hybridity: Anatolian Rock and the Politics of Musical Modernization in Turkey
14:30–15:00	PARMIS RAHMANI (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Austria) The Violin in Persian Classical Music in mid-20th Century: The Role of Individual Performers in Processes of Innovation and Transformation
15:00–15:30	Coffee break
REFLECTING ON MUSIC ANALYSIS (Chair: Samuel Horlor)	
15:30–16:00	KRISTIN JONZON (Svenskt visarkiv – Centre for Swedish Folk Music and Jazz Research, Sweden) Dynamic Ways to Account for Tonal and Timbral Emergences in Unaccompanied Traditional Singing
16:00–16:30	ANSIS ATAOLS BĒRZIŅŠ (Riga Technical College, Latvia) and PAULIS PAULINS (University of Latvia, Latvia) Searching for Traditional Samogitian Scale in Fiddle and Saw Playing by Jorgis Okrens
FILM SCREENINGS (Chair: Rytis Ambrazevičius)	
16:30–17:00	HALYNA PSHENICHKINA (Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore, Lithuania) Ukrainian Collective Singing in Lithuania in Times of Crisis
17:00–18:00	Dinner
18:00–...	Workshops

19 SEPTEMBER, SATURDAY	
9:00–9:30	Breakfast
PANEL: POPULAR MUSICKING, MIGRATION, AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION: MUSIC ECOSYSTEMS IN MILAN AND ROME (Chair: Francesca Cireddu)	
9:30–10:00	FRANCESCA CIREDDU (University of Pavia, Italy) MURB. Musical Participation and Urban Transformation: A Deep Mapping of the V Municipality in Rome and NoLo neighbourhood in Milan
10:00–10:30	MARTIN NICASTRO (University of Pavia, Italy) Between Branding and Mediation: Popular Musicking, Cultural Intermediation, and Urban Transformation in NoLo (Milan)
10:30–11:00	SARA ANTONINI (University of Pavia, Italy) Self-Representation and Counterculture: Popular Musicking and Migrant Agency in Pigneto (Rome)
11:00–11:30	Coffee break
ASSESSING IMPACTS (Chair: Susana Sardo)	
11:30–12:00	ILARIA MELONI (Sapienza Università di Roma, Italy) “Don’t Ban Us, Hear Us!”: Sound, Space, And Displacement in Jubilee Rome. Redefining Politics of Urban Listenings and Ethnomusicological Engagement
12:00–12:30	REBECCA DRAISEY-COLLISHAW and FAY HIELD (University of Sheffield, UK) Action, Participation, and Choice Points: Access Folk and Methods for Change
12:30–13:00	Free Time
13:00–14:30	Lunch
POPULISM (Chair: Marko Kölbl)	
14:30–15:00	ELISE GAYRAUD (independent researcher, Belgium) Dancing Against Populism: Participative Community Cultural Practices Promoting Pan-Europeanism, Inclusivity and Diversity on Dancefloors - A Case Study of the Balfolk Movement
15:00–15:30	FELIX MORGENSTERN (University of Limerick, Ireland) Popular in the Age of Populism: Translocal Irish Traditional Music Practices in German-Speaking Europe
15:30–16:00	Coffee break
16:00–18:00	John Blacking Memorial Lecture (Chair: Rytis Ambrazevičius) VALDIS MUKTUPĀVELS (University of Latvia) Divergent and convergent paths of the revival of traditional music
18:00–19:00	Dinner
19:00-...	Workshops

20 SEPTEMBER, SUNDAY	
9:00–9:30	Breakfast
ORGANOLOGY AND MUSICAL TOOLS (Chair: Karin L. Eriksson)	
9:30–10:00	GERTRUD MARIA HUBER (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Austria) The Zither in Changing Social and Political Landscapes. Reflections On Internal and External Attributions to a Folk Instrument Tradition
10:00–10:30	ULRICH MORGENSTERN (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Austria) Ethno-organology's Aesopian Language in the (Post)Soviet Space
10:30–11:00	OLDŘICH PODĚBRADSKÝ (Charles University Prague, Czechia) Prompting Music into Existence: Authorship and Creativity Among AI Music Tool Users
11:00–11:30	Coffee break
ETHNOMUSICOLOGY AND ITS LIMITS (Chair: Laura Leante)	
11:30–12:00	BRITTA SWEERS (University of Bern, Switzerland) Ethnomusicology and Cultural Appropriation: The Case of Lauwarm
12:00–12:30	EVİM HİKMET ÖĞÜT (MSGSÜ, Turkey) The Limits of Ethnographic Foresight: Syrian Music in Istanbul Revisited
12:30–13:00	MARKO KÖBL and FAISAL JAILANI (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Austria) Responsibilities in the Field. Influencing Social and Political Realities
13:00–14:30	Lunch
ETHNOMUSICOLOGY AND ARCHIVAL WORK (Chair: Kristin Jonzon)	
14:30–15:00	MATEJ KRATOCHVIL (Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia) "Should We Put This Online?" Gatekeeping The Digital Archive of Czech Folk Music
15:00–15:30	FRANCESCA DE NARDIS (Community Archive of the Municipality of Atena Lucana-Archivio Atena, Italy) Archivio Atena Project as a Sound Heritage Laboratory: Ethnomusicological Research between Top-down and Bottom-up Approaches
15:30–16:00	ANNE K. RASMUSSEN (William & Mary, USA) The Ethics of Archival Listening, Stewardship, and Intervention through the Restudy and Performance of Comparative Arab Musical Diasporas
16:00–16:30	Coffee break
POSTCOLONIAL CONTEXTS (Chair: Frank Kouwenhoven)	
16:30–17:00	SUSANA SARDO (University of Aveiro, Portugal) Listening to the Post-Empire: The Political Life of Fado de Goa (Índia)
17:00–18:00	Dinner
18:00–20:00	General Assembly
20:00–...	Traditional Latvian Music: A Concert by Valdis Muktupāvels

21 SEPTEMBER, MONDAY	
9:00–9:30	Breakfast
REGION AND NATION (Chair: Aušra Žičkienė)	
9:30–10:00	SAULIUS STUMBRA (Klaipėda University, Lithuania) The Tradition of Singing on the Hills of Samogitian Calvary: A Blend of Religious and National Identity
10:00–10:30	AUSTĖ NAKIENĖ (Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore, Lithuania) Lithuanian Patriotic Songs: Their Authors, Themes, and Performance Contexts
10:30–11:00	Coffee break
SONG, BELONGING, AND CULTURAL LEGITIMACY (Chair: Vaiva Aglinskas)	
11:00–11:30	PAULO MENOTTI DEL PICCHIA (Universidade Estadual de Campinas – UNICAMP, Brazil) Sonic Conflicts and Urban Citizenship: Funk, Batida do Gueto, and the Politics of Sound in São Paulo and Lisbon
11:30–12:00	CHRISTOPHER BALLENGEE (Institute of Arts, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland) Sounding Citizenship: Tassa Drumming and the Politics of Belonging in Trinidad and Tobago
12:00–12:30	Coffee break
HERITAGE AND INSTITUTIONS (Chair: Rytis Ambrazevičius)	
12:30–13:00	GAILA KIRDIENĖ (Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, Lithuania) Ethnomusicologists and the Revival of Traditional Fiddling in Lithuania at the Turn of the 21st Century
13:00–13:30	ANTTI-VILLE VILLÉN (University of the Arts Helsinki, Finland) Subcultural Heritage
13:30–14:00	Closing of the conference
14:00–15:00	Lunch
15:00–☺	Excursion

22 SEPTEMBER, TUESDAY – DEPARTURE	
9:00–9:30	Breakfast