

**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

**Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology
University of Szeged, Hungary**

The ICTMD Study Group on Sacred and Spiritual Sounds and Practices is pleased to announce a call for papers for our 2nd Symposium that will focus on ritual and liturgical creativity in sacred and spiritual music traditions.

Sacred musical traditions are often grounded in inherited forms: local repertoires, established ritual structures, and long-standing communal practices that provide continuity across generations. At the same time, these traditions are rarely static. They move across regions and confessional contexts, travel through migration and pilgrimage, and circulate through media, institutional networks, and informal exchange. In the process, they are subject to transformative processes that often occur through negotiations resulting in innovations of a conceptual and practice-based nature that ensure contemporary relevance. The symposium then seeks to investigate the productive interplay between the rootedness of sacred and spiritual music practices and the emerging routes through which they circulate, interconnect, and transform resulting in the reshaping of sound and its meanings. It also seeks to investigate how negotiations advocating for ritual and liturgical innovations can contribute to new understandings of the boundaries between the sacred and the secular and potential for hybrid forms of expression.

Although SSSP members are free to submit proposals for any aspect of their research interests, the following themes are suggested for this symposium:



Roots and Routes

Ritual and Liturgical Creativity in Sacred and Spiritual Music Traditions

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- roots as established sacred musical traditions that provide steadfast continuity with the past
- routes as the movement of sacred and spiritual musical traditions across regions and confessional contexts
- routes as the movement, circulation, and subsequent reshaping of sacred and spiritual musical traditions through migration, pilgrimage networks, media technologies, and institutional channels
- histories and localities that illustrate the productive interplay between the rootedness of sacred and spiritual musical traditions and their emerging transformational character
- creativity and innovations as transformative processes resulting from negotiations in the search for contemporary relevance and new understandings of the boundaries between the sacred and the secular in sacred and spiritual musical traditions
- creativity as an inherent quality of established sacred and spiritual traditions.

The Program Committee invites proposals for individual papers, panels, and roundtables that will be peer-reviewed by the program committee.

Please submit an abstract of 300 words, accompanied by a short bio (100-150 words) to sacredandspiritualsound@gmail.com by April 30, 2026.

Notification of acceptance will be sent by May 15, 2026.

The registration fee for the symposium is 50 euros.

Feel free to contact members of the program committee if you have any questions.

Program Committee Members:

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