

**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**



Friday, 9th October 2026

Venue: Egyetem utca 2. Conference room (ground floor)

9:00–9:30	Registration	
9:30–10:00	Conference Opening	
	Words of Welcome & Opening Remarks Prof. Bertalan Pusztai Head of the Institute of 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) Blendings and Multimodalities in West African and Caribbean Sacred and Spiritual Rituals <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
	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 <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
	Ayushi Koul	Embodying Mazloomiyat: Singing Vulnerability in Precarity
16:30–17:00	Tea Break	

17:00–18:30	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 Peričić's Kto Bog velij (Who Is A Great God But Ours?,1998)
	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
19:00	Reception	
Saturday, 10th October 2026 Venue: Egyetem utca 2. Conference room (ground floor)		
9:00–10:30	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.
10:30–11:00	Tea Break	

11:00–12:30	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
12:30–14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00–16:00	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.
	Michelle Collins	Voicing Grief Beyond the Wake: Keening, Affect, and Contemporary Ritual Practice
	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 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
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 İhvani”
	János Sipos	A Special Melody of the Bektashis in Thrace

Sunday, 11th October 2026

Venue: Somogyi utca7. SZAB Building

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

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		