

13th Symposium of the ICTMD Study Group on Music and Minorities

7 - 12 September 2026, Yerevan, Armenia

Institute of Arts, National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia

Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan

KAYT Cultural Hub

Monday, 7 September

Opening day

Venue: National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia

24 Baghramyan, Yerevan, Armenia

09:00 10:00	REGISTRATION
10:00 10:30	OPENING REMARKS
10:30 12:00	OPENING ROUNDTABLE The ICTMD Study Group on Music and Minorities: Reflections on its Past, Present, and Future Chair: Svanibor Pettan Panelists: Ursula Hemetek, Lasanthi Manaranjanie Kalinga Dona, Gergana Panova Tekath, Svanibor Pettan, Kai Tang
12:00 13:00	EXHIBITION: Pictures and Publications “Romani and Sinti Musicians in Slovenia,” by Katarina Bogunović Hočevan
13:00 14:30	LUNCH BREAK
14:30 15:30	KEYNOTE LECTURE Keynote Speaker: Deborah Wong

15:30 16:00	COFFEE BREAK	
16:00 18:00	SESSION 1: Cross-Theme Session Chair: TBA	
	Lilit Harutyunyan	<i>From Oral Chant to Notation: Preserving Assyrian Sacred Music</i>
	Gay Jennifer Breyley	<i>Conceptualizing Kurdish Identities through Music and Dance in Iran</i>
	Marko Kölbl, Faisal Jailani	<i>A Popular Turn in Ethnomusicological Minority Studies?</i>
	Koriun Davtyan	<i>Demarginalization through Cultural Transfer: the TBOT Model in Borderline Communities of Armenia</i>
18:00 19:30	CULTURAL PROGRAM A welcoming evening reception featuring <i>Tagpar Band</i> and <i>Karin Folk Song and Dance Group</i> , guided Armenian and minorities dance experience for all symposium participants.	

Tuesday, 8 September

Music, Dance, and the Conceptualization of Minorities

Venue: Komitas State Conservatory, 2 Mark Grigoryan, Yerevan, Armenia

09:00	SESSION 2: Fourth Floor Auditorium	
11:00	Theme: Memory, Rememberings, and Identity Chair: TBA	
	Tatevik Shakhkulyan	<i>From Regional Tradition to Displaced Identity: Artsakh Music and Dance after Forced Migration</i>
	Carol Silverman	<i>Performing Social Memory: Dance, Ritual and Trauma among Kosovo Romani Migrants in Western Europe</i>
	Zuzana Jurková	<i>Rememberings of Minorities in the Post-totalitarian Czechia</i>
	Marianna Ostankovich, Dilyara Mukanova	<i>Composition as an Act of Cultural Memory: Musical Strategies for Preserving Minority History</i>
09:00	SESSION 3: Acoustic Laboratory	
11:00	Theme: Music Heritage: Construction, (Re)presentation, and Scholarly Agency Chair: TBA	
	Solomon Gwervevende (online)	<i>Beyond the “Forgotten”: Re-conceptualising Doma Identity through Music and Dance Heritage in Zimbabwe</i>

	Zhang Xueyang (online)	<i>“A Thousand Voices, A Thousand Tones”: Micro-tone Characteristics of Miao Folk Songs in Xiangxi, Hunan Province, China</i>
	George Pioustin	<i>Staging Minority Heritage: State Intervention and the Gendering of Syrian Christian Performance Traditions in Kerala</i>
	Gagik Ginosyan, Abel Matevosyan	<i>Armenian Gyond or Yezidi Govand?</i>
11:00 11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30 13:00	SESSION 4: Fourth Floor Auditorium Theme: Community Music and Musical Communities in Migration Chair: TBA	
	Ani Hakobyan	<i>The Musical and Ritual Life of the Greek Community in Armenia</i>
	Samantha Sebastian	<i>Intravocality: The Songworlds and Livelihoods of Overseas Filipino Workers</i>
	Peter Lell	<i>Continuity, Disruption, or Transformation? Musical Practices of Afghan Musicians in Exile in Germany</i>
11:30 13:00	SESSION 5: Acoustic Laboratory Theme: Artistic Structures and Cultural Interfaces Chair: TBA	

	Nana Amowee Dawson	<i>Asempayetsia as Artistic Methodology: Decolonial Composition, Akan–Mfantse Folklore, and the Reconfiguration of Musical Knowledge</i>
	Sona Simonyan	<i>Ethnic Minorities in Aram Khachaturian’s Gayane Ballet</i>
	Lilit Martirosyan	<i>Yezidi Musical Traditions in Armenia</i>
13:00 14:30	Lunch Break	
14:30 16:00	SESSION 6: Fourth Floor Auditorium Theme: Minoritization Chair: TBA	
	Rose Merin	<i>Performing the Sacred Minority: Nangiarkoothu and the Politics of Cultural Belonging in South India</i>
	Eva Kirchmayer Bilić	<i>Marginalized Voices: Croatian and Armenian Women Composers in Global Musical Culture</i>
	Teona Lomsadze	<i>Minoritised from Home: Georgian Traditional Music in the British-Georgian Diaspora</i>
16:00 16:30	COFFEE BREAK	

16:30	SESSION 7: Fourth Floor Auditorium	
18:00	Theme: Music, Politics, and Resistance	
	Chair: TBA	
	Rima Tigranian	<i>From 'Enemy Music' to Estrada: How Did Armenian Jazz Survive and Transform?</i>
	Hripsime Pikichian	<i>Ritual Dances and National Identity in Soviet and Post-Soviet Armenia</i>
	Rumiana Margaritova	<i>Sonic Politics of Belonging and the Turkish Amateur Ensembles in Socialist Bulgaria (1944–1989)</i>
18:10 19:20	Armenian Wind Instruments Workshop: Sound Archive Hall Conducted by Norayr Kartashyan	
18:10 19:20	Armenian Percussion Instruments Workshop: Acoustic Laboratory Conducted by Grigor Davtyan	
18:10 19:20	Komitas singing: Sound Archive Hall Conducted by Tatevik Shakhkulyan	

Wednesday, 9 September

Sacred Music and Dance Among Minorities and Diasporas

Venue: Komitas State Conservatory, 2 Mark Grigoryan, Yerevan, Armenia

09:00	SESSION 8: Fourth Floor Auditorium	
11:00	Theme: Ritual and Lamentation Chair: TBA	
	Marios Chatziprokopiou	<i>Lamenting in the Diaspora; performing Ashura in Piraeus</i>
	Amos Darkwa Asare	<i>Performing Death and Identity in Duakor: Funerary Music and Dance in a Minority Community</i>
	Manami Suzuki	<i>Women's Voices across Alevi Ritual and Public Performance: Lamentation, Assertion, Self-Representation</i>
	Linda Sargsyan	<i>Seraphim and Cherubim Angels in Folk Songs</i>
09:00	SESSION 9: Acoustic Laboratory	
11:00	Theme: Cosmology, Ritual Knowledge, and Sacred Soundscapes Chair: TBA	
	Gretel Schwoerer-Kohl	<i>Sacred Music and Dance of the La Hu Nyi people in Northern Thailand</i>
	Soegiarto Hartono (online)	<i>Sacred Cosmology as Minority Knowledge System: Directional Ritual, Embodied</i>

		<i>Astronomy, and Gender Authority in Minahasa Rumages</i>
	Pankaj Rawat	<i>Sacred Soundscapes of Identity and Belonging Jāgar Ritual Music in the Uttarakhand Himalayas</i>
	Gisa Jähnichen (online)	<i>Southern Chinese drums</i>
11:00	Coffee Break	
11:30		
11:30	SESSION 10: Fourth Floor Auditorium	
13:00	Theme: Sacred Traditions in Diaspora and Cross-Cultural Contexts	
	Chair: TBA	
	George Mürer	<i>Approaching Musicological and Choreological Resonances and Interfaces Between Kurds, Armenians, and Syrian Christians in West Asia</i>
	Anna Arevshatyan	<i>On a unique musical tradition of bell ringer's singing, preserved in Saint James Monastery of Jerusalem</i>
	Lolita Emmanuel	<i>Loss, Memory and the Creative Reassembly of Syriac Chant in Diaspora</i>
13:00	Lunch Break	
14:30		
14:30	SESSION 11: Fourth Floor Auditorium	
16:00	Theme: Migration, Identity, and Community Performance	

	Chair: TBA	
	Ani Ginosyan	<i>Armenian Traditional dance outside Armenia</i>
	Xiaotong Yang	<i>“Silent” Transformation: Themes of Cantonese Folk Religion in Early-Twentieth-Century New Zealand Chinese Community Music-making</i>
	Chae-Lin Kim	<i>“Gott gebärdet gern” (God is pleased to sign) - Religious Songs by the Berlin Sign Choir</i>
16:00	COFFEE BREAK	
16:30		
16:30	SESSION 12: Fourth Floor Auditorium	
18:30	Theme: Reframing Sacred Practice: Transmission, Materiality, and New Voices	
	Chair: TBA	
	Essica Marks	<i>Music, Oral Traditions and Culture in Psalm Performance in a Greek Orthodox Church and a Sephardi Synagogue</i>
	Lusine Kagramanyan	<i>The Cradle as Sanctuary: Matriarchal Authorship and the Armenian Lullaby as Sacred Ritual</i>
	Fulvia Caruso (online)	<i>Beyond Urban Borders: Faith, Culture, and Musical Practices in Migratory Contexts</i>

	Hu Yile (online)	<i>Who Performs? Where, and for Whom?— Tibetan Monastic Music and Dance as a Medium between the Sacred and the Secular</i>
19:00	CULTURAL PROGRAM: Komitas Museum-Institute Guided tour in Museum Many Voices, One Stage: Expressions of Minority Cultures A concert featuring performances by diverse communities, including ethnic minorities and artists with disabilities, celebrating cultural expression, identity, and inclusion through music and dance.	

Thursday, 10 September

Popular Music and Dance among Minorities

Venue: Komitas State Conservatory, 2 Mark Grigoryan, Yerevan, Armenia

09:00 11:00	SESSION 13: Fourth Floor Auditorium	
	Representation, Identity, and Power	
	Chair: TBA	
	Kai Viljami Åberg	<i>Voices, Power, and Representation: Romani Identity in Finnish Popular Music</i>
	Mojca Kovačič	<i>Discrimination Histories and the Political Economy of Language in Carinthian Slovene Popular Music</i>
09:00 11:30	Ioannis Christidis, Luna Al-Musli	<i>SWANA Dancefloors in Vienna: Electronic Music and Political Affect among Minoritized Groups</i>
	Shaun Williams	<i>“Maneaua Romilor”: The Making of a Subversive Romani Genre in Socialist Romania</i>
	SESSION 14: Acoustic Laboratory	
	Cultural Agency and Community	
	Chair: TBA	
	Hasmik Harutyunyan, Stella Davtyan	<i>Dance Traditions in the Yezidi Community of the Armenian Village of Azatan</i>
	Mohamad Hamami	<i>Sounding and Moving Presence: Popular Music, Dance, and Minority Cultural Agency between the Eastern Mediterranean and the Caucasus</i>
	Giulia Maggiora	<i>“Batuku, gaita, tabanca, pra todo sítio na rua...” Sonic practices of resistance and</i>

		<i>affirmation in the Portuguese Cape Verdean diaspora</i>
	Harutyun Baghdasaryan, Arpenik Ghazaryan	<i>"The Will"</i>
11:00 11:30	Coffee Break	
12:00 13:00	CULTURAL PROGRAM: Aram Khachaturian House-Museum Concert by Eva Kirchmayer Bilić Croatian and Armenian Women Composers	
13:00 14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00 16:00	SESSION 15: Fourth Floor Auditorium Memory and Intercultural Exchange Chair: TBA	
	Margarit Sargsyan	<i>The Dance Song "Tamzara" in Armenian Tradition and Its Parallels in the Culture of the Kurds, Greeks and Assyrians</i>
	Garegin Masuryan	<i>Issues of Formation and Transformation of Armenian Dance: Traditional Dance under Foreign Domination</i>
	Marianna Tigranyan	<i>The Ritual Roots of the Armenian "Lorke" and the Kurdish "Lurke" Dance Song</i>
	Jultje Aneke Rattu (online)	Embodying Ritual Efficacy: Sacred Maengket Music and Dance in Minahasan Diaspora Contexts.

14:00	SESSION 16: Acoustic Laboratory	
16:00	Cultural Boundaries, Exchange, and Belonging	
	Chair: TBA	
	Naira Kilichyan	<i>Traditional Kochari: Memory of Movement in Armenian and Greek Dance Cultures</i>
	John Plemmenos	<i>“Nor do the senseless animals themselves ever mate outside their own species”: Minority friction and the role of music as ethnic and religious catalyst in late-18th century Istanbul</i>
	Marjeta Pisk	<i>Performing Belonging: Dialect, Genre Hybridity, and Minority Identity at the Senjam Beneške Piesmi</i>
	Jannatul Ferdous	<i>Strategic Stages: How Chakma Youth Negotiate Identity Through Music, Dance, and Theatre in Bangladesh.</i>
16:00	COFFEE BREAK	
16:30		
16:30	Music and Minorities Study Group Welcome Meeting:	
18:00	Fourth Floor Auditorium	
19:00	CULTURAL PROGRAM: State Opera And Ballet Theater	
	Aram Khachaturian <i>Gayane</i> Ballet	
	Tickets are available for purchase at:	
	https://ticket.opera.am/hy/details/1660/A.Khachaturian%20%E2%80%9CGAYANE%E2%80%9D	

Friday, 11 September

New Research

Venue: Komitas State Conservatory, 2 Mark Grigoryan, Yerevan, Armenia

09:00	SESSION 17: Fourth Floor Auditorium	
11:00	Theme: Preservation, Archives, Representation, and Cultural Memory	
	Chair: TBA	
	Hande Sağlam	<i>Archiving the Minority: Early Sound Traces of Turkish Communities in Berlin</i>
	Sevilay Çinar	<i>Preconditions of Archival Visibility: Women's Voices in the Turkish Folk Music Collection of the Berlin Phonogramm-Archiv</i>
	Baia Zhuzhunadze	<i>Traditional Music of Georgians Living in Turkey: On the Example of Bayar Şahin's Archive</i>
	Anna Adamyan	<i>Hamshen Armenian Songs in Contemporary Armenian Music: Preservation and Growing Interest</i>
09:00	Session 18: Acoustic Laboratory	
10:00	Diaspora, Migration, and Transnational Sounds	
	Chair: TBA	
	Neil van der Linden	<i>The music and celebrations of the Bo Kaap minority community in Capetown.</i>
	Mary Serobyan (film)	<i>A Life Told in Songs: "Grandmother Tamar" from Western Armenia to Aparan (Film)</i>

11:00	Coffee Break	
11:30		
11:30	SESSION 19: Fourth Floor Auditorium Hall	
13:00	Theme: Music, Memory, and Resilience in Communities Facing Challenges	
	Chair: TBA	
	Tomasz Nowak	<i>Music as a Means of Overcoming the Trauma of Displacement in the Light of the Lemkos' Memoirs, Poland</i>
	Maria Georgi Gharabekyan	<i>The Art of the Tagh and the Epic Song in the Works of Levon Astvatsatryan, a Prominent Armenian Composer and Representative of the French Diaspora</i>
	Muhammad Zafar Iqbal	<i>Performance, Transmission, and Contemporary Challenges of Sikh Temple Music in Pakistani Punjab</i>
11:30	SESSION 20: Acoustic Laboratory	
13:00	Theme: Music, Identity, and Ritual among Minority Communities in Iran [provisional / to be confirmed]	
	Chair: TBA	
	Mohammad R Azadehfar	<i>Dual Home, Dual Identity: Afghan Musical Practices and Hybridity between Tehran and Herat</i>
	Hossein Reza Asadi	<i>Laki Folk Music and Collective Identity in Lorestan, Iran [Provisional: Final Title to be confirmed]</i>
	Anoush Estik	<i>Ritual Musical Instruments Used in the Churches of New Julfa, Isfahan</i>

13:00	Lunch Break	
14:30		
14:30	SESSION 21: Fourth Floor Auditorium	
16:00	Theme: Music, Identity, and Negotiated Belonging in Transcultural Contexts	
	Chair: TBA	
	Gertrud Maria Huber	<i>Playing the Alpine Zither: Reflections on the Disappearance of a Musical Practice among the German-Speaking Minority in the USA</i>
	Bharath Ranganathan (online)	<i>Autoethnographic Reflections on Transculturality of Indian Music in Slovenia</i>
	Alma Bejtullahu	<i>Romani Musicians in Slovenian Narodnozabavna Music</i>
16:00	COFFEE BREAK	
16:30		
16:30	SESSION 22: Fourth Floor Auditorium	
18:00	Theme: Armenian Traditional Sources in Art Music and Dance: Composition, Transcription, and Embodied Practice	
	Chair: TBA	
	Mariam Vardanyan	<i>A Comparative Analysis of Komitas's Piano Composition "Msho Shoror"</i>
	Hegine Sargsyan	<i>Arrangements of Komitas' Compositions in Ara Sevanyan's Art</i>
	Hayarpi Ananyan	<i>Traditional Dance in Armenian Festival Settings: Embodied Memory and Community Participation</i>

Saturday, 12 September

EXCURSION

Time: 10:00 – 18:00

Destination	Information
Garni Temple	1st century pre-Christian temple
Geghard Monastery Complex	Medieval Christian monastic complex, partially carved into the rock; UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Symphony of Stones	Natural basalt formation; a geological heritage

Cultural Program:

Sacred Music Performance by the Khazer Choir

Performance of Armenian Folk Songs by KAYT Band