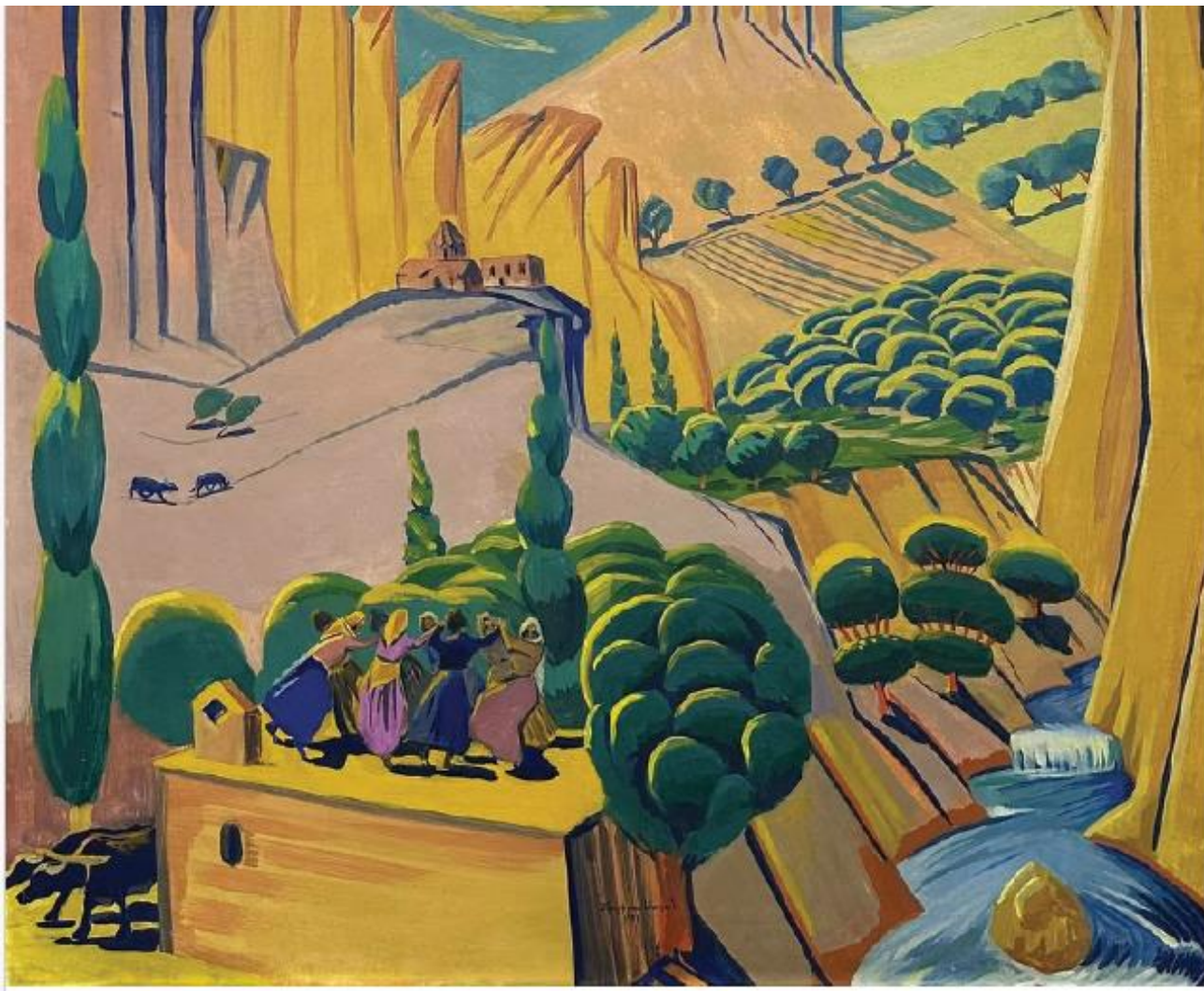

13TH SYMPOSIUM OF THE ICTMD STUDY GROUP ON MUSIC AND MINORITIES

YEREVAN, ARMENIA
7–12 SEPTEMBER 2026

PROGRAM

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

7 - 12 September 2026, Yerevan, Armenia

PROGRAM

Monday, 7 September

Opening day

Venue: National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia

09:30 10:00	REGISTRATION
10:00 10:30	OPENING REMARKS Anna Asatryan, *Director of the Institute of Arts* Pavel Avetisyan, *Vice-President of NAS RA* Tsovinar Movsisyan, *Rector of Yerevan State Conservatory* Kai Tang, *Chair of the Program Committee* Tatevik Shakhkulyan, *Chair of Local Arrangements Committee*
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 (Austria), Lasanthi Manaranjanie Kalinga Dona (Sri Lanka), Gergana Panova-Tekath (Germany), Svanibor Pettan (Slovenia), Kai Tang (Austria)

12:00 13:00	**EXHIBITION: Pictures and Publications** ***Romani and Sinti Musicians in Slovenia*,** a guided picture exhibition by Katarina Bogunović Hočevar ***Exhibition of publications about music and minorities***	
13:00 14:00	**LUNCH BREAK**	
14:00 15:00	**KEYNOTE LECTURE:** Deborah Wong (USA) Chair: Kai Tang ***How Music Makes Minorities: Synonym, Antonym, Metonym, Metonymy***	
15:00 15:30	**COFFEE BREAK**	
15:30 17:30	**SESSION 1: Cross-Theme Session** Chair: Tatevik Shakhkulyan	
	Gay Jennifer Breyley (Australia)	*Conceptualizing Kurdish Identities through Music and Dance in Iran*
	Anna Arevshatyan (Armenia)	*On a unique musical tradition of bell ringer's singing, preserved in Saint James Monastery of Jerusalem*
	Marko Kölbl, Faisal Jailani (Austria)	*A Popular Turn in Ethnomusicological Minority Studies?*
	Koriun Davtyan (Armenia)	*Demarginalization through Cultural Transfer: the TBOT Model in Borderline Communities of Armenia*
17:30 19:00	**CULTURAL PROGRAM: Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory** A welcoming evening reception featuring *Tagpar Band* and *Karin* Folk Song and Dance Group, guided Armenian and minorities dance experience for all symposium participants	

Tuesday, 8 September

Theme 1: MUSIC, DANCE, AND THE CONCEPTUALIZATION OF MINORITIES

Venue: Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory

09:00 **11:00**	**SESSION 2: Third Floor Auditorium** Memory, Rememberings, and Identity Chair: Tomasz Nowak	
	Tatevik Shakhkulyan (Armenia)	*From Regional Tradition to Displaced Identity: Artsakh Music and Dance after Forced Migration*
	Carol Silverman (USA)	*Performing Social Memory: Dance, Ritual and Trauma among Kosovo Romani Migrants in Western Europe*
	Zuzana Jurková (Czechia)	*Rememberings of Minorities in the Post-totalitarian Czechia*
	Marianna Ostankovich, Dilyara Mukanova (Kazakhstan)	*Composition as an Act of Cultural Memory: Musical Strategies for Preserving Minority History*
09:00 **11:00**	**SESSION 3: Fourth Floor Auditorium** Music Heritage: Construction, (Re)presentation, and Scholarly Agency Chair: Lilit Yernjakyan	
	Solomon Gwerevende (Austria) (online)	*Beyond the "Forgotten": Re-conceptualising Doma Identity through Music and Dance Heritage in Zimbabwe*
	Zhang Xueyang (China, Malaysia)	*"A Thousand Voices, A Thousand Tones": Micro-tone Characteristics of Miao Folk Songs in Xiangxi, Hunan*

		Province, China
	George Pioustin (USA)	*Staging Minority Heritage: State Intervention and the Gendering of Syrian Christian Performance Traditions in Kerala*
	Gagik Ginosyan, Abel Matevosyan (Armenia)	*Armenian Gyond or Yezidi Govand?*
11:00 **11:30**	**COFFEE BREAK**	
11:30 **13:00**	**SESSION 4: Third Floor Auditorium** Community Music and Musical Communities in Migration Chair: Marko Kölbl	
	Ani Hakobyan (Armenia)	*The Musical and Ritual Life of the Greek Community in Armenia*
	Samantha Sebastian (United Kingdom)	*Intravocality: The Songworlds and Livelihoods of Overseas Filipino Workers*
	Peter Lell (Austria)	*Continuity, Disruption, or Transformation? Musical Practices of Afghan Musicians in Exile in Germany*
11:30 **13:00**	**SESSION 5: Fourth Floor Auditorium** Artistic Structures and Cultural Interfaces Chair: Teona Lomsadze	
	Nana Amowee Dawson (Ghana) (online)	*Asɛmpayɛtsia as Artistic Methodology: Decolonial Composition, Akan–Mfantse Folklore, and the Reconfiguration of Musical Knowledge*

	Sona Simonyan (Armenia)	*Ethnic Minorities in Aram Khachaturian's Gayane Ballet*
	Lilit Martirosyan (Armenia)	*Yezidi Musical Traditions in Armenia*
13:00 14:30	**LUNCH BREAK**	
14:30 16:00	**SESSION 6: Third Floor Auditorium** Minoritization Chair: Lasanthi Manaranjanie Kalinga Dona	
	Rose Merin (India) (online)	*Performing the Sacred Minority: Nangiarkoothu and the Politics of Cultural Belonging in South India*
	Eva Kirchmayer Bilić (Croatia)	*Marginalized Voices: Croatian and Armenian Women Composers in Global Musical Culture*
	Teona Lomsadze (Georgia)	*Minoritised from Home: Georgian Traditional Music in the British-Georgian Diaspora*
16:00 16:30	**COFFEE BREAK**	
16:30 18:00	**SESSION 7: Third Floor Auditorium** Music, Politics, and Resistance Chair: Carol Silverman	
	Rima Tigranian (Armenia)	*From 'Enemy Music' to Estrada: How Did Armenian Jazz Survive and Transform?*
	Hripsime Pikichian (Armenia)	*Ritual Dances and National Identity in Soviet and Post-Soviet Armenia*

	Mary Serobyan (film) (Armenia)	*A Life Told in Songs: "Grandmother Tamar" from Western Armenia to Aparan*
18:10 19:20	**Armenian Wind Instruments Workshop: Fourth Floor Auditorium** Conducted by Norayr Kartashyan	
18:10 19:20	**Armenian Percussion Instruments Workshop: Third Floor Auditorium** Conducted by Grigor Davtyan	
18:10 19:20	**Komitas singing: Sound Archive Hall** Conducted by Tatevik Shakhkulyan	

Wednesday, 9 September

Theme 2: SACRED MUSIC AND DANCE

AMONG MINORITIES AND DIASPORAS

Venue: Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory

09:00 **11:00**	**SESSION 8: Third Floor Auditorium** Ritual and Lamentation Chair: Ursula Hemetek	
	Marios Chatziprokopiou (Greece)	*Lamenting in the Diaspora; performing Ashura in Piraeus*
	Amos Darkwa Asare (Austria)	*Performing Death and Identity in Duakor: Funerary Music and Dance in a Minority Community*
	Manami Suzuki (Japan)	*Women's Voices across Alevi Ritual and Public Performance: Lamentation, Assertion, Self-Representation*
	Linda Sargsyan (Armenia)	*Seraphim and Cherubim Angels in Folk Songs*
09:00 **11:00**	**SESSION 9: Fourth Floor Auditorium** Cosmology, Ritual Knowledge, and Sacred Soundscapes Chair: Deborah Wong	
	Gretel Schwörer-Kohl (Germany)	*Sacred Music and Dance of the La Hu Nyi people in Northern Thailand*
	Soegiarto Hartono (Indonesia)	*Sacred Cosmology as Minority Knowledge System: Directional Ritual, Embodied Astronomy, and Gender*

	(online)	*Authority in Minahasa Rumages*
	Pankaj Rawat (India) (online)	*Sacred Soundscapes of Identity and Belonging Jāgar Ritual Music in the Uttarakhand Himalayas*
	Gisa Jähnichen (China) (online)	*Southern Chinese Drums*
11:00 11:30	COFFEE BREAK	
11:30 13:00	**SESSION 10: Forth Floor Auditorium** **Sacred Traditions in Diaspora and Cross-Cultural Contexts** Chair: Gay Jennifer Breyley	
	George Mürer (USA)	*Approaching Musicological and Choreological Resonances and Interfaces Between Kurds, Armenians, and Syrian Christians in West Asia*
	Lilit Harutyunyan (Armenia)	*From Oral Chant to Notation: Preserving Assyrian Sacred Music*
	Lolita Emmanuel (Australia)	*Loss, Memory and the Creative Reassembly of Syriac Chant in Diaspora*
13:00 14:30	LUNCH BREAK	
14:30 16:00	**SESSION 11: Fourth Floor Auditorium** **Migration, Identity, and Community Performance** Chair: Ioannis Christidis	
	Ani Ginosyan (Armenia)	*Armenian Traditional Dance outside Armenia*

	Xiaotong Yang (New Zealand)	*"Silent" Transformation: Themes of Cantonese Folk Religion in Early-Twentieth-Century New Zealand Chinese Community Music-making*
	Chae-Lin Kim (Austria)	*"Gott gebärdet gern" (God is pleased to sign) - Religious Songs by the Berlin Sign Choir*
16:00 16:30	COFFEE BREAK	
16:30 18:00	**SESSION 12: Fourth Floor Auditorium** **Reframing Sacred Practice: Transmission, Materiality, and New Voices** Chair: Peter Lell	
	Lusine Kagramanyan (Austria)	*The Cradle as Sanctuary: Matriarchal Authorship and the Armenian Lullaby as Sacred Ritual*
	Fulvia Caruso (Italy) (online)	*Beyond Urban Borders: Faith, Culture, and Musical Practices in Migratory Contexts*
	Hu Yile (Hong Kong / France) (online)	*Who Performs? Where, and for Whom?— Tibetan Monastic Music and Dance as a Medium between the Sacred and the Secular*
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

Theme 3: POPULAR MUSIC AND DANCE AMONG MINORITIES

Venue: Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory

09:00 **11:00**	**SESSION 13: Third Floor Auditorium** **Representation, Identity, and Power** **Chair: Zuzana Jurková**	
	Mojca Kovačič (Slovenia)	*Discrimination Histories and the Political Economy of Language in Carinthian Slovene Popular Music*
	Ioannis Christidis, Luna Al-Mousli (Austria)	*SWANA Dancefloors in Vienna: Electronic Music and Affective Politics in Diasporic Nightlife*
	Shaun Williams (Romania)	*"Maneaua Romilor": The Making of a Subversive Romani Genre in Socialist Romania*
	Kai Viljami Åberg (Finland)	*Voices, Power, and Representation: Romani Identity in Finnish Popular Music*
09:30 **11:00**	**SESSION 14: Fourth Floor Auditorium** Cultural Agency and Community Chair: Gergana Panova-Tekath	
	Hasmik Harutyunyan, Stella Davtyan (Armenia)	*Dance Traditions in the Yezidi Community of the Armenian Village of Azatan*
	Giulia Maggiora (Portugal)	*"Batuku, gaita, tabanca, pra todo sítio na rua..." Sonic practices of resistance and affirmation in the Portuguese Cape Verdean diaspora*
	Harutyun Baghdasaryan,	*"The Will"*

	Arpenik Ghazaryan (Armenia)	
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: Third Floor Auditorium Memory and Intercultural Exchange Chair: George Mürer	
	Margarit Sargsyan (Armenia)	*The Dance Song "Tamzara" in Armenian Tradition and Its Parallels in the Culture of the Kurds, Greeks and Assyrians*
	Garegin Masuryan (Armenia)	*Issues of Formation and Transformation of Armenian Dance: Traditional Dance under Foreign Domination*
	Marianna Tigranyan (Armenia)	*The Ritual Roots of the Armenian "Lorke" and the Kurdish "Lurke" Dance Song*
	Jultje Aneke Rattu (Indonesia) (online)	*Embodying Ritual Efficacy: Sacred Maengket Music and Dance in Minahasan Diaspora Contexts*
14:00 16:00	SESSION 16: Fourth Floor Auditorium Cultural Boundaries, Exchange, and Belonging Chair: Hande Sağlam	
	Naira Kilichyan (Armenia)	*Traditional Kochari: Memory of Movement in*

		Armenian and Greek Dance Cultures
	John Plemmenos (Greece) (online)	*"Nor Do the Senseless Animals Themselves Ever Mate Outside Their Own Species": Minority Frictionand the Role of Music as Ethnic and Religious Catalyst in Late-18th Century Istanbul*
	Marjeta Pisk (Slovenia)	*Performing Belonging: Dialect, Genre Hybridity, and Minority Identity at the Senjam Beneške Piesmi*
	Jannatul Ferdous (Bangladesh)	*Strategic Stages: How Chakma Youth Negotiate Identity Through Music, Dance, and Theatre in Bangladesh.*
16:00 16:30	COFFEE BREAK	
16:30 18:00	**Music and Minorities Study Group Welcome Meeting:** **Third Floor Auditorium**	
19:00	CULTURAL PROGRAM: State Opera And Ballet Theater **Aram Khachaturian *Gayane* Ballet** Tickets are available for purchase at:	

Friday, 11 September

Theme 4: NEW RESEARCH

Venue: Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory

09:00 11:00	**SESSION 17: Third Floor Auditorium** **Preservation, Archives, Representation, and Cultural Memory** Chair: Gretel Schwörer-Kohl	
	Hande Sağlam (Austria)	*Archiving the Minority: Early Sound Traces of Turkish Communities in Berlin*
	Sevilay Çinar (Türkiye)	*Preconditions of Archival Visibility: Women's Voices in the Turkish Folk Music Collection of the Berlin Phonogramm-Archiv*
	Baia Zhuzhunadze (Georgia)	*Traditional Music of Georgians Living in Turkey: On the Example of Bayar Şahin's Archive*
	Anna Adamyan (Armenia)	*Hamshen Armenian Songs in Contemporary Armenian Music: Preservation and Growing Interest*
11:00 11:30	**COFFEE BREAK**	
11:30 13:00	**SESSION 18: Third Floor Auditorium Hall** **Music, Memory, and Resilience in Communities Facing Challenges** Chair: Alma Bejtullahu	
	Tomasz Nowak (Poland)	*Music as a Means of Overcoming the Trauma of Displacement in the Light of the Lemkos' Memoirs, Poland*

	Maria Gharabekyan (Armenia)	*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*
	Neil van der Linden (The Netherlands)	*The music and celebrations of the Bo Kaap minority community in Capetown.*
11:30 13:00	**SESSION 19: Fourth Floor Auditorium** **Music, Identity, and Ritual among Minority Communities in Iran** Chair: Mohammad R Azadehfar	
	Mohammad R Azadehfar (Iran) (online)	*Dual Home, Dual Identity: Afghan Musical Practices and Hybridity between Tehran and Herat*
	Hossein Reza Asadi (Iran)	*Laki Folk Music and Collective Identity in Lorestan, Iran*
	Anoush Estik (Armenia, Iran)	*Ritual Musical Instruments Used in the Churches of New Julfa, Isfahan*
13:00 14:30	**LUNCH BREAK**	
14:30 16:00	**SESSION 20: Fourth Floor Auditorium** **Music, Identity, and Negotiated Belonging in Transcultural Contexts** Chair: Mojca Kovačič	
	Gertrud Maria Huber (Austria)	*Playing the Alpine Zither: Reflections on the Disappearance of a Musical Practice among the German-Speaking Minority in the USA*
	Bharath Ranganathan (India, Slovenia) (online)	*Autoethnographic Reflections on Transculturality of Indian Music in Slovenia*

	Alma Bejtullahu (Slovenia)	*Romani Musicians in Slovenian Narodnozabavna Music*
16:00 16:30	COFFEE BREAK	
16:30 18:00	**SESSION 21: Fourth Floor Auditorium** **Armenian Traditional Sources in Art Music and Dance: Composition, Transcription, and Embodied Practice** Chair: Katarina Bogunović Hočevar	
	Mohamad Hamami (Syria)	*Sounding and Moving Presence: Popular Music, Dance, and Minority Cultural Agency between the Eastern Mediterranean and the Caucasus*
	Heghine Sargsyan (Armenia)	*Arrangements of Komitas' Compositions in Ara Sevanyan's Art*
	Hayarpi Ananyan (Armenia)	*Traditional Dance in Armenian Festival Settings: Embodied Memory and Community Participation*
18:00 19:00	CLOSING **Performance by Nairyan Vocal Ensemble** Komitas's songs in an inclusive performance using Armenian Sign Language	

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