



8th International Conference of the Word and Music Association Forum

“Sacrum et Profanum in Words and Music”

May 21 - 23, 2026

Venue:

University American College Skopje, *Bd. Treta makedonska brigada n'60*

Day 1: May 21, 2026

Venue: Amphitheater 1 (A1, 4th floor)

09:00 - 09:30 | Registration and Coffee

09:30 – 10:00 | Opening Remarks **Ivana Trajanoska & Jan Czarnecki**

10:00 - 11:30 | **Session 1**

Chair: Ruth Alison Clemens

- **Dániel Nagy:** *Agonies of Inwit: The leitmotif of remorse in James Joyce's Ulysses - Musicalization of fiction and the entanglement of sacred and profane*
- **Thomas Gurke:** *Words? Music? No: it's what's behind – Secret(ion) and Profanity in James Joyce's Ulysses*
- **Adrian Paterson:** *Sensual music or saintly singing-masters? sacred and profane musical philosophy in WB Yeats's Byzantium poems*

11:30 - 12:45 | Lunch Break

12:45 - 14:15 | Session 2

Chair: Jan Czarnecki

- **Elia Romera-Figueroa:** *(Un)Sayable Songs: Sacred and Profane Negotiations in Amancio Prada's Musical Poetics*
- **Sanaz Alizadeh Tabrizi:** *Ritual Montage: Sacrum et Profanum in The Godfather*
- **Laura Vattano:** *Tensioned Rituals: Sacred and Profane in Savinio's Chants de la mi-mort (1914)*

14:15 – 14:45 | Coffee Break & Snacks

14:45 – 16:45 | Session 3

Chair: Elia Romera-Figueroa

- **Alejandro Sánchez Cabrera:** *Rituals of Care: Taylor Swift's The Eras Tour and the Politics of Affect*
- **Florian Homann:** *Sacrum et Profanum in Spanish-Language Rap: Metaphors of Liberation and the Subversive Rewriting of Memory Politics*
- **Abdón Torresano Ramón:** *A Rock Star Between Messianism and Blasphemy: Roberto Iniesta's Desacralised Image of Christ*
- **Ivana Trajanoska:** *Zlatko Origjanski: Between the Sacred and the Profane*

20:30 | Conference Dinner

Venue: Restaurant Boemska, St. Orce Nikolov, n'110



Day 2: May 22, 2026

Venue: Room 4A (4th floor)

09:00 - 09:30 | Morning Coffee

09:30 – 11:30 | Session 4

Chair: Tamara Jolevska Popov

- **Paweł Siechowicz:** *The Interests of Criticism: What Is the Value of Meaning?*
- **Daný van Dam & Ruth Alison Clemens:** *Sacred Sounds and Profane Players: Musical Possession in Speculative Fiction*
- **Leena Julin:** *Shared Humanity: Artistic Research on Encounters Between Christian Tradition and Secular Individuals*
- **Suzana V. Spasovska & Tamara Jolevska Popov:** *From Hymns to Beat Poetry*

11:30 - 12:30 | Lunch Break

12:30 - 14:00 | Session 5

Chair: Ruth Alison Clemens

- **Iain Andrew Halliday:** *The Sacred in the Profane: Two Contemporary Songs*
- **Adriano Elia:** *Literary Hauntings: The Sacred and the Profane in Post-Punk Poetics*
- **Carlos Martínez Domingo:** *Evoking the Sacred: Paratextuality, Intertextuality and Rhetorical Strategies in Instrumental Works*

14:00 - 14:30 | Coffee Break & Snacks



14:30 – 16:30 | Session 6

Chair: Ivana Trajanoska

- **Anna Tenczyńska:** *Music in a concentration camp: between the sacred and the profane. Zofia Pomyszc's "Vacations on the Adriatic"*
- **Iuliana Matasova:** *Reparative Intimacies of War: Latexfauna's "Masandra" and "Nich" as Exercises in Care*
- **Michael Beckers:** *Of Carols and Cannons: Christmas Songs in European Political Movements*
- **Jan Czarnecki:** *Un requiem athée. Contemporary Literary Interpretations of the Missa in agenda defunctorum*

16:30 – 17:00 | Coffee Break & Snacks

17:00 - 18:30 | Business Meeting of the Word and Music Association Forum

20:30 | Conference Dinner

Venue: Restaurant Boemska, St. Orce Nikolov, n'110

Day 3: May 23, 2026

9:00 | Cultural Field Trip to Ohrid

Meeting Point: St. Phillip II of Macedon n'5

List of Participants (in alphabetical order)

- Alizadeh Tabrizi, Sanaz
Assist. Prof. Dr., Istanbul Aydin University, Türkiye
Email: sanazalizadehtabrizi@aydin.edu.tr
- Beckers, Michael
PhD, University of Cologne, Germany
Email: michaelbeckers@outlook.de
- Clemens, Ruth Alison
Dr., Leiden University, Netherlands
Email: r.a.clemens@hum.leidenuniv.nl
- Czarnecki, Jan
Dr., University of Cologne, Germany
Email: jan.czarnecki@uni-koeln.de
- Elia, Adriano
Assoc. Prof., University of Rome "Roma Tre", Italy
Email: adriano.elia@uniroma3.it
- Gurke, Thomas
DAAD Visiting Assoc. Prof., University of Minnesota, USA
Email: tgurke@umn.edu
- Halliday, Iain Andrew
Assoc. Prof., University of Catania, Italy
Email: iain.halliday@unict.it
- Homann, Florian
Dr., University of Münster, Germany
Email: fhomann@uni-muenster.de
- Jolevska Popov, Tamara
M.Phil., University American College Skopje, North Macedonia
Email: tamara.j.popov@uacs.edu.mk
- Julin, Leena
MMus, MTheol, University of the Arts, Helsinki, Finland



Email: leena.julin@uniarts.fi

- Martínez Domingo, Carlos
UNED / Conservatorio Profesional de Música de Valencia, Spain
Email: carlosmartinezdomingo@gmail.com
- Matasova, Iuliana
Dr., Independent Scholar, Research Fellow, New Europe College Bucharest, Romania
Email: ju.matasova@gmail.com
- Nagy, Dániel
Dr., Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary
Email: nagydaniel.pecs87@gmail.com
- Paterson, Adrian
Dr., University of Galway, Ireland
Email: adrianpaterson@yahoo.com
- Romera-Figueroa, Elia
Dr., Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain
Email: elromera@ucm.es
- Sánchez Cabrera, Alejandro
University of Salamanca, Spain
Email: alejandros28@usal.es
- Siechowicz, Paweł
Dr., University of Warsaw, Poland
Email: p.siechowicz@uw.edu.pl
- Spasovska, Suzana V.
Asst. Prof., University American College Skopje, North Macedonia
Email: svspasovska@yahoo.com
- Tenczyńska, Anna
PhD, University of Warsaw, Poland
Email: anna.tenczynska@uw.edu.pl
- Torresano Ramón, Abdón
Predoctoral fellow, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Spain
Email: atorresano@flog.uned.es



- Trajanoska, Ivana
Assoc. Prof., University American College Skopje, North Macedonia
Email: trajanoska@uacs.edu.mk
- van Dam, Dany
Assoc. Prof., Leiden University, Netherlands
Email: h.d.j.van.dam@hum.leidenuniv.nl
- Vattano, Laura
Dr., Independent Researcher, Italy
Email: lauravattano@yahoo.it