

# **Joint SMI and ICTMD Ireland Postgraduate Conference 2026**

**Venue:** MTU Cork School of Music, Union Quay, Cork City [Click for Map](#)  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> of January, 2026

**Keynote: Dr Joanne Cusack**

## Wednesday 14 January 2026

<b>11:00–16:00</b>	Registration	<b>FOYER</b>
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<b>12:00–12:20</b>	Welcome	<b>CURTIS AUDITORIUM</b>
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<b>Welcome from Conference Co-Chairs</b>	<b>Ciara O’Leary Fitzpatrick</b> (MTU), <b>Eric Browne</b> (MTU), <b>Obumneke Anyanwu</b> (DCU)
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<b>Welcome on behalf of SMI</b>	<b>Professor Wolfgang Marx</b> , SMI President
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<b>Welcome on behalf of ICTMD Ireland</b>	<b>Dr Susan Motherway</b> , ICTMD Ireland Chair
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<b>12:30–13:00</b>	Welcome Concert	<b>CURTIS AUDITORIUM</b>
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<b>13:00–14:00</b>	Keynote	<b>CURTIS AUDITORIUM</b>
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**Chair** Dr Susan Motherway (MTU)

**Dr Joanne Cusack** (Maynooth University)

Insider Action Research: Overcoming Challenges in the Field

<b>14:00–14:30</b>	Refreshment Break	<b>FOYER</b>
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<b>14:30–16:00</b>	Session 1
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ROOM: 217 (Bridget Doolan Room)	ROOM: 213	ROOM: 215
<b>1a Musical Dialogues (Lecture Recitals)</b> <b>Chair:</b> Dr. Anna Barbara Falkenau (University of Galway)	<b>1b Compositional Approaches</b> <b>Chair:</b> TBC	<b>1c Music Analysis</b> <b>Chair:</b> Kevin Boushel
<b>Connor Wilcox</b> (Royal Irish Academy of Music)	<b>Dylan Murphy</b> (Maynooth University) Beckettian Reversibility – A Compositional Approach to Samuel Beckett’s Trilogy: <i>Molloy</i> , <i>Malone Dies</i> and <i>The Unnamable</i>	<b>Hamidreza Golestanisani</b> (Dublin City University) Musical Narrative Theory and Holy Minimalism: Arvo Pärt’s <i>Für Alina</i>

Roseingrave in Italy: Experimentalism and Anachronism in the Harpsichord Suites of 1728	<b>Hayden Kline</b> (Trinity College Dublin) Polytunality: an Under-explored Tool for Creating Unique Intervals in Compositions	<b>Iulia-Daria Iacob</b> (University of Art and Design, Cluj-Napoca) <i>Imaginary Music</i> : A Chôric Reading of Octavian Nemescu's work
<b>Neda Nikolić (University of Limerick)</b> Towards a New Musical Synthesis: Dialogue between Balkan and Irish Music	<b>Santiago Kodela</b> (TU Dublin) From Fretboard to Choir: Translating Embodied Guitar Knowledge in <i>Tag</i> for SATB Voices	<b>Fidelma Nugent</b> (Dublin City University) Time, Eternity, and Faith in Sound: Early Reflections on Catholic Theology in Olivier Messiaen's Choral Works

**16:15–17:45** Session 2

ROOM: 217 (Bridget Doolan Room)			ROOM: 213			ROOM: 215		
<b>2a Piano Music in Ireland (Lecture Recitals)</b> <b>Chair:</b> Dr Kerry Houston (Technological University Dublin)			<b>2b: Music Pedagogy</b> <b>Chair:</b> TBC			<b>2c: Music Therapy</b> <b>Chair:</b> Dr. Adam Behan (Maynooth University)		
<b>Órán Halligan</b> (Royal Irish Academy of Music) <i>Strains of Other Days</i> : Constructing a Musical Lineage of Native Irish Piano Works in Late eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Century Ireland			<b>Joan O'Malley</b> (TU Dublin) "Trilby-Mania" and The Secrets of Svengali: Popular Perceptions of Classical Singers and Vocal Pedagogy in the Late Nineteenth/Early Twentieth Century			<b>Kate Daly</b> (University of Limerick) 'Crossing the Threshold': Facilitating Group Singing in Addiction Recovery Contexts		
<b>Orly Watson</b> (Royal Irish Academy of Music/Queen's University Belfast) The Dim Murmur from the Duns of Men: Piano Music in Ireland (1750–1950)			<b>Decheng Shao</b> (University College Cork) Finding Space Between Standardization: Liminal Belonging and Participatory Ensemble within State-Run Secondary Schooling in Suzhou, China			<b>Fiona Kelly</b> (University College Cork) Exploring the Impact of Caregiver Training on the Facilitation of Music-Based Activities in Residential Care Settings		
			<b>Stephen Lane</b> (MTU) New Approaches to the Teaching of Music Literacy: Exploring the Impact of New Resources on the Development of			<b>Hannah Healy</b> (University of Limerick) Giving Grief a Voice: Exploring the Use of Music Therapy to Support Children Who are Experiencing Grief (Recital)		

	Generalist Teacher Confidence and Self-Efficacy in Irish Primary Schools	
<b>18:00–18:45</b> Wine Reception and Award Presentation		<b>FOYER</b>
<b>19:00</b> Social Gathering		<b>THE COURTYARD AT AYE</b>
<b>Thursday 15 January 2026</b>		
<b>09:30–12:00</b> Registration		<b>FOYER</b>
<b>09:30–11:15</b> Session 3		
<b>ROOM: 212</b>	<b>ROOM: 213</b>	
<b>3a Lecture Recitals</b> <b>Chair:</b> Ciara O’Leary Fitzpatrick (MTU)	<b>3b Masters Student Presentations (10 minutes)</b> <b>Chair:</b> TBC	
<b>Brian Sheehan</b> (MTU) Data Sonification and Listening for Knowledge	<b>Aoife Sheridan</b> (Maynooth University) From Eibhlín to Ellen: The Incorporation and Adaptation of Irish Songs in Eighteenth-Century Art Music	
	<b>Laura McNally</b> (MTU) Irish Dance from a Holistic Perspective Among Young Adults	
	<b>Katie Feeney</b> (University of Oxford) The Nocturne: A Corpus Analysis of John Field and Frédéric Chopin’s Piano Nocturnes	
<b>Xiangyu Zhang</b> (Royal Irish Academy of Music) The Evolution of Chinese Oboe Repertoires: Tradition, Innovation and Cultural Synthesis	<b>Javier Noriega Molina</b> (Trinity College Dublin/Royal College of Music, London) The Emergence of the Professional Violist: Repertoire and Specialisation c. 1750–c. 1950	

	<b>Catherine Lietz</b> (Maynooth University) Irishness, Hybridity, and Artistry in <i>Síomha's Infinite Space</i>	
	<b>Brigid Cryan</b> (University College Cork) Random Following with a MaxMSP Device: Exploring Perceived Autonomy and Phrasal Parsing	
	<b>Charlotte Daun</b> (University of Limerick) Why Community Music Matters	
<b>11:15–11:30</b> Refreshment Break <b>FOYER</b>		
<b>11:30–13:00</b> Session 4		
<b>ROOM: 212</b>	<b>ROOM: Curtis Auditorium</b>	<b>ROOM: 215</b>
<b>4a Opera Studies</b> <b>Chair:</b> Michael Lee, Executive Editor of the Journal of the Society for Musicology in Ireland	<b>4b Music, Dance, and Climate Action (Lecture-Recitals)</b> <b>Chair:</b> TBC	<b>4c Cultural Connections</b> <b>Chair:</b> TBC
<b>Leanne Fitzgerald</b> (TU Dublin) Exploring Research and Innovation in Jennifer Walshe's Opera <i>Mars</i> (2025)	<b>Aleksandr Nisse</b> (TU Dublin) Detailed Analysis of <i>Pleonexia</i> : Ecosystems and Harmonic Series in Contemporary Composition	<b>Marta Siermantowska</b> (TU Dublin) The Impact of Cultural Connections on the Music of Richard Galliano
<b>Aisling Fitzgerald</b> (University of Galway) Putting on the Trousers for the Trouser Role ... in Opera Leadership in Ireland	<b>Michelle Palmer</b> (University of Galway) What Can Ecofeminist Dance Theatre and Eco Soma Approaches Offer Dramaturgy and Performance in the Midst of Climate Crisis?	<b>Kevin Ferreira Shortall</b> (University of Limerick) Alec Finn's Bouzouki: Transcriptions, Analysis and Educational Strategies
<b>Qian Le</b> (Queen's University Belfast) Voice, Character, and Collaboration: Anastasia Robinson and Handel's <i>Amadigi di Gaula</i>		<b>Eoin Kearns</b> (Queen's University Belfast) Irish Traditional Music and Musical Diplomacy of the Irish State in China
<b>13:00–14:00</b> Lunch <b>BISTRO</b>		

**14:00–15:15** Careers Forum

**CURTIS AUDITORIUM**

**Chair:** Professor Wolfgang Marx (University College Dublin)

Panel discussion with **Nicole Grimes**, Trinity College Dublin, **Claire Layton**, Music Development Officer, Music Generation Cork City, **Michael Lee**, Executive Editor of the Journal of the Society for Musicology in Ireland and more guests TBC.

**15:15–16:15** Session 5

ROOM: 212	ROOM: 213	ROOM: 215
<b>5a Song Categorisation</b> <b>Chair: TBC</b>	<b>5b Festivals</b> <b>Chair: TBC</b>	<b>5c Twentieth-Century Irish Music</b> <b>Chair: TBC</b>
<b>Michael Young</b> (Dublin City University) Song Categorisation and Style in Musical Theatre, with a focus on <i>The Bridges of Madison County</i> by Jason Robert Brown	<b>Laura Reese</b> (University of Limerick) “Time Travel to the Greatest Party Since Camelot”: The History of American Renaissance Festivals	<b>Christina Nastos</b> (University of Würzburg) Shaping Irishness: The Evaluation of Irish Identities in the Music and Work of Aloys Fleischmann
<b>Aoife Ní Laoire</b> (Dublin City University) A Love for the Ages or Lost in Definition? Rethinking the Categorisation of Traditional Irish-Language Love Songs in Modern Times	<b>Katrina Tracey Cuddy</b> (Queen’s University Belfast) The <i>Sonorities</i> Festival and the Belfast Soundscape: 1981-1999	<b>Dylan Kelly</b> (Dublin City University) <i>Ultima Rerum</i> : A Reappraisal of the Later Career and Music of Gerard Victory (1921-1995)

**16:30** Conference Close

**CURTIS AUDITORIUM**

**Ciara O’Leary Fitzpatrick** (MTU), **Eric Browne** (MTU), **Obumneke Anyanwu** (DCU)

