

Joint SMI and ICTMD Ireland Postgraduate Conference 2026

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

Keynote: Dr Joanne Cusack

Wednesday 14 January 2026

11:00–16:00	Registration	FOYER
12:00–12:20	Welcome	CURTIS AUDITORIUM
Welcome from Conference Co-Chairs	Ciara O'Leary Fitzpatrick (MTU), Eric Browne (MTU), Obumneke Anyanwu (DCU)	
Welcome on behalf of SMI	Professor Wolfgang Marx , SMI President	
Welcome on behalf of ICTMD Ireland	Dr Susan Motherway , ICTMD Ireland Chair	
12:30–13:00	Welcome Concert	CURTIS AUDITORIUM
13:00–14:00	Keynote	CURTIS AUDITORIUM
Chair Dr Susan Motherway (MTU)		
Dr Joanne Cusack (Maynooth University) Insider Action Research: Overcoming Challenges in the Field		
14:00–14:30	Refreshment Break	FOYER
14:30–16:00	Session 1	
ROOM: 217 (Bridget Doolan Room)	ROOM: 213	ROOM: 215
1a Musical Dialogues (Lecture Recitals) Chair: Dr. Anna Barbara Falkenau (University of Galway)	1b Compositional Approaches Chair: TBC	1c Music Analysis Chair: Kevin Boushel
Connor Wilcox (Royal Irish Academy of Music)	Dylan Murphy (Maynooth University Beckettian Reversibility – A Compositional Approach to Samuel Beckett's Trilogy: <i>Molloy, Malone Dies and The Unnamable</i>	Hamidreza Golestanisani (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	Hayden Kline (Trinity College Dublin) Polytunality: an Under-explored Tool for Creating Unique Intervals in Compositions	Iulia-Daria Iacob (University of Art and Design, Cluj-Napoca) <i>Imaginary Music</i> : A Chôric Reading of Octavian Nemesu's work
Neda Nikolić (University of Limerick) Towards a New Musical Synthesis: Dialogue between Balkan and Irish Music	Santiago Kodela (TU Dublin) From Fretboard to Choir: Translating Embodied Guitar Knowledge in <i>Tag</i> for SATB Voices	Fidelma Nugent (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
2a Piano Music in Ireland (Lecture Recitals) Chair: Dr Kerry Houston (Technological University Dublin)	2b: Music Pedagogy Chair: TBC	2c: Music Therapy Chair: Dr. Adam Behan (Maynooth University)
Órán Halligan (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	Joan O'Malley (TU Dublin) "Trilby-Mania" and The Secrets of Svengali: Popular Perceptions of Classical Singers and Vocal Pedagogy in the Late Nineteenth/Early Twentieth Century	Kate Daly (University of Limerick) 'Crossing the Threshold': Facilitating Group Singing in Addiction Recovery Contexts
Orly Watson (Royal Irish Academy of Music/Queen's University Belfast) The Dim Murmur from the Duns of Men: Piano Music in Ireland (1750–1950)	Decheng Shao (University College Cork) Finding Space Between Standardization: Liminal Belonging and Participatory Ensemble within State-Run Secondary Schooling in Suzhou, China	Fiona Kelly (University College Cork) Exploring the Impact of Caregiver Training on the Facilitation of Music-Based Activities in Residential Care Settings
	Stephen Lane (MTU) New Approaches to the Teaching of Music Literacy: Exploring the Impact of New Resources on the Development of	Hannah Healy (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	
18:00-18:45	Wine Reception and Award Presentation	FOYER
19:00	Social Gathering	THE COURTYARD AT AYE
Thursday 15 January 2026		
09:30-12:00	Registration	FOYER
09:30-11:15	Session 3	
ROOM: 212	ROOM: 213	
3a Lecture Recitals Chair: Ciara O'Leary Fitzpatrick (MTU)	3b Masters Student Presentations (10 minutes) Chair: TBC	
Brian Sheehan (MTU) Data Sonification and Listening for Knowledge	Aoife Sheridan (Maynooth University) From Eibhlín to Ellen: The Incorporation and Adaptation of Irish Songs in Eighteenth-Century Art Music	
	Laura McNally (MTU) Irish Dance from a Holistic Perspective Among Young Adults	
	Katie Feeney (University of Oxford) The Nocturne: A Corpus Analysis of John Field and Frédéric Chopin's Piano Nocturnes	
Xiangyu Zhang (Royal Irish Academy of Music) The Evolution of Chinese Oboe Repertoires: Tradition, Innovation and Cultural Synthesis	Javier Noriega Molina (Trinity College Dublin/Royal College of Music, London) The Emergence of the Professional Violist: Repertoire and Specialisation c. 1750-c. 1950	

	Catherine Lietz (Maynooth University) Irishness, Hybridity, and Artistry in Síomha's <i>Infinite Space</i>	
	Brigid Cryan (University College Cork) Random Following with a MaxMSP Device: Exploring Perceived Autonomy and Phrasal Parsing	
	Charlotte Daun (University of Limerick) Why Community Music Matters	

11:15-11:30 Refreshment Break

FOYER

11:30-13:00 Session 4

ROOM: 212	ROOM: Curtis Auditorium	ROOM: 215
4a Opera Studies Chair: Michael Lee, Executive Editor of the Journal of the Society for Musicology in Ireland Leanne Fitzgerald (TU Dublin) Exploring Research and Innovation in Jennifer Walshe's <i>Opera Mars</i> (2025)	4b Music, Dance, and Climate Action (Lecture-Recitals) Chair: TBC Aisling Fitzgerald (University of Galway) Putting on the Trousers for the Trouser Role ... in Opera Leadership in Ireland	4c Cultural Connections Chair: TBC Marta Siermantowska (TU Dublin) The Impact of Cultural Connections on the Music of Richard Galliano
 Qian Le (Queen's University Belfast) Voice, Character, and Collaboration: Anastasia Robinson and Handel's <i>Amadigi di Gaula</i>	Aleksandr Nisse (TU Dublin) Detailed Analysis of <i>Pleonexia</i> : Ecosystems and Harmonic Series in Contemporary Composition Michelle Palmer (University of Galway) What Can Ecofeminist Dance Theatre and Eco Soma Approaches Offer Dramaturgy and Performance in the Midst of Climate Crisis?	 Kevin Ferreira Shortall (University of Limerick) Alec Finn's Bouzouki: Transcriptions, Analysis and Educational Strategies Eoin Kearns (Queen's University Belfast) Irish Traditional Music and Musical Diplomacy of the Irish State in China

13:00-14:00 Lunch

BISTRO

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
5a Song Categorisation Chair: TBC	5b Festivals Chair: TBC	5c Twentieth-Century Irish Music Chair: TBC
Michael Young (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	Laura Reese (University of Limerick) "Time Travel to the Greatest Party Since Camelot": The History of American Renaissance Festivals	Christina Nastos (University of Würzburg) Shaping Irishness: The Evaluation of Irish Identities in the Music and Work of Aloys Fleischmann
Aoife Ní Laoire (Dublin City University) A Love for the Ages or Lost in Definition? Rethinking the Categorisation of Traditional Irish-Language Love Songs in Modern Times	Katrina Tracey Cuddy (Queen's University Belfast) The <i>Sonorities</i> Festival and the Belfast Soundscape: 1981-1999	Dylan Kelly (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)

