



Coming Together at the Crossroads: Music Study in Canada in 2026
Conference

Desautels Faculty of Music, The University of Manitoba – Winnipeg, MB
May 21–24, 2026

Call for Papers, Sessions, Workshops, Round Tables, Lecture-Recitals and Posters

Submission Deadline: February 20, 2026

The Desautels Faculty of Music at The University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba is hosting a joint conference of The Canadian Society for Traditional Music, the Canadian Network for Musicians' Health and Wellness, Canadian University Music Society, and the Canadian Association of Music Libraries from May 21–24, 2026. The University of Manitoba is located on the traditional territories of Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Anisininewuk, Dakota Oyate, Dene, and Inuit, and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

Proposals on any topic are welcome, but we particularly encourage proposals that relate to the conference theme, ***Coming Together at the Crossroads: Music Study in Canada in 2026***, inspired by Robin Elliott's 2025 article, "[Canadian Music Studies and/under the Second Trump Presidency](#)". We encourage proposals that engage with any of the following areas:

- Music, Migration, and Diaspora: movement, displacement, resettlement, and musical life in Canada and beyond.
- Identity, Gender, and Diversity: intersections of music with lived experience, representation, and equity.
- Indigeneity, Reconciliation, and Relationality: Indigenous music studies, community partnerships, and decolonizing methodologies.
- Precarity and its Implications for Music-making: labour, livelihood, access, sustainability, and the challenges facing artists, scholars, and cultural workers.
- Digital Technologies, AI, and its Intersections with Music: new tools, platforms, and their implications for music-making, knowledge production, and community formation.
- Crisis in Postsecondary Education: institutional change, funding and job precarity, and the future of music study in Canada.
- Music Study in Canada in the 21st Century: reflecting on our multiple Societies' history, our evolving roles, and future directions

We continue to build on the themes of Indigenization, decolonization, equity, and diversity within all areas of music study. With our Call for Papers, Panels, Round Tables, Workshops, Lecture-Recitals, and Posters, the conference organizing committee aims to bring together scholars from a wide range of perspectives for a vibrant discussion.

This year's conference will be a connected event; paper sessions will be available to presenters and attendees in both in-person and virtual space, while other conference features will be available only to in-person attendees.

Members and non-members are invited to submit proposals, in English or French, from all areas of academic inquiry, including musicology, music theory, ethnomusicology, composition, music education, electro-acoustic music, popular music studies, music recording and production, performance, and disciplines related to musicians' health and wellness. The deadline for all proposals and submissions is **February 20, 2026**.

Papers: Papers should not exceed 20 minutes, including illustrations, and will be followed by a 10-minute period for questions and discussion. Those wishing to propose a paper must submit by the deadline: 1) an abstract of 250 words maximum for consideration by the Program Committee; 2) a biography (100 words); and 3) one optional additional page of illustrations, tables or diagrams if the presentation will use these materials. Abstracts must describe the subject of the paper proposal, its relationship to previous scholarship, the methodology, and the conclusions. Graduate students whose papers are chosen for presentation in any session of the conference may be eligible to compete for the **CSTM STUDENT PAPER PRIZE**. Eligible students who wish to compete will be required to submit copies of their complete papers by **April 27, 2026** to mforsyth@mun.ca.

Panels: Those wishing to propose a panel comprising three or four papers should submit: 1) a description and *rationale* for the session as a whole (maximum 250 words); 2) a 150-word abridged abstract; 3) the names and a 100-word biography for each proposed participant; 4) a proposed chairperson; and, 5) for each paper, an abstract that conforms to the session abstract described above (maximum of four abstracts).

Round Tables and Workshops: Round tables and workshops are organized by an individual or group of individuals around a specific topic or music/dance tradition with the participation of invited performers, tradition-bearers, speakers and/or discussants. Round table and workshop sessions may be scheduled for a maximum of 90 minutes. Those wishing to organize a round table or workshop should submit 1) an abstract of 500 words maximum, describing the topic and the method of presentation, the participants and the precise nature of each of their contributions; 2) an abridged abstract of no more than 150 words; and 3) short biographies of no more than 100 words for each invited participant. Please note that round tables and workshops are the only proposals that will not be read blind, as the program committee must assess the contributions of those involved in order to consider the session within the overall program.

Posters: Posters will be posted in a common area and those proposing poster presentations will have an opportunity to present their work in conjunction with the morning coffee break on **Friday, May 22, 2026**. Those wishing to propose a poster presentation must submit by the deadline: 1) an abstract of 250 words maximum for consideration by the Program Committee, and 2) a biography (100 words). Abstracts must describe the subject of the poster proposal, its relationship to previous scholarship, the methodology, and the conclusions. Please note that on-site printing by the University of Manitoba School of Art will be available for a small fee. More information to follow.

Lecture-Recitals: Lecture-recitals can be a maximum of 45 minutes (35-minute presentation plus 10 minutes for questions). Those wishing to present a lecture-recital must submit by the deadline: 1) an abstract of 500 words (max.) describing the scholarly argument or research context, the repertoire and performers involved, and the ways in which live performance and spoken commentary will be

integrated; 2) an abridged abstract (150 words); 3) a biography (100 words) for each performer involved in the lecture-recital.

Conference registration and membership in CSTM: All presenters and speakers must be current members of CSTM before their submissions can be accepted for inclusion into the program. They must also register to the Coming Together at the Crossroads 2026 conference as either an in-person or an online presenter. See <https://cstm-sctm.ca> for CSTM membership information.

Submission: To submit a proposal, complete the [online submission form](#) by **Friday, February 20, 2026**. The author's name, affiliation, title of the abstract, email address, and phone number should appear in the online form but **not** on the abstract or in any file names, as proposals will be read blind. All file submissions should be in .DOCX or .PDF format.

Submission of a proposal denotes willingness and ability to attend the conference in person or virtually. You will be asked to indicate whether you plan to present in-person or virtually at the time of submission and will have an opportunity to confirm your participation style by April 1, 2026.

Results: The results of the program committee's deliberations will be announced no later than March 22, 2026. The final program will be posted on the CSTM website.

The conference website will be forthcoming. For further information, please e-mail questions to Meghan Forsyth: mforsyth@mun.ca

***Please note that this call is for members of CSTM. Members of CAML, CNMHW and MusCan are encouraged to respond to their organization's call.