

CALL FOR PAPERS

10th International Lisbon Conference

Chinese Music and Musical Instruments

Macro- and Micro-Histories of Chinese and Asian Music

30th International CHIME Meeting

4–7 May 2027 · Lisbon / Mafra, Portugal

Call for Papers

30th International CHIME Meeting

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

1 February 2027

4-7 May 2027 | Lisbon / Mafra, Portugal

NOVA University Lisbon / National Palace, Mafra

In-person meeting | Conference language: English

Conference overview · Theme · Submission guidelines · Committees

01 / CONFERENCE

A joint meeting in Lisbon and Mafra

Lisbon has been a warm and welcoming place for scholars of Chinese music ever since the city started its formidable series of annual meetings on Chinese Music and Musical Instruments in 2016.

The 10th edition of this series will take place from 4 to 7 May 2027 at the Institute of Ethnomusicology - Centre for Studies in Music and Dance (INET-md), NOVA University Lisbon and at the National Palace in Mafra. This conference will incorporate the 30th International CHIME meeting, scheduled to focus on the topic of 'Macro- and Micro-Histories of Chinese and Asian Music'.

We look forward to a rich joint programme of papers, panels, films, workshops, and live musical performances for this jubilee edition, with good cause for celebration for all partners involved.

CHIME, founded in Europe in 1990, is an international platform for scholars and aficionados in the realm of Chinese music. It has organised major annual conferences and music festivals since its inception. The NOVA University Lisbon has already hosted several fine editions of CHIME and of the annual Lisbon Chinese music conferences.

We now welcome paper and panel proposals for this joint event, to take place, once more, under the generous patronage of Fundação Jorge Álvares, with additional support from the Municipality of Mafra and others (listed below). We are pleased to announce that the opening sessions of the conference will be held at the wonderful National Palace of Mafra.

This event is also partially supported by FCT - the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P., through funding awarded to the project of the Institute of Ethnomusicology - Centre for Music and Dance Studies (INET-md), FCSH, NOVA University of Lisbon.

This is an in-person meeting, meaning that we cannot accept proposals for online presentations. The meeting will be held in English.

Organising institutions

CHIME Worldwide Platform for Chinese Music Research

The Municipality of Mafra

The Institute of Ethnomusicology - Centre for Studies in Music and Dance (INET-md), NOVA University Lisbon

The Confucius Institutes of the Universities of Aveiro and Minho

02 / THEME

Macro- and Micro-Histories of Chinese and Asian Music

In all our meetings we reserve room for ongoing research on Chinese music and musical instruments. But the main theme of our 2027 conference will be 'Macro- and Micro-Histories of Chinese and Asian Music.'

Writing musical histories entails constant juggling between the 'macro-histories' of environmental and human development and the 'micro-histories' of everyday lives, each integral to the creation of a musical culture in constant motion. Attempts to connect the two lead to the stories people often tell about the musics with which they engage and identify. A typical master narrative is that informed in many countries by nationalist ideologies, which frequently tend to portray the development of music in a country as a single continuous 'river' of sound, a river bound to strengthen and reinvigorate the nation's culture. Events which have taken place in the past may then be interpreted as mere side streams in an 'inevitable' process of national cultural progress, leading towards ever greater cultural unity. While such tales presumably aim to appeal to feelings of harmony and national pride, they do not necessarily capture realistically what is happening on the ground. Most music in China, to focus only on the largest country in Asia, is not 'national' at all. Most genres, unsurprisingly, are regional or local (Liang Minyue, Music of the Billion, 1985), and many are shared, or were shared at some point in the past, with minority groups or other cultures living outside China's borders. Some indeed originate from such extraneous cultures.

It is only by exploring the numerous micro-histories and subcultures that we can get a fuller, more realistic, and ultimately probably more impressive picture of the true abundance and variety of musical expressions available, and of the complex histories which they present. At the same time, it is important not to lose awareness of the macro-historical developments that underlie more localised musical histories - climate change, for example, which often drastically alters the natural materials available to instrument makers.

Musical instruments, indeed, have a major part to play in historical thinking. Those recognised today as 'national' may have more complex trajectories in terms of their past. In this conference, we aim to contrast macro-historical viewpoints and grand national narratives with the micro-histories available throughout Asia, in a concerted effort to 'rescue history from the nation' (Prasenjit Duara, Rescuing History from the Nation, 1995).

03 / SUBMISSIONS

Abstracts and proposals

We invite students, scholars, and artists in the realm of Chinese and Asian music to submit proposals for individual papers, presentations, or panels. Speakers from the People's Republic of China and from other parts of Asia are explicitly welcome to join us.

Presentation formats

For 20-minute individual presentations, please submit an abstract in English of around 300 words.

For panels, please submit a 200- to 300-word summary of the panel topic, plus 200-word summaries for each of the panellists' individual contributions. Panels of three speakers should not exceed 90 minutes (including question time), or with four or five speakers, 120 minutes will be the maximum length.

Preparing and submitting your proposal

Please also add a brief personal bio (100 to 200 words) to your abstract.

Make sure to inform us of your name, institutional affiliation (if applicable), contact email, and proposed paper title.

Before you complete your abstract, we kindly advise you to consult our guidelines and suggestions for preparing an abstract for CHIME. Download these guidelines from our website at https://www.chimemusic.net/guidelines.

The deadline for sending abstracts is 1 February 2027.

Please email your abstract to the 30th CHIME Programme Committee, c/o Frank Kouwenhoven, to both chime.music.info@gmail.com and Chime@wxs.nl.

The Programme Committee will notify everyone about acceptance or rejection at the latest by 20 February 2027.

Submitters who depend on early acceptance for grant or visa applications may contact us to request earlier decisions.

We do not correspond about the outcome of the evaluation process.

04 / ORGANISATION & PARTICIPATION

Committees and practical information

Programme Committee

The Programme Committee for this joint meeting will consist (in alphabetical order) of:

Salwa Castelo-Branco (INET-md, NOVA University Lisbon, Portugal)
Maria do Espírito Santo (INET-md, NOVA University Lisbon)
Samuel Horlor (Department of Music, Durham University, UK)
Frank Kouwenhoven (CHIME, Leiden, The Netherlands, chair)
François Picard (Institut de Recherche en Musicologie, Paris, France)
Helen Rees (Department of Ethnomusicology, UCLA, Los Angeles, USA)
Pedro Roxo (INET-md, NOVA University Lisbon)
Susana Sardo (INET-md, University of Aveiro, Portugal)
Shao Xiao Ling (INET-md, University of Aveiro)

Local Arrangements Committee

Maria do Espírito Santo (INET-md, NOVA University Lisbon)
Samuel Horlor (Department of Music, Durham University)
Pedro Roxo (INET-md, NOVA University Lisbon)
Enio de Souza (INET-md, NOVA University Lisbon, chair)

General participation

In due course we will announce on both our special conference website (to be launched later) and on our CHIME website (www.chimemusic.net) the registration fees and our procedures for formal participation. As always, CHIME members in good standing can attend the event at reduced rates.

In addition to presenters, we warmly welcome participants who would like to join our meeting as audience members, without contributing presentations.

For any practical enquiries about the upcoming event, you are welcome to contact the chair of our Local Arrangements Committee in Lisbon, Enio de Souza, email: eniosouza@fcsh.unl.pt.

For more on the conference, you can also check www.chimemusic.net, where we will post regular updates.