



Irish National Committee of the International Council for Traditional Music

15th Annual Conference
21-22 February 2020
University College Cork

Music | Politics | Power

Keynote Address: Professor Kay Kaufman Shelemay, G. Gordon Watts Professor of Music at Harvard University

Borders, unity and separatism, fake news, propaganda, political balances of power – all quotidian terms in our media and conversations. But, what of the role of music? Throughout history music has been a pivotal factor in sounding the nation, the resistance and the new. Music provides a sonic link to the historic past, summoned to generate a sense of belonging. Music identifies, excludes and defines. In the Irish context, musical performances were key to the national centenary celebrations in 2016, marking the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising. Some of those revolutionaries were also musicians who viewed music, language, culture and politics as essential components of being ‘Irish’ and of national freedom. These celebrations also provoked much debate on the nature of society today. How do we support marginalised groups and to what extent is music a barrier or indeed a sonic path for new groups in society to build and maintain a sense of community and identity? We invite scholars to consider the nature of power and politics in the music they study. To what extent are musicians, indeed ethnomusicologists activists for social justice or advocates for marginalised communities? How do politics and (cultural) policies impact musical expression and

practices? How does music contest, negotiate or represent community/nation/idea?
Who are the activists and cultural leaders that sound the future?

Papers that address the following topics will be especially welcome:

- Music/musicians and social justice
- Music and marginalised communities
- Music and policies
- Politics/political movements and music
- Music and power structures
- Music and social change
- New research

We encourage a variety of methodological approaches and subject areas including but not limited to those researching instrumental music, popular styles, community music, music therapy, folklore studies, musicology, ethnomusicology, ethnochoreology, and applied research inside and outside the academy to contribute to the discussion.

Conference conveners welcome submissions of 200-word abstracts from all relevant academic fields. Session presentations will be 20 minutes long. Shorter postgraduate presentations of works in progress may also be considered. ICTM Ireland aims to include an even mix of research on Irish and non-Irish case studies. Once again we particularly welcome short (10 minutes max.) video extract submissions, which will be shown between panel sessions.

Please send abstracts to chair@ictm.ie by 1 November 2019. Successful applicants will be notified by 1 December 2019. A student travel bursary is available (see below).

ICTM Student Travel Bursary

Purpose: To facilitate travel to the annual ICTM Ireland conference for a postgraduate student. The award is based on the quality of abstracts submitted. All applications will be judged by the ICTM Ireland committee.

Eligibility:

- Postgraduate students at an Irish/international institute who are currently registered as postgraduate students
- Applicants who have applied for and been accepted to present at the ICTM Ireland conference
- Applicants must hold a current ICTM membership.

Prize: €100

Regularity: Annually

Applicants should email chair@ictmireland.ie by 14 January. Awardees will be notified by 1 February. Successful applicants will receive a cheque at the annual conference for the award amount.