

Musikforskning idag 2026

Musikforskning idag (Music research today) brings music researchers in all disciplines together. This year's conference is hosted by the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. The conference will take place on October 7th - 9th, starting and ending at lunch. The conference welcomes contributions on any topic related to research in musicology, music pedagogy, artistic research in music, ethnomusicology, music theory, music therapy, music psychology and music-related research in other disciplines. The conference particularly welcomes contributions related to this year's theme and encourages participation from doctoral and master's students.

Musikforskning idag is organizing an introductory cross-disciplinary seminar for doctoral students at Swedish universities, starting on the evening of October 6th. The ambition is to stimulate conversation across disciplinary boundaries, and to create and develop contact surfaces through a moderated dialogue.

This year's conference has a special focus on *Musical Performance*, which is reflected in the keynote presentations. This theme will thereby lay the groundwork for a coherent series of sessions across the program, while a diversity of other perspectives on music research will fill out the full picture.

Musical Performance

For the last few decades, research in music has been characterized by a shift in perspective towards studies of music's performative qualities and practices. One aspect of this development is that disciplines such as musicology and music psychology took steps towards a growing field of *performance studies*. Parallel to this, new perspectives were developed, through ecological psychology and later *embodied music cognition*, which opened up for further cooperation with newer disciplines such as music pedagogy and artistic research. Which new trends and methods are growing in this expanded field, or in other interdisciplinary contexts, today?

From a historical perspective a bit further back in time, the methodological development in ethnomusicology of the early 1960's is an important antecedent. At the same time, these perspectives can be further expanded to take into account the role that new technologies have played, initially for recording of sound and video, and later also technologies for quantitatively registering and analysing movement and biometric data. What role can these and other technologies play in music research of the future? We are particularly interested in how these approaches can contribute to new relationships—both through critical perspectives and as direct cooperation—between research and higher education. How can research on and via musical expertise,

musician health, performance praxis, technologies for music creation, and a deeper research anchoring in music history and music theory contribute to methodological developments in higher music education?

Thematic approaches, within the area of Musical Performance, can for example include the following:

- Musical expertise and interaction, gesture research, improvisation, performance praxis and technologies for music creation, such as augmented and intelligent instruments
- Music research on and in higher music education, such as:
 - Methodological development in the education of musicians
 - Practice-based music theory
 - The higher music education's history and future, and music research as an institutional critique.
- Phonogram, recording and sound production
- Performative perspectives in historical musicology
- Historical and sociological perspectives on musical practices and the institutions of musical life
- Cross-disciplinary perspectives on musicians' health
- Multimodal methods in music research on performative practices
- Inclusion in higher music education and research

The Swedish Society for Music Research (SSM) will perform a peer review of submitted abstracts. The society's journal, SJM, is creating a section in this year's issue related to the conference's main theme. SJM encourages all those presenting to develop their conference papers into articles for submission to the journal for separate peer review and potential publication.

The Keynote speakers will be announced on the website shortly.

Language

The conference's main languages are Swedish and English. Presentations may also be in Danish and Norwegian.

Membership in the Swedish Society for Music Research

The conference is being organized by the Swedish Society for Music Research. Members pay a reduced conference fee. For information on how to become a member, see: <https://musikforskning.se/om-samfundet>. As a member of SSM you actively

support the Society's work with the conference and the publication of our academic journal, SJM.

Presentation formats and duration

Conference contributions can be presented in one of the following formats: traditional paper, lecture-recital, panel, paired papers, video essay/audio paper, or poster.

A. Paper presentation: Time: 20 minutes + 10 minutes for questions and comments. Undergraduate and Master or Magister-level graduate students are also invited to present finished thesis projects (10 minutes + 5 minutes for questions and comments). Supervisors are kindly asked to advise students of this opportunity.

B. Lecture-recital: an oral presentation that integrates a practical demonstration or music performance. The demonstration or performance must be an integral part of the presentation and not merely serve as an illustration. The lecture-recital format is open to researchers and students from all fields of music research. Time: 20 minutes + 10 minutes for questions and comments. The conference committee will allocate time depending on the scope of the overall conference programme.

C. Panel: a group of at least three researchers who present and discuss a shared project or research topic. Time: 30-60 minutes depending on the number of presentations.

D. Video essay/audio paper: A video or audio production that includes an academic argument or question that is expressed in words, images and/or sound. The audio or video file should be 15– 20 minutes and will be followed by a discussion of 10–15 minutes (30 mins is the framework).

Abstract

Please submit your abstract online at: <https://musikforskning.se/cfp2026> no later than **February 6th, 2026** if you wish to apply for a travel stipend from the Royal Swedish Academy of Music. A second deadline for abstracts is **May 1st, 2026**.

The abstract must contain:

- The title of your presentation

- A concise summary of the presentation (maximum 300 words) including research question(s), theory, method, results, and conclusions. (Reference lists are not requested.)
- The format of your presentation. (Traditional paper, lecture-recital, panel or video essay/audio paper.)
- Technology or equipment requirements other than a projector and sound system.
- Each participant's name and institutional affiliation (if applicable)
 - Contact information for all the participants and the name of the group coordinator.

Important! Please name the file "surname_first name"

Presentations will be selected based on their scholarly or artistic quality, scientific relevance and originality. The outcomes of the peer review will be communicated by February 16th, 2026 at the latest. After the second deadline the outcomes will be communicated at the latest on May 13th, 2026.

Other information

The program and more detailed information will be published on the conference webpage: www.musikforskning.se

Conference fee, registration and participation

The conference fee is 1500 SEK for members of SSM. The membership fee to SSM is an additional 300 SEK and should be paid at the latest upon registration for the conference. The fee for non-members is 2300 SEK. The conference fee applies regardless of your level of attendance. Furthermore: For doctoral students not employed by their institutions, students (e.g., Master, Magister, undergraduate) and retirees the preliminary reduced conference fee for members is 750 SEK (the reduced fee for non-members in this category is 1500 SEK). Registration for the conference will open in August 2026.

Facilities and equipment

All lecture halls will be equipped with projectors, sound systems and wireless internet.

Travel and accommodation

Travel and accommodation are the responsibility of the participant. The conference organisers are not able to cover costs for travel and lodging.

Book table

There will be an open book table at the conference. For information about the book table please contact the Society's secretary prior to the conference start:

konferens@musikforskning.se

For further queries please contact konferens@musikforskning.se.