



IMS Mediterranean Conference Matera 2026

The conference is being organised to mark Matera's designation as the Mediterranean Capital of Culture and Dialogue 2026, and will involve the four IMS Study Groups with an interest in the Mediterranean:

- **"Early African Sound Worlds"** co-chairs Camilla Cavicchi and Janie Cole
- **"Music in the Muslim Worlds"** co-chairs Salvatore Morra, Kawkab Tawfik
- **"Music of the Christian East and Orient"** Maria Alexandru
- **"Mediterranean Music Studies"** chair Dinko Fabris (and subgroup "Circulation of Opera and operatic companies across Mediterranean theatres", co-chair Maria Rosa De Luca)

Dates: 30 October–2 November 2026 at the University of Basilicata, Matera, which will make lecture theatres not in use by students on those days available free of charge.

Format: hybrid. Colleagues attending in person are very welcome, but for the time being it would be advisable to let IMS members know that remote online presentations will also be accepted on an equal footing.

Registration: no registration fee

Suggested topics:

- Music and Otherness in the Mediterranean World
- Functions of music in the Mediterranean: rites, rituality, and practices connected with the symbolic or sacred dimension
- The enlarged Mediterranean
- Music and Intercultural Dialogues in the Mediterranean
- Musicians and Musical Instruments of the Mediterranean
- Theatres and Circulation of Opera and operatic companies

The conference will start on the 30 October afternoon with an Opening Ceremony, and the two following days will be divided into four parallel panels, managed by each IMS SG. The SGs will provide a list of presenters, both in presence and online, and indicate an invited speaker.

During the Opening Ceremony, Iain Fenlon (King's College, Cambridge) will give a talk in memory of David Abulafia, the Mediterranean historian who delivered the first keynote lecture at Valencia 2025 and who passed away in January this year. There will also be a tribute to the Italian musicologist Franco A. Gallo, who passed away a few days ago.

It will be a challenge to find reasonably priced hotels in Matera throughout 2026, as the dates coincide with a busy weekend full of events and celebrations across Italy. However, we will do our best to help, and all logistical information and hotel arrangements will be available soon on the conference website: <https://imsmatera.com/>

During the conference, there will be an opportunity to discuss the aims of the newly founded Inter-university Observatory on Mediterranean Music at the Università della Basilicata, Matera (a flexible project based on the exchange of databases and links relating to ongoing projects by individual scholars or universities), and for universities wishing to participate in the project to sign up.

Please send proposals (title of paper, abstract, CV) to:

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