



Call for papers

Technology Mediation in Contemporary Opera: Preservation, Innovation, and Sustainable Practices

Introduction

The Venice Conservatoire of Music “B. Marcello” (IT) and Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (UK) are pleased to announce a call for the conference “Technology Mediation in Contemporary Opera: Preservation, Innovation, and Sustainable Practices”. This conference aims to bring together artists, researchers, and musicians from around the world who are interested in exploring the creative role of technology in opera and music theatre and the challenges that technology poses for the preservation and sustainability of the repertoire.

Date

from January 8 to January 10, 2026

Location

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, 200 Jennens Road, Birmingham B4 7XR, United Kingdom.



Finanziato
dall'Unione europea
NextGenerationEU



Ministero
dell'Università
e della Ricerca



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The conference

The conference “Technology Mediation in Contemporary Opera: Preservation, Innovation, and Sustainable Practices” seeks to interrogate a critical nexus within contemporary opera and music theatre, where technological mediation has fundamentally reconfigured production, reception, and preservation of the repertoire. Digital infrastructures and computational systems simultaneously expand creative possibilities while introducing unprecedented preservation challenges. The Italian operatic tradition, with its rich historical lineage, provides a particularly fertile domain for examining the changing role of technological mediation. This topic is especially timely as many contemporary opera productions from the late 20th and early 21st centuries now require technological updates or face extinction. The preservation of these works presents both technical and philosophical questions about authenticity and adaptation. By bringing together artists, researchers, and musicians to address these challenges, the conference aims to establish frameworks that will ensure the continued relevance and accessibility of technology-mediated operatic works for future generations.

Topics

Main topic: **Technology mediation in contemporary opera, with an emphasis on the Italian repertoire**

We welcome proposals addressing, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Historical-philological investigation methods of technology-mediated operatic works
- Historically informed live electronics and electroacoustic music performance practices
- Innovative performance practices in opera and music theatre, including in-depth case studies
- Sustainability of the opera and music theatre repertoire
- Diversity and inclusion in innovative opera and music theatre performance practices
- Notation of electronics and live media processing in operatic performances
- Notation of sound spatialisation in operatic performances
- Obsolescence of hardware and software used in the operatic repertoire
- Restoration and reconstruction of obsolete devices, and porting of obsolete software
- Free Software and open data in the preservation and sustainability of operatic works



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Important dates

- Paper submission deadline: October 31, 2025
- Notification of acceptance: November 30, 2025
- Conference dates: January 8-10, 2026

Submissions

Submissions must be made through the submission portal by clicking on “Make a new submission” and selecting “Call for Papers – Technology Mediation in Contemporary Opera: Preservation, Innovation, and Sustainable Practices” from the journal’s *Section* menu.

Submission guidelines

- The submission file must be in OpenOffice/LibreOffice, Microsoft Word, or RTF document file format
- The text must be single-spaced; uses a 12-point font; employs italics, rather than underlining (except with URL addresses); and all illustrations, figures, and tables are placed within the text at the appropriate points, rather than at the end
- The templates available at this [link](#) could be used as a general reference for the submissions

Proceedings

The Conference Proceedings will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Music/Technology Journal, published by Firenze University Press (ISSN 1974-0042 for print; ISSN 1974-0050 for online editions). Authors whose proposals are accepted will have a period of two months following the conclusion of the conference to revise and refine their contributions for publication.

Contacts

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