

The XIII International Symposium on Traditional Polyphony

P R O G R A M



**23–26 September, 2026
Tbilisi, Georgia**

**BY THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF GEORGIA**

ORGANIZERS OF THE SYMPOSIUM:
VANO SARAJISHVILI TBILISI STATE CONSERVATOIRE
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER FOR TRADITIONAL
POLYPHONY

LEPL A. ERKOMAISHVILI FOLKLORE STATE CENTRE

SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

GIORGI VACHNADZE, RECTOR OF TBILISI STATE CONSERVATOIRE

**NINO RAZMADZE, DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER FOR TRADITIONAL
POLYPHONY OF TBILISI STATE CONSERVATOIRE**

GIORGI DONADZE, DIRECTOR OF THE LEPL A. ERKOMAISHVILI FOLKLORE STATE CENTRE

**JOSEPH JORDANIA (AUSTRALIA), HEAD OF THE FOREIGN BUREAU OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH
CENTER FOR TRADITIONAL POLYPHONY**

**ORGANIZING BUREAU: MAIA KACHKACHISHVILI, MAKH KHAJAZIANI, RUSUDAN TSURTSUMIA, BAIA
ZHUKHUNADZE, ANA LOLASHVILI, TEONA LOMSADZE, NINO RAZMADZE**

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GIORGI DOROKASHVILI, SOPHIKO KOTRIKADZE

Schedule

Wednesday, September 23

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

Tbilisi State Conservatoire Library

08:45–09:15 Registration

09:15–09:30 Rector's welcome Speech to the Scientific Session

09:30–11:30 Scientific Session

11:30–12:00 Break

12:00–14:00 Scientific Session

14:00–15:00 Lunch

15:00–16:30 Scientific Session

CONCERT PROGRAM

Tbilisi State Conservatoire Grand Hall

19:30 – OPENING GALA CONCERT

Thursday, September 24

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

Tbilisi State Conservatoire Library

09:30–11:30 Scientific Session

11:30–12:00 Break

12:00–14:00 Scientific Session

14:00–15:00 Lunch

15:00–16:30 Scientific Session

CONCERT PROGRAM

Tbilisi State Conservatoire Recital Hall

15:00–17:00 MID-DAY CONCERT

Ensembles: Janam (France), Vardis Kucha (Hungary), Torola (Scotland), Bednieri (United Kingdom)

SHOWING FILM

Tbilisi State Conservatoire Recital Hall

19:30–20:30 – *A White Mountain Goat Appeared* – Dan Shutt (United Kingdom / Germany)

20:30–21:00 – *A Day in Guria* – Jan Heitplatz (United Kingdom) & Sandro Shar (United Kingdom / Georgia)

Friday, September 25

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

Tbilisi State Conservatoire Library

09:00–11:00 Scientific Session

11:00–11:30 Break

11:30–13:00 Scientific Session

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–15:00 Scientific Session

15:00–15:30 Break

15:30–17:30 Round Table

17:30–18:00 Final Session

CONCERT PROGRAM

Tbilisi State Conservatoire Grand Hall

19:30 – CEREMONIAL CLOSING OF THE SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, September 26 Cultural Program – 8:00–18:00

Excursion to Kakheti (for the international participants of the Symposium)

The Program of Scientific Sessions

Tbilisi State Conservatoire Library

Wednesday, September 23

08:45–09:15 Registration

09:15 – Rector of Tbilisi State Conservatoire, Giorgi Vachnadze – Welcome Speech

General Theory, History and Musical-Aesthetic Aspects of Polyphony

Chair – **Nino Razmadze**

09:30 – **Joseph Jordania** (Australia/Georgia) — Battle Trance: Integrative Model

10:00 – **Joseph Jordania** (Australia/Georgia) – Izaly Zemtsovsky's article “Musical Instrument and Musical Thinking: Towards the Formulation of the Problem”

10:30 – **Róbert Rick** (Hungary) — Expanding the Perspectives of Georgian Folk Song Analysis

11:00 – **Gia Baghashvili** (Georgia) — The Paradigm of Freedom in Gurian Trio

11:30–12:00 Break

Regional Styles and Musical Language of Traditional Polyphony

Chair: **Daiva Račiūnaitė-Vyčiniienė**

12:00 – **Natalia Zumbadze** (Georgia) – Polyphonic Songs in the Audio Publication “Imereti 2007”

12:30 – **Žanna Pärtlas** (Estonia) – Rhythmic Transformation as a Technique for Developing New Tune Types in Seto Leelo (South-East Estonia)

13:00 – **Mariia Korepanova** (Estonia) – Individual and Collective Improvisation in the Besermyan Vocal Genre of Krezh' (North Udmurtia)

13:30 – **Giorgi Kraveishvili** (Georgia) – Folk Music of the North Caucasians and Its Relation to Georgian Music

14:00–15:00 Lunch break

Traditional Instrumental Polyphony

Chair – **Yannick Wey**

15:00 – Daiva Račiūnaitė-Vyčiniienė (Lithuania) – Vocal Sutartinės and Their Instrumental Versions: Aspects of Syncretism and Musical Articulation

15:30 – Meri-Sofia Lakos (Finland) – Observations and Comparisons on Some Instrumentally and Polyphonically Performed Laments

16:00 – Manuel Lafarga Marqués & Penelope Sanz González (Spain) – The Aulos: The Fall and Rise of a Musical Instrument Omnipresent Since the Musical Tradition of the Ancient World

Thursday, September 24

World Music and Traditional Polyphony

Chair: **Nana Mzhavanadze**

09:30 – **Anna Meehan** (USA) – The Sonic and Digital Mobilities of Folk-Fusion Musicians in Contemporary Georgia

10:00 – **Sandro Shar** (United Kingdom/Georgia) – Practical Frameworks for Revitalizing Improvisation in Georgian Polyphony

10:30 – **Bernard Kleikamp** (Netherlands) – Nartaa in the Netherlands in March 1994

11:00 – **Mario Morello** (Canada) – The Ghosts of the Ulivi: The Memory of Polyphony as a Temporal Channel against the Commercialist Megalith in Salento

11:30–12:00 Break

Sociological Aspects of Traditional Polyphony

Chair: **Andrea Kuzmich**

12:00 – **Andrea Kuzmich** (Canada) – Beyond the Village: Diaspora, Traditional Polyphony, and a Transnational Georgia

12:30 – **Anna Litvinova** (France) – Georgian Traditions Recontextualised by Non-Diasporic Choir Communities

13:00 – **Maka Khardziani** (Georgia) – Children's Performance of Georgian Traditional Music (On the Example of Tbilisi-Based Children's Ensembles)

13:30 – **Baia Zhuzhunadze** (Georgia) – Female Singer-Composers in Georgian Urban Folk Music

14:00–15:00 Break

Archives, Documentation.

Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage

Chair: **Baia Zhuzhunadze**

15:00 – **Seyda Goyan** (Turkey) – Archiving Kurdish Folklore: Oral Traditions and Multimedia Protection

15:30 – **Yannick Wey** (Switzerland) – Safeguarding the Archives of Living Musical Heritage: Challenges after the UNESCO Inscription of Swiss Yodel

16:00 – **Riccardo La Spina** (USA) – From Infamy to Exaltation – The Chorus as Catalyst of Emotional Impact in Raul Romito's Politically "Subversive" Italian Recordings (1919–1925)

Friday, September 25

The Role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Various Formats of Traditional Polyphony Research. Digital Technologies

Chair: **Frank Scherbaum**

09:00 – **Gordana Blagojević** (Serbia) – Byzantine Chant in the Age of AI: Insights from Scholars, Educators, and Chanters

09:30 – **Eva Pietroni** (Italy) – The PlaceMUS XR Project: Digital Journey Across Places of Music in Europe and Extended Realities

10:00 – **Tamaz Gabisonia, Konstantine Tsiskaridze, Nodar Melkonyan** (Georgia) – Digitization and Statistical Analysis of the Notated Versions of Georgian Traditional Music

10:30 – **Frank Scherbaum** (Germany) – Artificial Intelligence and the Analysis of Traditional Georgian Polyphonic Music

11:00–11:30 Break

Polyphony in Sacred and Secular Music

Chair: **Tamaz Gabisonia**

11:30 – **Giacomo Ferraris** (Italy) – “Traditional” and Written Polyphony in Fourteenth-Century Italy: On the Possible Oral Origins of the Italian Trecento Repertoires

12:00 – **Tamar Chkheidze & Marika Nadareishvili** (Georgia) – The Theory of Rhetoric in the Study of Georgian Church Chant: Foundations of a New Analytical Methodology

12:30 – **Tamar Chkheidze** (Georgia) – “Holy Week Chants in Georgian Church Tradition”

13:00–14:00 Lunch break

Comparative Study of Traditional Polyphony

Chair: **Eva Pietroni**

14:00 – **Polo Vallejo** (Spain) – Approaching Georgian Harmonic Syntax Through Voice Interaction: A Methodological Proposal

14:30 – **Matthew Arndt** (USA) – A Way into Taniel Iberi's Sonata Fantasy

15:00–15:30 Break

15:30–17:30 Round Table: *Social Function of Traditional Music in Contemporaneity*

Chair: **Teona Lomsadze**

Participants: **Nino Jvania, Tamar Jordania, Otar Kapanadze, Róbert Rick**

17:30–18:00 Final Session

Saturday, September 26 Cultural Program – 8:00–18:00

Excursion to Kakheti (for the international participants of the Symposium)

**THE SYMPOSIUM IS HELD AT V. SARAJISHVILI
TBILISI STATE CONSERVATOIRE**

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