

Global Musical Modernities and Local Agency

Conference Program

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Welcome and Introduction: Michelle Assay 13.30-13.45 (EJB330)

Session A1: Heritage & Hybridity in Latin America (I)

Thu 7 May, 14:00–15:30 • EJB 330

Juan Gabriel Wayar De la Quintana (McGill University) Music Education for Social Change? Cultural Hierarchies and Coloniality in Argentina’s SOMOS Música Program [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Fred Barros (University of Toronto) From Modernity to Tradition and Back: Sounding Both Brazilian and Modern in Mid-Twentieth Century [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Felipe Luzuriaga (University of Toronto) Gerardo Guevara: An Insight into the Mestizo Cultural Heritage [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Session A2: Chinese Popular Music & Diaspora

Thu 7 May, 14:00–15:30 • EJB Music Library

Jason Yin Hei Lee (McGill University) Orchestrating Hybridity: WAM Instrumentation as Narrative in Cantopop [[Abstract](#) / [Bio](#)]

Bohan Jason Li (University of Alberta) The Cosmopolitan Grassroots: Hybrid Aesthetics in Chinese Rock Music [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Tianyu Wang (McGill University) Negotiating Multiculturalism and “Tuwei” Aesthetics in the Montreal Chinese Diaspora [[Abstract/Bio](#)] **REMOTE**

Session B: Visit to Canadian Music Centre and Panel (Plenary)

Thu 7 May, 16:30–17:30 • Canadian Music Centre

Panel: Jialiang Zhu, Zi Xin Emily Lapin, Edith Yang Qing, Roydon Tse (University of Toronto / Canadian Opera Company / Chinese Pen Society of Canada / University of Saskatchewan) Reframing Art Song: Mandarin Poetry, Local Voices, and Transcultural Dialogue [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Recital: Eve Egoyan (Walter Hall) 7:30 pm

Friday, May 8, 2026

Session C1: Programming & Organology: South and Southeast Asia

Fri 8 May, 09:30–11:00 • EJB 330

Anna Caroline Boyes (University of Toronto) Exploring Musical Voice: Solo Vocal Works Engaging Hindustani and Western Art Traditions [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Ning Hui See (Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts Singapore) Identity, Locale, and Concert Programming of Music by Southeast Asian Composers [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Pramantha M. Tagore (University of Chicago) “Borderland Objects”: Sourindro Mohun Tagore’s Indian Instrument Collections and Global Organology [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Session C2: Empire, Technology & Soundscapes

Fri 8 May, 09:30–11:00 • EJB 215

Samuel Cheney (University of Edinburgh) Concessional Musicking: Listening to the Treaty Port Soundscape in British Compositions from China, c.1860–c.1920 [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Shahana Abutalib (University of Toronto) Islamic Musical Automata and East versus West Discourses in Music Studies [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Daniel Jordan (University of Toronto) Aesthetics and Ideology at the Edge of Empire: The Darmstadt School in Soviet Latvia [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Session D1: Forging Iranian Musical Modernities

Fri 8 May, 11:30–13:00 • EJB 330

Morteza Abedinifard (McGill University) A New Regime of Musicality: Vaziri and the Formation of Iranian Musical Modernity [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Solmaz Shakerifard (University of Washington) Facing Modernity, Understanding the “Self”: Modernity in the Discourse of Iranian Musicians and Music Scholars. [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Michelle Assay TBA

Session D2: Keyboard Modernities Across Cultures

Fri 8 May, 11:30–13:00 • EJB Music Library

Anton Vishio (University of Toronto) The Piano, Otherwise [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Thomas T. Feng (Cornell University) In God’s Time: Form and Temporality in the Music of Emahoy Tsege-Mariam Gebru [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Zhang Fengyi (University of Sheffield) Indigenising the Piano in China: Teaching Materials, Identity, Decolonisation [[Abstract/Bio](#)] **REMOTE**

Session E1: Europe Between Centres & Peripheries (I)

Fri 8 May, 14:30–16:00 • EJB 330

Alejandro Arribas & Pau Aguilera (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) Local Emerging Music Scenes and the Uses of Heritage: Modernity in Valencian Tradition [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Erol Köymen (Florida State University) Polyphonic Pieties: Enlightenment Myths, Listening, and the Global Bourgeoisie in Modern Turkey [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Patrick Nickleson (University of Alberta) Irish Song under/against Colonial Dispossession [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Session E2: Afro/diasporic Experimentalism & Global Circulation

Fri 8 May, 14:30–16:00 • EJB 215

Kobe Van Cauwenberghe (Royal Conservatoire Antwerp) Afrodiasporic Experimentalism as Global Musical Modernity [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Anna Nikolozishvili (Utrecht University) Un(familiar) Structuring: Fela Kuti and Africa 70 in Kolo Gana's "Infinity Bars III" [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Joshua Tolulope David (University of Toronto) "The Nigerian Quality": Postcolonial Afterlife of Opera and the Operatic Voice in Lagos, Nigeria [[Abstract](#) / [Bio](#)]

Keynote Presentation: Daniel Chua [Walter Hall] 16:30 to 18:00

Dinner: 18:00 to 19:15

Recital: Wissam Boustany [Walter Hall] 19:30

Saturday, May 9, 2026

Session F1: Heritage & Hybridity in Latin America (II)

Sat 9 May, 09:30–11:00 • EJB 330

Bernardo Illari (University of North Texas) Resisting the Galant Style: Reverse Assimilation in South American Music [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Lee Cannon-Brown (University of British Columbia) Modernism and Indigeneity in Post-Revolutionary Mexico [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Carlos Marcelo Ascencio Gómez (McGill University) Boogát's Crossroad: Between a World Music and a Hip-hop Artist, a Reflection of Montreal's Glocal Scene [[Abstract](#) / [Bio](#)]

Session F1: The French Connection

Sat 9 May, 10:00–11:00 • EJB Music Library

Alexandra Magazin (Gheorghe Dima National Academy of Music, Cluj-Napoca) Marcel Mihalovici between Romania and France: Local Agency and Global Musical Modernities [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Lorane Prévost (University of Oxford) "Preservation" & Aesthetics of Cultural Policies: Transmission of Iranian Traditional Music in France and Canada [[Abstract/Bio](#)] **REMOTE**

Session G1: Heritage & Hybridity in Latin America (III)

Sat 9 May, 11:30–13:00 • EJB Music Library

Francesco Valente (Universidade Nova de Lisboa) Hybridization, Tension, and Legitimacy in Frevo (Pernambuco, Brazil) [[Abstract](#) / [Bio](#)]

Aimee E. Gonzalez (University of Florida) Defending Cuban Heritage in Sound and Stone: Reviving Colonial-Era Music and Architecture in Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Havana [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Diego Palacios Dávila (University of Nariño, Colombia) Opera Composition in Pasto, Colombia: A Fusion Between Western and Traditional Music in the Work of Javier Fajardo Chaves (1950–2011) [[Abstract/Bio](#)] **REMOTE**

Session G2: Institutions, Power & the Canon

Sat 9 May, 11:30–13:00 • EJB Music Library

Ariane Couture & Caroline Marcoux-Gendron (Université de Sherbrooke / Université du Québec à Montréal and Arts Management at HEC Montréal) Meritocracy as a Lens on Power Relations and Privilege in the Music Sector [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Fabio Morabito (University of Alberta) Global Gatekeeping, or, the Darker Side of Being Haydn's Friends [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Roe-Min Kok (McGill University) Resisting Coloniality, the "Darker Side" of Concert Dress [[Abstract/Bio](#)] REMOTE

Session H: East-West Dialogue through Western Art Music

Sat 9 May, 14:30–16:00 • EJB 330

Yung-Yu Lin (Hainan Normal University, China) The Performer as Cultural Mediator: Interpreting Mongolian Idioms within Global Musical Modernities [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Yi Ching (Kevin) Tam (University of Pittsburgh) Embracing Western Music but *Not* Eurocentric Notions of Musical Progress: The Case of *Guangdong yinyue* [[Abstract](#) / [Bio](#)]

Roundtable/Dinner: EJB Geiger-Torel Room

Sunday, May 10, 2026

Session J1: Global Lineage and Circulation

Sun 10 May, 9:30–11:00 • EJB 330

Robert Hasegawa (McGill University) Intersecting Lineages in Tyshawn Sorey's Trio for Harold Budd [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

David Chu (University of Western Ontario) Contesting Beethoven from "Elsewhere": Eileen Chang's Agentic Desolation and Fragile Freedom in Wartime Shanghai [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Tangmuyang (Krystal) Zhang (University of Alberta) Global Circulation, Local Agency: Rethinking Chineseness through Coco Lee's "A Love Before Time" [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Session J2: Iberian Modernity

Sun 10 May, 10:00–11:00 • EJB Music Library

Ana Rita Inácio dos Santos (New University of Lisbon) Peripheral Modernities: Avant-Garde Music and Local Agency in Authoritarian Portugal (1933–1974) [[Abstract/Bio](#)]

Alicia Vogt (EHESS in Paris, Centre Georg Simmel & Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, Institut für Ethnologie) Programming Cultural Otherness? The Case of the Orchestra Orpheus XXI (Jordi Savall) [[Abstract/Bio](#)] REMOTE

Session K1: Transnational Identities and Traditions:

Sun 10 May, 11:30–1:00 • EJB Music Library

Jingyi Zhang (James Madison University, Virginia, USA) Operetta at the Crossroads: Forging Colonial Modernity in Singapore, 1860–1940 [[Abstract/Bio](#)] REMOTE

Madlen Poguntke (Hochschule für Musik und Theater Munich / Seoul National University, South Korea College of Music) Redacted, Remembered, Reclaimed: Female Music Histories in Korea and Germany [[Abstract/Bio](#)] REMOTE

Xu Shijie (Chloe) Xu (Independent researcher) Between Western Art-Music Norms and Local Traditions: Late-Soviet Tajik Folk and “Popular” Song as a Contact Zone [[Abstract / Bio](#)] REMOTE

Session K2: Transnational Identities and Traditions

Sun 10 May, 12:00–12:45 pm Walter Hall

Sirius Piano Duo (Pei-Chen Chen & Mengjie Xiong) (University of Toronto) Cross-Cultural Dialogues: Bridging Chinese Narratives and Western Compositional Style in Piano Duo Music [[Abstract/Bio](#)]