

[Approved by Board 26 Feb. 2019]

46th Annual Conference

Minneapolis, Minnesota

25–29 March 2020

The Society for American Music invites proposals for (a) individual papers, (b) organized panels of 2-4 papers, (c) lecture-recitals, (d) alternative-format sessions, (e) scholarly posters, and (f) interest groups for its 46th Annual Conference in Minneapolis, MN, to be held 25-29 March 2020. All proposals must be submitted via the SAM website by 11:59 pm PDT on 1 June 2019.

We welcome proposals involving all facets of musical life throughout the Americas and about American music and aspects of its cultures anywhere in the world.

In an effort to celebrate the musical heritage of the conference site, we solicit proposals that emphasize any aspect of music and musical cultures (especially indigenous and ethnic traditions) in Minneapolis and the surrounding region during any part of its history. Members are especially encouraged to submit proposals relating to the musical career of SAM's 2020 honorary member, Philip Brunelle, or on any topic exploring choral music in all its contexts (e.g., the St. Olaf Choir, Brunelle's Vocal Essence, Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir, Minnesota Boychoir), the classical music institutions of Minneapolis (e.g., Minnesota Opera and Dominick Argento), the many forms of jazz, blues, folk, and popular music (including Prince and his Paisley Park Studio), and musics of the region's immigrant populations (Scandinavian, Hmong, Somali, and others).

A. Individual Papers

Each presentation lasts twenty minutes, followed by ten minutes of discussion. Paper sessions will be assembled by the Program Committee after the selection of abstracts and may consist of two to four presentations. NB: The website submission process enables you to select whether you wish to have your submission considered as a paper, as a research poster (see E below), or as a presentation in either format.

B. Panels of 2-4 Papers

Groups of two to four presenters may propose a panel consisting of two, three, or four presentations of 20 minutes each. Panels will be accepted or rejected in toto; the Program Committee will not break up panels in order to accept individual papers.

Please note that panels may include performance elements. Panels that include a performance element must include in the body of the individual performance/panel proposal a link to an online audio or video file that is representative of the proposed content, as well as a list of any special requirements (e.g., piano, music stand).

The chair of the group panel is responsible for submitting:

1. a proposal for the panel as a whole;
2. individual proposals for each presenter/performer on the panel. Chairs are advised to gather all necessary contact information from individual presenters before website submission (see "General Guidelines" below).

C. Lecture-Recitals

Proposals for lecture-recitals of music from the Americas are welcome. These recitals may range in length from thirty to forty-five minutes and should offer an appropriate balance of lecture and performance elements. Various constraints limit the number of lecture-recitals that may be programmed each year. Applicants should specify the length in their abstracts. Applicants must also include in the body of the proposal a link to an online audio or video file that is representative of the proposed recital content, as well as a list of any special requirements (e.g., piano, music stand, space for dance demonstration).

D. Special-format sessions

Groups of scholars may propose sessions in formats other than formal paper presentations. These may include, for example, sessions with papers circulated in advance of the meeting; moderated panel discussions; workshops on career-related or pedagogical topics; or exploration of topics or issues currently in the news that have connections to the work of the society.

Special-format session proposals must specify the length of time requested (60 minutes, 90 minutes, or 120 minutes) and provide a rationale for this request. Special-format session proposals may put forward up to four panel participants.

Participating in a special-format session as a presenter constitutes the same level of participation in an academic conference as a traditional paper. For this reason, those submitting abstracts toward a special-format session cannot also submit proposals for individual papers or papers within a panel.

Workshops (120 min.): Workshops should directly engage attendees in discussion of a defined topic or theme. Ideal workshop proposals will speak to a range of audiences/expertises, and clearly demonstrate the ways in which attendees will be involved as active participants. At the session itself, each presenter will have ten minutes to give an introductory statement. The rest of the time should be devoted to interactive dialogue and/or exchange. The bulk of the two hours allocated for the workshop should be devoted to breakouts that provide hands-on engagement and opportunities for participants ask questions

and brainstorm ideas with colleagues.

Groups of 4-6 presenters may propose a workshop. Workshops will be accepted or rejected in toto. The chair of the workshop group is responsible for submitting:

- i. A proposal for the workshop as a whole, which should establish the relevance of the topic to the SAM membership and clearly identify the ways in which attendees will be involved as active participants.
- ii. Individual proposals for each workshop presenter, which detail the topics they will cover and their plans for actively engaging attendees in discussion.
- iii. All necessary contact information from individual presenters (see "General Guidelines" below).

Seminars (90 min.): The seminar-format session is devoted to a moderated discussion of a set of written papers submitted in advance and posted on the SAM website two weeks before the conference. These papers should relate to current issues in the field, recent hot-button issues, important but neglected areas of study, or new fields of research. If a seminar panel is accepted, the papers are posted prior to the conference on the SAM website and are read by attendees before the meeting. At the seminars themselves, authors present 5-minute summaries of their papers; the rest of the 90-minute session is devoted to discussion. ***Please note that seminar panels are now submitted at the same time as paper proposals. The proposal should contain summaries of each participant's contribution (see below).***

E. Research Poster Sessions

The poster format provides an opportunity for SAM members to meet informally with scholars and discuss their research. Scholars attend their respective ninety-minute session, distribute abstracts, and answer questions. Electric power will not be available; therefore, sound or video examples will require a personal computer utilizing battery, ideally with headphones available. Poster sessions are not moderated. NB: The website submission process enables you to select whether you wish to have your submission considered as a paper (see A above), as a research poster, or as a presentation in either format.

F. Interest Groups (IGs)

Interest Groups meet at the SAM conference on a predetermined rotation schedule overseen by the Board of Directors. IGs must submit proposals through the SAM website by the June 1 deadline. Groups with a guaranteed slot for 2020 will be included in the program as long as they submit a brief description of their plans by the deadline. IG sessions may not mirror conventional panels featuring a set of twenty-minute papers; instead, IG proposals should pursue alternate formats including, but not limited to,

roundtable discussions, sessions combining performance and scholarship, sessions discussing a significant publication, or sessions centered on a key debate. Alternatively, IGs may submit proposals for a panel (see the instructions in B above), but acceptance or rejection will be at the discretion of the Program Committee and IGs will not have priority above other panel submissions. IG conference meeting dates are given [here](https://www.american-music.org/page/InterestGroups?&hhsearchterms=%22interest+and+groups%22).
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General Guidelines

In order to have a proposal considered for any of these formats, the proposer must **either** be a member of the Society for American Music **OR** join SAM as a Guest Member and pay a nonrefundable \$25 processing fee. If a Guest Member's proposal is accepted, that person must immediately join the Society; the \$25 will be applied toward membership.

The committee particularly encourages proposals from those who did not present at the prior year's meeting. An individual may submit only one proposal. All proposals must be submitted through the online electronic submission process on the SAM website.

The submission form on the SAM website will ask for the following information:

1. Proposer's name, e-mail address, institutional affiliation or city of residence, affirmation of SAM membership or payment of \$25 fee, and current status (student, faculty member, librarian, independent scholar, etc.). Only the chair of the Program Committee will see this information and it will in no way affect the selection process. (Proposers are asked for their "status" only for statistical purposes. This information will not be used by the Program Committee as a criterion for acceptance. Students accepted for presentations, however, may be notified of their eligibility for Student Travel Grants and the Mark Tucker Award.)
2. A 250-word proposal. This document is the only one viewed by the Program Committee during the selection process. Applicants should not include in the abstract body any information that identifies themselves (such as "I have just published a book on this subject"). An exception is made with regard to lecture-recital proposals, which must include links to audio or video files that might reveal the proposer's identity. Successful proposals typically articulate the author's major arguments and research findings, positioning them with respect to earlier work and describing their importance to scholarship in American music.
3. A 100-word abstract of the proposal suitable for publication in the conference program if the proposal is accepted (.doc, .docx, .txt, or .rtf format). This document includes the proposer's name and email, as well as the title of the presentation. Program Committee members will not see this document prior to the selection process.
4. A list of keywords for individual paper proposals to aid the Program Committee in forming paper sessions.

5. Audio and visual needs: please specify your exact A/V requirements, such as CD player, DVD player, and digital projector. Please also indicate if you will require a piano. Due to logistics and the high cost of renting this equipment, we cannot accommodate AV changes after a proposal is accepted. **NB: Presenters should not count on Wi-Fi availability in the conference meeting rooms.**

All materials must be submitted via the SAM website by **11:59 pm PDT on 1 June 2019**. Questions about the submission process may be addressed to the Program Chair.

Decisions

Proposers will be informed of the decisions of the Program Committee in mid-July. Persons accepted will be asked to confirm within one week their commitment to appear at the conference. The Program Committee Chair is unable to provide feedback on proposals that were not accepted.

All presenters are required to register for the entire conference. In the event of a last-minute emergency, registered presenters are expected to arrange for another attendee to read their papers; likewise, organizers of special-format sessions should seek to replace the missing participant. Presenter cancellation after **1 August 2019** without arrangement for alternative presentation will result in the loss of the conference slot.