

The Society for Ethnomusicology – 2025 Annual Meeting Call for Proposals

The 70th Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology will be held on October 23 - 26, 2025, in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Marriott Marquis Downtown Hotel. A pre-conference symposium, “HBCU Connections: Engaging Students in Black Music and Ethnomusicology,” will be held on Wednesday, October 22. For information on meeting arrangements, including a copy of this call for proposals, please visit the 2025 Annual Meeting area of the SEM website (www.ethnomusicology.org). Please note that SEM is organizing its 2025 Annual Meeting as an *in-person* event.

The SEM 2025 Program Committee asks participants to submit their best work on any topic related to ethnomusicology and to be creative with presentation formats. In addition, we suggest that SEM sections, special interest groups, and other constituent units consider sponsoring organized sessions. Though we will not give any preference to sponsored sessions during abstract review, pre-submission consultation among group members typically improves the quality of abstracts and increases the likelihood of their acceptance. We also encourage organized panels that comprise a combination of junior and senior scholars from multiple institutions and include a separate panel chair (i.e., a chair who does not present a paper on the panel). In addition, we encourage panels with presenters from more than one country.

All abstract submitters and members of groups that are reviewing/sponsoring proposals are advised to carefully read all the submission requirements below, such as the abstract word limit, the prohibition against naming session participants in an abstract, and the limit on the number of presentations by an individual.

The **deadline** for online submission of all proposals is **February 17, 2025, 11:59 PM EST**. Please note that **all presenters must hold a 2025 calendar-year SEM membership and must register** for the conference. Presenters who do not meet these two requirements by **June 30, 2025**, will be dropped from the program.

Proposals for the 2025 Annual Meeting are invited in the following categories:

- A. **Individual Presentation.** Single paper, performance or lecture-demonstration, film/video, or workshop (participatory).
- B. **Organized Session.** Organized panel, roundtable, multiple film/video program, or group-led workshop (participatory).

(A) PROPOSALS FOR INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Single Paper: An individual paper presentation is 20 minutes long and is followed by 10 minutes of discussion.

2. Film/Video: One recently completed or in-progress film. The session should include the screening of a film excerpt (approximately 20 minutes) and an introduction/discussion (approximately 10 minutes). Include information about the film (title, year produced, total length, language/sub-titles, and brief description), and information about the excerpt and the introduction/discussion.

3. Performance or Lecture-Demonstration: A presentation that is 60 minutes long.

4. Workshop (participatory): An informal, interactive hands-on session on one topic for 60, 90, or 120 minutes (please specify).

(B) PROPOSALS FOR ORGANIZED SESSIONS

5. Organized Panel: An organized panel is 90 or 120 minutes long. A 90-minute panel consists of three papers. A 120-minute panel consists of either four papers or three papers plus a discussant. Each presentation (a paper or a discussant's formal response) is 20 minutes long, followed by 10 minutes of questions and general discussion. (Those interested in a more flexible format with additional participants may want to consider proposing a roundtable.) A proposal for an organized panel should be submitted by the panel organizer. Include the panel abstract (describing the rationale for the panel as a whole) and abstracts for the individual papers. The panel abstract is particularly critical to the Program Committee's evaluation. Do not include the names of participants in the abstract.

6. Roundtable: A roundtable provides an opportunity for participants to discuss a subject with each other and with members of the audience. A roundtable may be 90 or 120 minutes long (please specify) and may include up to six presenters. We encourage formats that stimulate discussion and audience participation (at least 50% of the roundtable time must be devoted to discussion). The organizer may solicit position statements of up to 10 minutes long from each presenter and will facilitate questions and discussion for the remaining time. The organizer should submit an abstract that outlines the purpose/agenda and organization of the roundtable, as well as the contributions of each participant (unnamed in the abstract).

7. Multiple Film/Video Program: A session of multiple completed or in-progress film excerpts for a total of 90 or 120 minutes (please specify). Each presentation should include the screening of a film excerpt (approximately 20 minutes) and an introduction/discussion (approximately 10 minutes). The session organizer should submit an abstract that states the overall subject of the session and includes information about each film (title, year produced, total length, language/sub-titles, and brief description), as well as information about the excerpts, introductions, and discussion. Do not include the names of participants in the abstract.

8. Group-Led Workshop (participatory): Informal, interactive hands-on session on one topic for 60, 90, or 120 minutes (please specify). The organizer should submit an abstract

that describes the subject of the session and the contributions of between two and five session leaders (unnamed in the abstract).

SUBMISSIONS, REQUIREMENTS, AND DEADLINES

Submission: Visit the 2025 Annual Meeting area of the SEM website (www.ethnomusicology.org) and select “Abstract Submission Portal.” Note that this is the same abstract submission system used for the SEM 2022-2024 Annual Meetings. However, you will need to set up a new account for the SEM 2025 Annual Meeting. After logging in, read the instructions for Individual Presentation Proposals and Organized Session Proposals on the “Your Submissions” page.

About Abstracts: Abstracts should demonstrate: 1) a clear focus or statement of the subject; 2) a coherent argument; 3) knowledge of previous research; and 4) a statement of the implications for ethnomusicology. Carefully observe these and other instructions stated on the proposal submission website.

Note: An abstract for an Individual Presentation or Organized Session may include (at the end) one URL for a multimedia supplement directly related to the presentation. The URL may link to a film/video or to other multimedia material. Though the Program Committee is not expected to review this material, an accepted abstract will be published with the URL.

All abstracts must comply with the following requirements:

- **An abstract should appear as a single paragraph.**
- **Abstracts over 250 words will be automatically disqualified.**
- **Abstracts identifying presenters, fellow researchers, or other participants will be automatically disqualified.**
- **Abstracts must be submitted online by February 17, 2025, 11:59 PM EST.** To avoid website technical problems, it is strongly suggested that proposals be submitted at least 24 hours before the deadline.

Limit on Number of Presentations: SEM policy specifies that, during the regular sessions of the Annual Meeting, an individual may participate in ONLY ONE of the following ways:

- Deliver one paper (individually or as part of an organized panel).
- Act as a discussant for one panel.
- Participate in one roundtable, workshop, performance, or lecture-demonstration.
- Present one film/video.

In addition, an individual may *chair* ONE panel, roundtable, film/video program, or workshop. Therefore, an individual may submit ONLY ONE abstract proposal. (Organizers of panels may submit an individual presenter abstract as well as the panel abstract.)

Individuals who submit more than one presenter abstract will be automatically disqualified.

SEM membership and registration fees: Following SEM policy, all participants whose proposals have been accepted for the program must hold a 2025 calendar-year SEM membership and must register for the meeting by June 30, 2025. Individuals who have agreed to be waitlisted must join SEM and register immediately upon notification of an acceptance. In addition, guest speakers at sessions sponsored by SEM constituent units must be SEM members and must pre-register for the meeting. If necessary, sections should arrange to use their dues to cover membership and registration fees for their guest speakers. **Any accepted presenter who has not purchased an SEM membership and registered for the meeting by June 30 will be removed from the program.**

Notification of acceptance: Abstract submitters will receive notification on acceptance and conference registration information in early June. If by June 15 you have not received a notification message, please contact the SEM office at sem@iu.edu.

Cancellations and no-shows: No-shows inconvenience the session chair, discussant, other panelists, and audience members. Participants who discover that they are unable to attend the meeting should notify the SEM Program Committee Chair (sempc2025@gmail.com), sem@iu.edu, and semexec@iu.edu immediately. SEM policy does not permit anyone other than the author to read a paper and does not permit virtual presentations. If you encounter *exceptional and unexpected* circumstances that would preclude an onsite presentation. In that case, you may send a request for an SEM policy waiver to the Program Committee Chair (sempc2025@gmail.com) and the SEM Executive Director (semexec@iu.edu).

Special requests: Please indicate potential scheduling conflicts to the Program Committee Chair. If notified in advance, the Program Committee will attempt to accommodate requests but cannot guarantee a particular time slot.

Charles Seeger Prize: Students interested in submitting a paper for the Charles Seeger Prize should consult the guidelines on the SEM website (www.ethnomusicology.org) under “Prizes.” Note that papers must be submitted by October 27, 2025 (the day after the Annual Meeting).

Contact Information

For online submissions of proposals: Visit the 2025 Annual Meeting area of the SEM website (www.ethnomusicology.org) and select “Abstract Submission Portal.” Submission deadline: **February 17, 2025, 11:59 PM EST.**

For general submission questions: Kurt Baer, SEM Program Specialist, sem@iu.edu or (812) 855-6672.

For questions to the SEM 2025 Program Committee Chair (not for submission of proposals) and for cancellations: Fredara Hadley, sempc2025@gmail.com

Timeline and Deadlines

Mid-December	Proposal submission opens.
February 17	Online submission of all proposals (11:59 PM EST).
Early June	Notifications of proposal acceptance with registration information.
June 30	Receipt of conference registration and SEM membership fees from individuals whose proposals were accepted.
Early August	Posting of the preliminary conference program.
August 11	Presenter cancellation and refund of registration fee for individuals whose proposals were accepted (minus a \$35 handling fee).
August 18	Submission of any edits for the conference program. Send edits to sempc2025@gmail.com , semexec@iu.edu , and sem@iu.edu .
September 19	Registration cancellation refund for non-presenters (minus a \$35 handling fee).
October 22	Preconference: "HBCU Connections: Engaging Students in Black Music and Ethnomusicology"
October 23	Start of SEM 2025 Annual Meeting

SEM 2025 Program Committee

Chair: Fredara Hadley, The Juilliard School
Eric Charry, Wesleyan University
Barbara Hampton, Hunter College (CUNY)
Jared Holton, University of Georgia
Abigail Lindo, The Ohio State University
Ailsa Lipscombe, University of Cincinnati
Jessica Roda, Georgetown University