

International Program and Workshop: Jewish Music - Practice as Research

When?

4-12 April 2019

Where? The course will take place at the beautiful Center for World Music (CWM) in Hildesheim, Germany.

Funding? Available for student participants traveling from abroad –see below.

Prerequisites? Students of all levels of education and musicianship are very welcome to apply. The only requirement is that students communicate some sense of their background and what they hope to gain from participating in our workshop!

Course Description:

This ten-day course provided by the European Centre for Jewish Music (EZJM) at the Hanover University of Music, Theatre and Media aims to provide students with the opportunity to research, engage with, and explore Jewish music in many of its diverse forms and manifestations. This course aims to create a non-judgmental creative arena, a musical ‘laboratory’, in which students can develop their academic and performance skills and creativity. The course has a two-pronged approach combining theoretical and ethnographic content with practice-based learning. Practice-based simply means doing it, whether in performance, improvisation, composition, production music in a studio, computer music, sound art, or any combination of these creative practices. ‘Practice-based’ is the umbrella term for all of these activities, all of which are concerned with creating music as distinct from writing about music. This approach is particularly relevant in the context of Jewish music, much of which was taught orally in traditional contexts as well as being built from external Jewish and non-Jewish sources and influences. Moreover, its musical performance in Europe has often been disassociated from critical knowledge of its original performance contexts and interaction with living communities. This course seeks both offer the foundation for critical social and historical awareness of these practices steeped in specific culture and history, while suggesting creative, musical ways forward for engaging with, and applying, this knowledge in new relevant contexts.

Course Content:

The course will be made up of the following core components led by experts in the fields of Jewish Music Studies, Ethnomusicology, Music Composition and Performance:

Examples of Workshops and Music-Laboratories:

- **Rediscovering the Ladino & Sephardic repertoire through Choral Music:** this workshop focuses on Choral Music written on Ladino & Sephardic tunes from different Jewish countries. These beautiful songs settings are from ethnomusicological collections of Ladino & Sephardic music to appear since the fifteenth century. These gems are among the most beautiful melodies of the period.
- **Meet Salamone Rossi** – Understanding and performing the first Art Music Jewish Composer, who managed to become famous Europe-wide in the 17th century.

- **Rediscovering Schoenberg's Judaism** – perform Schoenberg's music and understand why he can be considered not only one of the most important composers of all time, but also one of the most important of Jewish music of all time.
- **Jewish exile composers:** get to know and perform the music of Jews who changed the art scene and the society of the New World (not only USA, but also Latin America!)
- Other workshops include: the Chasidic Nigun as a basis for community, musical exchange and improvisation; Singing in Ladino, Yiddish and Hebrew; Instrumental and vocal approaches to Klezmer – an approach that combines ethnomusicological education with performance.

Supporting Academic Workshops include:

- Music and Nation-building: Interactive Seminar
- Interviews with both practitioners and academics
- Ethics: Self-reflection; Representation

This course will give students the opportunity to gain 3 credit points in a relatively short amount of time as well as engage with this topic through research, performance and composition.

Funding for Student Participants:

In order to allow as many qualified students to participate, **full funding** is available for student participants coming from overseas or who have to travel significantly to attend the course. This includes payment of participation fees, accommodation, catered meals during the course-time, and a daily allowance. This also includes round-trip air- or train fare. Please contact Dr Crowdus at [miranda.crowdus @ hmtm-hannover.de](mailto:miranda.crowdus@hmtm-hannover.de) for more details.

To apply, interested students should send us:

- **A letter of motivation (1-2 pages):** do you have some background experience in Jewish music performance? What do you hope to gain by attending the course?
- **A short C.V.**
- **Proof of student status/university enrollment:** can be a copy or a scan – if using a student card, please copy both sides.

Please send completed applications via email to: [miranda.crowdus @ hmtm-hannover.de](mailto:miranda.crowdus@hmtm-hannover.de)

We will let you know by 15 January 2019, so that you can make travel preparations.¹

¹ Please feel free to send applications after this date! We will continue to review applications until all the places have been filled.