

2027 CALL FOR PROPOSALS: AMS ANNUAL MEETING - SEATTLE, WA

Deadline: 11:59 p.m. PST, 16 February 2027

The American Musicological Society (AMS) calls for proposals for sessions, papers, workshops, roundtables, posters, and film screenings to be scheduled during the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Society on 11–14 November 2027 in Seattle, Washington, at the Hyatt Regency Seattle.

The AMS Annual Meeting, organized continuously since 1934, is a celebration of the AMS community designed to promote the study and teaching of music. It encourages and explores research on music through a range of approaches and presentational modes, including historical musicology, creative practice, ethnography, analysis, performance, musical demonstrations, policy discussions, civic engagement, sound artifact curation, digital humanities, and more. Guided by the Society's mission and [Guidelines for Ethical Conduct](#), the Society seeks to create a welcoming environment in which interested individuals from all walks of life and areas of inquiry may develop and flourish, and in which all conference-goers may find a forum for exciting conversations about the music they love.

Special Theme: Our Musical Commons

In 2027, in addition to calling for proposals on the full range of musical topics and forms, the Society invites proposals for sessions, papers, workshops, films, and posters that explore the themes underlying the ***Our Musical Commons*** project. Proposals accepted under the umbrella of this special theme will be scheduled and listed as part of an *Our Musical Commons* conference sessions track in 2027.

Designed to explore the many ways music and sound can and have been used to build, renew, and repair social, civic, and ethical cultures, the *Our Musical Commons* project is a response to the challenges of the current moment. It recognizes

that recent changes in technology, economics, climate, ethics, social mores, and political culture have shaken many people's sense of order, connection, and stability, resulting in historically high levels of polarization, social isolation, civic disconnection, and societal dissatisfaction.

Seeking to spotlight constructive responses to this state of affairs, the *Our Musical Commons* project aims to identify and explore the many ways music and sound have been and continue to be a force for social cohesion, civic renewal, and moral repair; and to encourage annual meeting attendees to imagine, create, educate, and iterate along the same lines. Accordingly, the Society is calling for annual meeting proposals that

- Explore the historical and contemporary record of ways music and sound have been used as tools for fostering social, civic, and moral renewal across diverse communities and traditions;
- Share new and time-tested approaches to community-based music making and community-engaged research;
- Immerse audiences in music education and performance experiences that illustrate the power of music and sound to bridge differences and build connection.

The Society is particularly interested in proposals that encourage audience participation and interaction, and which may help equip teachers and performers with pedagogical and performance tools and methods that strengthen classroom and community educational experiences.

For more information about the *Our Musical Commons* initiative, please visit the AMS website.

Proposal Types

The Society invites presenters to submit proposals for sessions, papers, or posters in

the formats listed below. A successful proposal articulates the main points of the presentation clearly, positions its contributions in the context of previous work, and describes its significance for conference attendees. Session organizers must also identify a session chair, and are advised to convene panels that are diverse and explore a variety of perspectives. (All persons accepted to present, perform, chair or speak at the AMS Annual Meeting must register for the conference.)

- **Sessions.** The Society *strongly* encourages potential participants to collaborate on proposals for 90-minute sessions composed of three papers and a Q&A period. Each paper is 20 minutes long, followed by 10 minutes for discussion. If a session consists of research presentations, all proposed work must be original. Session organizers are responsible for submitting a summary session abstract as well as individual paper abstracts. Organizers must also indicate a session chair and are encouraged to include a respondent/discussant. (Session chairs and discussants should be distinct from presenters. Individuals may not serve as a chair or discussant for a session in which they are also presenting a paper.)
- **Individual Papers.** The Society invites the submission of individual paper proposals. Paper presenters will have up to 20 minutes to present their work. All work proposed for presentation at the 2027 AMS Annual Meeting must be original. The Society will compile individual accepted paper proposals into topically based *paper sessions*, which will feature three papers and at least 30 minutes for Q&A. A select number of accepted paper proposals will be compiled into *paper forums*. Paper forums also consist of three paper presentations, but are designed to foster closer intellectual connections and conversation among presenters. To help accomplish this, the AMS identifies papers that are on very closely related topics and assigns a discussant to provide additional perspective. Unlike paper sessions, paper forums have a single Q&A at the end of the

session, rather than three separate short Q&A periods after the delivery of each paper.

- **Workshops.** The Society invites the submission of workshop proposals. Workshops are practical sessions intended to educate attendees about a specific professional area or help them cultivate a specific skill or set of skills. Workshops should be interactive and provide opportunities for attendees to practice or utilize the information conveyed. They may combine performance, lecture, and practicum, include discussions of publications or creative works, and be led by one or more workshop leaders. Proposals should list participants and outline the format of the workshop. Organizers must indicate a session chair who is not also a workshop leader.
- **Roundtables.** The Society invites the submission of roundtable proposals. Roundtables provide a space for participants to engage in dialogue with each other, and the audience, about issues, works, and developments of professional and intellectual interest. Roundtables might, for example, include conversations with scholars, community activists, artists, public officials, performance artists, curators, and educators. The purpose of roundtables is to provide a forum for lively and engaging discussion. Organizers must indicate a session chair who is not formally a panelist within the roundtable but who may contribute to the discussion at times.
- **Posters.** The Society invites the submission of poster presentation proposals. Poster presentations are visual explorations of a research project or argument, and will be displayed at the conference during the designated Poster Session. All work proposed for presentation at the 2027 AMS Annual Meeting must be original. Posters should follow the guidelines for the submission of individual paper proposals but also include an explanation of the content and goals of the visual materials. Full guidelines for

formatting poster materials will be provided upon acceptance.

- **Films.** The Society invites the submission of proposals for film screenings and discussions. This proposal type offers space for presenters to display a recently completed or in-progress film or video. Film sessions include the time necessary to screen the film, as well as a maximum of 60 minutes for introduction and discussion. Proposals should include the film's title, its length, and subject, and an outline for the introduction and discussion.

All proposal abstracts must be 350 words or less. **With the exception of workshop and roundtable proposals, all proposal abstracts should exclude personally identifying information.** For guidance on how to prepare an effective proposal abstract, see the [Guidelines for Writing an AMS Abstract](#) prepared by the AMS Committee on the Annual Meeting and Public Events (CAMPE) and the AMS Program Committee.

Remote Presenter Sessions

The American Musicological Society is interested in promoting accessibility by experimenting with hybrid session models and formats. In service of this goal, it will provide the option for proposal submitters to designate their individual paper proposal as either an in-person presentation or a remote paper presentation. If a proposal is designated as a remote paper presentation, it will be considered for inclusion in a limited number of hybrid four-paper sessions.

These four-paper sessions will include two remote presenters (selected from those applying to this track), two in-person presenters (selected from the general, in-person pool of annual meeting presenters), and an in-person chair or moderator. Remote presenters will be able to fully participate in the session, including the Q&A, via two-way video.

Only individuals who cannot travel to present in person are eligible to submit a remote paper presentation proposal. Individuals who propose papers for this track will not be eligible to present

in person or to propose to present in person, including as part of guaranteed study group and committee sessions. If accepted and placed on the program, remote presenters will be required—like all other participants, both in-person and proxy—to register for the annual meeting.

Proposals for this special remote presentation track should adhere to the same criteria as all other individual paper proposals. Remote presentation proposals will be assessed and arranged into panels by the Society using the same processes and criteria applied to the assessment and programming of paper proposals from in-person presenters.

Formats of Special Interest

In an effort to encourage proposals in formats of special interest to the Society and its constituents, the AMS has designated certain types of sessions as being of “special interest.” This designation means that the Society would like to see more of these types of proposals in the submission pool and will prioritize the acceptance of such proposals.

For the 2027 AMS Annual Meeting, the AMS has designated the following as being of “special interest.”

- **Professional Development Workshops, Sessions, and Roundtables.** The AMS particularly welcomes proposals for sessions that offer practical strategies that address the challenges, needs, and concerns of music studies professionals. For the purposes of this call, a “professional development” session is understood to mean any workshop, roundtable, or other type of session primarily focused on helping participants do one or more of the following:
 1. Acquire and improve work-related skills, including archival and pedagogical skills, strategies for increasing access and a diversity of viewpoints, and more;
 2. Better understand and navigate the processes of entering or advancing in a

particular career or line of work (including devising strategies for navigating specific challenges or constraints); or

3. Build stronger and more supportive networks of peers and colleagues.

- **Session Proposals.** The AMS particularly welcomes proposals for pre-organized sessions on any theme or area of music studies. The Society's goal is to maximize discussion among participants by programming highly coherent sessions that clearly and cogently explore an area or topic from multiple perspectives. Potential participants should collaborate on proposals for 90-minute paper sessions, workshops, and roundtables. Organizers must also indicate a session chair and may include a respondent if appropriate.

As an incentive to submitters, proposals in the above formats will be preferentially treated by the Society and, thus, are more likely (although by no means guaranteed) to be included in the program.

Submission Procedures/Restrictions

Proposals must be received by **11:59 p.m. PST, 16 February 2027**. Proposals are to be submitted electronically. A link to the proposal submission site will be made available on or before 10 December 2026. (Note: Access to the proposal submission portal ceases precisely at the deadline. To avoid technical problems with submission, please submit at least twenty-four hours before the deadline.)

Only one proposal per person is allowed. No one may appear on the program more than twice. (Note: Committee and study group sessions are excluded from this rule.) An individual may participate as a presenter, performer, or speaker in any one of the presentation formats listed above *and* appear one other time on the program as a chair or respondent of a session.

All participants at the AMS Annual Meeting (presenters, chairs, discussants, performers, etc.) are required to register for the conference.

(NOTE: The Alternate Years Rule is not in effect for the 2027 AMS Annual Meeting. Individuals appearing on the 2026 Annual Meeting program are not restricted from submitting a proposal in 2027.)

Proposal Review

All AMS Annual Meeting proposals are read and rated by a large pool of volunteer reviewers which includes all members of the Program Committee. All members of this pool of reviewers, usually numbering sixty or more, hold advanced degrees in musicology or related fields and are randomly assigned proposals to review. Proposals are then assembled into a program by the members of the Program Committee working in concert with the AMS office. During the review stage, all paper and paper session abstracts are blindly reviewed and rated without reference to the identity of the author(s). Workshop, roundtable, and performance proposals are not blinded. Reviewer ratings are then statistically normalized, pooled, and shared with the Program Committee, which has access to the full details of all proposals. (The call for members to volunteer to serve as reviewers will go out in late December 2026. Those submitting proposals are *not* eligible to serve as annual meeting reviewers.)

The Society aims to create a balanced and wide-ranging program, selecting preferentially from the most highly rated proposals and with a strong emphasis on thematic diversity and session coherence. Guidance on preparing a winning conference proposal, with examples of highly rated proposals from prior years, is available on the [**AMS website**](#).

Proposal decision notices will be sent out in the first week of June 2027.

Study Group and Committee Proposals

Sessions organized by AMS study groups and committees are not reviewed by the Program Committee. These proposals have a separate proposal submission process and deadline.

(See the “AMS 2027 Call for Study Group and Committee Proposals.”) The deadline for the submission of these proposals is **11:59 p.m. PDT, 15 March 2027**. Study groups and committees that fail to submit their proposal(s) by that deadline

will forfeit their right to a guaranteed session on the program (including business meetings and annually recurring sessions, such as named lectureships) and may be denied placement.