



**THE SYRIAC MUSICAL TRADITION : AN EASTERN HERITAGE  
EXCHANGES & INFLUENCES**

**MUSICOLOGICAL CONFERENCE  
MARCH 17-21, 2021**

Geneva, December 27, 2020

Dear participants to the Conference,

We sincerely hope that this letter finds you in good health. Please find below an update about the Musicological Conference on the Syriac Musical Tradition, which we confirm will be held **from 17 to 21 March 2021**.

In order to ensure everyone's health and safety in view of the current sanitary situation, and considering the difficulties of transportation and the current restrictions for obtaining visas, we took the decision to transform the Conference into a blended meeting, i.e. the Conference will take place both physically in Geneva and as an online videoconference using the Zoom platform. The concerts that accompany the Conference will be streamed from the different places where they will take place, in Europe and in the (Middle) East.

It was a difficult decision to take for us. In fact, we are highly aware of how important personal encounters are, and how such events held in presence facilitate them. However, we decided to privilege the possibility for all to participate in the current circumstances, and we look forward to rich and lively online debates. We will do our best to ensure a smooth technical context and implementation to the Conference.

Those of you who have the possibility to travel physically to Geneva remain of course most welcome. In that case, if you wish and are able to travel personally to Geneva, please kindly contact Giulia Valentini ([giulia.valentini@hesge.ch](mailto:giulia.valentini@hesge.ch)) in the coming weeks to organize your travel and your stay in Geneva.

**Date and time**

The conference itself will take place from Thursday 18 to Saturday 20 March 2021.



**THE SYRIAC MUSICAL TRADITION : AN EASTERN HERITAGE :  
EXCHANGES & INFLUENCES**

An inauguration concert is scheduled on Wednesday 17 March 2021, with in principle daily concerts on 18, 19 and 20 March 2021, of 30 to 60 minutes each maximum, and final concerts taking place on Sunday 21 March 2021.

Time schedule for the conferences: Maximum 3 hours a day, considering the time difference between the different participants, from India to the United States.

UTC+5:30	<b>India - Kerala</b>	16h30-19h30
UTC+3:00	<b>Iraq - Mosul</b>	14h00-17h00
UTC+2:00	<b>Lebanon - Beirut</b>	13h00-16h00
UTC+1:00	<b>Geneva, Paris (France), Germany</b>	12h00-15h00
UTC	<b>London</b>	11h00-14h00
UTC-4:00	<b>USA - New-York</b>	07h00-10h00

A preliminary more precise draft time schedule is enclosed, and also refers to the time of the concerts.

**Format of the conference (lectures)**

Whether you are only attending online or you are (also) physically present in Geneva (in Geneva, we will gather in a room), we chose to limit the online speaking time of the lecturers, with a reduced intervention format, which has shown to be efficient and successful in other recent online events which we organized:

- We kindly ask you to provide us with your extended/full contributions (maximum 30 minutes or 5000 words) in writing or in prerecorded video format (or both, at your choice). These contributions will be distributed in advance to all participants, allowing them to read/visualize the material in advance.
- The Conference itself (lectures), from 18 to 20 March 2021, will be structured in intervention spots of 20 minutes each, including 5 to 10 minutes presentations by lecturers/contributors, followed by 10 to 15 minutes of questions and discussions.
- At the end of the Conference, contributions will need to be provided in final written publication format, and will be reviewed with open access by peers.
- The languages of the Conference are English and French. We will do our best to provide a simultaneous translation.

THE SYRIAC MUSICAL TRADITION : AN EASTERN HERITAGE :  
EXCHANGES & INFLUENCES



**Submission of contributions**

- **Titles and abstracts.** Most of them have already been handed over to us; We thank all those who have not yet provided their titles and abstracts, or who wish to correct them, to do so contacting [xavier.bouvier@hesge.ch](mailto:xavier.bouvier@hesge.ch) **before 15 January 2021.**
- Your contribution must be sent to us in advance **before 28 February 2021 (ultimate deadline):**
  - In written format (maximum 5000 words) to the following email address: [xavier.bouvier@hesge.ch](mailto:xavier.bouvier@hesge.ch).
  - Alternatively, those of you who prefer to provide an oral contribution can send us pre-recorded videos of a maximum duration of 30 minutes. An online platform will allow you to record and/or transfer these videos. If you choose this option, please contact [xavier.bouvier@hesge.ch](mailto:xavier.bouvier@hesge.ch) for the technical aspects and the address of the online platform.
  - You may also provide your contribution both in written and video format.
- **In the first days of March 2021,** the text and video contributions will be sent to all participants, so that they can read/view them in advance.

**Copyright and personal data privacy rights**

Copyrights and personal data privacy rights, as well as rights regarding one's own image, must be complied with. Distributed materials are drafts and may not be shared with third parties before their final publication. At the end of the Conference, you will be allowed time to complete or amend your contributions before the final publication in writing.

Our debates will be public (the interested public will be able to connect online, in principle without a possibility to intervene), but the contributions will not be shared outside the restricted circle of active participants (the publication at the end of the Conference, after a review by peers, will be public).

To facilitate the understanding of the public, your 5 to 10 minutes presentation during the conference should introduce/present the keys points of your full written/video contribution.

We are sure that the Conference will be very captivating also in this online format, and we look forward to your active participation.

The Organizing Committee remains at your disposal for any further information.

**THE SYRIAC MUSICAL TRADITION : AN EASTERN HERITAGE :  
EXCHANGES & INFLUENCES**



We wish you a happy and joyful Christmas time, and we look forward to meeting you at the Conference.

**For the Organizing Committee**

Véronique Nebel ([nebelv@hotmail.com](mailto:nebelv@hotmail.com))

Xavier Bouvier ([xavier.bouvier@hesge.ch](mailto:xavier.bouvier@hesge.ch))

Francis Biggi ([francis.biggi@hesge.ch](mailto:francis.biggi@hesge.ch))

Jalal Polus Gajo ([jalal-polus.gajo@etu.hesge.ch](mailto:jalal-polus.gajo@etu.hesge.ch))

Giulia Valentini ([giulia.valentini@hesge.ch](mailto:giulia.valentini@hesge.ch))

Enclosure: mentioned

**THE SYRIAC MUSICAL TRADITION : AN EASTERN HERITAGE :  
EXCHANGES & INFLUENCES**



**Preliminary schedule**

The preliminary schedule below is based on Geneva time (UTC+1). For other locations use the following table:

UTC+5:30	<b>India - Kerala</b>	add 4h30
UTC+3:00	<b>Iraq - Mosul</b>	add 2h00
UTC+2:00	<b>Lebanon – Beirut</b>	add 1h00
UTC+1:00	<b>Geneva, Paris (France), Germany</b>	-
UTC	<b>London</b>	deduce 1h00
UTC-4:00	<b>USA - New-York</b>	deduce 5h00

	<b>Geneva time (UTC + 1)</b>	
<b>Wed 17 March 2021</b>	16h30-17h00	<b>Welcome and opening</b>
	17h00-18h30	<b>Concert</b> streamed from Geneva by HEM Syriac Choir, conducted by Jalal Polus Gajo
<b>Thu 18 March 2021</b> Chair: Xavier Bouvier Support: Giulia Valentini	12h00-13h20	<b>Session 1a</b>
	13h20-13h40	Pause
	13h40-15h00	<b>Session 1b</b>
	16h00-17h00	<b>Concert</b> streamed.
<b>Fri 19 Mar 2021</b> Chair: Véronique Nebel Support: Giulia Valentini	12h00-13h20	<b>Session 2a</b>
	13h20-13h40	Pause
	13h40-15h00	<b>Session 2b</b>
	16h00-17h00	<b>Concert</b> streamed.
<b>Sat 20 Mar 2021</b> Co-chair: Véronique Nebel and Xavier Bouvier Support: Giulia Valentini	12h00-13h20	<b>Session 3a</b>
	13h20-13h40	Pause
	13h40-15h00	<b>Session 3b</b> and final discussion
	16h00-17h00	<b>Concert</b> streamed
<b>Sun 21 Mar 2021</b>	<b>14h00-15h00</b>	<b>Concert</b> streamed
	<b>15h30-16h30</b>	<b>Concert</b> streamed



CHRISTIAN  
MUSICOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY OF INDIA

For further information  
regarding this text  
Please contact  
*library@thecmsindia.org*

---

Please join the  
'CMSI Benefactors Club'  
and support the ongoing projects of  
Christian Musicological Society Of India

---

- DIGITAL LIBRARY • ARAMAIC PROJECT
- ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SYRIAC CHANTS
- MUSIC ICONOGRAPHY • CHRISTIAN ART
- RESOURCE FOR RESEARCHERS