

‘A BREEZE IN GOD’: THE SPIRITUALITY OF MUSIC AND SONG

International Conference

Thursday September 10th-Friday September 11th 2026

**Palazzo Pacanowski, via Parisi, 13
Parthenope University, Naples, Italy**

Organised by Raffaella Antinucci (Parthenope University, CRILLS Research Centre), and Adrian Grafe (Université d’Artois, Arras, France, Textes & Cultures Research Centre)

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH 2026 (Palazzo Pacanowski, Council Room, 6th Floor)

8.30-9.00 Registration

9.00-9.30 Welcome and opening remarks

From Worship to Lamentation

9.30-9.50 **Peter Kolawole Osuntope** – A Breeze in God: Communal Breath, Sacred Rhythm, and the Spirituality of Music in African (Nigerian) Liturgical Experience

9.50-10.10 **Hyun Hee Deborah Park** – Singing Lament in Christian Worship as a Spiritual Practice: Longing for Hope Amidst Suffering through Music

10.10-10.30 **Adriana Marinelli** – Myth, Music, and the Sacred Feminine: Robert Graves’ Lament for Pasiphaë in Morten Lauridsen’s Mid-Winter Songs

10.30-11.00 Questions/Discussion

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

Music, poetry and drama I

11.30-11.50 **Enrico Reggiani** – A case for spiritual melopoetics: Gerard Manley Hopkins’s poem “Heaven-Haven” (1864) and its intersemiotic translations by Samuel Barber and Benjamin Britten

11.50-12.10 **Pierpaolo Martino** – Oscar Wilde’s Late Spirituality in Popular Music: from Patti Smith to Gavin Friday

12.10-12.30 Questions/Discussion

12.30-14.00 LUNCH at the canteen (Sapori campani, Floor A)

Music, poetry and drama II

14.00-14.20 **Virginie Roche-Tiengo** – Music and Fractured Spirituality in Brian Friel’s Drama

14.20-14.40 **Michal Štěpán** – The Camouflaged Sacred: Spirituality in Alexander Albrecht’s Setting of Rilke’s Marien-Leben

14.40-15.00 Questions/Discussion

15.00-15.30 Coffee break

Spiritualized pop and rap

15.30-15.50 **Michał Mazurkiewicz** – “Personal Jesus”: Depeche Mode and the Construction of Spirituality

15.50-16.10 **Francesca Caraceni** – “Sing About Me, I’m Dying of Thirst”: Black Spirituality and Kendrick Lamar’s “Good Kid, M.A.A.D. City” (2012)

16.10-16.30 Questions/Discussion

16.45-17.45 Spirituality, Music and Song: Performance: Pierpaolo Martino, Peter Kolawole Osuntope, Laurel Ralston, Alexander Vella Gregory, and any spur-of-the-moment volunteers who feel inspired to perform!

20.30 Conference Dinner – @ Fresco via Parthenope (via Parthenope, 8)

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH 2026 (Palazzo Pacanowski, Council Room, 6th Floor)

9.00-9.30 Welcome

Contemplation, composition, and improvisation

9.30-9.50 **Laurel Ralston** – Contemplative Improvisation

9.50-10.10 **Luis Ernesto Peña Laguna** – *Quatre principes dans les musiques à caractère spirituel : une quête compositionnelle* / Four Principles in Spiritually Oriented Music: A Compositional Quest

10.10-10.30 Questions/Discussion

10.30-11.00 Coffee Break

Spiritual Modes of Song and their Reception

11.00-11.20 **Adrian Grafe** – Christian Popular Music in American Prisons: Spiritual High? Good Promo? Or Both?

11.20-11.40 **Tiziana Palandrani** – Ritual Voice: The Saeta as a Threshold to Altered Consciousness

11.40-12.00 Questions/Discussion

Keynote Presentation:

12.00-12.40 **Alexander Vella Gregory** – Passio Secundum Matthaeum: Liturgy, Art and Personal Devotion in New Contemporary Music

12.40-13.00 Questions/Discussion

Conclusion

13:15 Lunch at the canteen followed by departure to the Conservatorio di Musica “San Pietro a Majella” (Via San Pietro a Majella, 35)

15.00 Special guided tour of the library of the Conservatorio di Musica “San Pietro a Majella”