

Call for Papers, Posters and Demonstrations

XR in Musical Performance and Engagement: Potentials, Practices, and Perspectives

25–26 May 2027

Gustav Mahler University of Music, Klagenfurt am Wörthersee, Austria

Extended Reality (XR) technologies — here understood primarily as **Virtual Reality (VR)**, **Augmented Reality (AR)**, and **Mixed Reality (MR)** — are opening up new possibilities for musical performance, creative practice, education, and audience engagement. At the same time, they raise important questions about perception, embodiment, participation, accessibility, learning, sustainability, and the changing relationships between performers, audiences, technologies, and institutions.

The two-day symposium **XR in Musical Performance and Engagement: Potentials, Practices, and Perspectives** brings together researchers, musicians, educators, artists, and technologists to explore the artistic, psychological, pedagogical, and technological dimensions of XR in musical contexts. Combining academic exchange with artistic and practice-based exploration, the symposium aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and to provide opportunities for experiencing, testing, and critically discussing XR applications in practice.

Call for Contributions

We invite proposals for **papers, posters, and demonstrations**. We welcome empirical, theoretical, artistic-research, pedagogical, technological, and practice-based contributions that **engage directly with XR technologies, including VR, AR, and MR, in musical contexts**.

While we recognise that audiovisual and other digital formats can also create immersive experiences, **priority will be given to submissions that specifically involve, investigate, develop, or critically examine XR/VR/AR technologies and practices**.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- VR, AR, and MR in musical performance and concert settings
- Aspects of XR-based audience experience, including presence, embodiment, interaction, and social connectedness
- XR applications in music education, instrumental learning, and performance training
- artistic research and creative practice using VR, AR, or MR

- design, development, and evaluation of XR environments and applications for music
- immersive and interactive musical experiences enabled by XR technologies
- multisensory and haptic interaction in XR-based musical environments
- virtual and augmented stages, performance spaces, and concert environments
- networked XR performance and musical metaverse environments
- XR-based storytelling, dramaturgy, and opera
- accessibility, inclusion, and participation through XR technologies
- performer–audience interaction in VR, AR, and MR
- psychological and perceptual dimensions of musical experience in XR
- authenticity, mediation, and technological presence in XR-based musical settings
- sustainability and institutional implications of XR technologies in music
- methodological challenges in researching musical experience, learning, and performance in XR

The symposium is explicitly designed to connect scientific reflection with artistic and hands-on experience through academic contributions, workshops, demonstrations, and artistic presentations.

Confirmed Guests

Confirmed guests include **Dr. Konstantina Orlandatou** (HfMT Hamburg), **Dr. Christian Stein** (playersjourney, Berlin), **Professor Toby Young** (Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London), **Dr. George Waddell** (Royal College of Music, London), **Phillip Feneberg** (Mozarteum Salzburg), and **Dr. Svetlana Rudenko** (concert pianist, educator, and researcher).

Submission

Please submit an abstract of **no more than 300 words**, excluding references where applicable, and indicate whether you are proposing a **paper, poster, or demonstration**.

Submission deadline: 1 December 2026

Notification of acceptance: early January 2027

Submission by email: mats.kuessner@gmpu.ac.at

Organisation and Support

The symposium is co-organised by **Prof. Dr. Mats Küssner** (Gustav Mahler University of Music) and **Dr. Gina Emerson** (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin).

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