

Call for Papers

14th MOISA International Conference

Technology for the Music of Greek and Roman Antiquity: From Past to Present

Cremona (Italy), 12–14 June 2023

Department of Musicology and Cultural Heritage of the University of Pavia

In recent years, modern technology has proved to be very helpful in the study of Greek and Roman music (see especially [Hagel 2022](#)). It is thanks to technology that the study and evaluation of material finds (i.e. musical instruments) and acoustical environments (especially theatres) – the privileged object of investigation of disciplines such as music archaeology and archaeoacoustics – have greatly advanced modern understanding of timbres, pitches and scales used in the music of ancient times, helping convert the data inferred from the findings into audible information and supporting the construction of good replicas (both actual and virtual) of the instruments on a scientific basis. The progress of digital humanities, which have allowed access to a limitless quantity of data and metadata and optimised their application and reuse in scholarship and education, has had a substantial impact on this field of studies. Two projects stand out in particular: [RIMAnt](#), an online catalogue of musical findings from the Mediterranean area, now preserved in museums, currently under construction as an Italian-French project, and [DiAGRAM](#), an online critical edition of the ancient Greek musical documents hosted by the Austrian Academy of Science.

But modern technology can also provide clues to materials and construction techniques that we thought were lost, helping scholars understand ancient technology and enabling restorers to reconstruct the history of musical artifacts as well as apply the best conservation approaches and treatments to them. The presence in Cremona of a scientific lab specifically devoted to this kind of research (the [Arvedi Laboratory](#) of non-invasive diagnostics) and of an academic course on [Conservation and Restoration of Musical Instruments](#) makes the Department of Musicology and Cultural Heritage a unique venue for hosting a conference on these topics.

The purpose of the 14th conference of MOISA (The International Society for the Study of Greek and Roman Music and Its Cultural Heritage) is twofold:

- ◆ to investigate the possible applications of ‘new’ technologies to the study and reconstruction of Greek and Roman music, including musical instruments and documents, visual evidence, soundscapes, and so on (methodological papers as well as presentations of projects are welcome).
- ◆ to explore the ‘ancient’ technologies used by the Greeks and the Romans to analyse musical data (pitches, scales, timbres) and acoustic principles as well as to construct musical artifacts (instruments and automata) and provide better acoustic properties in performance venues. This topic of interest includes the reception of these ancient ideas in later centuries.

As part of this event, a specific section will be dedicated to presenting the first results of an important collaboration recently launched between the Department of Musicology and Cultural Heritage and the National Archaeological Museum of Naples on the musical instruments of Pompeii.



Proposals of 250-300 words for 20-minute papers are invited (with 10 minutes discussion following each paper).

Conference language: English

Proposals should be sent to eleonora.rocconi@unipv.it not later than **January 15th, 2023**, and will be evaluated by the Scientific Committee by **February 15th, 2023**. Applicants whose abstracts are accepted will be notified immediately by email and asked to confirm their participation by **March 1st, 2023**.

Anyone can send a proposal but only MOISA members are eligible to present a paper. It is possible to join the Society at <http://www.moisasociety.org>.

Scientific Committee:

Claudio Canevari, Luciana Festa, Marco Malagodi, Eleonora Rocconi (University of Pavia, Italy)

Stefan Hagel, Chrēstos Terzēs, Kamila Wysłucha (Austrian Academy of Science, Austria)

Daniela Castaldo (MOISA President, Università del Salento, Italy)

Sylvain Perrot (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Strasbourg, France)

Stelios Psaroudakēs (University of Athens, Greece)

Organising Committee:

Marco Malagodi, Eleonora Rocconi, Federica Scicolone (University of Pavia, Italy)

