

Welcome

Dear participant, colleague, and friend,

we want to warmly welcome you to ICMS 16 Helsinki!

We are thrilled to have you all gather these early days of June to the Sibelius Academy, Uniarts Helsinki, and to Finland for the 40th anniversary edition of the International Congress on Musical Signification ICMS. Since 1986, the ICMS congress has been organised every 2–4 years to bring together together scholars of musical signification, signs in music, and musical meaning – to present and discuss recent developments and future trends in musical semiotics and related fields of research. Now, forty years after the first edition in Imatra, the ICMS returns to Finland, and, for the first time, to the Sibelius Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki.

The congress is one of the platforms of the Musical Signification Project, launched in Paris in 1984. In addition to the ICMS congresses, the International Musical Signification Project has also served as a pedagogical tool educating doctoral researchers in the field.

Our congress call received a very positive response, we are happy to note. Under the main theme – *Music as a Meaningful Art* – the congress program now offers us

six keynote recitals, three special plenaries, two workshops, and about one hundred paper presentations or lecture-recitals organized in 28 sessions. In the last day of this anniversary edition, we also take a look at the first 40 years and the next 40 years of the ICMS.

We thank the Uniarts Helsinki research leadership, and the production, communication, and financial services for their extensive support to the congress. We are similarly grateful to the Niilo Helander foundation for their financial support. Not the least, we express our deep gratitude to the presenters, chairs and other participants of the congress: you and your contributions and discussions are what truly make a congress – thank you for your participation!

On behalf of the International Musical Signification Project, the ICMS 16 Helsinki organizing committee, scientific committee, and the honorary committee – and us personally – we hope you will have a fruitful congress and wonderful time in this early summer of Helsinki.

Eero and Juha



Eero Tarasti
director
The International Musical Signification Project



Juha Ojala
chair
ICMS 16 Helsinki organizing committee