



**SIMM**  
(Social Impact of Making Music)  
vzw/asbl/ltid  
Galerie de la Reine 23  
1000 Brussels – Belgium  
[www.simm-platform.eu](http://www.simm-platform.eu)

## **SIMM-POSIUM #10 – preliminary programme** (version 04.08.2025)

**Monday, November 24**, the symposium will open with a keynote speech by Prof. Dr. Lee Higgins on the future of participatory music practices. The first session will highlight the role of music in asylum centres and prisons and explore the complex reality of working with music in these centres. A panel led by Beatriz Ilari will examine the dual role of ensemble education as a place for empowerment and as a structure susceptible to hierarchy and exclusion, with case studies from Brazil, Afghanistan, and the US.

**Tuesday, November 25** opens with a session on musical practices that offer cultural continuity and resistance to displaced and marginalized communities. The focus then shifts to the healing and connecting role of music in education, healthcare, and residential environments, using international examples. A panel will discuss how music mediation can support artistic citizenship, curriculum reform, and new ethical-pedagogical approaches in higher music education. Finally, participatory music practices that contribute to citizenship and social cohesion will be discussed, including projects on homelessness and community building in South African townships.

On **Wednesday, November 26**, morning sessions will focus on the skills needed by socially engaged musicians, with an emphasis on improvisation, intergenerational creativity, trauma-informed practice, and the roles of the artist/educator. The field will then be critically examined by SIMM co-founders Brydie Bartleet, Geoff Baker, and Lukas Paireon, who will discuss the conceptual foundations of social music practices. The day will conclude with sessions highlighting the interaction between participatory music projects and formal institutions, offering a critical look at the pedagogical and political possibilities of socially engaged research into participatory music practices.

## **DAY 1 – Monday 24 November 2025**

**9:30–10:30 – Registration**

**10:30–12:30 – Welcome + Opening Session**

- Welcome by Petra De Sutter, rector University of Ghent
- Introduction to the symposium's theme and history
- Keynote by **Prof. Lee Higgins** + Q&A

*Chair: An De bisschop*

**12:30–14:00 – Lunch**

**14:00–15:30 – Session 1: Music in Detention and Constrained Environments** with Tina Reynaert, Silke Marynissen, Erika Severyns, Federico Pendenza, Aine Mangaoang & Lucy Cathcart Frödén

*Chair: Brydie-Leigh Bartleet*

**15:30–16:00 – Coffee Break**

**16:00–17:30 – Panel 1: Music Learning, Ensembles and Social Impact** with Christine D'Alexander, Klênio Barros, Graziela Bortz, André Felipe, David Hedgecoth

*convenor: Beatriz Ilari*

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## **DAY 2 – Tuesday 25 November 2025**

**09:30–10:30 – Session 2: Music Learning, Ensembles, and Social Impact** with Chi Ying Lam, Maria Sherla Najera, Tinashe Mutero

*Chair: Luc Nijs*

**10:30–11:00 Coffee Break**

**11:00–12:00 – Session 3: Displacement, Borders and Belonging** with Heloisa Feichas & Sean Gregory, Lindani Phumlomo, Yiannis Litos

*Chair: Luc Nijs*

**12:00–13:00 – Session 4: Voices, Choirs and Collective Power** with Yonatan Volvin, Ryan José, Fabien Lerat

*Chair: Hidde van Schie*

**13:00–14:30 – Lunch**

**14:30–16:00 - Panel 2: Turning Social: The Transformative Potential of Music Mediation in Higher Music Education**

with Charles Carson, Sari Karttunen, Heidi Westerlund, Maria Westvall

*convenors: Axel Petri-Preis & Annette Ziegenmeyer*

**16:00–16:30 - Coffee Break**

**16:30–18:00 - Session 5: Civic Imagination and Everyday**

**Practices** with Jackie Walduck, Lisa Lorenzino, Georgia Nicolaou, Innocent Tinashe Mutero

*chair: Lukas Pairon*

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**DAY 3 - Wednesday 26 November 2025**

**09:30–11:00 - Session 6: The Facilitator's Role: Talents and Capacities**

with Catherine Birch, Cathy Milliken, Liz Przybylski, Iñigo Mikeleiz-Berrade, Hugh Nankivell)

*chair: Filip Verneert*

**11:00–11:30 - Coffee Break**

**11:30–13:00 - Session 7: Critique and Philosophy of the Social**

with Geoff Baker, Brydie-Leigh Bartleet, Lukas Pairon, Huib Schippers

*chair: An De bisschop*

**13:00–14:15 - Lunch**

**14:15–15:30 - Session 8: Educational Institutions and Policy**

**Change** with Ana Čorić, Borja Juan Morera & Alberto Cabedo Mas, Nil Barutel-Gaspar, Sarah Goldfarb

*chair: Filip Verneert*

**15:30–17:00 - Session 9: Critical Pedagogy and Political**

**Imagination** with Gillian Howell, Sergio Garcia-Cuesta, Rory Wells, Imogen Flower

*chair: An De bisschop*

**17:00–17:30 - Closing**

final words by the scientific committee and SIMM leadership