

International Conference

## Women and Music in the Iberian Courts (1600-1900)

Universidad Complutense de Madrid  
Facultad de Geografía y Historia (Aula de Grados)  
7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2026

### Organization

Universidad Complutense de Madrid - Department of Musicology  
ICCMU - Instituto Complutense de Ciencias Musicales  
INET-md, NOVA FCSH, Research Group "Historical and Cultural Studies in Music"



### CALL FOR PAPERS

This international conference will be the third meeting on "Music in the Iberian Courts," jointly organized by INET-md (NOVA FCSH), ICCMU, and the Complutense University of Madrid. The two previous editions were held in Madrid (2018) and Lisbon (2019) and gave rise to the book *Música en las cortes ibéricas (1700-1834): ceremonial, artes del espectáculo y representación del poder*, eds. Cristina Fernandes, Judith Ortega. Madrid: SEDEM, 2023.

Despite recent advances in research in the fields of Women's History and Gender Studies, these remain insufficient in Portugal and Spain when it comes to music. Regarding the Royal Courts, the paradox of "highly visible, often obscure" (Earenfight, 2008) persists. The Iberian monarchies of the 17th to 19th centuries, whether absolutist or constitutional, constitute a fertile field of study from this perspective, comprising both in-depth investigation of relatively well-known figures and the revelation of others who remained in the shadows. Matrimonial ties between the two Iberian courts, and with other European courts, as well as political

alliances and family and diplomatic networks, contributed to the circulation and exchange of cultural and musical practices, in which women played, directly or indirectly, important roles. Furthermore, the musical activities of royal and aristocratic women from Portugal and Spain sometimes extended to other territories, including the colonies of both Iberian countries. With this conference, we aim to explore issues related to women and music in the Iberian world through different scientific approaches.

Among other possible themes related to this scope, we intend to study how women made (or did not make) political use of musical patronage; what activities royal and aristocratic women engaged in; what repertoires they cultivated and which musicians they promoted. We will also seek to understand to what extent their relationship with music was due to gender stereotypes, linked to tradition and/or court ceremonial, or to individual choices.

The scientific committee encourages submissions within the following topics:

- Music and royal power
- Musical patronage
- Courtly and religious ceremonial
- Performance and composition
- Collecting music (scores, librettos, musical instruments)
- Artistic and diplomatic networks
- Music and other arts
- Spaces for music
- Education in music and dance
- Music as a key element for female agency
- Musical sociabilities
- Emulation of aristocratic role models by women from other social strata

Scholars are invited to submit proposals for individual papers, which shall not exceed 20 minutes. Abstracts should not exceed 300 words, and should be accompanied by a brief *curriculum vitae* of 150 words max. This should include name, e-mail address and institutional affiliation. Proposals should be sent to: <musica.cortesibericas2@gmail.com>

**Official Languages:** Spanish, Portuguese, English

**Deadline for submissions:** 15th January 2026 (inclusive). The results will be communicated by 15th February.

#### **Scientific Direction**

Judith Ortega (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

Cristina Fernandes (INET-md, Universidade Nova de Lisboa)

## Scientific Committee

Ana Lombardía (Universidad de Salamanca)  
Anne-Madeleine Goulet (CRNS, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique)  
Antonella D'Ovidio (Università degli Studi di Firenze)  
Ascensión Mazuela Anguita (Universidad de Granada)  
Ellie Woodacre (University of Winchester)  
Giuseppina Raggi (CES, Universidade de Coimbra)  
Inês Thomas Almeida (INET-md, NOVA FCSH)  
Lluís Bertran (ICCMU, Instituto Complutense de Ciencias Musicales)  
María Cáceres Piñuel (Universidad de La Rioja)  
Natalia González Heras (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)  
Pedro Urbano (IHC, NOVA FCSH)  
Teresa Cascudo (Universidad de La Rioja)

This activity is carried out within the scope of R&D projects:

*Espacios, géneros y públicos de la música en Madrid (MadMusic CM)*. Referencia: PHS-2024/PH-HUM-194, financiado por la Comunidad de Madrid con las ayudas a actividades de I+D en Procesos Humanos y Sociales 2024.

*Patrimonio sonoro del Palacio Real de Madrid. Espacio, acústica y música desde 1746 hasta 1833 (SonaRe)*. Financiado por el Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades. Referencia: PID2023-151325NB-I00.

Projecto estratégico INET-md, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas (NOVA FCSH), 2015-2029. Programa Plurianual de Financiamento FCT-Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia. Referência: UID/00472/2025.

