**Invitation**

The International Library of African Music (ILAM) at Rhodes University invites contributions for an Ethnomusicology conference in celebration of the 70th birthday of the International Library of African Music in 2024 and the life of Andrew Travers Norman Tracey. The dates for the Conference are 31 July to 3 August 2024. The venue is at Rhodes University in Makhanda, South Africa.

**Theme**

The states of African traditional music: From the local to the global and into the virtual.

**Background**

Andrew Tracey (5 May 1936 - 12 January 2024) implored music scholars to focus their research on the traditional rather than the popular music of the African continent. This is a clarion call which brings to attention an awareness of the following: the crisis engendered by the lack of research on the traditional music of Africa and its diasporas around the globe, particularly in the Indian Ocean World, Asia and Europe; the debate as to whether or not it is appropriate to select one style of music above all others and to ignore the rest; perceptions of the ‘traditional’ over the passage of time; and, the roles of scholars, institutions, including museums and archives, in the conservation and preservation of the traditional music of the continent. Another critical issue is the future of traditional music, when so much popular music of the continent such as kwaito in South Africa and highlife in west Africa seems already to have acquired for themselves the status as ‘traditional’ musics. The main question guiding this conference, is, what does the interface between the traditional and the popular reveal about the future of African traditional music?

This conference coincides with the passing of one of Africa’s leading traditional music scholars, Andrew Tracey. A great deal can be discerned in his call to music scholars. If it is at all possible, how are we going to take up, pursue and sustain this challenge? What is African traditional music and how is its authority determined? This Conference is a call for papers which address these questions, among many others. Abstracts are invited which broadly address the following topics:

1. The institutionalisation of traditional African music.
2. African traditional music and its preservation and conservation.
3. African traditional music and its relationship with the popular music industry.
4. African traditional music and new technologies, including social media.
5. African music on the global stage.
6. African traditional music and its prospects in formal education contexts.
7. African traditional music and its socio-political trajectories.
8. African traditional music and the question of analysis.
9. African traditional music and Afrofuturism.

#### **Proposals**

All proposals will be assessed individually, without privileging particular methodologies. We invite proposals in a wide range of formats**.**These include:

* papers (20 minutes presentation + 10 minutes discussion)
* panels (45 minutes presentation + 15 minutes discussion)
* performances and/or demonstrations (20 minutes + 10 minutes discussion or 45 minutes + 15 minutes discussion)
* workshops (20 – 60 minutes)
* exhibitions, film screenings and poster presentations
* alternative presentations such as those using multimedia

\*\* All proposals must be submitted via Google Forms. There are two forms available: for proposals by an **individual** contributor (a single-author paper/performance/film or other format not presented as part of a group/panel) and for proposals by a **group**of contributors (a panel/performance/presentation comprising more than one contributor)

##### **1) Individual proposals** Submission link for proposals by individual contributors:  <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc_BAyshO2YnTPHxPXRkNPcPCNKc8Kq2PJ2KN4QB9f1ZmeQqQ/viewform?usp=sf_link>.

**2) Group/panel Proposals**

Submission link for proposals by a group/panel (these may comprise several individual contributions): <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdutadWul-sQ3b6HZ0yAUM4ZsF3zWJnkV96y8Yp1YkEfuWMNg/viewform?usp=sf_link>

Proposals must be submitted through Google Forms. **No late submissions will be considered.**

**Conference proceedings will be published in a peer-reviewed publication.**