



**The State Institute for Art Studies  
together with the Jewish Museum  
and Tolerance Centre**  
are embarking on an inter-disciplinary project  
'Thought on Music in Abrahamic Tradition'.

The project's objective is to reveal new ideas, analytic approaches and substantial discoveries in Russian and foreign scholarship. Our main purpose is to advance and resolve problems related to the comprehension, description and study of thinking about music.

Music has to be understood not only as art, to which special books or treatises written according to strictly systematized rules have been dedicated. Music as a broader concept reveals itself through such notions as 'sound', 'harmony', 'hearing', 'singing', 'song', 'tune', 'prayer', 'instrument', etc. Each of these notions is related to a *specific strategy of thinking about music* in Judaic, Christian and Islamic traditions. For us, it is necessary to understand the mechanisms of their interaction and mutual influence through different historical periods.

How did interact the conceptual schemes and notions concerning music that have their origins in TaNaKh, New Testament and Qur'an and were elaborated in religious and mystic traditions on the one hand and in philosophy on the other? How did the treatises on music, dealing with the theory and practice of musical art, influence the notion of 'hearing' in the broadest sense of the word? How did evolve the language of the description of music in various literary genres? Finally, how did the thought on music correlate with the artistic practice? Different interpretations of the phenomenon now referred to as 'music' requires an attentive and thorough study.

The project 'Thought on Music in Abrahamic Tradition' includes:

- 1) organization of conferences (biyearly) with the participation of scholars in different fields: musicologists, art theorists, art historians, philosophers, philologists, etc.;
- 2) organization of a seminar functioning on a permanent basis;
- 3) publication of the abstracts and the papers presented at the conferences.

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Conference of 2017:

**Thought on Music in Abrahamic Tradition: Word – Text – Visual  
Representation**

The main attention will be paid to the period from antiquity to the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The following areas of research are proposed:

I. Word:

- oral and written;
- language of description of musical practices: hearing and seeing;
- sound, voice, ritual;
- music in literary genres;
- music in commenting literature;

II. Text:

- the new and the forgotten old;
- sound, letter, spirit;
- image, symbol, metaphor;
- transformation and otherness (TaNaKh, New Testament, Qur'an, Sunna, apocryphal literature);
- understanding and origin of music (sound, instrument, etc.);
- ancient Greek theory of music in Abrahamic tradition;
- evolution and substance of the genre of treatise on music.

III. Sounding & Visual Representation:

- instrument: meaning and function;
- temple and court music;
- images and personages of sacred scriptures, Talmudic Judaism, apocryphal literature, works of Church Fathers, Sufism.

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The conference will take place at the State Institute for Art Studies and the Jewish Museum – Tolerance Centre on **7–9 November 2017**.

The time allotted for each paper is 30 minutes, including the questions from the audience.

The organizing committee reserves the right to decline a paper.

Our potential to cover the travel and accommodation charges is limited. Therefore, we kindly ask our contributors to find other possibilities to finance their participation at the conference.

Those who are interested in taking part in the forthcoming **seminar**, are asked to return the filled questionnaire to [abraham-music@sias.ru](mailto:abraham-music@sias.ru) **before 15 March 2017**. Additional information concerning the seminar will be sent to the participants around 20 March.

Those who are interested in taking part in the **conference**, are asked to return the filled questionnaire and submit the abstracts (up to 2000 characters) in English to [abraham-music@sias.ru](mailto:abraham-music@sias.ru) **before 1 August 2017**.

### Questionnaire

name, surname	
organization	
academic degree, academic status	
areas of interests	
major publications (up to three titles)	
position	
e-mail	
контактный телефон	

The abstracts and the papers presented at the conference will be published.

**ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**