

Special Issue

Sacred Harmony: Music and Spiritual Transformation

Message from the Guest Editor

We are pleased to announce this Special Issue, “Sacred Harmony: Music and Spiritual Transformation”, which seeks original contributions that provide new insight into the topic of music as part of religious or spiritual transformation. Spiritual transformation refers to all forms of life-changing experiences involving the sacred, including conversion, a deepened relation to God or the Absolute, religious ecstasy, or a change in worldview or ideology enabled by music. To assist in this project, the term ‘harmony’ is employed, not in reference to modern harmonics or counterpoint, but to its original Greek understanding of harmonia as the ‘fitting together’ of two items or elements. In the material sense, this meant the fitting together of wooden beams; in the metaphysical interpretation, the link between the soul and the divine. Basic questions are advanced: what role does music play in spiritual transformation? In singing or chanting, is it the words or strictly the musical features that act as agents of transformation?

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editorial Board

Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community – disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

Religions is inviting innovative and comparative contributions. Please consider Religions as an exceptional, exciting enterprise ready to reward your trust, attention, and participation.

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