

## Conference “From desperation to hope: the meanings and effect of group singing” CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite you to the 12th conference on traditional singing, which takes place on **November 29–30, 2022** in Tartu, Estonian Literary Museum.

In recent years, the world has been stunned by several disasters. Human experience, however, says that singing is one way to escape despair and find hope to go on. Historical singing traditions have reached us despite diseases, wars, and famines that drastically reduced the population. The need to make music together made us recently, during the pandemic, make music together on house windows or on the internet. With the Singing Revolution, the Baltic States came out of the Soviet Union, and now, during the war in Ukraine, we are singing again, hoping to endure and change the world.

The focus of the conference is on singing together and its meanings. We discuss the motivations and practices of singing together, the mental, physical, and social impact of singing. We ask how singing – both its verbal, musical and performing side – relates to crises, strong emotions and affectiveness. Attention will be paid to larger or smaller groups singing together or also grouped around one singer; direct or remote communication environments; old singing traditions and practices that are currently emerging.

We invite you to make a presentation or discussion panel on the following topics:

- Why and when people feel the need to sing together; the social, physical and affective effects of singing together.
- The formation, spread and demise of the practice of singing together.
- Repertory as an expression of group identity and a reflection of the social and cultural circumstances of the moment; the emergence and formation of new group repertoires.
- Improvisation and variation by singing alone and together; causes and assumptions of variation, mechanisms of formation; different practices of variation.
- Methods to study the process of creation, improvisation and variability, and affectivity; possibilities of text corpora for reflexive study.
- Presentations on other topics related to singing are also awaited.

The conference will take place in hybrid form in the Estonian Literary Museum and in the Microsoft Teams web space

We are waiting for your abstracts of about 350 words and speaker’s data (name, institution, email) by **July 15, 2022**, to [efa.conference@folklore.ee](mailto:efa.conference@folklore.ee). You will receive notifications of acceptance by August 15, 2022.

The conference has no participation fee.

Organizing team: Kristin Kuutma, UNESCO Chair on Applied Studies of Intangible Cultural Heritage, University of Tartu  
Janika Oras, Liina Saarlo, Estonian Literary Museum

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