

## **IAML Salzburg Congress Survey 2025 – Summary of Free Text Comments Received**

### **Overall Impressions**

Feedback on the Salzburg Congress was overwhelmingly positive. Delegates described the event as exceptionally well organized, intellectually stimulating, and one of the most successful IAML congresses to date. Numerous delegates expressed gratitude to the organizing committee for their professionalism, hospitality, and evident commitment to the event's success, and voiced enthusiasm for future congresses.

### **Atmosphere and Networking**

While the atmosphere was positive, some delegates offered suggestions to further encourage networking. Suggestions included more structured social events, café-style spaces for informal interaction, and earlier mentor–mentee introductions to foster connections. Refreshment breaks were noted as vital for networking.

### **Cost and Accessibility**

Concerns were raised about the high cost of attending the Congress, including accommodation and the cost of attending the final dinner. Some delegates recommended that future venues be selected with affordability in mind and that the local organizing committee explore possibilities for better hotel rates and other cost-saving measures.

### **Logistics and Local Information**

The venue was praised as being easy to navigate and in a good location. Feedback emphasised the importance of clear guidance on local transport, airport transfers, and ticketing. The registration process had caused confusion for one respondent.

### **Program Content and Format**

Sessions were commended for coherence and quality. Suggestions included longer poster sessions, relocating vendors and posters closer to break areas, holding some meetings online, and experimenting with formats like “hot topic” or PechaKucha sessions. Some felt that the congress week was slightly too long and contained too many concurrent sessions, making scheduling decisions challenging.

### **Events and Cultural Aspects**

Feedback on events was generally very positive. The sound level at the Farewell Event was uncomfortably high for some delegates, particularly for those using hearing aids. Additional organized pre-concert meals were suggested to help attendees who travel alone or are new to the community connect more easily with others.

### **Broader Reflections**

Comments encouraged IAML to maintain strong ties to musicological research, support colleagues in war-affected regions, and foster discussion about linguistic inclusivity, particularly regarding the dominance of standard English in the programme. Additional suggestions concerned the future of librarianship as a hub for digital humanities and AI, emphasizing specialized AI training, scholarly leadership in humanities research, and inclusive global participation in music scholarship.