

## **English**

### ***Oppressed by the Figures of Beauty: International Conference on Leonard Cohen and on the work of singer-songwriters.***

The Leonard Cohen Chair, founded after the Canadian singer-songwriter received the Prince of Asturias Award for Literature in 2011, aims to honour its main objective by contributing to the knowledge, research, and dissemination of Leonard Cohen's life and work at an International Conference. This symposium also aims to work on the other fundamental axis of the Chair, the song, and in this case, on the work of singer-songwriters.

The definition of singer-songwriter is taken from Tim Wise: "Singer-songwriter is a term used since the 1960s to describe a category of popular musician who composes and performs his or her own songs, typically to acoustic guitar or piano accompaniment, most often as a solo act but also with backing musicians, especially in recordings". Singer-songwriters are not limited to a genre or a style, but they are framed by the concept of a specific "performing disposition". This "performing disposition" is described as a set of aesthetic and rhetorical principles that can be deployed by musicians throughout their entire career, in a whole album or in a single performance or recording. Therefore, although the mass media may not define some creators as singer-songwriters, the Chair applies this broad and integrating vision of the phenomenon.

As the verse of *Chelsea Hotel's* song (1974) suggests, this Conference aims to analyse the beauty of songs and their forms. This is a genre whose interdisciplinary nature requires interdisciplinary work, not only from the perspective of musicology and philology, but also from a historical, artistic, sociological or cultural analysis. This analysis should also consider the song a form of audio-visual expression: from the use of symbols and images on record covers to videoclips and documentary films dedicated to singer-songwriter songs. Thus, the academic community is invited to participate from any of these points of view.

The Conference focuses on the time period going from the 1960s to the present day. The themes for the collaborations are the following (without being exclusive):

- Leonard Cohen and his work.
- Past, present and future of singer-songwriters.
- Management.
- History and Historiography.
- Musical Analysis.

- Audio-visual Analysis.
- Literary Analysis.
- Translation.
- Genre: Men and women.
- Intertextuality (literary or musical texts).
- Tradition in singer-songwriters' work.
- Pedagogy (singer-songwriters' work as a teaching tool).
- Creative interrelations between countries.
- Identities (national, regional, gender).
- Political discourses and social commitment.

Languages of this Conference are Spanish and English.

The format is blended, although it will be flexible, depending on pandemic conditions.

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Conference dates: November, dates to be confirmed.

Deadline: May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020.