



Call for Papers
IASPM Annual Conference 2003

September 18 – 21, 2003
University of California-Los Angeles

Broadening the Playlists: Popular Musics in Dialogue

“Popular music” means many things to many people. For example, is it rock music? Is it the music of folk or ethnic cultures? Is it the music heard on increasingly corporate radio? Is it film music, or “ubiquitous music?” How does jazz integrate into our conception of popular music? Similarly, popular music is sometimes defined in relation to classical music or other forms of music constructed as esoteric or targeted to specific taste or cultural cohorts (for example, revival-era folk music); that is, popular music is viewed as more accessible to less discerning masses. This conference will explore the myriad global and local definitions and implications of the term “popular music,” as incorporated in its styles, genres, audiences, to name just a few of its many valences.

We are particularly interested in work that explores how and why something becomes popular in any national or cultural context, be it classical “pops,” film music, salsa, reggae, marching band music, rock, disco or the many other forms that popular music takes. Our aim is to put various expressions of popular music in dialogue in order to better understand popular music as a broad and varied form of musical expression. We also seek to interrogate the aesthetic, political, and social constructions of the “popular,” the processes by which forms of music emerge or re-emerge into public consciousness, and how and why they work on an affective level.

We invite papers that grapple with the meanings and definitions of popular music, especially those that go beyond a consideration of rock music as popular music. Papers based upon the conference theme are preferred, but we welcome papers that deal with any aspect of popular music. Cultural, historical, musicological, interdisciplinary, sociological and other methodological perspectives are welcome. Abstracts are due May 15, 2003. **E-mail submissions preferred.**

Please send abstracts to the Program Chair, Norma Coates, coatesn@uww.edu, or if necessary, via snail mail:

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