

Nomination for IMS Honorary Membership 2025

Committee:

Daniel K L Chua (Chair)

Annegret Fauser

Laura Tunbridge

Christine Fischer

Leonardo Waisman

The Committee proposes Leonardo Waisman for Honorary Membership of the IMS.

“Being raised and educated in the Global South ... we had ALWAYS practiced a musicology that connected continents. You cannot study the Jesuit missions in Paraguay without relating them to their European generators. You cannot study tango without being conscious that its triumph in Buenos Aires was made possible by its success in Paris.”

Taken from a recent edition of “Musicological Brainfood”, this quote of Waisman spotlights his dedication to global aspects of music studies. Not only do his publications cover an enormous range, but they also focus on central aspects of the core agenda of the IMS: the integration of marginalized, forgotten and colonized subjects, topographies and musics into the musicological canon.

Leonardo Waisman studied composition and musicology at the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba (Argentina) and holds a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, where he studied with Edward Lowinsky and Howard Mayer Brown. He worked most of his life as Research Fellow at CONICET (National Council for Research and Technology of Argentina) and held a number of prestigious teaching positions: as invited faculty at the national universities of Córdoba, Buenos Aires and the Litoral, at the Oberlin College (Ohio, USA) and at the Universities of Valladolid and Complutense in Madrid (Spain). He was appointed as Visiting Simón Bolívar Professor at Cambridge University’s Centre for Latin American Studies (2015–2016), and Tinker Professor at the University of Chicago (Spring 2021). In 2019, he was the recipient of the Platinum Konex Award from Argentina’s Konex Foundation, which honors lifetime achievements.

Waisman has published work on a wide range of topics, including the Italian madrigal, performance practice, the popular music of Argentina, and the social significance of musical styles, but his principal focus is colonial music of South America and music in the Jesuit missions in particular. In addition to editing three operas by Vicente Martín y Soler and writing a comprehensive biography of the composer, he recently has finished work on the first comprehensive history of colonial music in Hispanic America (Una historia de la música colonial hispanoamericana). His most recent work is the edition of the Cycle of Offertories of

the Jesuit missions of Chiquitos. In particular, he has devoted himself to the ordering, restoration, study, and dissemination of the music of the Jesuit missions in the Southern Cone, and his eighteenth-century editions of operas are used in some of the world's leading theaters.

This research activities are balanced by his career as a performer of Baroque music, as harpsichordist and conductor of previously unperformed Baroque music. He toured extensively in Latin America, Europe, and the Far East, and recorded two CDs.

The Committee recommends him as an outstanding awardee for an Honorary Membership of this society.