

## TISMIR Special Collection – Call for Papers

# Open Music Data for Music Processing Research

**Deadline for submissions:** 01.12.2026

**Guest Editors:** Stefan Balke, Magdalena Fuentes, Dasaem Jeong, Meinard Müller

### Scope of the Collection

This special collection focuses on open music data and infrastructure as foundations for Music Information Retrieval (MIR) research. It addresses challenges and opportunities related to the creation, curation, sharing, accessibility, reuse, and long-term sustainability of music-related resources, including datasets, annotations, metadata, multimodal representations, and supporting infrastructures.

MIR research is inherently data-driven, relying on diverse and well-curated resources spanning audio and audiovisual recordings, symbolic scores, lyrics, and metadata. Despite major advances in machine learning and artificial intelligence, open music resources remain limited, fragmented, and difficult to reuse. Challenges such as copyright restrictions, inconsistent annotations, the absence or non-use of standards, and unstable infrastructures continue to hinder reproducibility and slow scientific progress.

Relevant topics include dataset design and curation, multimodal data integration, annotation methodologies, synchronization and alignment, benchmarking and reproducibility, interoperability standards, dissemination and outreach to relevant stakeholder communities, and community-driven approaches to collaborative maintenance. The collection also welcomes critical reflections on bias, diversity, cultural representation, copyright, licensing, and ethics in music data practices.

Building on ongoing community efforts in open science and dataset standardization, this special collection invites contributions addressing both technical and conceptual aspects of music data. Submissions may take the form of **Research Articles**, **Dataset Articles**, **Overview Articles**, **Educational Articles**, and **Column Articles**, following the [TISMIR Submission Guidelines and Publications Models](#).

A substantial connection to open music data is essential. Contributions should engage directly with data-related questions such as dataset design, annotation practices, accessibility, sustainability, interoperability, or critical reflection on biases and limitations. At the same time, we explicitly encourage method-driven contributions that advance the creation, understanding, analysis, or use of music data, for example through methods for annotation, synchronization, quality assessment, multimodal integration, or dataset analysis.

The goal of this special collection is to foster a more transparent, sustainable, and inclusive ecosystem for music data, supporting long-term research, education, collaboration, reproducibility, and innovation in MIR and related fields.

## Topics

The following topics should be understood as data-centered perspectives, and submissions are expected to address these aspects as a primary focus. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Design, curation, and documentation of music datasets
- Dataset scope, diversity, representativeness, and cultural bias
- Multimodal music representations, synchronization, and data integration
- Alignment of audio, symbolic music, lyrics, text, and metadata
- Annotation methodologies, quality control, and inter-annotator agreement
- Metadata standards, ontologies, schemas, and interoperability
- Reproducibility, benchmarking, evaluation, and dataset versioning
- Synthetic and generated music data for augmentation and analysis
- Copyright, licensing, ethics, and responsible data sharing
- Tools and infrastructures for music data access and reuse
- Sustainability, hosting, maintenance, and preservation strategies
- Dataset publication, citation, and attribution practices
- Community-driven and collaborative music data curation
- Educational resources and tutorials for music data
- Methods for analyzing, enriching, validating, and integrating music data

## Guest Editors

- Stefan Balke, International Audio Laboratories Erlangen, Germany
- Magdalena Fuentes, New York University, USA
- Dasaem Jeong, Sogang University, South Korea
- Meinard Müller, International Audio Laboratories Erlangen, Germany

## Submission Guidelines

Please submit your manuscript via <https://transactions.ismir.net> and indicate in your cover letter that your paper is intended for the Special Collection “**Open Music Data for Music Processing Research.**”

Submissions should follow the formatting guidelines of the TISMIR journal. Articles must not exceed 8,000 words, including references, citations, and notes.

Submissions that extend previously published work (e.g., conference or workshop papers) must contain a significant novel contribution. As a guideline, at least 50% of the content should be new.