

Dance, Song, Music and Sociability 1750 -1832

5-6 March 2021

Venue: London – Note Dame in London

Organisation: DIGITENS EU Project and the Universities of Warwick, Queen Mary and Notre Dame

Sociability is one of the single most significant ideas to emerge out of the eighteenth-century Enlightenment. The societies, clubs and institutions that underpinned intellectual exchange, made possible the scientific developments of the period, the development of "public opinion" through political meetings; and they helped form the entertainment industry through the commercialization of pleasure. Less widely understood, however, are the specific dynamics of sociability -- the ways that both institutions and private gatherings combined serious discussion with entertainment in the form of musical entertainment and dance. This conference will challenge the dominant understandings of Enlightenment sociability by placing music and dance at its core. Rather than thinking of music and dance as a peripheral ornament to the serious business of the Enlightenment, it will understand them as important engines in the development and dissemination of the ideas and practices that mobilised people's bodies and emotions and shaped their social, emotional and intellectual worlds.

This workshop will have a range of short (20 minute) papers in a series of panels which will aim to focus on different aspects of the world of sound and movement and on their wider influence on the behavior of people at the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th centuries.

Proposals for papers should be sent to mark.philp@warwick.ac.uk by the end of May 2020

There will be a limited amount of funding for contributors who are unable to secure institutional support for their attendance.

There will be only a limited number of places for those not giving a paper.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 823862