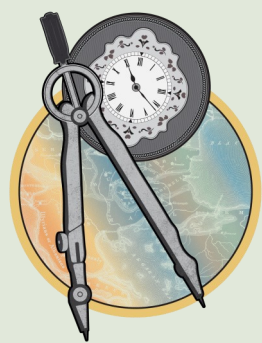
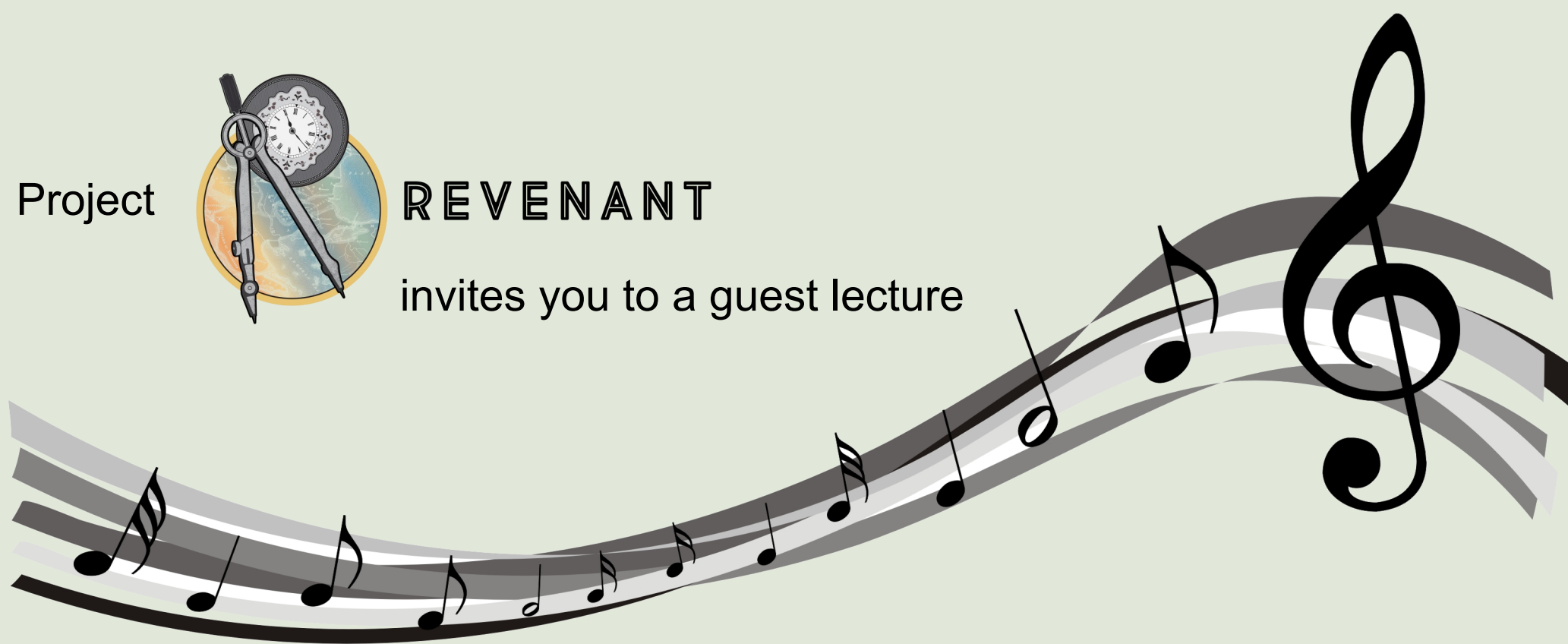


Project



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"More warmth, emotion, logic and meaning" – Internal perspectives on Russian music from the 19th century to the present day

By Prof. Dr. Christoph Flamm, Heidelberg University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka, Sveučilišna avenija 4
Monday, 12 January 2026, from 14:00 to 15:30 h, classroom F-205

In the 19th century, a historical-philosophical concept developed in Russia that asserted a fundamental antagonism towards the West as the essence of Russian identity. This perspective was never the only one, but it has repeatedly dominated the thinking and actions of Russian cultural figures ever since and has become state doctrine in Putin's era (by decree of 9 November 2022). In politics and society, such ideologies can cause great upheaval, both internally and externally. However, the mechanisms of demarcation and the desire to be different are undoubtedly also a driving force behind artistic innovation: as an aesthetic idea, fundamental opposition is highly appealing, as the success of music, especially that of the 'Mighty Handful' in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, clearly demonstrates even outside Russia – the Russian, perceived as exotic, also fascinated the outside world. However, the dogmatic demarcation of one's own sphere often goes hand in hand with the devaluation of everything else, because contempt and xenophobia lurk beneath the beautiful façade. This article traces the stages of Russocentric tendencies over two centuries up to today's university textbooks, which openly proclaim the superiority of Soviet and post-Soviet Russian music over 'the West'. But are these representative at all?



Prof. Dr. Christoph Flamm studied musicology, art history and German language and literature in Heidelberg. He worked on the editorial board of the encyclopedia *MGG* 1994–2001, then at the Istituto Storico Germanico in Rome 2001–2004. He habilitated at Saarland University. After professorships in Berlin, Klagenfurt and Lübeck, he has been Professor of Musicology at the University of Heidelberg since 2020.