SOCIAL PROGRAM

OPENING CEREMONY

Tuesday July 7, 2026: 18:30–20:00 – Congress Venue: Europa Meeting Room (1st Floor of Palazzo dei Congressi)

The ***18th World Congress of Music Therapy*** will open and will end with a special musical performance featuring a string quintet, piano, soprano, and guest vocalist. The Opening Ceremony will welcome participants with a concert inspired by Italy's musical heritage. Through a programme spanning classical music, film scores, and songs that have become part of the country's cultural identity, the Italian community extends its welcome to delegates from around the world.

The concert opens a week dedicated to music therapy, the sharing of scientific knowledge, and new discoveries, reflecting the congress theme and highlighting the role of music in fostering cultural exchange and dialogue. We kindly invite all participants who wish to attend from the very beginning to enter the hall quietly and with respect for the music and the musicians, and to enjoy this special moment together. Don't miss it!

MUSICIANS:

- **Musical Direction and Arrangements:** M°. Luciano Di Giandomenico
- **Vocals:** Elisa Aramonte
- **Violins:** Anna Giaroli, Agnese Rava
- **Viola:** Cora Bellati
- **Cello:** Tiziano Guerzoni
- **Double Bass:** Matteo Magigrana

PROGRAM:

Part I

- **Tribute to Ennio Morricone** for piano and string ensemble
- **Nino Rota Fantasy** for piano and string ensemble

Part II

- **Ennio Morricone** – *A Rose Among the Thorns* for voice, piano, and string ensemble
- **Antônio Carlos Jobim** – *The Girl from Ipanema (Garota de Ipanema)* for voice, piano, and string ensemble
- **Chick Corea / Pino Daniele** – *Sicily* for voice, piano, and string ensemble
- **Gorni Kramer** – *Un bacio a mezzanotte* for voice, piano, and string ensemble
- **Gorni Kramer** – *In un palco della Scala* for voice, piano, and string ensemble
- **Astor Piazzolla** – *Adiós Nonino* for voice, piano, and string ensemble
- **Domenico Modugno** – *Nel blu dipinto di blu (Volare)* for voice, piano, and string ensemble

WELCOME COCKTAIL

Thursday July 7, 2026: 20:00-21:30 – Congress Venue: Catering Areas (Ground Floor of Palazzo dei Congressi and EX GAM)

Join us for the official Welcome Cocktail at the Palazzo dei Congressi and start your congress experience in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. This informal networking event offers the perfect opportunity to meet fellow delegates, reconnect with colleagues, and establish new professional connections before the scientific programme begins.
The Welcome Cocktail is included in the congress registration fee. Pre-conference seminar participants and accompanying persons can buy the ticket at the Registration Desk (€35,00 VAT included).

CONGRESS GROUP PHOTO

Friday July 10, 2026: 10:30-10:45 – Congress Venue: Europa Meeting Room (1st Floor of Palazzo dei Congressi)

We warmly invite all participants to join us for this special moment and be part of the official Congress memory. Don't miss the opportunity to be in the group photo!
The Congress is also on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. We invite you to share your experience and photos using the hashtag #WCMT2026

UKULELE DEL SORRISO – CHARITY PROJECT PRESENTATION

Thursday July 9, 2026: 19.00-19:15 – Congress Venue: Europa Meeting Room (1st Floor of Palazzo dei Congressi)

A special moment to discover the Ukulele del Sorriso charity project, supporting the presence of music therapy in hospitals and paediatric wards through the auction of a ukulele signed by renowned artists. A heartfelt initiative that combines music, solidarity, and a special surprise for participants.

ITALIAN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS MEETING

Friday July 10, 2026: 19.00-20.00 – Italia Meeting Room (1st Floor of Palazzo dei Congressi)

The Italian Professional Associations Meeting is a unique event, bringing together for the first time the three Italian associations in a shared meeting created through their collaboration. This special gathering represents an important moment of exchange, connection, and cooperation, offering an opportunity to celebrate the development of music therapy in Italy and strengthen relationships within the community. The event is open to students and professionals, including those who are not affiliated with any of the three associations.

ROCK SPECTRUM LIVE CONCERT

July 9, 2026: 19:15–20:15 – Congress Venue: Europa Meeting Room (1st Floor of Palazzo dei Congressi)

THE BAND

Founded in 2014 within the *Mente Locale* project, the **Rock Spectrum Experience Band** grew from a music therapy pathway that promotes inclusion and social participation through ensemble music-making. Bringing together neurodiverse musicians, students, and professionals, the band has performed extensively in Italy and abroad, demonstrating the power of music to create connection, expression, and community.
We kindly invite all participants who wish to attend from the very beginning to enter the hall quietly and with respect for the music and the musicians, and to enjoy this special moment together. Don't miss it!

MUSICIANS

- **Alex Bonvecchio** – rhythm guitar
- **Gianmarco Bruseghini, Pietro Piffer** – piano and keyboards
- **Stefano Cainelli** – bass and musical director
- **Andrea Palopoli, Diego Ruzzenenti** – drums and percussion
- **Pietro Rigotti** – lead guitar
- **Rosa Santoni, Maria Giulia Zanon** – vocals and backing vocals

WFMT ASSEMBLY

Friday July 10, 2026: 13:00-15:00 – Congress Venue: Italia Meeting Room (1st Floor of Palazzo dei Congressi)

The WFMT Assembly is the key gathering of the WFMT membership, bringing together members from around the world for the General Business Meeting, both in person and online. During this important session, members will discuss WFMT matters and elect the new term of leadership for 2026–2029.

WFMT COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

During the congress, the WFMT commission reports will be presented. These reports summarize the work and activities carried out by the committees over the past three years. The presentations are in the **Congress Venue: Brown Meeting Room** (Ground Floor of Palazzo dei Congressi).

Wednesday July 8, 2026: 12:15-13:00 - WFMT Research and Ethics Commission
Navigating Ethical Dilemmas in Global and Cultural Music Therapy Contexts

Thursday July 9, 2026: 12:15-13:00 - WFMT Public Relations Commission
Representing the World Federation of Music Therapy: Vision, Voice and the Work of the Public Relations Commission (2023–2026)

Thursday July 9, 2026: 14:00-14:45 - WFMT Education, Certification and Regulation Commission
Harmonizing Diversity: The WFMT Education, Certification and Regulation Commission's Report for Bridging Global Standards and Local Perspectives in Music Therapy Education and Regulations

Friday July 10, 2026: 12:15-13:00 - WFMT Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Commission
Inclusion, Diversity, Equality, and Access in Music Therapy: Introducing the WFMT IDEA Commission

Saturday July 11, 2026: 14:00-14:45 - WFMT Clinical Practice Commission
Bridging Decades and Borders: Global Trends and Transformations in Music Therapy Practice

SOCIAL DINNER

Saturday July 11, 2026: 20:00–23:30 – Palazzo Re Enzo (Piazza del Nettuno 1/C, Bologna)

Celebrate the connections made during the Congress in the unique setting of **Palazzo Re Enzo**, one of Bologna's most iconic historic building located in the heart of the Bologna City Centre. Built between 1244 and 1246 as an extension of the Palazzo del Podestà, it is named after King Enzo of Sardinia, son of Emperor Frederick II, who was imprisoned here for over 22 years following the Battle of Fossalta in 1249. Today, this magnificent medieval palace is a prestigious venue for conferences, cultural festivals, and private events, combining its rich historical heritage with the vibrant atmosphere of modern Bologna. The Social Dinner is an opportunity to enjoy an evening of fine food, conversation, and entertainment while sharing memorable moments with colleagues and friends from around the world.

The dinner will be served as a buffet with seated tables. Have a look at the menu! Dress code: smart elegant.
The Social Dinner is not included in the congress registration fee. Participants who have not already purchased a ticket online may purchase one on-site at the Registration Desk, subject to availability (€95.00, VAT included).

Please note that:

- Participants are requested to wear their badge to access the Social Dinner
- An unattended cloakroom will be available onsite
- A selfie point will be available where you can take photos together to remember this special evening
- Drinks ordered at the bar **after dinner** are not included and must be paid individually
- Palazzo Re Enzo is located in a weekend pedestrian area, buses do not stop directly at the venue.
- No shuttles or entertainment services will be provided.

CLOSING CEREMONY

Sunday July 12, 2026: 12:00-13:30 – Congress Venue: Europa Meeting Room (1st Floor of Palazzo dei Congressi)

Join us as we celebrate the conclusion of the ***18th World Congress of Music Therapy***, reflecting on an inspiring week of learning, collaboration, and shared experiences, while looking ahead to the future of our global community. Together, we have exchanged knowledge, strengthened international partnerships, explored new perspectives, and celebrated the unique ability of music therapy to foster meaningful human connections across cultures and communities. As we close this Congress, let us carry forward the inspiration, friendships, and professional relationships built in Bologna, continuing to shape the future of music therapy together.

INFORMAL JAM SESSIONS

Every day - Congress Venue: Jam Session Stage (Ground Floor of Palazzo dei Congressi)

Throughout the congress, the foyer will host informal jam sessions, inviting delegates to meet, play, and connect through music in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

Day	Time Slot	Time Hours
Wednesday July 8, 2026	Warm-up	08:30-08:50
Wednesday July 8, 2026	Evening	19:00-19:20
Thursday July 9, 2026	Warm-up	08:30-08:50
Thursday July 9, 2026	Midday	13:30-13:50
Friday July 10, 2026	Warm-up	08:30-08:50
Friday July 10, 2026	Midday	13:30-13:50
Friday July 10, 2026	Evening	19:00-19:20
Saturday July 11, 2026	Warm-up	08:30-08:50
Saturday July 11, 2026	Midday	13:30-13:50
Saturday July 11, 2026	Evening	18:30-18:50
Sunday July 12, 2026	Warm-up	08:30-08:50

PHOTO WINNERS' EXHIBITION

Every day - Congress Venue: Jam Session Stage (Ground Floor of Palazzo dei Congressi)

Discover the winning entries from the **photo competitions organized by the WFMT Public Relations Commission** during the World Music Therapy Weeks of the last three years (**2023-2026**). This exhibition offers a visual look into music therapy practices and communities worldwide. We invite you to visit the gallery, connect with these global stories and share your favourite images on social media using #WCMT2026.

SOCIAL HUB

Every day - Congress Venue: Social Hub (Ground Floor of Palazzo dei Congressi)

Visit our welcoming lounge, open to everyone throughout the congress, to connect and share your journey! This area is yours to tell your congress story through social media, with friendly volunteers often around to get you involved in special storytelling ideas. Drop by, step in front of our backdrop and help us capture the true spirit of #WCMT2026!
Upload your selfies to the congress App to share your experience with fellow participants.