



Hochschule der Künste Bern  
Haute école des arts de Berne  
Bern Academy of the Arts

Call for Papers

## Historical Embodiment in Musical Performance

The Performer's Body as a Tool in Interpretation Research

**Thursday, 2 November – Saturday, 4 November 2023 in Bern (Switzerland)**  
**Hosted by the Hochschule der Künste Bern (HKB)**

Musical interpretation is by definition closely tied to the body of the performer. Traces of past performances, such as those left in writing (annotated parts or written instructions) as well as in sound (piano rolls or early recordings) need to be investigated in consideration of the performer's body. Consequently, understanding the meaning of historical text and sound information requires retrospective translation processes, i.e. from annotations back into cultural practices, from instructions back into sound, from early recordings back into performance. The conference seeks to investigate innovative methods for the analysis of musical performance and interpretation, with a special focus on "historical embodiment" and "musical reenactment" in the developing field of "early recordings informed performance".

We invite papers dealing with issues of instrument-body connections such as mouthpieces, piano actions or bows, annotated performance material, and musical performance in early sound and film documents.

Presentations should be no longer than 30 minutes (followed by 10 minutes discussion). Vocal or instrumental demonstrations are encouraged. Publication of conference contributions is intended.

Please mail submissions to [joerg.holzmann@hkb.bfh.ch](mailto:joerg.holzmann@hkb.bfh.ch) by ~~17 April~~ **new: 1 May** 2023. Proposals should be in English (c. 400 words), describing the topic and including the following:

- Abstract (background, research questions, aims, and significance)
- Short CV incl. name, postal and email addresses, and institutional affiliation of proposer
- Type of submission (paper presentation, lecture recital, concert).

Confirmation of accepted papers will be announced by 31 May. All presenters must register for the conference.

The symposium website is [www.hkb-interpretation.ch/embodiment](http://www.hkb-interpretation.ch/embodiment). All information concerning program, accommodation, etc. will be published there.

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