

„Transitions“
 Dance in Times of Change
 1400 – 1900
 3 – 7 June 2026
 Call for Contributions



For centuries, dance has accompanied people through their daily lives, at joyful celebrations and ceremonial occasions, in private as well as at magnificent court balls. But how does our dance change when our lives change? When religious wars shake all foundations, old enemies become friends, new worlds are discovered and boundaries are broken down? What influence did the turbulent times of European history between 1400 and 1900 have on the occasions, practices, styles and functions of dance? When and where were there continuities, ruptures or parallel developments? Did they follow fashions and new artistic trends, conquests and migrations or philosophical currents?

Changes and transitions in European social and stage dance in the eventful years from 1400 to 1900 are the focus of the upcoming symposium. We welcome lectures, workshops and other contributions particularly on the following aspects:

- Transitions and evolutions of dance styles
- Reception and adaptation of new dance forms
- Continuity and change in the function of dance
- Interactions between stage and social dance
- Dance theories in the course of time
- Dance in the mirror of art
- Dance and social upheavals
- Dance and politics

The conference is aimed at dance scholars and practitioners. A particular concern is to present participants with the current state of research in both theoretical and practical formats. The program therefore ranges from lectures, poster presentations, workshops, short performances and a book exhibition to social dance evenings and a festive ball with live music. For a look at the program of previous conferences, please visit our website www.historical-dance-symposium.org.

We are looking for contributions not previously presented to the public that deal with the above-mentioned range of topics. After the conference, a publication of the proceedings edited according to current scholarly standards is planned online in open-access format (edited by Irene Brandenburg and Bruce Alan Brown).

All information on our homepage: www.historical-dance-symposium.org

Our cooperation partners:



The annual Oxford Dance Symposium
 New College, Oxford University



Derra de Moroda Dance Archives
 Universität Salzburg

Categories of contributions:

Lectures:

Duration: 25 min, followed by approx. 10 min discussion. The presentations may also include short dance demonstrations. A publication in the conference proceedings is planned.

Scholarly posters:

Size max. 60 x 80 cm. Research results can be presented and discussed in text and images in the poster exhibition. Summaries of the posters can be included in the conference proceedings.

Workshops:

Duration: 90 min. A thematic combination with a lecture is possible. The workshops are held in groups of approx. 20-40 people and are offered three times each. Handouts for the participants should be prepared.

Short performances:

Duration: 15-30 min. In this category, artistic explorations of the symposium theme can be presented to a qualified audience.

Dance evenings:

Duration: 100-120 min. A program should contain a few simple, easy-to-learn dances from the subject area described above. Each program is taught twice, as the group is also divided here. On one occasion, our music ensemble is available for accompaniment, and on the other, appropriate "canned music" must be prepared. The dances serve as the basis for the dance program of the ball.

Conference languages:

Contributions can be presented in German and English.

Submission deadline: May 15, 2025.

Please send us a short summary of the planned contribution (max. 1000 characters) by **May 15, 2025**. The program committee will then make a selection from the proposals submitted by July 15, 2025.

Please send to: Markus Lehner, info@historical-dance-symposium.org

Expense allowances and travel allowances:

Presenters of lectures, workshops and dance evenings are exempt from the conference fee. Poster presenters receive €50, performers €100 compensation. Unfortunately, the host cannot cover any other fees or travel expenses.

Fortunately, Dance & History e.V. is providing a budget for travel allowances this time. All speakers and performers who do not receive funding from other sources but are in need of support can apply for a travel grant from Dance & History e.V. (email: info@historical-dance-symposium.org).

Program committee:

- Irene Brandenburg (Universität Salzburg, Austria)
- Bruce Alan Brown (University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA)
- Rebecca Harris-Warrick (Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA)
- Markus Lehner (Herrsching, Germany)
- Alessandro Pontremoli (Università di Torino, Italy)
- Hanna Walsdorf (Universität Basel, Switzerland)

Organization:

Markus Lehner, Dance & History e.V., Burg Rothenfels am Main

Venue:

Rothenfels Castle is a conference venue that has been dedicated to historical dance for decades and is therefore well known to many dancers and dance groups. The 1st *Historical Dance Symposium* took place there in 2004. The castle complex, the oldest parts of which date back to the 12th century, provides a beautiful atmospheric setting. The castle is located directly on the River Main between Würzburg and Frankfurt, 7 km north of Marktheidenfeld.