



Application to Host the 21st Annual Vagantes Conference in 2022

A. Name of university (may be a joint application with more than one university).

Case Western Reserve University

B. Name of departments, institutes, and student organizations to be involved.

Departments: Art History and Art, English, History, Modern Languages, Music (including Historical Performance Practice and Musicology), Philosophy, Physics, and Religion

Centers and organizations: Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities

Student organizations: Graduate Art History Association (GAHA), English Graduate Student Association (EGSA), Music Graduate Student Association (MGSA)

C. Statement of interest:

Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), home to a large number of medievalists in different disciplines, is an excellent candidate to host Vagantes. In particular, the departments of Art History and Art and Music have a long-standing commitment to medieval studies at CWRU, and students in these departments would form the core of the conference organizing committee.

More than half of doctoral students in the Department of Art History, currently led by a Byzantinist, Elizabeth S. Bolman (chair), and a western medievalist, Elina Gertsman (DGS), focus on medieval visual culture. Students greatly benefit from the collaborative relationship with the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA), home to an extraordinary collection of medieval art. The department oversees an innovative joint program for art history graduate students, founded in 1967 and administered in conjunction with the CMA. This partnership emphasizes an object-oriented approach toward the study of art history. Courses are often co-taught by CMA curators and CWRU faculty and focus on both exhibitions and the museum's permanent collection.

In turn, the joint program between CWRU Music department and the Cleveland Institute of Music is one of the most esteemed in the country that specializes in medieval music and historical performance. The Historical Performance Practice program and the Collegium Musicum investigate historical styles and techniques as well as perform on modern replicas

of instruments from the Middle Ages from the Kulas Collection of Historical Instruments. Western medieval music historian David J. Rothenberg (chair) and other faculty members in the department regularly offer courses that examine medieval manuscripts and the editorial process of creating modern critical editions of historical music.

We have the facilities to support a conference of this size. Ballroom halls and other conference rooms are available at the Tinkham Veale University Center, Thwing Center, and the Linsalata Alumni Center, among other venues on campus. Further, the Writing Center located in Bellflower Hall, which puts on public readings and lectures, has promised us the use of their building. One significant advantage to the community of CWRU is the presence of the Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities, which facilitates cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaborations among faculty, students, and institutions in the larger Cleveland metropolitan area. We have broad experience in organizing conferences and talks. The Art History department has an active visiting lecture series, including the Julius Fund Lectures in Medieval Art, and is home to one of the longest-running graduate art history symposia, the Cleveland Symposium. In addition, our graduate students are involved in the planning of the biannual Keithley Symposium (jointly organized by CWRU and the CMA), which explores the conception, lives, and afterlives of objects. The Department of Music Colloquia hosted throughout the academic year invites leading music historians and scholars to campus to share their research in a weekly forum. Recent medieval topics included the discovery of the fifteenth-century Leuven Chansonier and a discussion of the current pedagogy for medieval music performance practice.

As mentioned above, CWRU benefits greatly from the neighboring CMA, which boasts an internationally renowned collection of western European and Byzantine medieval art, ranging from the third through the fifteenth centuries. The CMA also includes works from medieval Persia, India, Japan, and China, thus containing a large global collection of art from the Middle Ages. The museum is free and open to the public, and located a short walk from the lecture halls. As part of the conference program, we are able to organize tours of the medieval collections as well as performances by music students.

In addition to the CMA, CWRU has a variety of resources that would greatly enhance the overall experience for conference attendees. The Ingalls Library and Museum Archives, located at the CMA, is the third-largest art library in the United States. The Kelvin Smith Library Special Collections and Archives at CWRU contains an extensive collection of medieval and early modern manuscripts, rare books, and true facsimiles. The Kulas Collection of Historical Instruments possesses impressive holdings of historical keyboard instruments, as well as modern reproductions of medieval musical objects including recorders, vielles, and harps, available to students of Historical Performance Practice. There are a number of other excellent cultural institutions in close proximity to or directly on campus, including the Dittrick Museum of Medical History, the Cleveland Natural History Museum, the Western Reserve Historical Society, MOCA Cleveland, the Sculpture Center, Think[Box], and SPACES. A little further afield are Transformer Station, the Praxis Fiber Workshop, Rose Iron Works, 78th Street Studios, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Morgan Conservatory, and the Allen Memorial Art Museum.

We are situated in one of the cultural hubs of the Midwest. There are medieval scholars across disciplines at numerous universities, museums, and institutions throughout Northeast Ohio—such as John Carroll University, Cleveland State University, Oberlin College, Kent State University, the College of Wooster, Keyon College, and Ohio State University—who have expressed interest in collaborating with us or attending Vagantes if CWRU were awarded the privilege of being the host institution. Our location would provide easy accessibility to the Vagantes Conference. The Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, located fifteen minutes from the city, offers flights from Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City, and Toronto. Additionally, there is direct transportation from the airport to CWRU’s campus in University Circle, where attendees can choose from multiple hotels located in the area such as the Glidden House, Residence Inn, or Courtyard by Marriott. Presenters who are facing financial difficulties would also have the opportunity to stay with CWRU graduate students. There are many affordable Airbnbs nearby. The Wade Oval/University Circle area, where the conference will be held, is also conveniently home to a lively food scene with many restaurants, bars, and grocery stores that attendees can visit to pick up essentials during their downtime.

D. The costs associated with hosting Vagantes have varied over the years, but on average have required an investment of about \$10,000. How does your institution plan to raise this sum? Please name the chief source of funding you plan to rely upon to pay for the conference.

We are confident that we will be able to raise the necessary funds to support Vagantes at CWRU. Not only have we secured verbal commitments of financial support from multiple departments noted above, but there are also various university grants available. The Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities offers Special Projects Grants for up to \$5,000 and will also co-sponsor events up to \$1,000. We intend to apply for the Medieval Academy of America’s GSC Grant for Innovation in Community Building and Professionalization (\$2,000). Additionally, we can seek financial support from the Graduate Student Council, Alumni Association, Friends of Art, and other private donors who have previously supported similar events.

E. Names and institutional affiliations of five graduate students who, by signing, will undertake the serious commitment of time to organize the conference. Please indicate and provide the email address for one of the students who would become the official host representative and immediately take up a three-year position on the Vagantes Board of Directors. You may appoint two students to this post if desired.

Russell David Green, Dept. Art History and Art (rdg68@case.edu)
 Alexandra Kaczynski, Dept. Art History and Art
 Anna O’Connell, Dept. of Music (amo38@case.edu)
 Reed O’Mara, Dept. Art History and Art
 Sam Truman, Dept. Art History and Art

F. Name of a faculty advisor who has agreed to be involved with Vagantes.

Dr. Elina Gertsman, Professor of Medieval Art and Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan Professor in Catholic Studies II, Department of Art History and Art; Core Faculty, Women's and Gender Studies Program

G. Certify that you agree to the conditions listed below.

We agree to the following conditions:

1. The conference will be free and registration will be open to the general public.
2. The conference will run from a Thursday-Saturday in or around March.
3. The conference will include a keynote by a faculty member from your school on the opening day and a final keynote by a faculty member from the future host school.
4. The conference will conclude with a final banquet and general meeting.
5. Your school will send a faculty member to serve as a keynote at the current host school. You will provide the current host school organizers with the speaker's name and contact information no later than August 15.
6. Three graduate students from your school must agree to serve as abstract submission readers in November in the year the conference is hosted and in the following year. The abstract submission review committee is comprised of members from the past host institution, current host, and future host institution.
7. The host institution representative from your school must agree to serve a three-year term on the Vagantes Board of Directors.
 - a. *Year 1*: the position of Future Host Institution Representative on the Vagantes Board of Directors begins as soon as the new host institution is named (c. June). Conference preparations begin.
 - b. *Year 2*: the position becomes Current Host Institution Representative in May and continues for one year. Conference preparations continue; hosting the event occurs in or around March.
 - c. *Year 3*: in May the Current Host Institution Representative becomes the new Chair of the Vagantes Board of Directors and serves in that capacity until the following May. The Chair is primarily an advisory role. The Chair ensures a smooth transition to the new host institution and supervises the operations of the Vagantes Conference on Medieval Studies and its governing body.
8. The host school will feature the Vagantes Conference on Medieval Studies seal logo on the conference program and other print and electronic marketing materials.

The Future Host Institution Representative or his/her designee should plan to attend the Board of Directors Meeting at the University of Connecticut in 2020 (a virtual meeting is possible). Students from the future host institution will be strongly encouraged to submit abstracts the 2020 conference at the University of Connecticut.