

# IASPM Book Prize Report 2025

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The 2025 IASPM Book Prize was announced on February 20th 2025. It invited IASPM members to nominate single-authored first books published between November 1st 2022 and October 31st 2024. Two categories were open for nominations: one for books in English (the official language of IASPM), and another for books in other languages spoken by members.

As a result, 22 books in English and 9 books in other languages were nominated, as listed below in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively.

**Table 1. Books nominated in English**

Author	Title
Stephen Bruel	<i>Remastering Music and Cultural Heritage: Case Studies from Iconic Original Recordings to Modern Remasters</i>
Luis Manuel Garcia-Mispireta	<i>Together, Somehow: Music, Affect, and Intimacy on the Dancefloor</i>
Lauron J. Kehrer	<i>Queer Voices in Hip Hop: Cultures, Communities, and Contemporary Performance</i>
Simon Strange	<i>Blank Canvas: Art School Creativity from Punk to New Wave</i>
Tore Størvold	<i>Dissonant Landscapes: Music, Nature, and the Performance of Iceland</i>
Hettie Malcomson	<i>Danzón Days: Age, Race, and Romance in Mexico</i>
Brendan Anthony	<i>Music Production Cultures: Perspectives on Popular Music Pedagogy in Higher Education</i>
Amy Coddington	<i>How Hip Hop Became Hit Pop: Radio, Rap, and Race</i>
Tami Gadir	<i>Dance Music: A Feminist Account of an Ordinary Culture</i>
Brian Wright	<i>The Bastard Instrument: A Cultural History of the Electric Bass</i>
Don Armstrong	<i>The Life and Writings of Ralph J. Gleason: Dispatches from the Front</i>

<i>Willemien Froneman</i>	<i>The Groovology of White Affect: Boeremusiek and the Enregisterment of Race in South Africa</i>
<i>Gabrielle Kielich</i>	<i>The Road Crew: Live Music and Touring</i>
<i>Neil O'Connor</i>	<i>DARK WAVES The Synthesizer and the Dystopian Sound of Britain (1977–1980)</i>
<i>Joseph Thompson</i>	<i>Cold War Country: How Nashville's Music Row and the Pentagon Created the Sound of American Patriotism</i>
<i>Alex de Lacey</i>	<i>Level Up: Live Performance and Creative Process in Grime Music</i>
<i>Blaithin Duggan</i>	<i>The Beatles and Vocal Expression</i>
<i>Wang Yiyi</i>	<i>Artist Management in the Music Industries: A Sui Generis Form of Management</i>
<i>Rafal Zaborowski</i>	<i>Music Generations in the Digital Age: Social Practices of Listening and Idols in Japan</i>
<i>Delia Pamela Fuentes Korban</i>	<i>Memory and History in Argentine Popular Music</i>
<i>Corey J. Miles</i>	<i>Vibe: The Sound and Feeling of Black Life in the American South</i>
<i>Guillaume Heuguet</i>	<i>How Music Changed YouTube</i>

**Table 2. Books nominated in other languages**

<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Language</i>
<i>Thomas Michel</i>	<i>La Scène Techno en Palestine: Une Jeunesse Utopique</i>	<i>French</i>
<i>Céline Pruvost</i>	<i>Cantautori: La Chanson d'Auteur dans l'Italie des Années Soixante et Soixante-dix</i>	<i>French</i>
<i>Francisco Didier Guedes Albuquerque Junior</i>	<i>CANÇÕES E TENSÕES APOCALÍPTICAS: Banda Conspiração Apocalipse e a Eclosão do Rock em Cajazeiras (1989-2005)</i>	<i>Portuguese</i>
<i>Pablo Rojas Sahurie</i>	<i>‘Tráenos tu Reino de Justicia e Igualdad’: Mesianismo y Nueva Canción Chilena</i>	<i>Spanish</i>
<i>Sergio Ospina-Romero</i>	<i>La Conquista Discográfica de América Latina</i>	<i>Spanish</i>
<i>María de los Angeles Montes</i>	<i>La Gaita Rabiosa: Nacimiento y Consolidación del Cuarteto como Género de Música Popular Cordobesa</i>	<i>Spanish</i>

<i>Emilio Mendoza Guardia</i>	<i>PATRONES - Técnica Básica para Todo Guitarrista</i>	<i>Spanish</i>
<i>Natalia Bieletto Bueno</i>	<i>Las Músicas en las Carpas de Ciudad de México (1890-1930). Construcción Musical de la Pobreza</i>	<i>Spanish</i>
<i>Ornela Boix</i>	<i>Indies y Profesionales: Sellos y Amistades en La Plata</i>	<i>Spanish</i>

### **Table 3. Summary of Nominations Since 2013**

Table 3 shows the number of books nominated since 2013, when records of nomination numbers began. In 2025, a total of 31 books were nominated, including 22 in English and 9 in other languages.

<i>Year</i>	<i># of books in English</i>	<i># of books in other languages</i>	<i>Total # of books</i>
<i>2013</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>2015</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>2017</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>2019</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>2021</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>2023</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>2025</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>31</i>

### **Prize Process and Timeline**

The following timeline outlines the official process of the 2025 IASPM Book Prize:

- *Call announced: February 20, 2025*
- *Nominations deadline: March 31, 2025*
- *PDF submissions due to Chairs: April 7, 2025*
- *First-round evaluations completed by: May 31, 2025*
- *Winner(s) announced during: IASPM Conference in Paris, July 7–11, 2025*

*Books were eligible if they were single-authored first books published between November 1, 2022 and October 31, 2024. Nominations were open to IASPM members and could be submitted either by the authors themselves or by peers. Submitted materials included bibliographic and author details, proof of IASPM membership, a digital (PDF) version and print copy of the book, and a short one-minute presentation video by the author.*

### ***Evaluation Procedure***

*The evaluation procedure consisted of two rounds. A broad call for reviewers was distributed across IASPM branches, resulting in each nominated book being assigned to at least two reviewers. In the first round, reviewers submitted scores and written evaluations, including a recommendation on whether the book should proceed to the second round.*

*Among the books that received unanimous recommendations to continue, three finalists were selected in each category. In the second round, these finalists were evaluated again and graded according to four criteria: originality, writing, methodology, and theoretical approach.*

*The winners and finalists were determined based on the average scores, as well as a qualitative assessment of the reviewers' written motivations.*

### ***Finalists in English***

<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>
<i>Luis-Manuel Garcia-Mispireta</i>	<i>Together, Somehow: Music, Affect, and Intimacy on the Dancefloor</i>
<i>Corey J. Miles</i>	<i>Vibe: The Sound and Feeling of Black Life in the American South</i>
<i>Willemien Froneman</i>	<i>The Groovology of White Affect: Boeremusiek and the Enregisterment of Race in South Africa</i>

### ***Finalists in Other Languages***

<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>
<i>Natalia Bieletto</i>	<i>Las Músicas en las Carpas de Ciudad de México (1890-1930). Construcción Musical de la Pobreza</i>
<i>Ornela Boix</i>	<i>Indies y Profesionales: Sellos y Amistades en La Plata</i>
<i>Pablo Rojas Sahurie</i>	<i>‘Tráenos tu Reino de Justicia e Igualdad’: Mesianismo y Nueva Canción Chilena</i>

## **2025 IASPM Book Prize Winners and Special Mentions**

The **2025 IASPM Book Prize** in the category of **English** is a tie between two books. The Prize goes to:

*Together, Somehow: Music, Affect, and Intimacy on the Dancefloor*  
by **Luis-Manuel Garcia-Mispireta**.

*This book was praised for its theoretical ambition, clarity, and strong writing. One jury member highlighted how “the author applies concepts like ‘stranger-intimacy’ in a way that allows the reader to rethink the relationship between sound, affect, and collectivity”. Another reviewer described it as “very readable and enjoyable” successfully “evoking emotional registers and feelings while still being clear and analytically strong”. Theoretical contributions were emphasized as well: “The book re-innovates and critically discusses key concepts while also reinventing them”. In sum, Together, Somehow stood out as an exemplary contribution to popular music studies—innovative, engaging, and conceptually rich.*

*Vibe: The Sound and Feeling of Black Life in the American South*  
by **Corey J. Miles**.

*Vibe was described by one reviewer as “a rare and gorgeous book”. Another wrote: “I’ve never read a book like this. Miles’s approach to ethnography, theory, and feeling is extraordinary”. The book’s use of autoethnography was praised for its effectiveness: “Miles uses autoethnography to great effect... grounding complex theory in personal and cultural context”. The theoretical dimension was likewise lauded: “Miles adopts and generates theoretical insights that are timely, resonant, and deeply rooted in cultural critique”. Vibe powerfully combines rigorous scholarship with poetic expression, offering a landmark contribution to sound studies and Black cultural research.*

The 2025 IASPM Book Prize in the category of Other Languages goes to:

*Las Músicas en las Carpas de Ciudad de México (1890-1930). Construcción Musical de la Pobreza* by **Natalia Bieletto**.

*This book makes a significant contribution to our understanding of música popular mexicana by exploring an understudied yet foundational phenomenon: La música de*

*carpas, or the musical practices associated with traveling tent theaters that thrived in Mexico City between 1890 and 1930. Lauded for its originality and methodological rigor, Natalia Bieletto's extensive documentation and interdisciplinary analysis illuminate how these spaces shaped popular sound, identity, and collective experience. The book is especially compelling in its examination of the tension between European cultural models, which were embraced as symbols of modernity by authorities and audiences, and the simultaneous construction of a national identity. It also highlights the presence of women in genres characterized by eroticism, offering a nuanced view of the era's clashes between entertainment and morality.*

*Indies y Profesionales: Sellos y Amistades en La Plata* by **Ornela Boix** receives an honorary mention.

## **Conclusion**

*We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all authors and jury members for their contributions throughout the Prize process. In particular, we are deeply grateful to the jury members listed below for their timely and thorough evaluations—especially given the extremely tight schedule. Their dedication has been essential to making the Book Prize possible.*

*In light of the compressed timeline this year, and given that the Prize was announced using previous instructions without much discussion, we would like to propose the following changes for future editions of the book prize:*

- *There should be no requirement to send physical copies of books to the chairs; ebooks and digital publications should be accepted.*
- *There is no need to submit a recorded video presentation of the book.*
- *Encourage evaluators to publish book reviews. Include specific monetary amounts for each prize to make them more appealing. Additionally, it would be beneficial to widen the award categories to include "Best Article" and other noteworthy publications. This modification could highlight a broader range of contributions and encourage more participation.*

*Chairs of the 2025 IASPM Book Prize*

*July 2025*

*Daniel Fredriksson*

*Beatriz Goubert*

## *Jury Members of the 2025 IASPM Book Prize*

	<i>Inka Rantakallio</i>
<i>Chris Anderton</i>	<i>Susanna Leijonhufvud</i>
<i>Alf Arvidsson</i>	<i>Sangheon Lee</i>
<i>Samantha Bennett</i>	<i>Noel Loble</i>
<i>Toivo Burlin</i>	<i>Tobias Malm</i>
<i>Lisa Di Cione</i>	<i>Paula Mesa</i>
<i>Ondřej Daniel</i>	<i>James Millea</i>
<i>Laina Dawes</i>	<i>Ivan Mouraviev</i>
<i>Lindsey Eckenroth</i>	<i>Audun Molde</i>
<i>Stan Erraught</i>	<i>Emmanuel Parent</i>
<i>Marita Fornaro</i>	<i>Sofia Sousa</i>
<i>María Luisa de la Garza</i>	<i>Catherine Strong</i>
<i>Fred Hosken</i>	<i>Holly Tessler</i>
<i>Kevin Holt</i>	<i>Darío Tejeda</i>
<i>Peter Holmstedt</i>	<i>Mats Trondman</i>
<i>Jillian Hernandez</i>	<i>Martha Ulhoa</i>
<i>Eva Kjellander Hellqvist</i>	<i>Lorena Valdebenito</i>
<i>Samuel Horlor</i>	<i>Juan Fernando Velásquez</i>
<i>Morag Johnston</i>	<i>Ralph Whyte</i>
<i>Veronica Skrimsjö</i>	