

# Music Symposium



## Keynote Lecture

“Interrogating Music and Traumatic Experience”

Dr. Joshua D. Pilzer

If music is organized sound, it can serve as a key resource for survivors of traumatic experiences who wish to organize inchoate sense experience into coherences of self, culture and society. Drawing primarily on thirteen years of research among survivors of the Japanese military “comfort women” system and the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I discuss different ways music can be such a resource. I consider the place of music at the scene of traumatic experience; the use of music for expressing the ‘unspeakable’; the use of music in creating coherent life-stories; the use of music to forge social connections against the alienation of traumatic experience, and the use of music in the pursuit of social functioning, among others.



**Conrad Grebel/Great Hall**

**March 17 @ 7pm** (reception to follow)

**Free Admission. All are welcome.**

[uwaterloo.ca/music](http://uwaterloo.ca/music)

*Presented by the Department of Music*



**Conrad Grebel  
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