This year’s special issue of the scientific journal *Bašćinski glasi* brings together ten articles by participants of the 1st International Scientific Symposium of Early Career Researchers in Music (iSTeM_2018). The event took place from December 7-9, 2018 in Split and was organised by the Department of Music Theory and Composition of the Arts Academy in Split; the Doctoral School of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University in Osijek, the Croatian Science Foundation, Split Musical Youth and the Cantus Music Institute in Vienna provided co-organisational support. This unique symposium in the Croatian music research ecosystem is conceived as a much-needed transitional platform from initial to independent scientific activity. It also serves as a meeting place for domestic and foreign doctoral students and music researchers who completed the PhD no more than five years ago. In its first edition, the symposium brought together about thirty speakers from many countries who presented their current research preoccupations in three musicological sessions, two ethnomusicological sessions and one music theory and music pedagogy session. Under the broad thematic framework *Scientific Discourses on Music from the Perspective of Contemporary Research Interests*, the symposium programme also included the presentation of the latest research findings of two current Croatian musicological projects funded by the Croatian Science Foundation (*Musical Sources of Dalmatia in the Context of the Central European and Mediterranean Musical Culture from the 18th to the 20th Century*; and *Networking through Music: Changes of Paradigms in the ‘Long 19th Century’ – from Luka Sorkočević to Franjo Ksaver Kuhac*).

Full Professor Dinko Fabris, PhD, of the San Pietro a Majella Conservatory of Music in Naples and the Basilicata University in Matera, as well as Associate Professor Susana Sardo, PhD, Head of the Research Centre for Ethnomusicology (INET-md) at the University of Aveiro delivered two keynote presentations. A round table discussion on the theme *Programme Concepts of Doctoral Studies in Music and Related Studies – Experiences from Croatia and Abroad* was also organised.

I extend my wholehearted thanks and respect to the authors of the articles and (all) participants of the first iSTeM. Moreover, I express my special gratitude to the Editorial Board of the journal *Bašćinski glasi*, headed by the Editor-in-Chief Full Professor Mirjana Sireščević, PhD, for both their trust and the opportunity to publish the submitted works in the yearbook of the Arts Academy in Split under my editorial guidance. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to the international reviewers for their constructive remarks on individual articles.

Guest Editor