

Reframing the Music Theory Curriculum

SMT-AMS Annual Conference
Nov 10, 2023

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New York University Steinhardt



Scan for a copy of the slides.



Music Degrees

- Music Performance
- Jazz
- Music Business
- Contemporary Vocal Performance
- Music Education
- Music Therapy
- Concert Composition
- Music Technology
- Screen Scoring
- Songwriting





Modular Curriculum Model

For further discussion see: Lavengood (2019); Gades, Lavengood, Peebles (2019); Gades (2020)



NYU Theory Curriculum Site

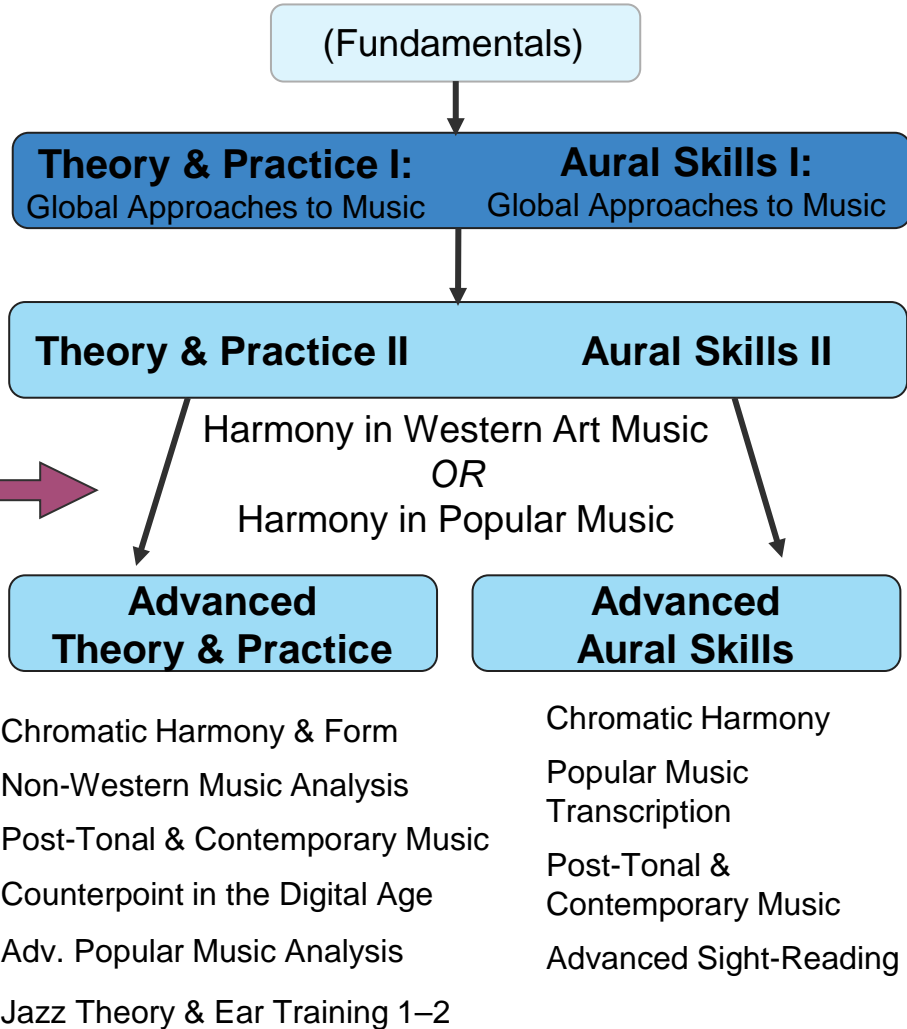
(Includes Syllabi & Course Descriptions)

<https://sites.google.com/nyu.edu/theorycurriculum>

1) Take both

2) Pick 1 Theory & Aural Pair

3) Pick any 2 Theory & Aural



Topics-Based Curriculum Approaches

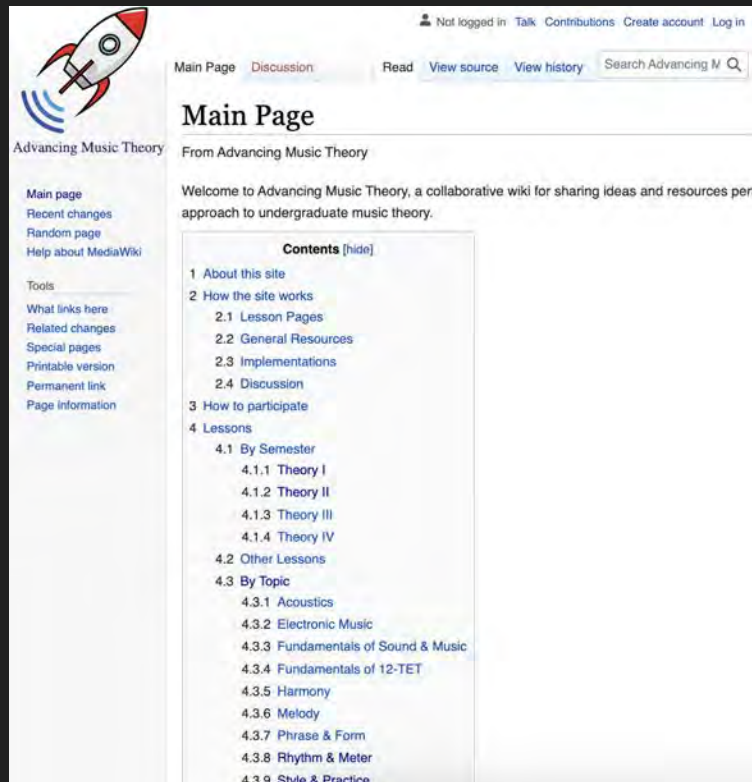
SMT Syllabi for Diversity in Course Design

(<https://societymusictheory.org/grants/dcd/syllabi>)

- Justin London, “Theory II: Musical Structures” (2022)
- Stefanie Acevedo and Toby Rush, “Theory of Music I” (2021)
- Gabriel Lubell, “Music Theory II” (2022)



Advancing Music Theory Wiki
Stephanie Acevedo and Toby Rush
<https://tobyrush.com/theorywiki>



Theory & Aural I: Global Approaches to Music

- Notation
- Pitch Collections, Tuning
- Melody
- Instruments and Timbre
- Texture
- Beat, Rhythm, and Meter
- Chords & Harmonic Syntax

Theory & Aural I Syllabi

<https://sites.google.com/nyu.edu/theorycurriculum/course-descriptions>



Theory & Practice I		
Unit	Unit Topic	Theory Lesson Topic
1	Notation	Musical elements Notational Systems
2	Scales & Pitch Collections	Tonality, Major & Minor Scales Modes Pentatonic, Octatonic, Whole Tone Raag and Makam
3	Melody	Melodic Construction, Unit 2 Quiz Sentences and Periods Other Phrase Structures Melody in Raag and Makam
4	Rhythm & Meter	Simple & Compound Meter, Unit 3 Quiz Hypermeter Asymmetrical Meters Rhythm Timelines: African Music Rhythm Cycles: Indian Taal
In-Class Work on Midterm Projects, Unit 4 Quiz Midterm Project Presentations		
5	Instruments & Timbre	Timbre & Sound Properties Instrument Families & Instrumentation Transposing Instruments
6	Chords & Harmonic Syntax	Chord Notation, Unit 5 Quiz Functional Tonality Harmonic Cadences Embellishing Tones Chord Harmonization Pop Harmonic Syntax Extended Harmony: Pop/Jazz
In-Class Work on Projects, Unit 6 Quiz Project Presentations		

Aural Skills I		
Unit	Unit Topic	Lesson Topic
1	Tuning & Notation	Pitch Tuning Systems Expressive Markings
2	Scales & Pitch Collections	Major Scales Minor Scales, QUIZ 1 Pentatonic Collections Modes & Blues Scales Raag and Makam
3	Melody	Phrases & Cadences Phrase Structure Phrases: Popular Music, QUIZ 2 Raag and Makam
In-Class Work on Midterm Projects Midterm Project Presentations		
4	Rhythm & Meter	American Pop Beats Clave Rhythmic Pattern Asymmetrical Meters Polyrhythms in Ghanaian Music, QUIZ 3 Rhythm Cycles: Indian Taal
5	Timbre & Texture	Instrumentation Musical Texture
6	Chords	Chord Changes: I, V Chord Changes: V7, QUIZ 4 Chord Changes: IV Chord Changes: ii and vi Pop Schemas & Blues Sus Chords, other 7ths
In-Class Work on Projects, QUIZ 5 Project Presentations		



Curriculum Model



NYU Theory Curriculum Site

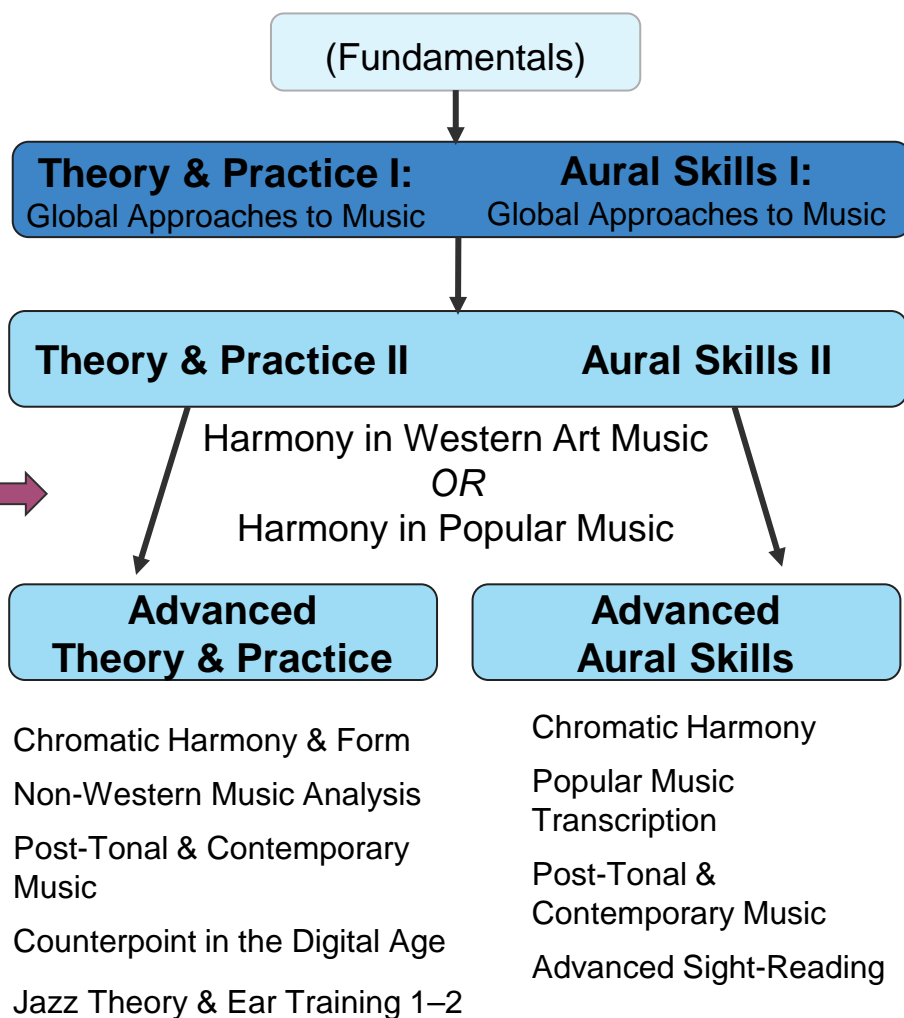
(Includes Syllabi & Course Descriptions)

<https://sites.google.com/nyu.edu/theorycurriculum>

Pick 1

Pick 2

Theory & Aural



The Theory Anthology

IV Chords: Moving to I

Florence Price, *The Deserted Garden*, mm. 1–4 (1933)

- Instructor Copies: [PDF](#), [Image](#), [MuseScore](#)
- Student Copies: [PDF](#), [Image](#), [MuseScore](#)
- Audio: [Youtube](#) (0:10–0:27)

Andante con espressione

Nino Rota, Main Theme (Waltz), mm. 1–8
From *The Godfather* (1972)

- Instructor Copies: [PDF](#), [Image](#), [MuseScore](#)
- Student Copies: [PDF](#), [Image](#), [MuseScore](#)
- Audio: [Youtube](#) (0:39–0:53)

Twisted Sister, "We're Not Gonna Take It," verse mm. 11–18
From *Stay Hungry* (1984), words and music by Dee Snider.

- Instructor Copies: [PDF](#), [Image](#), [MuseScore](#)
- Student Copies: [PDF](#), [Image](#), [MuseScore](#)
- Audio: [Youtube](#) (0:22–0:33)

Pop Schemas

SheetMusicFor (SheetMusicFor.com), v. 1, p. 11

12 Bar Blues

Triad Progressions

Harmonic 12 - 12 - 12 - 12

Harmonic 12 - 12 - 12 - 12

Full Progressions 12 - 12 - 12

Drop 2 and 3 - 12 - 12 - 12

Drop 2 and 3 - 12 - 12 - 12

Drop 2 and 3 - 12 - 12 - 12

Drop 2 and 3 - 12 - 12 - 12

Drop 2 and 3 - 12 - 12 - 12

Drop 2 and 3 - 12 - 12 - 12

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Drop 2 and 3 - 12 - 12 - 12

More Examples

- Paula Maust, *Expanding the Music Theory Canon: Predominant*
- Diverse Music Theory Examples: *Tonic/Subdominant/Dominant, First Inversion Chords (I, IV, ii, V), Supertonic and the Submediant*
- Music By Women: [Explore the Database](#) (Click on the Chords & Harmonies Filter on the left and select Predominant Triads - ii and IV)

Do you see a problem with this webpage or would you like to make a suggestion? Drop us a quick note in [this form](#).

The Sight-Singing Anthology

NYU Aural Anthology

Home

Fundamentals ▾

Sight-Singing ▾

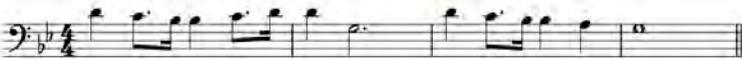
Rhythm/Meter ▾

More ▾



Dotted 8th Notes

1) Alan Silvestri, Theme song from the film *The Avengers* (2012) [\[Image File\]](#)



2) Robert Nathaniel Dett, "After the Cake-Walk," mm. 70-77 (1900) [\[Image File\]](#)



3) Francis Johnson, *A Collection of New Cotillions*, "Ford," No. 7, mm. 17-24 [\[Image File\]](#)



4) Frank Wildhorn & Leslie Bricusse, "Someone Like You" from the musical *Jekyll and Hyde* [\[Image File\]](#)

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Pentatonic Collections

X) Suzanne Collins, Jeremiah Fraites, Wesley Schultz, "The Hanging Tree," from the film *Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1* (2014) [\[Image File\]](#) [\[Youtube Audio\]](#) [\[Note to Instructors: Minor Pentatonic\]](#)



X) The Temptations, "My Girl" (1965), verse 1 [\[Image File\]](#)



① X) "Wanagi Wacipi Olowan. Song of the Spirit-Dance (Ghost-Dance Song),"⁶ No. 1. Native American Dakota Song. Transcribed by Natalie Curtis [\[Image File\]](#)

Unit 5-1: Timbre & Sound Properties

Lesson Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Define the basic properties of a sound, including *amplitude*, *frequency*, *sound envelope*, and *timbre*, and describe how changing these properties affects what we hear and how we perceive music.
- Explain the relationship between *harmonics*, *overtones*, and *timbre*, and why different instruments playing the same pitch sound different.
- Analyze and compare musical excerpts and spectrograms using a sound visualization tool, such as Sonic Visualiser, to describe timbral differences in music.

Preparation for Class



Read:

- [Timbre](#) (Robin Armstrong, *GlobalMusix*)
- [Timbre](#) (Wikipedia)

Theory & Practice I

Home

Course Outline

Theory Anthology

Aural Anthology

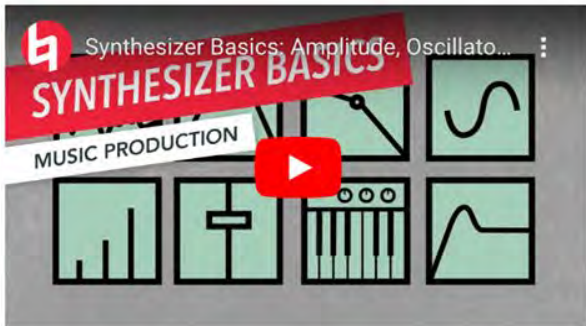
Course Content

- ✓ Unit 1: Notation
- ✓ Unit 2: Scales & Pitch Collections
- ✓ Unit 3: Melody
- ✓ Unit 4: Rhythm & Meter
- ✓ Unit 5: Instruments & Timbre

Timbre & Sound Properties

Instrument Families
& Instrumentation

Watch



Amplitude, Envelopes, Frequency, & Timbre

(Breklee Online, 7 mins) - [Just watch from 0:05-6:54.](#)



What makes instruments sound different?

(Drew Lytle, 3 mins) [Just watch from 0:00-2:55.](#)



Spectrograms: An Introduction

(National Music Centre, 3 mins)



Spectrograms: Instruments and Timbre

(National Music Centre, 3 mins)

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Unit 5: Instruments & Timbre

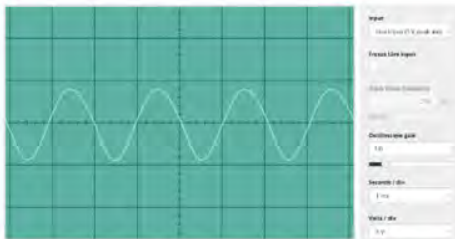
Timbre & Sound Properties

Instrument Families & Instrumentation

Explore



Work with a Live Sound Wave: Try out this virtual oscilloscope. Sing tones and try manipulating your voice to see how changes affects the sound wave in real time.



Try out an Oscillator: Click the square, sawtooth, sine, or square wave figures and drag up and down to change the sounds.



```
oscillator.type = 'square';
oscillator.frequency.value = 198;
```

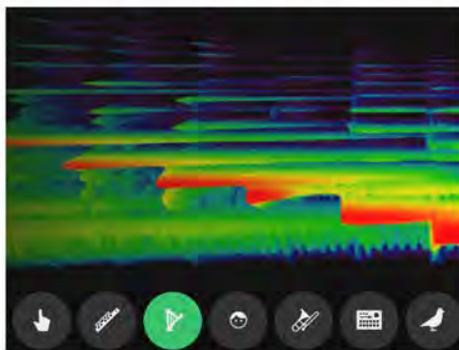
Explore Harmonics: Manipulate the harmonics of different pitches to hear how each change affects what you hear.



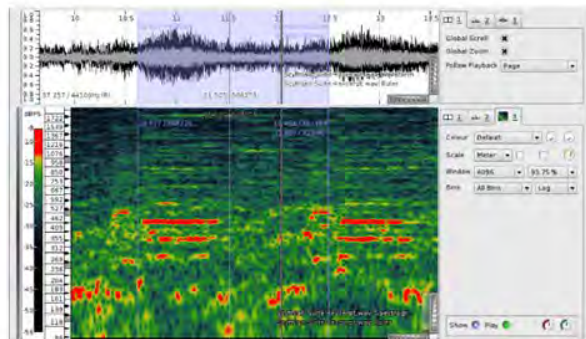
Build a Sound: Manipulate sound properties with this tone generator to see how different changes affect what you hear.



Experiment with a Spectrogram: See what different instruments and everyday sounds look like in real time in a spectrogram. You can also upload audio or record your own voice. Alternatively, [this tool](#) includes killer whale songs and sirens.



Download a Sound Analysis Tool (optional). A popular tool in music theory analysis is [Sonic Visualiser](#). It's open-source, works on both Mac PC, and has multiple tools for visualizing and annotating sound waves and spectrograms. You can record directly or upload audio files. Free plugins are available for more powerful sound analysis.



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Unit 3: Melody

Unit 4: Rhythm & Meter

Unit 5: Instruments & Timbre

Timbre & Sound Properties

Instrument Families & Instrumentation



Pre-Class Assignment

Assignment 5-1

In-Class Activities



Discussion

- **Properties of Sound:** Discuss some of the different properties of sound and sound waves discussed in the reading, including *frequency*, *amplitude*, and *waveforms*. How do these variables affect our perception of sound?
 - What are *sound envelopes*? Can you think of any instruments or instrumental techniques that tend to produce certain types of sound envelopes? How can manipulating the characteristics of a sound envelope in music production change the way that we hear the sound?
- **What is Timbre?** What exactly is *timbre*? It's a hard word to pin down. Discuss some of the different ways that we use this word to describe music and sound.
 - Check out this lesson's [Anthology page](#) for a playlist of musical examples for discussion.
 - What are some of the words you'd use to describe the timbres you're hearing? How do those timbral characteristics relate to the objective attributes of a sound (e.g. the frequency, sound envelope, amplitude, etc.)
- **Instruments & Timbre:** What is the overtone series and what does it have to do with our perception of instrumental timbre? If a flute and a trumpet both play C4, why do they sound different?

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Timbre & Sound Properties

Instrument Families & Instrumentation

Activities

- Spectrogram Analysis:** Waveform and spectrogram analysis has become a common analytical tool for popular music, film music, electronic and contemporary music, and sonic analysis outside of music. It's also commonly used in the sciences for analyzing sound. It's an especially useful tool when working with music that doesn't have a written score or discrete pitch material. Work through a timbral analysis of a few songs together as a class to practice using the tool.
 - Work in groups or have your instructor select two or three pieces that have very different timbral profiles or use different types of sound production techniques for comparison. Download an audio file for each piece and open it in Sonic Visualiser (or a comparable program). Alternatively, pick out spectrograms for a few different bird recordings on [this site](#) to compare and listen to.
 - The Apps: [Sonic Visualiser](#) will display both the waveform and spectrogram analysis for audio that you import or record. If you don't already have audio files on your device, [Clip Grab](#) is an application that allows you to quickly download audio files from YouTube videos. Both are free, open-source, and work on both Mac and PC.
 - What kind of information can you gather by looking at the just the waveform for a piece of music or sound?
 - Take a look at the spectrogram. Discuss how to read what you see based on the videos you watched before class. What information is displayed on the X and Y axes? What does color or brightness represent? How do the spectrograms for the different songs compare? When you listen to the music (or birdsong) along with the spectrogram, does it draw your ear to anything you didn't hear before?
 - What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of doing analysis without a notated score?
- Listening for Sound Envelope:** Work in groups. Find four single-syllable words that use a different combination of hard and soft attacks and releases. Practice performing these words in different ways to manipulate the sound envelope of the word. Perform your words for a partner and ask them to describe the performance decisions you made.
 - Then, try listening to a few examples and analyzing the attack, sustain, decay of sounds in a poem or a solo piece. Pick a poet and Google a poem. Have a member of your group recite a few lines and listen carefully to each word. Or, pick a solo instrumental piece that uses interesting extended techniques or timbral changes. Some examples:
 - The poem, "[Kubla Khan](#)," by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, read by Ian McKellan
 - Solo flute piece "Itinerant" by Toru Takemitsu ([Youtube performance here](#)).
 - (This activity is taken from Timothy Chenette's *Foundations of Aural Skills*)
- Sing and Dance the "Synthesizer" Song:** Jam along with the Pop Ups to learn the dance moves for different sound waves, including the square, sine, and sawtooth waves in this NPR Tiny Desk Series concert.



Repertoire for Practice

- **Timbral Analysis:** This page of the anthology includes examples for discussion and analysis.
 - The YouTube playlist features works incorporating unique timbral changes scored by the composer or made by the performer.
- The "Timbre" page on [Expanding the Music Theory Canon](#) includes additional scores and audio for analysis.

Go to Anthology



NEXT STEP

Next Lesson: Instrument Families

Want to learn more?

- **Cognition** (video): Dig into the mental processes involved in our perception of timbre and pitch. Check out: Dr. Aniruddh D. Patel, "[Musical Building Blocks: Pitch and Timbre](#)" from the series *Music and the Brain* (also see pp. 45–54 in the [Study Guide](#)).
- **Music Analysis** (reading): See how spectrogram analysis is used in popular music analysis. Read just Part 1 from of Megan Lavengood's article here: "[The Cultural Significance of Timbre Analysis: A Case Study in 1980s Pop Music, Texture, and Narrative](#)," *Music Theory Online*.
- **Global Music** (video): Explore the creation and effects of timbre in jazz, Indian, Arabic, Irish, Bosnian, and Renaissance music in the video: "[Timbre: The Color of Music—Exploring the World of Music](#)"
- **Birdsong Analysis:** Check out spectrograms for bird songs around the world on [this page](#).



Optional Additional Practice

- **Musition:** Concepts: Lvl 1: Sound Properties



Theory & Aural I: Global Approaches to Music

- Notation
- Pitch Collections, Tuning
- Melody
- Instruments and Timbre
- Texture
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Theory & Aural I Syllabi

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Aural Skills I		
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In-Class Work on Projects, QUIZ 5 Project Presentations		

[Tasks](#)[Auralia](#)[Musition](#)[Admin](#)

NYU Theory & Practice

Pitch

- [Note Reading](#)
- [Scale Degrees](#)
- [Scales](#)
- [Intervals](#)
- [Jazz Scales](#)
- [Stem Direction](#)
- [Melodic Motion](#)
- [Transposition](#)
- [Scale Degree Function](#)
- [Turkish Makam](#)

Post Tonal

- [Pitch \(Post Tonal\)](#)
- [Intervals \(Post Tonal\)](#)
- [Chords \(Post Tonal\)](#)
- [Serialism](#)

Rhythm

- [Rhythm Notation](#)
- [Meter Recognition](#)
- [Meter Transposition](#)
- [Beaming](#)
- [Rhythm Tapping](#)
- [Drum Styles](#)
- [Polyrhythms](#)
- [Ties](#)
- [Complete the Bar](#)
- [Rhythm Syllables](#)

Terms & Symbols

- [Concepts](#)
- [Jazz Chord Symbols](#)

Harmony

- [Key Signatures](#)
- [Chords](#)
- [Diatonic Chords](#)
- [Chromatic Chords](#)
- [Figured Bass](#)
- [Modulation](#)
- [Cadences](#)
- [Nonharmonic Tones](#)
- [Chord Progressions](#)
- [Advanced Progressions](#)
- [Harmonization](#)
- [Four-Part Writing](#)
- [Key/Mode ID](#)
- [Neo-Riemannian Operations](#)
- [Partwriting](#)
- [Lead Sheet Analysis](#)
- [Pop Progressions](#)



Scales

5: Octatonic Scales

Construct ascending octatonic scales given the first 2 starting notes.



6: 5-Tone Chines Modes

Identify the given collection as Gōng, Shāng, Jué, Zhǐ, or Yǔ.



7: Mixed Scale ID

Identify the scale as one of the following: Major, Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian, Aeolian, Whotetone, Wholetone-Halftone (Octatonic), Major Pentatonic, or Minor Pentatonic. (This level does not include the 5-tone Chinese modes)



8: North Indian and Arabic Scales

Identify terms and answer questions associated with pitch collections in North Indian classical music, including saptak, swara, sargam, thaata, raag, and include ordering the syllables of the swara. Identify terms related to maqam in Arabic music, including: jins, ajnas, maqam, tonic, ghammaz, and rast.



9: North Indian Raag


Identify terms associated with raag in North Indian classical music. Multiple choice questions.




10: Blues Scales




Checking Reading Comprehension

 Tasks

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QUESTION PREVIEW



Tempo  = 90



Submit



In the Hornbostel-Sachs system, this category of instrument produces sound via a stretched vibrating string, often amplified by a resonating body. The string might be bowed, plucked, or struck.

- ☐ Idiophones
- ☐ Aerophones
- ☐ Chordophones

- ☐ Electrophones
- ☐ Membranophones

Checking Reading Comprehension

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QUESTION PREVIEW

Tempo = 90

Submit

Answer the following questions about the reading:

The IV/5 "Sus" chord acts as a common substitute for the _____ chord, typically occurring _____.

In the *Open Music Theory* reading, this common cadential progression in pop is referred to as the "plagal sigh."

The coda of The Beatles song "Hey Jude" repeats the following progression: I - bVII - IV - I. What is this progression referred to in the reading?

What mode does the progression I - bVII - IV - I imply?

The reading refers to the repeated **C - G - D - A - E** progression in Jimi Hendrix's song "Hey Joe" as what?

✓ I - IV - I

I - iv - I

I - IV - bVII - I

bIII - bVII - IV - I

bVII - IV - I

IV - iv - I

Checking Reading Comprehension

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QUESTION PREVIEW

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Tempo

🎵 = 90

Submit

>

Briefly describe the difference between prescriptive and descriptive notation.

Enter your answer...

0/200 Words 0 Characters

Checking Reading Comprehension

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QUESTION PREVIEW

Tempo = 90

Submit

What is your favorite melody? State the name of the work, the artist, and about where the melody occurs in the songs/work. Write a few sentences to describe why you think it's a great melody. Think about some of the melodic features discussed in the reading and different parameters of music discussed in Unit 1.

Enter your answer...

0/500 Words 0 Characters

Checking Reading Comprehension

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QUESTION PREVIEW

Tempo = 90

Submit

What is your favorite melody? State the name of the work, the artist, and about where the melody occurs in the songs/work. Write a few sentences to describe why you think it's a great melody. Think about some of the melodic features discussed in the reading and different parameters of music discussed in Unit 1.

Enter your answer...

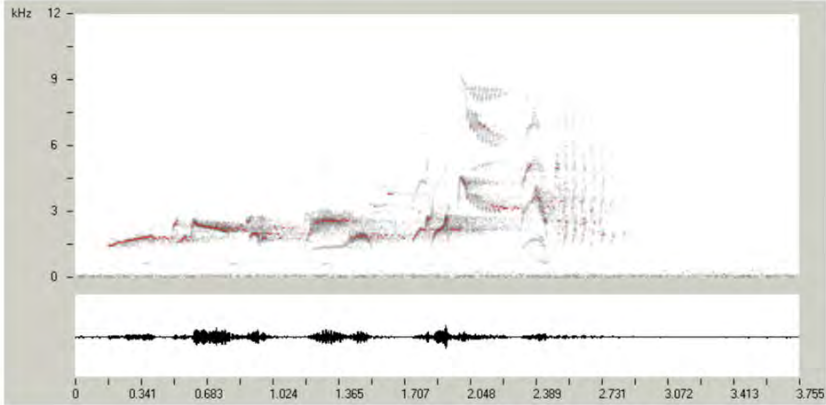
0/500 Words 0 Characters

Try it Out

TasksAuraliaMusitionAdmin🔍📧👤📺📁

BackQUESTION PREVIEW⏮️⏭️Tempo 🎵 = 90Submit

The spectrogram image below is visualization of bird song. Select the audio recording of the bird call that matches the spectrogram.



☐ ⏮️⏭️ Blackbird Song

☐ ⏮️⏭️ Nightingale Song

☐ ⏮️⏭️ Magpie Song

☐ ⏮️⏭️ Starling Song

Try it Out

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QUESTION PREVIEW



Tempo



= 90

Submit



Which of the following *taal* is this tabla player performing?

Dadra (3+3)

☐ 1 2 3 | 4 5 6

Dha Dhi Na | Dha Ti Na

Teentaal (4+4+4+4)

☐ 1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8 | 9 10 11 12 | 13 14 15 16





Dhin Dhin Dhin Dha | Dha Dhin Dhin Dha | Dha Tin Tin Ta | Ta Dhin Dhin Dha

Jhaptaal (2+3+2+3)

☐ 1 2 | 3 4 5 | 6 7 8 | 9 10

Dhi Na | Dhi Dhi Na | Ti Na | Dhi Dhi Na

Rupak (3+2+2)

☐ 1 2 3 | 4 5 | 6 7

Tin Tin Na | Dhin Na | Dhin Na

Try it Out

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QUESTION PREVIEW

⏮

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Tempo  = 120

Submit >

Listen to the African time line pattern and identify the inter-onset interval pattern that you hear repeated.

☐ 2-2-2-3-3

☐ 1-2-1-2-2

☐ 3-3-4-2-4

☐ 3-3-4-4-2

☐ 2-2-2-1-2-3

☐ 1-2-2-1-2

Try it Out

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QUESTION PREVIEW



Tempo



= 90

Submit



Match the sound of this Arabic Maqam with the notation that you see.

Four musical staves in treble clef, each with a green circle to its left, representing different Arabic Maqam notations. The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5
- Staff 2: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5
- Staff 3: C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5
- Staff 4: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5

Try it
Out

Tasks

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< Back

QUESTION PREVIEW


⏮

Tempo $\text{♩} = 150$

Submit >

?

You're the axatse player in an African drum ensemble (your instrument is pictured below). Listen to the recording to learn your part, then record yourself clapping the axatse part. You'll first hear the axatse part isolated, then the gankogui (bell pattern) will enter with the time line, followed by the other 4 instruments in the ensemble. Once the other instruments enter, the axatse part in the recording will fade away. Your task is to continue clapping the axatse part until the end of the recording. Practice a few times before you record to learn your part. *Keep track of the bell pattern!*



Start Recording ●

Play My Answer ▶

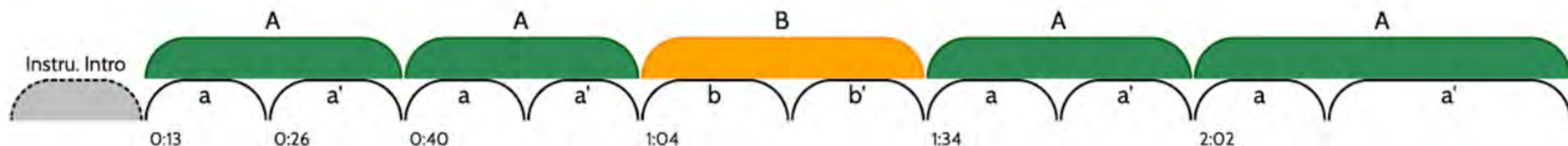
DURATION: 0:00

Combining Technology in Auralia:

Share a link to a Briformer form/phrase analysis

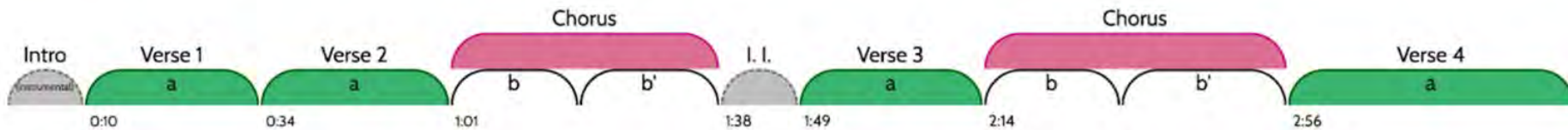
Patsy Cline, "Crazy" [Youtube](#) | [Lyrics](#) | [Briformer Solution](#) | [Image Solution](#)

From *Showcase* (1961), written by Willie Nelson



Billie Eilish, "What Was I Made For?," from *Barbie: The Album* (2023) [Youtube](#) | [Lyrics](#) | [Briformer Solution](#) | [Image Solution](#)

Phrase Structure: The verses are sentences. The chorus is a 2-part phrase structure bb'.



Combining Technology in Auralia:

Share a link to a Briformer form/phrase analysis

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QUESTION PREVIEW

⏮ ⏭

Tempo = 90

Submit >

Using Briformer, diagram the form of the song "Till There Was You" from the musical, *The Music Man*. Use the model presented in *Open Music Theory* as a guide for your form labels.

1. Open Briformer [here](#)
2. Copy/paste this Youtube URL into the box:
<https://youtu.be/q4cC4mLp0w8?feature=shared>
3. Diagram the form.
4. Select Share > Create Sharable Link or QR Code, then copy/paste your link into the space below

Enter your answer...

0/200 Words 0 Characters

Combining Technology in Auralia:

Share a link to a BandLab Composition



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[Back](#) **QUESTION PREVIEW** [Submit](#)

Share the link to your composition in the space below.

0/200 Words 0 Characters

Logged in as: Loudon, Sarah (SJL18) - NYU-STEINHARDT
Version: v5.0.1 | 20231108 | 30643

Customized Level Content for Drills


TasksAuraliaMusitionAdmin

BackQUESTION PREVIEWTempo = 90Submit

Spell a IV/5 "sus" chord in the key of B-flat.

Voice your chord in 3-Way (keyboard style) voicing with 1 note in the bass and 2 notes on the treble staff. Be sure to add any needed accidentals to fit the key.

In Bb



#bqxbb✎


Customized Level Content for Drills

TasksAuraliaMusitionAdmin🔍✉👤🖥🔄

< BackQUESTION PREVIEW⏮ ⏭Tempo ♪ = 90Submit >

What mode best describes this excerpt?

(Source: "Born to Be Wild" from *Steppenwolf* (1968), written by Mars Bonfire; performed by Steppenwolf)



9 G A Em G A Em

Yeah dar-lin'gon-na make it hap-pen, take the world in a love em-brace,

13 G A E G A Em

fire all of your guns at once and ex-plode in-to space.

☐ Major☐ Phrygian☐ Dorian☐ Lydian☐ Mixolydian☐ Aeolian☐ Locrian

Creative Content

Tasks

Auralia

Musition

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Back

QUESTION PREVIEW

⏮

⏭

Tempo

♩ = 83

Submit

>

This song is a traditional Australian folk tune. Listen to the opening phrase, then improvise a vocal response that creates a parallel period with the first phrase and ends with a closed cadence.

Start Recording

Play My Answer

DURATION: 0:00

Creative Content

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QUESTION PREVIEW

Tempo 100Submit




Rewrite "Over the Rainbow" using a different pitch collection. Select a scale that's different from the one you used in your composition. Use the [online keyboard here](#) to try the melody out using different scales. Be sure to set the "Root" button to Ab. In the next question, you'll be asked to list the scale you selected.

To rewrite the melody, adjust the pitches in the melody on the bottom. Keep A-flat as the root note. *Do not change the rhythms*. Adjust the pitches as minimally as possible, adding accidentals where needed, so that the melody only contains pitches from your selected scale.

Listen to the original melody, sung by Judy Garland [here](#), then click "Play My Answer" to compare yours.



Some- where o- ver the rain- bow, Way up high, there's a land that I heard of once i



o

♪

♩

♫

#

b

♮

×

♭

✎

Tasks

Auralia

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QUESTION PREVIEW

Tempo

100

Submit

Compose one 4-bar phrase of a melody using the provided Doo Wop chord progression and accompaniment. Be sure to:

- Think about melodic shape and direction.
- Keep your melody "singable" (avoid using too many leaps or skips)
- Focus on chord tones, but also be sure to incorporate a few embellishing tones.
- Take advantage of repeated melodic and/or rhythmic motives to create content.

Click the "Play My Answer" button below to hear your melody as you work and make adjustments as needed.

Melody

Chords

1 vi IV

o

♪

♩

♫

♮

♯

♭

×

♭♭

♮

♯

♭

♮

×

♭♭

♮

- Think about melodic shape and direction.
- Keep your melody "singable" (avoid using too many leaps or skips)
- Focus on chord tones, but also be sure to incorporate a few embellishing tones.
- Take advantage of repeated melodic and/or rhythmic motives to create content.

Click the "Play My Answer" button below to hear your melody as you work and make adjustments as needed.

Musical score for "The Rose Tree" in G major, 12/8 time. The score shows the first three measures of the song. The melody is in the treble clef, and the chords are indicated in the bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 12/8. The chords are labeled I, vi, and IV.

Creative Content

Compose a 12-bar blues melody over the given accompaniment. Use a standard 3-phrase aab "call-and-response" phrase structure. Use notes from the D blues or D "major" blues scale for your melody.

- Compose the first 4 bars, then repeat (or roughly repeat) the melody from mm. 1–4 in mm. 5–8.
- Then, compose a concluding phrase in the final 4 bars that ends with a conclusive cadence.
- Think about melodic features including melodic shape, range, "singability," conjunct motion, and the use of repetition with melodic and rhythmic motives.
- Click "Play My Answer" to hear your composition and modify as you go.

Shared Collections of Music Theory Examples

VII²⁰/H OK II²⁰

[June's Theme](#) from *Persona 4* (2008) by [Shoji Meguro](#), trans. [mlatini](#)
[Kallman Desert](#) from *Mario Kart 64* (1996) by [Kenta Nagata](#), trans. [Ashanti Mills](#)
[Overworld](#) from *New Super Mario Bros.* (2006) by [Koji Kondo](#), trans. [Mike Matarazzo](#)
[Theme of Love](#) from *Final Fantasy IV* (1991) by [Nobuo Uematsu](#), trans. [Bao Vunng](#)
[Staff Roll](#) from *Super Mario Land 2* (1992) by [Takumi Taketa](#), trans. [JohnStacy](#)
[Woody Woods](#) from *Mario Party 3* (2000) by [Ichio Shimokura](#), trans. [Jonathan Aldrich](#)

[Cyrus, the Scholar](#) from *Octopath Traveler* (2018) by [Yasunori Nishiki](#), trans. [mkafie](#)
[Ending](#) from *Super Mario Bros. 3* (1988) by [Koji Kondo](#), trans. [John Stacy](#)
[Fillmore](#) from *Actraiser* (1990) by [Yuzo Koshiro](#), trans. [DoubleMark](#) and [musicalmoose](#)
[Super Bell Hill](#) from *Super Mario 3D World* (2013) by [Mahito Yokota](#), trans. [Jer Roque](#)

[Battle](#) from Octopath Traveler (2018) by Yasunori Kida
[Gloomy Memories](#) from Castlevania: Dawn of Sorrow
[GUIM](#)

Video Game Music

Examples from Video Game
Music (37-page doc)
Ferguson, Brent (2020)

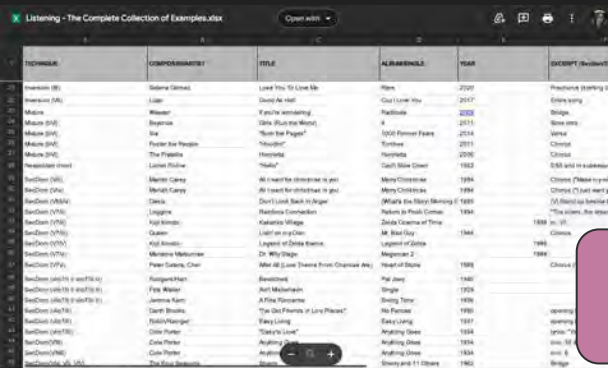
"Music Theory Examples in Video Game Music"

Journal of Music Theory Pedagogy:
Vol. 34, Article 12.



Inclusive Music Theory Examples

Expanding the Music Theory Canon
<https://www.expandingthemusictheorycanon.com>



Music by Black Composers

Composers of Color Resource Project,
Music Theory Examples Spreadsheet,
<https://composersofcolor.hcommons.org>

SMT Popular Music
Interest Group: [Collection
of Music Theory Examples](#)

Popular Music

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Lavengood, Megan L. "Bespoke music theory: A modular core curriculum designed for audio engineers, classical violinists, and everyone in between." *Engaging Students: Essays in Music Pedagogy* 7 (2019).

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<https://oberlinreview.org/26164/conservatory/theory-curriculum-reimagined-to-recognize-marginalized-music>.

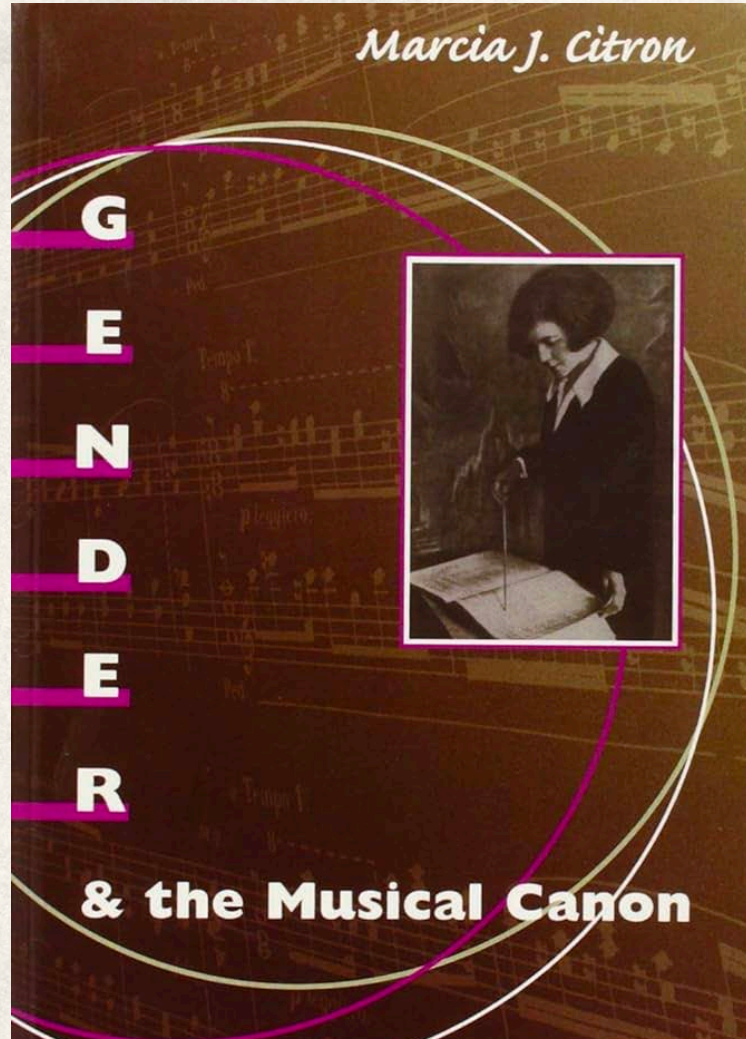
Reframing the Music Theory Curriculum

Dr. Paula Maust

Assistant Professor of Music Theory

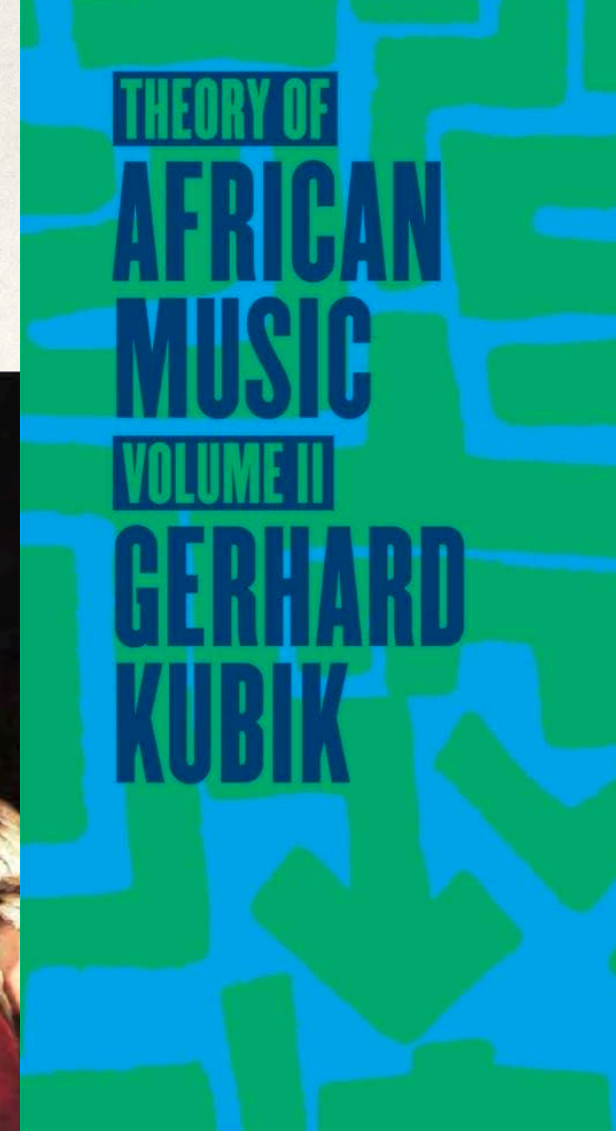
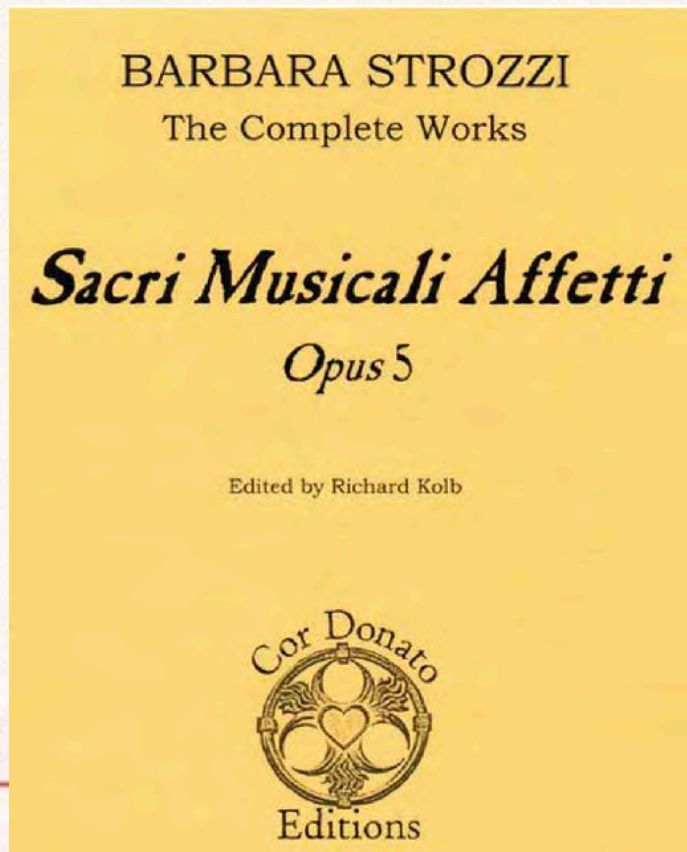
Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University

pmaust1@jh.edu



FT&M 16

FEMINIST THEORY & MUSIC



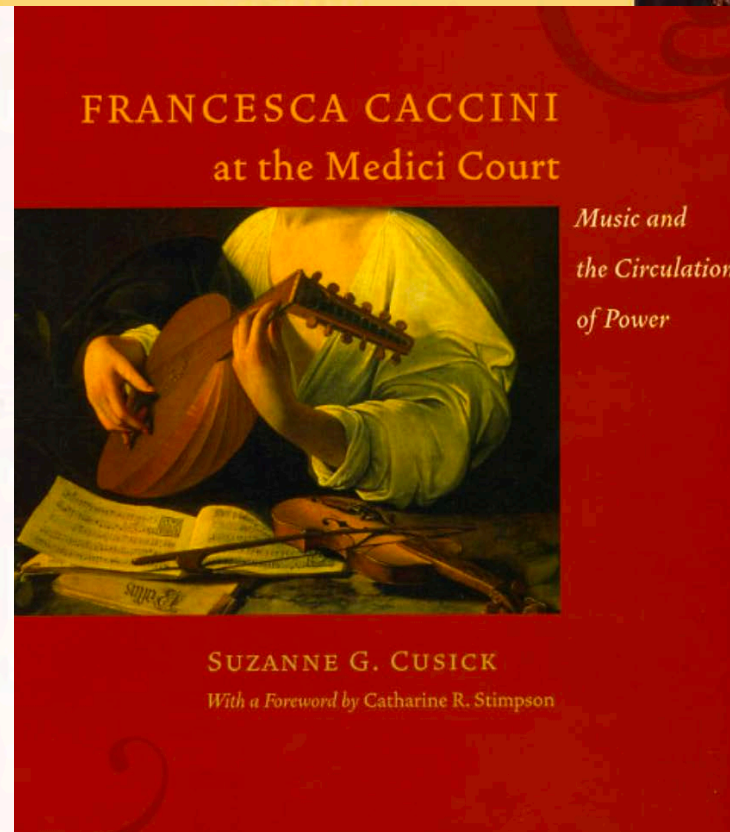
NAXOS AMERICAN CLASSICS



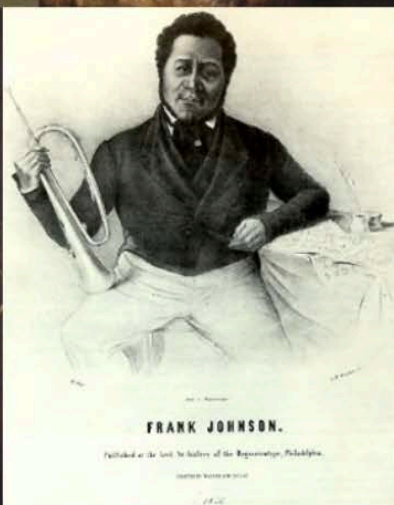
EDMOND DÉDÉ

Mon pauvre cœur
Françoise et Tortillard
Méphisto masqué
Battez aux champs
Chicago

Hot Springs
Music Festival
Richard Rosenberg



Professor Philip Ewell is
leading the charge for
a racial reckoning in
the field of
music theory



Expanding the Music Theory Canon

A Collection of Inclusive Music Theory Examples

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**2,930 musical examples in the 7 most-used
undergraduate music theory textbooks
in the U.S.**

1.67% are by BIPoC composers

2.15% are by women

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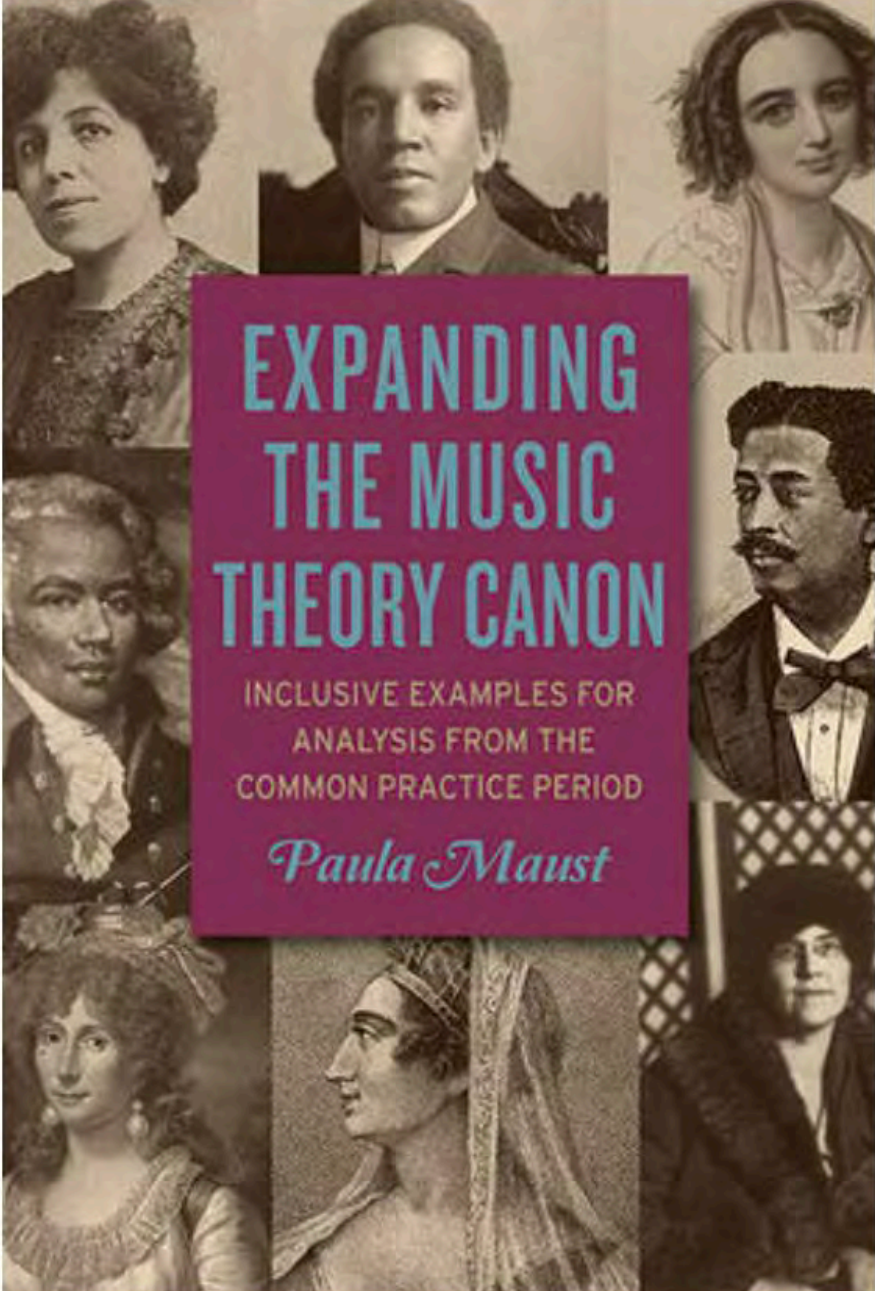
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EXPANDING THE MUSIC THEORY CANON

INCLUSIVE EXAMPLES FOR
ANALYSIS FROM THE
COMMON PRACTICE PERIOD

Paula Maust

Auralia & Musition are excited to be partnering with **Dr. Paula Maust** (Author, Peabody Institute) and SUNY Press to provide worksheets to accompany Paula's forthcoming book '**Expanding the Music Theory Canon**'.

Dr. Maust's work aims to present the works of underrepresented composers of Western classical music who were active from c.1600–1900. Auralia & Musition will be providing worksheets that align with various chapters of the anthology including harmonic analysis, cadence ID, and dictation questions.

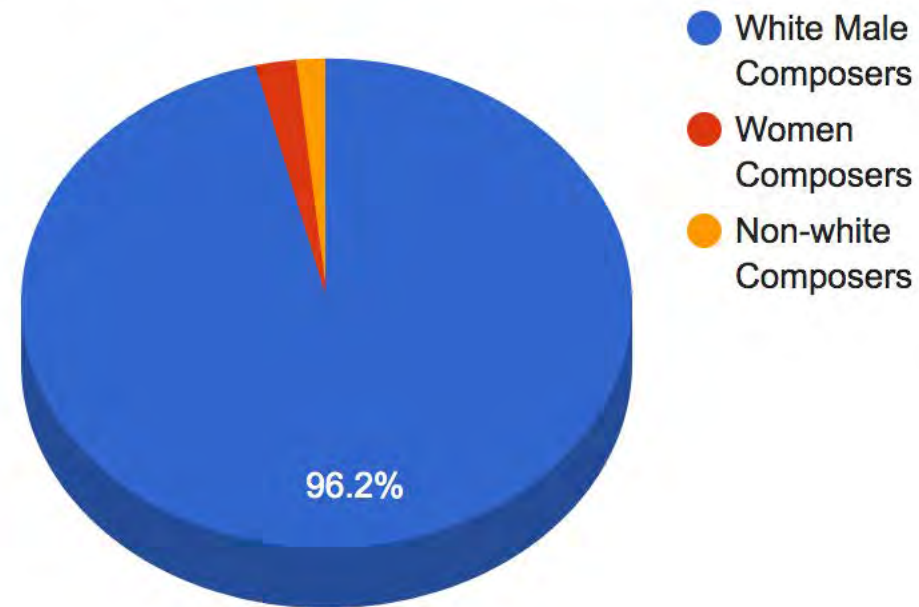


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Women, Gender, and Sexuality

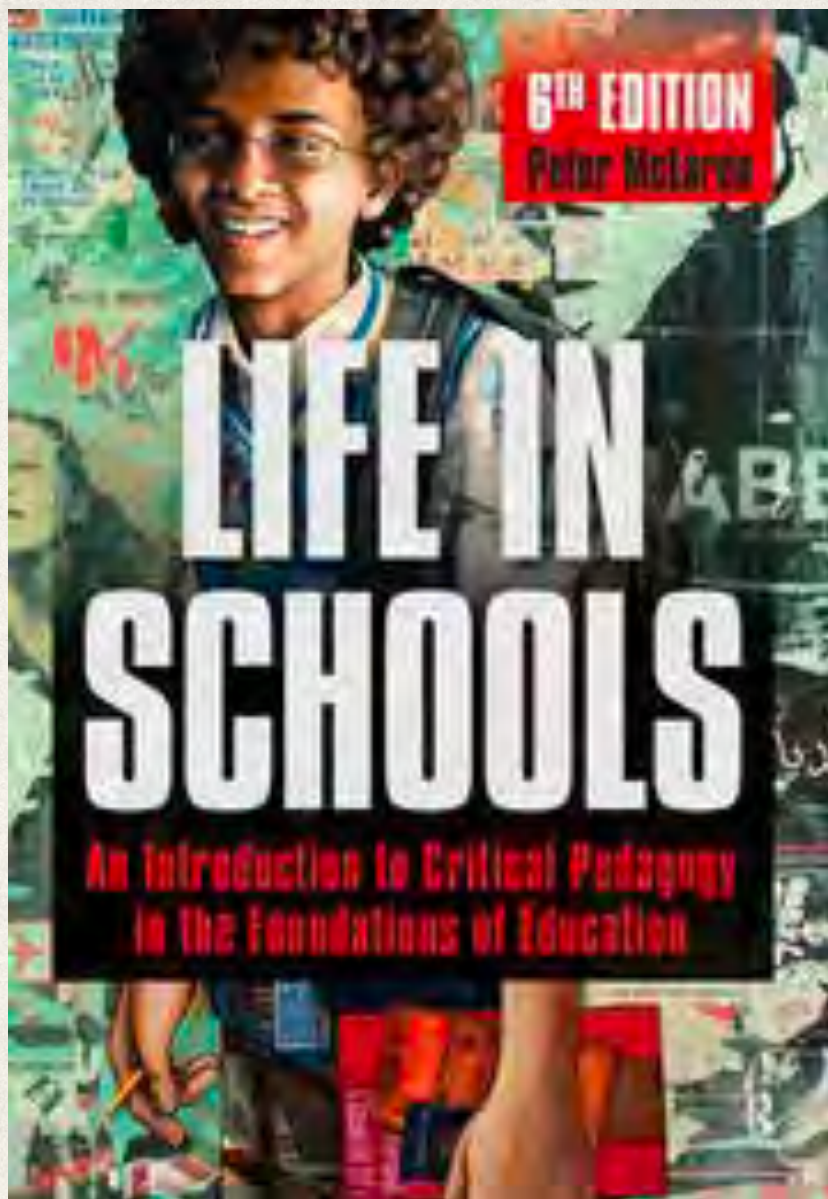
The *Grove Music Online* Women, Gender, and Sexuality project is unlike any other *Grove* has undertaken in its nearly 150-year history. In addition to revising, updating, and expanding coverage and inclusion of women and people of LGBTQ+ identities in *Grove*, who have been historically underrepresented, the Women, Gender, and Sexuality project rethinks the taxonomical categories, working relationships, hierarchies, and terminologies through which we consider music. Spanning both musicological and ethnomusicological topics and “classical” and “popular” musics, the *Grove Music Online* Women, Gender, and Sexuality project rethinks music-making worldwide.

Musical Examples in U.S. Theory Textbooks



Musical Examples in Music Theory Textbooks

Textbook	Total # of Examples	# of Examples by Women Composers	% of Examples by Women Composers	# of Examples by Non-white Composers	% of Examples by Non-white Composers
Aldwell and Schachter, 4th ed. (2011)	465	0	0%	0	0%
Benward and Saker, 9th ed. (2015)	333	11	3.33%	8	2.40%
Burstein and Straus, 1st ed. (2016)	304	5	1.64%	1	0.33%
Clendinning and Marvin, 3rd ed. (2016)	504	9	1.78%	15	2.98%
Kostka, Payne, and Almén, 8th ed. (2018)	370	10	2.70%	10	2.7%
Laitz, 4th ed. (2015)	550	2	0.36%	2	0.36%
Roig-Francoli, 2nd ed. (2010)	404	26	6.43%	13	3.22%
TOTALS	2930	63	2.15%	49	1.67%



Numbers are Just Not Enough: A Critical Analysis of Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Elementary and Middle School Health Textbooks

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Pauline Viardot-García
Commemorating the 200th Anniversary of Her Birth

Volume 27, No. 1 • 2021

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Racism and Sexism Remain Pervasive in Western Classical Music Instruction

PAULA MAUST

Despite thirty years of feminist music scholarship and the more recent incorporation of critical race theory in the discipline, mainstream music theory pedagogical resources continue to exclude the works of women and POC (people of color).¹ The seven most-used music theory textbooks in the U.S. contain 2930 musical examples, of which just 2.15% are by women and 1.67% are by POC.² Music history

sicians. Twenty-two respondents are aged 18-25; twenty-nine are 26-35; twenty are 36-45; nineteen are 46-55; fourteen are 56-65; and two are 66-75. Fifty-nine respondents identify as female; thirty-six as male; one as transgender female; two as transgender male; ten as gender variant/non-conforming; two as non-binary; and five as other. Eighty-seven respondents identify as white; nine as Asian; six as Black; three

women at earlier stages of their education. In fact, 57.89% of respondents under age thirty-five remember performing or studying a musical work by a woman prior to college. Imagine how many more brilliant careers will emerge when works by women and POC are a standard component of music instruction at all levels.

Fifty-seven of the seventy-five respondents who remembered their first encounter

Nearly every participant aged 18 to 35 indicated that studying a piece by a historical composer who shared some underrepresented aspect of their identity was a **critical, career defining moment.**

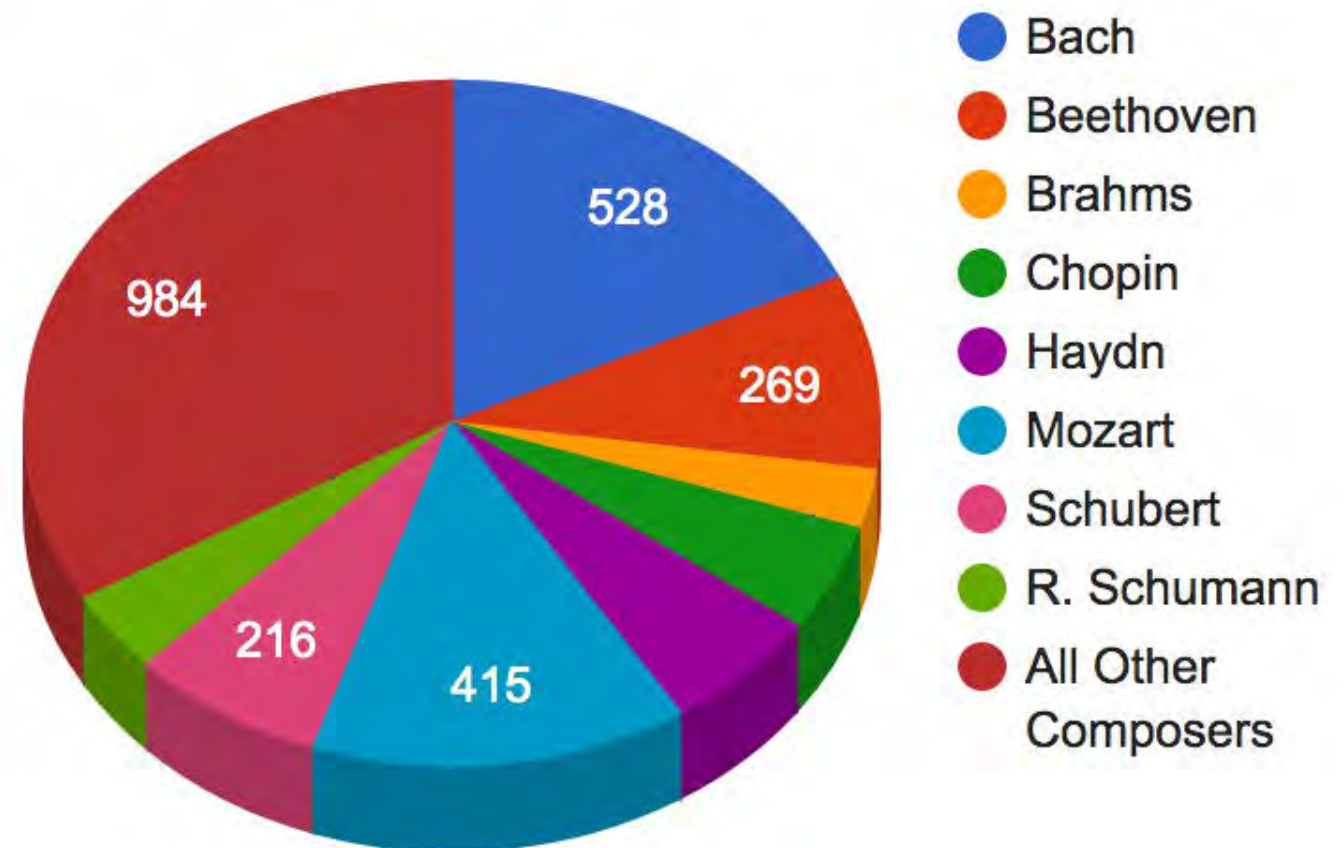
“It made me feel included in a world of old dead men.”

“It was a very significant experience, because as an African-American child I was always questioning whether playing classical music was something I “should” be doing.”

Top 10 Concert Composers

1. **Mozart**, W.A.
2. **Beethoven**, Ludwig van
3. **Bach**, Johann Sebastian
4. **Brahms**, Johannes
5. **Schubert**, Franz
6. **Schumann**, Robert
7. **Ravel**, Maurice
8. **Tchaikovsky**, Pyotr Ilyich
9. **Strauss**, Richard
10. **Chopin**, Fryderyk

Musical Examples in U.S. Theory Textbooks



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A Collection of Inclusive Music Theory Examples

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2,930 musical examples in the 7 most-used undergraduate music theory textbooks in the U.S.

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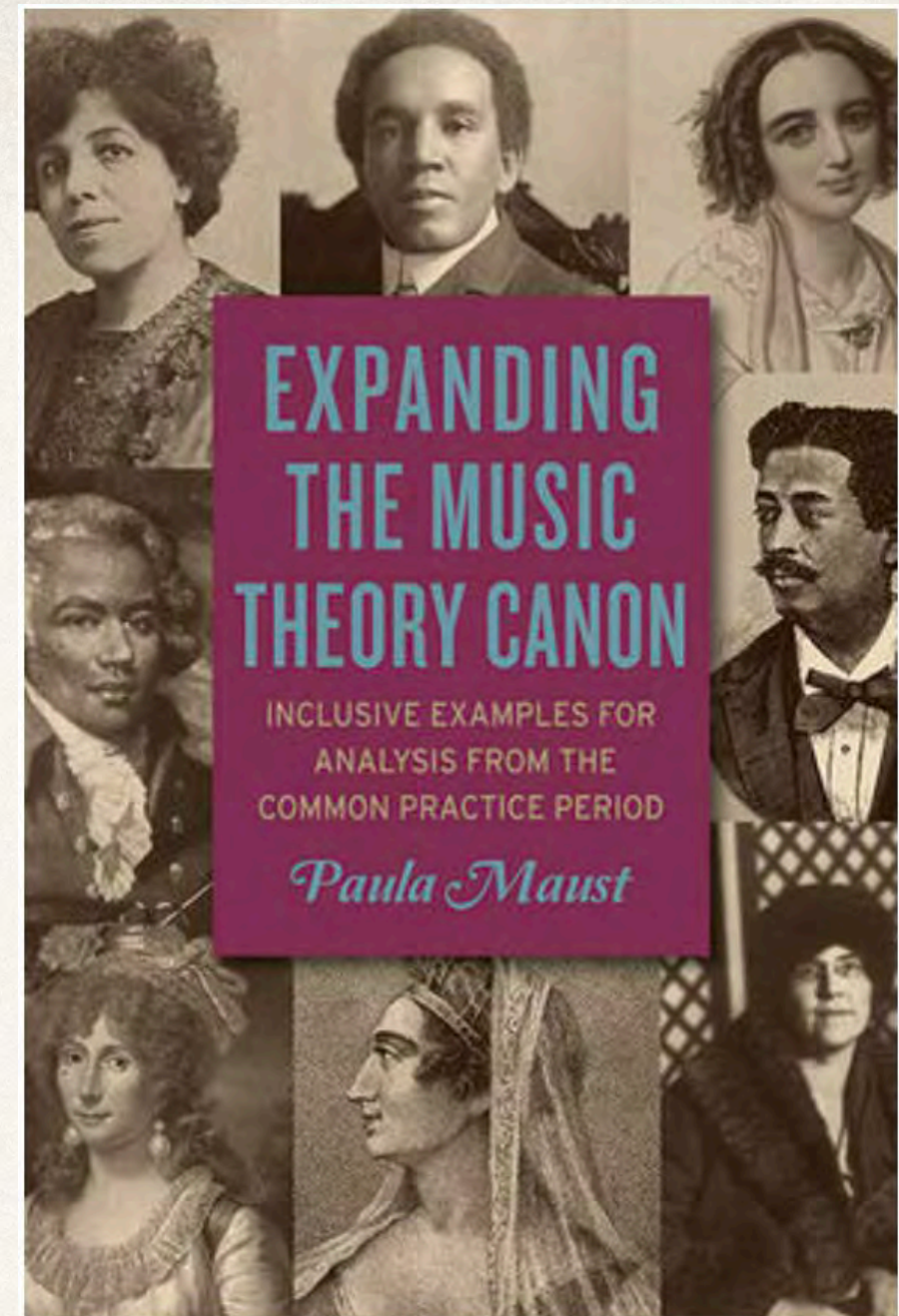
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Dr. Maust's work aims to present the works of underrepresented composers of Western classical music who were active from c.1600–1900. Auralia & Musition will be providing worksheets that align with various chapters of the anthology including harmonic analysis, cadence ID, and dictation questions.



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MISSION:

The Department of Music Theory, Ear Training, and Keyboard Skills strives to develop well-rounded musicians who are able to advocate for their artistry within the Western canon and beyond. We cultivate an atmosphere of curiosity and inquisitiveness in order to inspire our students to become life-long learners, active voices towards equity within the arts, and leaders within the musical community. Through our classes, students acquire a robust set of tools towards the comprehension, creation, and performance of music, and learn to express their insights verbally, through writing, and through their individual musical practice.

©Peabody Department
of Music Theory,
2022

VISION:

BUILDING upon our foundation of teaching the materials of Western Classical music within their cultural practice and context.

BROADENING our course offerings to reflect the interconnectedness and wide range of contemporary musical practices.

EMPOWERING students with more agency towards pursuing their own interests while maintaining a solid core curriculum designed to provide foundational knowledge.

VALUES:

- Provide a strong academic **FOUNDATION** for students that allows for the development of practical musical skills applicable in a variety of contexts.
- Amplify students' intellectual **CURIOSITY**, dedication to their craft, joy in learning, and persistence towards achieving their goals.
- Help students make the **CONNECTIONS** between music theory and practice to create more sophisticated musicians who possess a broad understanding of music and are fluent in a variety of theoretical techniques.
- Foster a classroom environment grounded in mutual **RESPECT** that supports a variety of analytic and personal perspectives.
- Dedication to effective teaching focused on individual student success, led by **FULL-TIME FACULTY** who are invested in undergraduate teaching and to continued development of impactful pedagogical techniques.
- Continued assessment of our curriculum in order to ensure that it is tailored to the changing needs of our student body, and balances **INNOVATION AND TRADITION**.



Auralia & Musition are excited to be partnering with **Dr. Paula Maust** (Author, Peabody Institute) and SUNY Press to provide worksheets to accompany Paula's forthcoming book '**Expanding the Music Theory Canon**'.

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Complete a harmonic analysis of the following excerpt. Enter the starting key and Roman numerals as required.

***Giusto Amor*, Louise Reichardt (1779 - 1826)**

ce

10

