

MUSIC THEORY MIDWEST

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MTMW Winter Newsletter



2009 Conference

Music Theory Midwest's Twentieth Annual Conference will be held May 15–16, 2009 at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. The conference will be a joint meeting with the Midwest chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology.

The MTMW keynote speaker, David Huron (The Ohio State University), will present a lecture titled "The Art of Listening: Music Scholarship in the Age of Fragmentation." The abstract for his address appears below.

Over the past century, a wealth of different approaches has arisen in the study of music. This methodological explosion has provided a welcome breath of fresh air: we are probing the phenomenon of music from a greater variety of perspectives than ever before. Unfortunately, this plurality of scholarly approaches has led to a fragmented academic community with insular tendencies. In understanding that complex whole which is music, there is a need to build bridges and to learn from each others' experiences. In this talk I attempt to present a hypothetical debate between historical musicology, ethnomusicology, music cognition, and music theory. My aim is to move beyond the caricatures by simply exposing them.

Steven Rings (University of Chicago) chairs the program committee, which also includes Kyle Adams (Indiana University), Nicole Biamonte (University of Iowa), Robert Cook (University of Iowa), Sigrun Heinzelmann (Oberlin College Conservatory), Michael Vidmar-McEwen (Indiana University), and Ronald Rodman (Carleton College), ex officio. The call for papers is included in this newsletter.

Local Arrangements committee chair Matthew Britzter-Stull is happy to welcome you to Minneapolis. Sixty hotel rooms are being held for May 14–16 (Thursday–Saturday nights) at the Holiday Inn Minneapolis Metrodome: (800) 448-3663. Rates are \$125 per night plus tax for single or double occupancy. Reservations must be made by April 23. The group name is Music Theory Midwest.

The conference site is an easy walk from the Holiday Inn. The Holiday Inn also offers shuttle service to and from the Metrodome Light Rail station, which connects with the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. The charge for light rail is only \$1–2 depending on time of day.

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Catherine Losada (University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music)
Steven Rings (University of Chicago)
Matthew Britzter-Stull (University of Minnesota)
Elizabeth Margulis (University of Arkansas)

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Timothy Best (Indiana University)
Jessica Barnett (University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music)

WEBMASTER

David Loberg Code (Western Michigan University)

A few rooms with local faculty and graduate students will also be made available for graduate students traveling in from out-of-town. Please contact Matt Bribitzer-Stull (mpbs@umn.edu) if you are interested in one of these.

There will be a conference dinner on Saturday night at the superb Campus Club setting with views of the Mississippi River and the Minneapolis skyline.

Full details of the May conference will be available on the MTMW web site:
<http://www.wmich.edu/mus-theo/mtmw/>.

2009 Membership

A membership form appears at the end of this newsletter. Annual dues are \$20 for regular membership, \$30 for joint membership, \$15 for emeritus membership, and \$10 for student or emeritus. Donations to the Arthur J. Komar Student Award are always welcome. ***Please renew soon to ensure the continued financial health of our organization and to be eligible to vote in the upcoming elections.***

Elections

During 2009, the terms of President, Area I Representative (KY, MI, OH), Area III representative (IA, MN, NE, ND, SD) and Areas II and IV Student Representative (IL, IN, WI, AR, KS, MO, OK, TN) will expire. The Executive Board has appointed a nominating committee to develop a slate of candidates. Nominations (including self-nominations) are welcome. Qualified nominees will be music theorists who teach or are otherwise engaged in theory studies in the Midwest. Area representatives must reside and/or teach in the areas that they represent. Student representatives should be engaged in graduate studies and should expect to continue their student status for at least one year after taking office. Students may not serve as officers or area representatives. All officers of the Executive Committee are expected to attend plenary sessions and the business meeting at the annual conference. Further information concerning the duties of Executive Committee Officers and election procedures is available on the MTMW web site at <http://www.wmich.edu/mus-theo/mtmw/>.

Please send nominations for the above offices to:

Nora Engebretsen
MTMW Nominating Committee
College of Musical Arts
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH 43402-0290
norae@bgsu.edu

Please postmark by January 15, 2009.

Call for Papers for our Twentieth Annual Conference

The Program Committee invites proposals for individual presentations on any area of music theory and analysis. As the conference will be a joint meeting with the Midwest chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology, the committee encourages proposals that engage issues of relevance to both ethnomusicology and music theory (for example, theoretical studies of non-canonical repertoires, or explorations of the relationship between ethnography and analysis). Music Theory Midwest also has a tradition of encouraging papers on composers, musicians, or compositions celebrating significant anniversaries in the year of the conference and welcomes proposals for special sessions devoted to a particular topic.

Please read the following instructions carefully. Submissions not conforming to these requirements will not be considered.

Individual Presentations: Papers should be planned for presentation in twenty minutes, followed by ten minutes for questions. A proposal for an individual presentation consists of two separate parts:

- The **cover letter** should list the author's name and email address, the paper title, and any special equipment required for the presentation. If the submitter wishes to be considered for the Komar Award (see below), this should be indicated in the cover letter.
- The **abstract** should not exceed 500 words and must be anonymous. Supplementary materials such as musical examples and diagrams may be included and do not count toward the word limit, but should not exceed two additional pages.

Paper Submissions: Send one cover letter and six copies of the abstract, postmarked not later than January 15, 2009, to:

Steven Rings
Program Chair, MTMW 2009
University of Chicago Department of Music
1010 East 59th St.
Chicago, IL 60637

Electronic Submissions: Electronic submissions are due no later than 15 January 2009. The cover letter information is entered directly into an online form. The abstract must be in .PDF format. No other file formats will be accepted. Examples/diagrams may be included in the same .PDF file with the abstract, or sent as separate .PDF files; if multiple files are submitted, all should be submitted at the same time. Authors are responsible for producing files that will display and print clearly, and for ensuring that the files contain no indication of authorship (including file names). Go to Online Submissions:

www.wmich.edu/mus-theo/mtmw/submit/cover.html

Special Sessions: Proposals for Special Sessions are encouraged. These are exempt from the word limit and will not be anonymous; the names of the organizer and all participants should be included in the proposal. Special Sessions should be unified in a way that is not normally characteristic of sessions assembled by the Program Committee from individually submitted papers. Anyone wishing to propose a Special Session is asked to contact the Program Chair via email at srings@uchicago.edu well in advance of the proposal deadline.

Komar Student Award: The Arthur J. Komar Award for best student paper will be presented at the conclusion of the meeting. Student presenters who wish to be considered for this award must identify this in their cover letters. For the purposes of this award, "student" status terminates with the receipt of a terminal degree or employment in a full-time position. Additional information about the Komar Award can be found at: www.wmich.edu/mus-theo/mtmw/komar.html.

This year's Komar Award Committee consists of Scott Murphy (University of Kansas, chair), Michael Cherlin (University of Minnesota), and Shersten Johnson (University of St. Thomas).

Notification: Those submitting proposals will receive notice of the Program Committee's decision by late February, when the preliminary program for the conference is assembled. Those whose proposals are accepted will be asked at this time to submit a 250-word abstract suitable for publication in the program booklet. In some cases, the Program Committee may request that a presentation be given in a format other than the usual twenty-minute paper. Music Theory Midwest expects that those who submit proposals will be able to attend the

conference. If at any time after submitting a proposal you learn that you will be unable to be present on May 15–16, please contact the Program Chair immediately to withdraw your proposal from consideration. Please do not wait until the Committee's decisions are announced; doing so could cause complications affecting the entire conference program.