

# MUSIC THEORY MIDWEST

## Fall 2019 Newsletter

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## Music Theory Midwest Thirty-First Annual Conference University of Wisconsin–Madison May 15–16, 2020

The University of Wisconsin–Madison will host the Thirty-First Annual Conference of Music Theory Midwest on May 15–16, 2020. The conference will feature a keynote address by Yayoi Uno Everett (University of Illinois at Chicago), “Opera in Flux: Multimodal Narrative and Narrative Agency,” and a pre-conference workshop, led by Danuta Mirka (Northwestern University), “Counting Bars (Then and Now),” open to both student and faculty participants.

Proposals should be submitted by January 15, 2020. Workshop applications should be received by March 15, 2020. See below for further details.

### CALL FOR PAPERS

Music Theory Midwest invites scholars from all geographic regions to submit proposals on any area of music theory and analysis for our annual conference. As is traditional at MTMW, we encourage proposals on composers, musicians, and events with significant anniversaries in 2020, and we welcome proposals for special sessions devoted to these or any other topics.

Notable anniversaries in 2020: Jenny Lind (b. 1820), Charlie Parker (b. 1920), Dave Brubeck (b. 1920), Ravi Shankar (b. 1920). This year also marks the anniversaries of Liszt’s first public performance (1820), the premieres of Korngold’s *Die tote Stadt* (1920) and Stravinsky’s *Pulcinella* (1920), and the first complete performance of Holst’s *The Planets* (1920).

### Individual Presentations

Papers should be planned for twenty minutes followed by ten minutes for questions. In some cases, the program committee may recommend that a proposal be presented as a poster. Submitters may indicate a preference to present their work in a poster session. Papers should not previously have been presented at national or international conferences, nor should they have been previously published. Only one proposal per submitter will be considered.

Proposals should be submitted electronically via the MTMW website. Submissions are due by January 15, 2020. Submit the proposal and supplemental materials as a single document in PDF format. The proposal should not exceed 500 words, including any footnotes or endnotes but not including the title. A maximum of four pages of supplementary materials (such as musical examples, diagrams, and bibliography) may be appended, and are excluded from the word count, but these materials should not add appreciably to the proposal’s content. The proposal must include the title of the paper but exclude the author’s name and any other identifying information. Such information should also be removed from the metadata of the file.

### Special Sessions

Proposals for special sessions have no specific page limit. The names of the organizer and all participants should be indicated on the online submission form. Special sessions should be organized in such a way that the program committee could not create them

from separately submitted individual proposals. Anyone wishing to propose a special session should contact the Program Committee chair, Michael Baker ([pcc@mtmw.org](mailto:pcc@mtmw.org)), well in advance of the proposal deadline.

### **Arthur J. Komar 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 indicate their eligibility in the online submission form. 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 and a list of past recipients can be found at the MTMW website.

### **Submissions**

To submit a proposal, visit the following link: <https://mtmw.org/index.php/conferences/submit-a-proposal>

### **Deadline**

Submissions must be received by January 15, 2020.

### **Notification**

Those submitting proposals will receive notification of the program committee’s decision by early March.

### **Program Committee**

Michael Baker (University of Kentucky), chair; Matt Chiu (Eastman School of Music), 2019 Komar Award winner; Michèle Duguay (CUNY Graduate Center), 2019 Komar Award winner; Dave Easley (Oklahoma City University); Melissa Hoag (Oakland University); Olga Sánchez-Kisielewska (University of Chicago); and Anna Gawboy (Ohio State University), *ex officio*.

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## **CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS**

Music Theory Midwest invites applications for a pre-conference workshop, “Counting Bars (Then and Now),” led by Danuta Mirka (Northwestern University).

Counting bars as a way of determining the length and proportion of melodic sections was practiced by music theorists since the end of the seventeenth century. It features in writings of such authors as Wolfgang Caspar Printz, Joseph Riepel, Friedrich Wilhelm Marpurg, Johann Kirnberger, and Heinrich Christoph Koch. As their discussions make clear, what they meant by counting was not an analytical technique they devised but a cognitive mechanism underpinning all kinds of rhythmic activities. In modern studies of numerical cognition this mechanism of subliminal counting is known as “subitizing.” In this workshop we will compare results of experimental research on subitizing with its discussions in historical sources in order to cast light on anomalies in the process of counting invoked by eighteenth-century authors to account for phrase-structural irregularities. We will bring both types of evidence to bear on such irregularities in selected compositions by Joseph Haydn.

The pre-conference workshop will take place on May 14, 2020, the evening before the conference. Participants will be assigned a few preparatory readings and musical examples to review.

### **Eligibility**

All interested students and faculty are encouraged to apply. Participants are not required to reside in the Midwest region.

### **Application Procedure**

Send an email with your name, institutional affiliation, and email address to Christopher Segall ([secretary@mtmw.org](mailto:secretary@mtmw.org)). Student applicants must also submit a brief statement describing their background and their interest in the workshop.

### **Deadline**

Applications must be received by March 15, 2020.

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## LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Mead-Witter School of Music at the University of Wisconsin–Madison is pleased to be hosting the annual meeting of Music Theory Midwest. All conference activities will take place in the School of Music’s new concert facility, the Hamel Music Center, which opened in fall 2019. The Hamel Music Center features the 661-seat Mead-Witter Foundation Concert Hall, the 299-seat Collins Recital Hall, and the Sing Man & Lee/Annette Kaufman Rehearsal Hall, the latter two of which will be used for conference sessions. All three venues are fully accessible.

The Hamel Music Center is a short walk from the Memorial Union, whose Terrace opens out onto Lake Madison, and which is a popular warm-weather attraction. It also adjoins State Street, a mile-long pedestrian mall running from the University to the State Capitol.

The University’s Lowell Center will serve as the conference hotel. Rates for conference attendees are \$131.76 (double room) and \$140.67 (single room). To book online, go to <http://bit.ly/31tCQa3> and enter the group code SCHMUSIC. Only a limited number of rooms have been reserved, so attendees are advised to make early reservations. Onsite parking is available for \$10 a night; offsite parking is available for free. Conference attendees should be aware that downtown Madison can be difficult to navigate by car, and that what little parking there is on the Isthmus is expensive.

For additional information, please contact the local arrangements chair, Brian Hyer ([local\\_arrangements@mtmw.org](mailto:local_arrangements@mtmw.org)).

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Arthur J. Komar Award Winners

Two winners were selected for the 2019 Arthur J. Komar Award for outstanding student presentation at the annual meeting. In alphabetical order:

Matt Chiu (Eastman School of Music), “A Systematic Approach to Macroharmonic Progressions: Duruflé’s Requiem through Fourier Space”: The award committee was particularly struck by Chiu’s ability to apply the Discrete Fourier Transform to a computational analysis of a musical score. The paper presented its concepts in a way that was easily accessible to non-specialists and had audible connections to the repertoire under consideration. Chiu critically reflected on his own work and that of others, and demonstrated the applicability of his model outside of his own subfield.

Michèle Duguay (CUNY Graduate Center), “A Model of Measuring Physical Balance in Contemporary Piano Works”: The committee was impressed with Duguay’s development of an original analytic methodology that models a performer’s experience of physical balance and its proposed relationship to metaphors of consonance and dissonance. The paper engaged repertoire composed in the past few years, extending the analytical canon. Duguay situated her work within literature on embodiment, and offered an instrument-specific consideration of the relationship between performance and analysis.

Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to the Komar Award Committee: Anna Gawboy (Ohio State University), chair; Kyle Adams (Indiana University); Carla Colletti (Webster University); and Olga Sánchez-Kisielewska (University of Chicago).

### Executive Committee Election Results

Elections were held in spring 2019 for five positions. New members of the Executive Committee are Anna Gawboy (Ohio State University), President; Daphne Tan (University of Toronto), Treasurer; Christopher Brody (University of Louisville), Area I Representative; Sumanth Gopinath (University of Minnesota), Area III Representative; and Christa Cole (Indiana University), Student Representative for Areas II and IV. Sincere thanks to the outgoing members for their service: Stanley Kleppinger (University of Nebraska–Lincoln), René Rusch (University of Michigan), Gretchen Foley (University of Nebraska–Lincoln), and Miriam Pilonen (Northwestern University). Thanks to the Nominating Committee: Per Broman (Bowling Green State University), chair; Anabel Maler (University of Iowa); and Cara Stroud (Michigan State University).

## Technology Committee

Jinny Park (Indiana University) has been appointed web manager and chair of the Technology Committee. Other committee members are Sebastian Bisciglia (University of Toronto) and Nathan Lam (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). Many thanks to Sebastian Bisciglia for his four years of service as Technology Committee chair.

## Subsidized Conference Registration Rate

The Executive Committee has approved a subsidized conference registration rate of \$15/20 (early/late) for those who have completed their graduate study and whose income is \$35,000 or less. This complements the existing subsidized membership rate, with annual dues of \$15.

## Bylaw Amendment

At the spring 2019 business meeting, the membership of Music Theory Midwest voted to approve the following amendment to Section V of the bylaws, addressing the resolution of election ties:

*In the event of a tie vote in an election for any Executive Committee position, the President will confidentially inform the chair of the Nominating Committee of the tie, and the vote of the chair will resolve the tie vote. Only the President and the chair of the Nominating Committee will know that there has been a tie vote and how it has been resolved.*

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## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In spring 2020, Music Theory Midwest will hold elections for the positions of Secretary, Area II Representative (Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin), Area IV Representative (Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee), and Student Representative for Areas I and III (Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Ontario, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Manitoba).

Nominations, including self-nominations, are welcome. Qualified nominees should be music theorists who reside 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. Elected members of the Executive Committee should plan to attend the annual conference and participate in the business meeting. Further information concerning the duties of Executive Committee members and election procedures may be found in the bylaws, available on the MTMW website.

The Nominating Committee consists of Gregory Decker (Bowling Green State University), chair; Jonathan Guez (College of Wooster); and Melissa Hoag (Oakland University). Please send nominations to Gregory Decker ([nominate@mtmw.org](mailto:nominate@mtmw.org)) by January 15, 2020.

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## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in Music Theory Midwest is for the calendar year. The financial well-being of the society relies on a consistent membership base. Renewing your membership in early 2020 will enable you to vote in the elections and attend the annual conference.

Annual dues are \$25 for regular membership, \$35 for joint membership, \$15 for emeritus membership, \$15 for subsidized membership, and \$10 for student membership. Donations to the Arthur J. Komar Award are always welcome. You can check your membership status and pay annual dues at the MTMW website:

<https://mtmw.org/index.php/my-mtmw/renew-membership>