

MUSIC THEORY MIDWEST

Fall 2020 Newsletter

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Music Theory Midwest Thirty-Second Annual Conference Online June 10–13, 2021

The Thirty-Second Annual Conference of Music Theory Midwest will be held online June 10–13. The conference will feature a keynote address by Yayoi Uno Everett (University of Illinois at Chicago), “Opera in Flux: Multimodal Narrative and Narrative Agency” (June 12) and a pre-conference workshop, led by Danuta Mirka (Northwestern University), “Phrase Expansions and Hypermeter” (June 11), open to both student and faculty participants.

The MTMW Executive Committee has made the difficult decision of holding our annual conference virtually. Presentation materials will be available for viewing in advance and live webinars on the conference dates will be dedicated to brief summaries by each presenter followed by questions and discussion.

Proposals should be submitted by January 15, 2021. Workshop applications should be received by March 15, 2021. 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 2021, and we welcome proposals for special sessions devoted to these or any other topics.

Notable anniversaries in 2021 include: Louis Armstrong (b. 1901), Malcom Arnold (b. 1921), Louis Ballard (b. 1931), Unsuk Chin (b. 1961), James Reese Europe (b. 1881), Marvin Gaye’s *What’s Going On*, Sofia Gubaidulina (b. 1931), Joy Harjo (b. 1951), Scott Joplin’s *Treemonisha* (1911), Engelbert Humperdinck (d. 1921), Halim Abdul Messieh El-Dabh (b. 1921), Charlie Patton (b. 1891), Jim Pepper, (b. 1941), Astor Piazzolla (b. 1921), Josquin Des Prez (d. 1521), Camille Saint-Saëns (d. 1921), Ruth Crawford Seeger (b. 1901), William Grant Still’s *Afro-American Symphony* (1931), Igor Stravinsky (d. 1971), Koichi Sugiyama (b. 1931), Jan Sweelinck (d. 1621), Giuseppe Verdi’s *Aida* (1871), Pauline Viardot (b.1821), Andrew Lloyd Weber’s *Jesus Christ Superstar* (1971), James Weldon Johnson (b. 1871), John Wesley Work III (b. 1901).

Individual Presentations

Presentations should be planned for a twenty-minute video or a written paper of equivalent length. 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, 2021. 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, Hali Fieldman (pcc@mtmw.org), well in advance of the proposal deadline.

Arthur J. Komar Award

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 Call for Paper page on the MTMW website: <https://mtmw.org/index.php/conferences/call-for-papers>. Proposal submission portal will be available in late December.

Deadlines

Submissions must be received by January 15, 2021. Presenters whose proposals are accepted for the conference must submit their completed materials (either a 20-minute video or an equivalent .pdf file) by May 15.

Notification

Those submitting proposals will receive notification of the program committee's decision by mid-March.

Program Committee

Hali Fieldman (University of Missouri-Kansas City), chair; Karl Braunschweig (Wayne State University); Jennifer Campbell (University of Kentucky); Fred Hosken (Northwestern University); Joon Park (University of Arkansas); Anabel Maler (University of Iowa); and Anna Gawboy (Ohio State University), *ex officio*.

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Music Theory Midwest invites applications for an online conference workshop, "Phrase Expansions and Hypermeter" led by Danuta Mirka (Northwestern University).

Phrase expansions have been so far considered from a Schenkerian perspective and their effect upon hypermeter described in terms of a split between surface and underlying hypermeter. In this workshop they will be approached from a cognitive perspective informed by eighteenth-century music theory. This will lead to a novel classification of phrase expansions and result in redefining their relation to hypermeter. Theoretical argument will be intertwined with analyses of Haydn's and Mozart's chamber music for strings, which showcase a dynamic model of hypermeter developed by Danuta Mirka in her new book (*Hypermetric Manipulations in Haydn and Mozart*), forthcoming from Oxford University Press.

The conference workshop will take place on Friday, June 11, 10:00AM CST via Zoom. 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 Olga Sánchez-Kisielewska (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, 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Arthur J. Komar Award Winner

The recipient of the 2020 Arthur J. Komar Award for outstanding student presentation at the annual meeting is Fred Hosken (Northwestern University) for the paper “Metric Feel and Form in ‘Superstition’: Analyzing Stevie Wonder’s Beat ‘Pockets.’”

The award committee was impressed with Hosken’s development of an original analytical methodology that extends foundational theories of musical meter to reflect the vocabulary of practicing jazz, funk, and popular musicians. The paper presented a compelling analysis of an important work from the popular music canon and connected this analysis to listener accounts of perceived intensity.

Congratulations to the winner and thanks to the Komar Award Committee: Megan Kaes Long (Oberlin Conservatory of Music), chair; Jonathan De Souza (University of Western Ontario), Marc Hannaford (University of Michigan), and Nora Engebretsen (Bowling Green State University).

Executive Committee Election Results

Elections were held in spring 2020 for four positions. New members of the Executive Committee are Olga Sánchez-Kisielewska (University of Chicago), Secretary; Rebecca Perry (Lawrence University), Area II Representative; Clare Eng (Belmont University), Area IV Representative; and Tyler Secor (University of Cincinnati), Student Representative for Areas I and III.

Sincere thanks to the outgoing members for their service: Cristopher Segall (University of Cincinnati), Secretary; Brett Clement (Ball State University), and Jeremy Orosz (University of Memphis), Area Representatives; Martin Ross (Western University), Student Representative. Thanks to the Nominating Committee: Gregory Decker (Bowling Green State University), chair; Jonathan Guez (College of Wooster); and Melissa Hoag (Oakland University).

Technology Committee

Nathan Smith (Yale University) joins the Technology Committee, where David Orvek (Indiana University) will assist Jinny Park as acting co-chair. Many thanks to outgoing members Sebastian Bisciglia (University of Toronto) and Nathan Lam (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In spring 2021, Music Theory Midwest will hold elections for the positions of President, Treasurer, Area I Representative (Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Western Ontario), Area III Representative (Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Manitoba) and Student Representative for Areas I and III (Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee).

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

(online for 2020). 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 Alan Gosman (University of Arkansas), chair; Áine Heneghan (University of Michigan); and Kara Yoo Leaman (Oberlin Conservatory of Music). Please send nominations to (nominate@mtmw.org) by January 15, 2021.

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 2021 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>