

The H. Wiley Hitchcock Institute for Studies in American Music

In collaboration with the Brooklyn College Composer's Forum, The Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,
and the Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College

Music in Polycultural America Virtual Conversations, Fall 2020

How We Got Here, Where To Now? Coming to Terms with Academic Music's Past

PHIL EWELL in conversation with ELLEN BAKULINA and JOE STRAUS

The past is now under great scrutiny in music studies. How do we teach music to our students? How do we examine music in analysis, and how do we choose the music we consider worthy of attention? In this talk I consider our past so that we might chart a path for the future. Only through an exhaustive study of the past can we truly understand why the academic study of music is what it is today: an exclusionist field of study centered around whiteness and maleness. In coming to terms with our difficult past, we—white, black, and everyone in between—can create a new, rich, and inclusive academic study of music.

PHILIP EWELL is Associate Professor of Music Theory at Hunter College, CUNY. His specialties include Russian music and music theory, Russian opera, modal theory, and critical race studies. He received the 2019–20 Presidential Award for Excellence in Creative Work at Hunter College. He is the Susan McClary and Robert Walser Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies and a Virtual Scholar in Residence at the University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music, both for this academic year. He is currently working on a monograph combining race and feminist studies with music and music theory.

ELLEN BAKULINA is Assistant Professor of Music theory at the University of North Texas. She has degrees from the CUNY, McGill University, and the College of the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory. Ellen's areas of interest include theories of form and meter in tonal music, Schenkerian analysis, the music of Rachmaninoff, and the Russian music-theoretical tradition. Her articles have appeared in *Intersections*, *Music Theory Online*, the *Journal of Music Theory*, *Intégral*, and *Theoria*, among others.

JOSEPH STRAUS is Distinguished Professor of Music Theory at the CUNY Graduate Center, specializing in music since 1900. He has written technical music-theoretical articles, analytical studies of music by a variety of modernist composers, and, most recently, a series of articles and books that engage disability as a cultural practice. He has written textbooks that have become standard references. Many of his books and articles have received publication awards from the Society for Music Theory, of which he was President from 1997–99.

Tuesday, 27 October, 12:30pm

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