

Response draft

Heidlberger, Frank <Frank.Heidlberger@unt.edu>

Mon 7/27/2020 4:32 PM

To: Brand, Benjamin <Benjamin.Brand@unt.edu>

■ 1 attachments (151 KB)

Statement draft and ideas.docx;

Dear Benjamin

As mentioned I am sending you the attached draft. It is by no means meant as something publishable but includes some thoughts for a specific response about the values and ethics of the MHTE faculty. Recent FB posts indicate that all of us, or at least Theory faculty, could be pulled into a very negative reputation. Phil just posted on FB that he canceled his visit to UNT, quoting his message to Ellen and Stephen, talking about the situation with "your journal." This is why we need to distance ourselves from the journal. If not institutionally since this won't be possible, then individually. I as faculty member do not want to be associated with any of this, damaging my reputation and acceptance in the field. I am afraid that Phil now also withdraws his article from Theoria that was about to be published. I haven't heard from him yet.

Let me know what you think.

[I wanted to edit the draft before sending it to you, but I have something else that needs immediate attention, so please take it as is]

Frank

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Statement from the Division of Music History, Theory and Ethnomusicology of the University of North Texas

In light of the current discourse of “White Framing of Music Theory,” the Journal of Schenkerian Studies published response articles about Phil Ewell’s presentation at SMT [title], now also available as an article in MTO [...]. The call for papers, the editorial process and the content of some of the articles published by JSS have been strongly criticized on social media, particularly Facebook and Twitter. Main points of criticism are the short response time for the Call for papers, the inconsistent solicitation of responses, and the explicitly racist statements in some of the articles representing exactly the “white framing” that Dr. Ewell is fighting against. This criticism of the handling of this important topic by the Journal of Schenkerian Studies and the content of some of its responses cannot remain uncommented by the Division of Music History, Theory and Ethnomusicology, which formally houses the Center of Schenkerian Studies and its journal.

The Division, and its theory faculty in particular wishes to clarify that the opinions represented by the Journal of Schenkerian Studies do not represent the work ethics and scholarly standards held up by the faculty as a whole. The theory area and the division is deeply concerned and distances itself from the editorial processing and content of this volume. The upper administration of UNT is aware of the situation and will react appropriately.

The theory area consists of 11 full-time faculty members that perform work on the highest level of scholarly rigor and with a deep understanding of the importance of diversifying the field regarding areas of research and personnel. The Theory area has diversified its curriculum toward non-Western and non-classical music, integrating these topics into its undergraduate core as well as its Master’s and Doctoral programs. The area has successfully implemented a spirit of openness and communication along with its sister disciplines of Musicology and Ethnomusicology, encouraging cross-disciplinary studies related to gender, race and social studies in music. The student body of the UNT College of Music is highly diverse and the MHTE division strongly supports these students in pursuing their goals toward a professional training in music.

Racism and “white framing” do not have a space at UNT and its academic units, as it is expressed in the mission statement of MHTE [...]. The faculty of the theory area, the MHTE Division, and the College of Music of UNT welcomes the critical discourse that supports a strong rejection of any racist or otherwise motivated exclusion of individuals from academia and promotes a diverse approach to its fields and topics.

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