



Levi, Chris
Active Now



You created this group

7/25/20, 10:45 PM

Levi, Chris and I wanted to start a thread so that we can discuss some of the matters with JSS

Levi



Hi Chris and Ben. I'm glad we can talk!

So he understands that this was not our idea and that it came from the advisory board.

Chris, we are open to discussion because we really were not at the forefront of this initiative

I have to go to sleep now, I'm in another time zone.

But I'm glad we can talk

Levi



Oh, I thought we were going to talk now

Chris



Great, thanks for setting up this chat! We can just talk tomorrow if you like.

Levi



Oh, alright. No problem

Chris



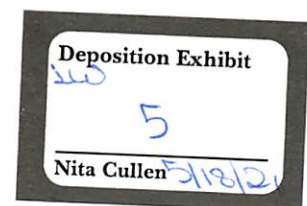
Or Levi, just you and me.

Levi



Do you mind, Ben?

UNT_000442





Levi, Chris
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I don't mind!

Levi

Alright. Hi Chris. So, I want to let you know that I'm really on twitter's side for most of this. I don't have twitter, but I've been seeing a lot of the criticism, which is very justified. If it were up to me, people on the advisory board would not be allowed to publish in the journal, because that kind of destroys all accountability. I must admit, that I'm new to all of this. I assumed what would happen would be that we would have a second round of responses (responses to responses) at which point Phil would be able to respond (which is something that Ben and I really wanted).



Chris

Hey Levi, I really enjoyed working with you on my essay. It seems clear that you're in a precarious position as a graduate student editor. Any red flags that come up, you probably aren't in a position to do anything about.



Yes exactly Levi

Chris



I can definitely say that I assumed that Phil was involved in some sort of way.

I agree and I'm in a similar position. I was editor when Tim Jackson and Stephen Slottow were my dissertation advisors. Now, they are my colleagues and on promotions committees, etc. that have a significant stake in my employment. Volume 12 was largely ready before the SMT and I was passing the baton to Levi when these ideas came up.

Chris

Definitely. Totally clear as well.

So what do you guys know about the invitations for rebuttals to Phil's talk?

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Someone I know was directly invited to submit something, but he declined.

Levi and I were the ones that sought out to make a call, and we actually tried to solicit more women and PoC!

I know Tim solicited some on his own. But for us, we can't go in and intercept his emails to people

Some*

Levi



I did not know about rebuttals. What venue were those in? I assume they are forthcoming.

Chris do you mean responses to Ewell?

Chris



By rebuttals I mean all the negative essays in Volume 12.

Or responses to JSS?



My guess is that Tim Jackson solicited a lot on his own. But, it's hard to trace because if he wrote people via his own email and encouraged them to submit then Levi won't know

Levi



Oh, I see. No, I hadn't heard. Obviously, any debate is great. I know Ben and I were hoping for as many positive responses as possible in the JSS volume. But a significant portion of people that submitted were in the other camp.

Chris



Got it! It's crazy that you guys as editors didn't even know that some responses were solicited behind the scenes.

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were solicited behind the scenes.

I totally agree; we wanted to see more

It's blowing up and honestly we never even wanted to do it

But it's my dissertation advisor and higher ranking colleague, plus we wanted to publish supporting essays

I would nominate a name change for the center and the JSS— by the way



I think with the current advisors it would possibly not pass

Levi



I would as well. Jackson and Slottow would not allow it though.

So that's the battle we are fighting

Chris

You guys are definitely in a really difficult position here. I can tell you that when I first saw the CFP—with its very fast deadline at a very busy time of year—I assumed it was constructed to discourage submissions. The Journal of Schenkerian Studies is already a very conservative journal. Prior to its founding in 2006, and especially in the 1980s and '90s, there was no need for a Journal of Schenkerian Studies because Music Theory Spectrum was already effectively a journal of Schenkerian studies. So given the venue and the CFP, I was assuming negative responses. That's part of why I was motivated to contribute. I wanted there to be something in support of Phil.



Levi

I can see that. Definitely not something I or Ben considered. We were about to finish the journal, which was supposed to be published in November or early December, when the advisory board got really gungho about a response to Ewell.



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Levi

I can see that. Definitely not something I or Ben considered. We were about to finish the journal, which was supposed to be published in November or early December, when the advisory board got really gungho about a response to Ewell. And so, we made the deadline very short.



I definitely see your point!! We are so so happy you wrote. Part of the reason we had a shorter call is because we had vol 12 ready and we needed to get it to our publishers. We should have usher the whole thing to volume 13!! I think you should write the letter, but address the advisory board, and state how the editors were in a compromised position.

Levi



Yes, putting it in volume 13 would have been preferable.

Pushed* the whole thing

Chris I have to go, but thank you for hearing us out. There needs to be action here and I am glad we talked. I want to continue but it is really late here

Levi



No worries, Ben.

Chris

Totally fine, Ben. Thanks for reaching out.

Levi, are you in any position at all to distance yourself from the journal issue?

And it's okay if that's impossible. Ben's suggestion to state that you were in a compromised position will work.



Levi

I tried to do that with the opening to the symposium. I tried to do it in such a way

UNT_000446



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Levi

I tried to do that with the opening to the symposium. I tried to do it in such a way that I wasn't explicitly stating that I was opposed to the responses from most of the Schenkerians. Over the course of all this, I feel like I'm between a rock and a hard place. I like the job in general, because I love editing and being involved in research, but I'm not in a position to go against the people who control the journal. As the editor of the journal going forward, I really want to take it in a better direction. But I'm worried that I can't.



Levi

And I also don't want to lose my job because I have a baby to support. So I don't know what to do.



Chris

Then I think the best thing we can do is to really clarify in the letter that the editors are a graduate student and recent graduate, and that it's the advisory board who makes all the decisions. Any condemnation must be directed at the advisory board.



Levi

I know that Dr. Jackson stated in an email chain that he wanted any emails to be directed toward him. I mean, I'm sure he will get them anyway (as his contribution was pretty horrendous). I'm being quite candid with you; lately I've been trying to figure out how to distance myself from him (because he's my advisor) without causing any fallout. This is all just so much.



Chris

It may be best for the advisory board to resign. The open letter may well call for that, I don't know.



7/27/20, 1:51 AM

Chris

Hey Ben, hey Levi. Would you feel comfortable confirming some information I

UNT_000447



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Active Now



7/27/20, 1:51 AM

Chris

Hey Ben, hey Levi. Would you feel comfortable confirming some information I received? Apparently some contributors, those that Tim Jackson reached out to directly, were allowed to submit their essays as late as mid-March. Is that true? Again, it's okay if you don't feel comfortable responding.



Chris

Also, one suggestion that's come up is for SMT to create a policy for supervising grad student journal editors.



7/27/20, 5:30 AM

Levi

Hey, sorry for the late response. I'm not sure what the latest submission was that he asked us to take. I know that the journal was already submitted to the publisher by mid March, so maybe late February or early March at the latest. But yes, we were told to take late submissions without questions. He had a general disregard for deadlines. I can't say that it was 100 percent tailored towards authors of his choosing because he had us take Clark's submission late, but certainly the positive articles were more observant of the deadline. And also, I don't think Clark was more than a few days late, if I remember correctly. Does that help? I think that, had there been guidelines like that in order, the experience at the journal would have been much better for me. So I hope that they continue to pursue that.

30 AM



7/27/20, 7:02 AM

Yes

7/27/20, 8:53 AM

Chris

Thank you both. I have this information from a couple of sources now, so if I mention the late deadline, I won't have to implicate any single source. Much appreciated.



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