

Final Essay Assignment: Music in 2020

Due to both our changing access to library resources and the new topics on our minds during this time, I have changed the final assignment in Music History III from a more traditional research paper to a final essay that deals in some way with **music in this moment**.

Details/Logistics/Guidelines:

- As stated in the syllabus, this assignment is worth **15%** of your grade in the course (
- **I have provided a short video explanation of this assignment on Moodle—please watch it before starting the assignment.**
- Must be turned in by **Friday, December 18, 11:59 pm**—if you'd like to turn it in earlier, that's fine! I will have some small room for extensions through that weekend after finals, but really not much more than that because I have to turn grades in the following week.

Some details about this assignment—watch the video for specifics!

- I have selected six broad areas of focus (performance, music education, music business, music therapy, composition, and other). You will need to pick one of these areas, then research and write an essay on **ONE** specific example of how something under that topic area has changed during the coronavirus pandemic (so we're looking from roughly March until now, but you're welcome to hone in on one particular period).
- Your essay should be on something quite focused, such as a particular example of how a new technology such as zoom is leading to different kinds of musical collaboration (with a particular case study of that concept). Don't try to cover a bunch of different ideas.
- You will need to do some research online, so that you can cite some other people's opinions (such as journalists, music scholars, music educators, etc) on your topic. While *some* of this essay should be your opinions and thoughts, you must balance those with other information—you will not receive high marks for a long un-researched opinion piece based only on your musings.
- With the above point in mind, you will be required to draw on and provide four citations (within footnotes) of other people's ideas on your topic—one of these 4 citations can be a performance (Youtube etc), but the other three should be articles, blog posts, newspaper pieces, etc. If you're having trouble finding sources, you can make an appointment with me to talk it over!
- Your essay should have an argument, but your argument is basically an analysis of some *specific* way that your piece/case study/example demonstrates a specific change in the March-December 2020 musical landscape.

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- **Length requirements:** this **should be at least a 4 page paper**, using Times New Roman, 12-point, double-spaced font (making it somewhere in the ballpark of a **1,000 word essay**, not counting footnotes). You may write a longer paper if you feel so moved (up to around 7 pages), but deductions will come into play for papers under 4 pages. No matter the length of your paper, quality will count for more than quantity. I will be grading on both content and writing style, so make sure to give your essay a bit of editing love.
 - Please use citations—I would like you to use Chicago Manual Style (footnotes) to provide links for the articles you use. For any online resource (probably the only kind you're using!) here's how to cite an online resource in a footnote: 1. Firstname Lastname, "Title of Web Page," Name of Website, Publishing Organization, publication or revision date if available, access date if no other date is available, URL.

Performance

- emerging types of **collaboration** using new technologies such as Zoom
- the question of “**liveness**” in this era: how are we understanding “live” differently in this moment?
- performing institutions or musicians **fundraising** through virtual events
- performing institutions offering **virtual content**
- **virtual dance parties**/DJing
- new kinds of **performative intimacy**: how can we be intimate/collaborate across long distances?
- Why so much Bach?

Music Education

- how have music educators responded to the **distance learning** necessities?
- Are there **special opportunities or problems** for distance music pedagogy?
- “pandemic pedagogy:” how have **online forums** proliferated as sources of advice and community for educators? (especially thinking of groups on social media such as Facebook)
- how do questions of **access and equity** loom large as we try to teach virtually?

Music Business

- musician compensation: is there something dangerous about offering all this **free online content** right now? Will this change compensation paradigms for the future?
- musician compensation: **crowdfunding pay** for musicians in US, versus state pay systems in some parts of Europe
- musician compensation: **labor issues**, such as the Metropolitan Opera furloughing all union musicians and choristers
- arts organizations: **finances** due to the pandemic
- concertizing for existence: **musical philanthropy and fundraising** due to the pandemic
- festival and **music tour cancellations**: is there insurance? How are festivals innovating alternate ways to deliver content virtually?

Music Therapy

- the arts as solace during a period of **collective trauma**
- **online music therapy**: possibilities, problems, and ethical concerns

Composition

- writing works for **asynchronous collaboration**
- **new technologies**: Zoom operas and zoom compositions

Other

- sound studies: how have the **soundscapes** of cities and the world changed in this time?
- **musical mourning**: who have we lost to coronavirus? How do we memorialize losses?

Some sources to get you started:

None of these are required, but as a means of stimulating your thinking, I've tried to provide 5 or so linked articles related to a variety of topics under each heading

Performance

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2020/apr/03/berlin-clubs-livestream-dj-sets-party-at-home>
2. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/13/arts/music/coronavirus-pandemic-music-streaming.html>
3. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/music/article-united-by-a-metronome-toronto-symphony-orchestra-brings-aaron-copland/>
4. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/24/arts/music/met-opera-at-home-gala.html>
5. <https://www.vox.com/culture/2020/4/8/21188670/coronavirus-quarantine-virtual-concerts-livestream-instagram>

Music Education

1. <https://nafme.org/covid-19/>
2. https://www.music.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2968&Itemid=3901
3. <https://howlround.com/teaching-performing-arts-during-pandemic>
4. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mecol/about/>
5. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/06/us/coronavirus-schools-attendance-absent.html>
6. https://issuu.com/educationinternational/docs/2020_research_covid-19_eng

Music Business

1. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/31/arts/music/classical-music-streaming-coronavirus.html>
2. <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/03/19/818378901/the-metropolitan-opera-tells-its-union-employees-they-will-not-be-paid-after-mar>
3. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/24/arts/music/met-opera-at-home-gala.html>
4. <https://www.vox.com/culture/2020/4/8/21188670/coronavirus-quarantine-virtual-concerts-livestream-instagram>
5. <https://www.nonesuch.com/journal/new-music-solidarity-fund-launched-support-new-music-performers-impacted-covid-19-2020-03-25>
6. <https://www.vulture.com/2020/03/arts-groups-are-headed-into-crisis-a-few-things-might-help.html>

7. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/21/opinion/coronavirus-music-festivals-canceled.html>
8. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/19/arts/music/string-quartet-coronavirus.html>

Composition

1. <https://www.amny.com/coronavirus/first-ever-zoom-opera-scheduled-for-pandemic-premiere/>
2. <http://www.chicagogmag.com/arts-culture/April-2020/Full-Pink-Moon-Lunar-Opera/>
3. <https://cues.arizona.edu/events/87-quintetto-profano-piano-quintet-five-quarantined-musicians>
4. <https://variety.com/2020/music/news/composers-scoring-during-coronavirus-1234583144/>
5. <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/03/23/820305127/a-playlist-tracking-the-many-new-tracks-being-written-about-the-coronavirus>

Music Therapy

1. <https://www.bamt.org/about-british-association-for-music-therapy/covid-19-useful-information.html>
2. <https://arttherapy.org/covid-19-resources/>
3. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/09/us/quarantine-mental-health-gender.html>

Other:

1. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/05/arts/music/coronavirus-sirens-music.html>
2. <https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2020/03/music-and-encouragement-from-balconies-around-world/608668/>
3. <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/clarissajanlim/ellis-marsalis-wallace-roney-jazz-musicians-coronavirus>
4. <https://www.billboard.com/photos/9349420/musicians-who-have-died-from-coronavirus>
5. <https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/american-south/2020/04/23/coronavirus-how-new-orleans-grieves-jazz-funerals-silenced-covid-19/5123946002/>