

SARA BOWDEN

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CURRICULUM VITAE (SEPTEMBER 2023)

UNIVERSITY POSITIONS

(2021-23) Northwestern University, Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music
Instructor of Record, Music Theory Department

EDUCATION

(2024) Northwestern University, Ph.D., Music Theory & Cognition:
EXPECTED June 2024: ABD, May 2023
Musical Visuality: Embodying Meter and Overcoming Noise in the Marching Arts
Mellon Cluster in Rhetoric and Public Culture

(2019) Northwestern University, M.M., Music Theory & Cognition
Narrative Transformation & Music in Mediatized Moral Space in Charlie Brooker's Bandersnatch

(2018) University of North Texas, B.M., Music Theory
Kill or Be Killed: Music as a Moral Catalyst in Toby Fox's Undertale

PUBLICATIONS

Journals (peer-reviewed)

(2020) "Not Suitable for the Easily Disturbed: Sonic Nonlinearity and Disruptive Horror in Doki Doki Literature Club!" *The Soundtrack* 11, no. 1-2: 7-22.

Book Chapters (invited and peer-reviewed)

(in press) "Sound Affects and Musical Disorientations in Exploration Horror Video Games." In *Music and Sonic Environments in Video Games: Listening to and Performing Ludic Soundscapes*, edited by Kate Galloway and Elizabeth Hambleton. New York, NY: Routledge.

(forthcoming) "Diffusive Sound Worlds: Interactive Films at the Nexus of Film and Game Audio." In *Remedial Storytelling: The Convergence and Divergence of Music in Video Games and Film*, edited by Richard Anatone and Andrew S. Powell. New York, NY: Routledge.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panel Organization

(2021) Session Chair for "Game Studies XVIII: Games and the Senses." *Annual Meeting of the Popular Culture Association and the American Cultural Association*. Panelists: James Heazlewood-Dale and Yonatan Levia.

Paper Presentations

- (2023) "Spinning in Silence: Musical Visuality in the Marching Arts." Presented at the joint annual meeting of the American Musicological Society and the Society for Music Theory, Denver, CO
- (2023) "Spinning in Silence: Musical Visuality in the Marching Arts." Presented at the annual meeting of Music Theory Midwest, Winnipeg, MT, Canada
Honorable Mention for the Arthur J. Komar prize for best student paper
- (2022) "Moved by Music on the Move: Embodied Meter and Body Memory in North American Drum & Bugle Corps Ensembles." *Joint Meeting of the Society for Music Theory, American Musicological Society, and the Society for Ethnomusicology*. Additional Panelists: Alyssa Wells and Nathan Huxtable.
Sponsored by the SEM Special Interest Group for Music and Violence
- (2022) "Big, Loud, and Live: Authenticity, Masculinity, and Music on the Move." Co-presented with Nathan Huxtable at Music and the Moving Image XVIII, New York, NY*
*Presented remotely due to COVID-19
- (2021) "Seeing Musical Rhythm: Audiovisual Disruption in *Thumper*." Presented at the North American Conference on Video Game Music (NACVGM 8)*
*Presented remotely due to COVID-19
- (2021) "Listening, Feeling, and Seeing: A Genealogy of Immersion in Video Games." Presented at the annual meeting of the Popular Culture Association, Boston, MA*
*Presented remotely due to COVID-19
- (2021) "Thank you for Dying: Sound Affects and Musical Disorientations in *Strobophagia*." Presented at the Tenth European Conference on Video Game Music and Sound (Ludo2021)*
*Presented remotely due to COVID-19
- (2021) "Listening, Feeling, and Seeing: A Genealogy of Immersion." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Chicago, IL*
*Presented remotely due to COVID-19
Sponsored by the SCMS Fan and Audience Studies Interest Group
- (2021) "Competing Rhythms: Queer Tactility and Musical Disruption in *Bayonetta 2*." Presented at the Music and Movement Virtual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA*
*Presented remotely due to COVID-19
- (2020) "(Re)Playing for a Happy Ending: The Associative Power of Music in Black Mirror's *Bandersnatch*." Presented at Music and the Moving Image XVI, New York, NY*
*Presented remotely due to COVID-19
- (2020) "Marking Time: An Exploration of Embodied Meter in the Marching Arts." Presented at the annual meeting of Music Theory Midwest, Madison, WI*
*Presented remotely due to COVID-19
- (2020) "Working Conditions in Drum Corps International and Drum Corps Europe Ensembles." Prepared for the Third International Working in Music Conference, Turku, Finland*
*Cancelled due to COVID-19

- (2018) "Kill or Be Killed: Music as a Moral Catalyst in Toby Fox's Undertale." Presented at the International Association for the Study of Popular Music (IASPM) Australia and New Zealand Branch, Hamilton, New Zealand
- (2018) "Forces of Nature: Birdsong in Time and Place in Olivier Messiaen's 'Le Traquet Stapazin' from *Catalogue d'oiseaux*." Presented at the Collin College Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Student Research Conference, Dallas, TX
- (2018) "Forces of Nature: Birdsong in Time and Place in Olivier Messiaen's 'Le Traquet Stapazin' from *Catalogue d'oiseaux*." Presented at the University of North Texas Scholars Day, Denton, TX
Second Place Paper in the Fine Arts/Humanities

AWARDS

Research

- (2023) Honorable Mention, Arthur J. Komar Award, Music Theory Midwest

Fellowships

- (2022) Bluecoats Drum & Bugle Corps Emerging Designer Fellowship
(2019-2023) Graduate Student Assistantship & Fellowship, **Northwestern University**

Scholarships

- (2015-2018) Academic Excellence Scholarship, **University of North Texas**

Other

- (2018) V.M. Brooks Fund (Conference Travel), **Northwestern University**
(2018) Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Music Theory, **University of North Texas**
(2018) Scholars Day 2nd Place Paper in the Fine Arts/Humanities, **University of North Texas**

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

- (Spring 2023) Music Theory VI, **Northwestern University**
(Winter 2023) Music Theory V, **Northwestern University**
(Fall 2022) Music Theory IV, **Northwestern University**
(Spring 2022) Aural Musicianship III, **Northwestern University**
(Winter 2022) Aural Musicianship II, **Northwestern University**
(Fall 2021) Aural Musicianship I, **Northwestern University**

Teaching Assistant

- (Spring 2021) Electronic Dance Music, taught by Dr. Mark Butler, **Northwestern University**
(Spring 2018) Music Theory III, taught by Dr. Gillian Robertson, **University of North Texas**
(Fall 2017) Music Theory IV, taught by Dr. Gillian Robertson, **University of North Texas**

Invited Guest Lecturer

- (Fall 2021) "Video Game Music in the Concert Hall." Considering Classical Music, taught by Dr. Aaron Himes, **Northwestern University**

(Spring 2021) "Movement as Queer World-Making." Electronic Dance Music, taught by Dr. Mark Butler, **Northwestern University**

Teaching Development

(2022-2023 AY) Reflective & Effective Teaching Guide, **Northwestern University**

(Fall 2021) Inclusive Teaching Practicum, **Northwestern University**

(Spring 2021) Searle Center Teaching Certificate, **Northwestern University**

Marching Arts

(2023 Season) Visual Instructor, Bellflower High School (Bellflower, CA)

(2023 Season) Visual Instructor, University High School (Irvine, CA)

(2023 Season) Choreographer, Maryville High School (Maryville, TN)

(2023 Season) Visual Instructor, 7th Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps (New London, CT)

(2023 Season) Visual Designer & Artistic Director, Clinton High School (Clinton, TN)

(2023 Season) Drill Designer, Salem Blue Devils Indoor Percussion Ensemble (Salem, NH)

(2023 Season) Visual Caption Manager, Chromium Winds (Rosemont, IL)

(2022 Season) Visual Director, Naperville Central High School (Naperville, IL)

(2022 Season) Choreographer, Maryville High School (Maryville, TN)

(2022 Season) Brass Instructor, Crossmen Drum & Bugle Corps (San Antonio, TX)

(2022 Season) Visual Designer & Artistic Director, Clinton High School (Clinton, TN)

(2021 Season) Guest Clinician, Miami Senior High School (Miami, FL)

(2021 Season) Choreographer, Maryville High School (Maryville, TN)

(2021 Season) Visual Designer & Artistic Director, Clinton High School (Clinton, TN)

(2021 Season) Visual Instructor, 7th Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps (New London, CT)

(2020 Season) Visual Designer & Artistic Director, Clinton High School (Clinton, TN)

(2020 Season) Visual Instructor, 7th Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps (New London, CT)

(2019 Season) Visual and Music Instructor, Marian Catholic High School (Chicago Heights, IL)

(2019 Season) Guest Clinician, Pigeon Forge High School (Pigeon Forge, TN)

(2019 Season) Visual Instructor, 7th Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps (New London, CT)

(2018 Season) Visual and Music Instructor, Marian Catholic High School (Chicago Heights, IL)

(2017 Season) Visual and Music Instructor, Grapevine High School (Grapevine, TX)

(2016 Season) Visual and Music Instructor, Grapevine High School (Grapevine, TX)

PUBLIC MUSIC THEORY

Interviews

(2021) "It's okay to still be spooked by the games that scared you as a kid." *Input Magazine*, piece by Tim Brinkhof

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Research Experience

(2020) Music Theory Graduate Assistantship, supervised by Dr. Richard Ashley & Dr. Mark Butler

(2018) Music Theory Graduate Assistantship, supervised by Dr. Vasili Byros

Workshop Participation

(2020) The Musicalized Moving Image, Society for Music Theory Graduate Student Workshop, led by Dr. Anna Gawboy

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Northwestern University

(2022-2023 AY) Co-President of the Northwestern University Graduate Workers Union

(2020-2021 AY) Guest Speaker Series Coordinator, Music Theory and Cognition Colloquium

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Interest Groups

(Summer 2023) Program committee, Society for Music Theory Scholars for Social Responsibility Interest Group

(2022-2024) Chair, Society for Music Theory Scholars for Social Responsibility Interest Group

(Winter 2021) Event-organizing committee member, Society for Music Theory Scholars for Social Responsibility Interest Group

United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America

(Winter 2023) Staff Organizer, University of Chicago Graduate Student Union

Marching Arts

(Winter 2021) Masterclass, "From the Field to the Barre"
Sponsored by 7th Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps

(Summer 2020) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, **Cadets Drum & Bugle Corps**

(Fall 2019) Panelist, "(Trans)Gender Roles in the Marching Arts," [Marching Arts Education](#)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Music Theory

International Association for the Study of Popular Music

Society for Music Perception and Cognition

Society for Cinema and Media Studies

Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association