

Marie Comuzzo

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EDUCATION

PhD in Musicology

Expected completion 2026

Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

Dissertation: "Listening to Humpbacks & Whale Groupies: How Whale Songs Moved and Transformed National and International Human-Whale Relations"

MA in Women, Gender, and Sexuality

Expected completion 2024

Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

Thesis: "The Pure Musical Vessel: Shaping Beauty Standards for Young Women and Genderqueer Instrumental Performers."

MM Music History

2021

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

Thesis: "The Voice of The Other: The Influence of Capitalism on The Representation of Gender and Race in Western Classical Music"

Graduate Performance Diploma in Violin

2018

Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Boston, MA

Violin Diploma (B.M. Equivalent)

2015

Arrigo Boito Conservatory, Parma, Italy

PUBLICATIONS

"Sounding alongside Whales: A Deep Appreciation of Whale Songs and New Frontiers in Human-Whale Connections." In *Listening to the Swan Song: Towards a Subjectivity of Non-Human Organisms in Music and (Music-Related) Literature of the Past and Present*, edited by Piotr Kociumbas and Joanna Godlewicz-Adamiec. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht Verlag, Imprint of BRILL Deutschland. (*Forthcoming*)

"Singing with Whales: Exploring Human and Non-Human Connections," *Society of Ethnomusicology Student News* (Summer 2023), <https://www.semsn.com/191-comuzzo>.

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

Visiting Instructor at Mount Holyoke College

2024

- Western Music: 1950 to Today

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

GSA PhD Research Award, Brandeis University

2024

Provost Doctoral Research Award, Brandeis University

2024

Grant for Pilot Program for the Brandeis Interdisciplinary Writing Cohort

2023-2024

(Co-leader with Anna Valcour. Supported by the Office of Graduate Affairs, Mandel Center for the Humanities, and Graduate School of the Arts and Sciences, Brandeis University)

WGSS Travel Grant to present at SEM Conference	2023
PhD Conference Award, GSAS, Brandeis University	2023
Tuition Scholarship, Digital Humanities Summer Institute	2023
Student Experience Grant for “Professional Development in Digital Humanities,” Supported by Connected Ph.D., Brandeis University	2023
Mandel Center for the Humanities Writing Retreat Grant, Brandeis University	2023
Music Department Conference Travel Grant, Brandeis University	2023
Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Department Travel Grant, Brandeis University	2023
Sagan Family Graduate Research Grant, WGSS	2023
Music Department Travel Grant, Brandeis University	2022
PhD Conference Travel Grant Award, GSAS	2022
Higher Education Administrative Internship, Brandeis University	2022
Summer Grant for Professional Development, Brandeis University	2022
Grant for Expanding the Horizon of Doctoral Education in the Humanities, Brandeis University	2021
Mandel Career Diversity Skill Grant, Brandeis University	2021
Harry and Mildred Remis Fellowship, Brandeis University	2021 - present
Student Travel Award, University of Massachusetts Amherst	2020
Graduate Assistantships and Tuition Waiver, University of Massachusetts Amherst	2019-21
Scholarship Awarded, Boston Conservatory at Berklee	2015-18

TALKS AND PRESENTATION

“Echoes of Change: Humpback Whale Songs as Catalysts of Activism in the Anthropocene,”
Northeast Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology (NECSEM), May 2024

“Queering Whale Songs: Making Waves Through the Anthropocene,” Invited Talk at Mount
Holyoke College, April 2024

“Women in Music: Towards Wider Inclusion,” Invited Talk at the International Students &
Scholars Office's International Women's Day Event, March 2024

“Singing with Whales: Exploring Human and Non-Human Musicalities,” Lightning Talk at
AMS-SMT 2023 Conference in the Ecocriticism Study group, November 2023.

“The Ideal Traumatized Body: Shaping Beauty Standards for Young Women and Genderqueer
Performers” within the co-led panel “Surviving Dreams, Living Trauma: The Invisible Barriers
That Stand Between Performers and Their Success,” at the Society of Ethnomusicology Annual
Conference, October 2023. Panel sponsored by the SEM Section Status of Women (SWW).

3MT Competition, “Fatphobia In Western Classical Music: How Body Discipline and Beauty
Standards Shape the Career of Women and Gender Queer Performers,” Brandeis University
2023

“The Voice of the Humpback Whale: Music, Language, or Sound?,” UConn Music Graduate Conference, May 2023.

“‘It’s about damn time’: Body Liberation in Lizzo’s Music,” Themus (The Music Society at Temple) and at the Conference of the International American Society of Popular Music in Minneapolis, 2023

“Finding Freedom in Music Analysis: Positionality and Triple Consciousness,” Lighting Talk at AMS/SMT/SEM 2022 Conference in the “Intersectionality and Analysis” Panel, 2022.

“Beyond Anthropocentrism: Music and Sound as Acts of Care between Humans and Other Animals,” presented at UConn Music Graduate Conference, 2022.

“The Gendered ‘Other’: Female Erotic Sublimation in Ferrara’s Court” presented at Brandeis University Graduate Conference “Illness and Healing: An interdisciplinary Symposium,” 2022.

“Reflections on the Roots of Gender and Race Discrimination in Western Classical Music: A Vignette,” Academic Conventions and Social Issues in Music at MDEG, UMass Amherst. 2021.

“Dark Like Me: Meaning and Metaphor in “Dream Variations,” University of Toronto Graduate Music Conference, 2021.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Brandeis University **2022 - present**

- Global Soundscapes (Prof. Lee)
- The Beginner’s Toolbox: Fundamentals of Music Notation and Performance (Prof. Desiato)
- Music in Western Culture: Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries (Prof. Koval)
 - Presented three guests lectures on the canon, gender, and 17th century Italy
- Music in Film: Hearing American Cinema (Prof. Ackley)
 - Presented two guests lectures, “2001: A Space Odyssey” and “Entr’acte & Dadaism”

Teaching Assistant, University of Massachusetts Amherst **2019 - 2021**

- Music in History of Music, 1900 to Present (Prof. Knyt)
- Music Appreciation (Prof. Yunker and Prof. Ricciardi)
- Music Appreciation (Prof. Lehmberg) and String Quartet (Prof. Chang)

Primary Instructor, University of Massachusetts Amherst **2020**

- Performing and Visual Arts, Residential Academic Program

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Research **2022 – present**

Department of Musicology/Ethnomusicology and Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Brandeis University

- Conducting historical interdisciplinary research on primary and secondary sources
- Qualitative research in forms of interviews
- Field work

Master's Research **2020-2021**
Department of Music History, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

- Conducted historical and interdisciplinary research on the underrepresentation of women and BIPOC in Western classical music, and its relationship to the establishment to capitalism in Early Modern Europe and colonialism.

Research Assistant in Music and the Humanities **2020**
Department of Music Theory, UMass Amherst

- Assistant to Professor Miriam Piilonen, assisting with reading, scholarly writing, and discussion support

Research Assistant for "Tasso in Music Project" **2020**
Department of Music History, UMass Amherst

- Assistant to Professor Emiliano Ricciardi, proofreading text underlay of musical editions (www.tassomusic.org)

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Secretary for the Ecocriticism Group at the American Musicological Society **2024**

Pilot Program for the Brandeis Interdisciplinary Writing Cohort **2023-2024**
Co-leader with Anna Valcour. Supported by the Office of Graduate Affairs, Mandel Center for the Humanities, and Graduate School of the Arts and Sciences, Brandeis University

Graduate Department Representative (Musicology) **2023**

Graduate Conference "The Home-Place: Mapping Spaces of Belonging" **2023**
Interdisciplinary Conference, Brandeis University

- Main organizer of the conference
- Abstract reviewer
- Designer of promotional material and the program

Graduate Conference "Illness and Healing: An interdisciplinary Symposium" **2022**
Department of Musicology, Brandeis University

- Main organizer of the conference
- Abstract reviewer
- Designer of promotional material and the program

The Journal of Undergraduate Research in Music (JURM) **2021-22**
Member of the editorial board

SMT Scholars for Social Responsibility Interest Group (SSRIG) **2021**

- Event-organizing and committee member
- Abstract reviewer

Bach Festival & Symposium, University of Massachusetts, Amherst **2021**

- Organizer and logistic support

Service for the recruitment of the Musicology and Violin student body **2020-21**

Meeting with incoming students to share about the experience at University of Massachusetts, Amherst

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Publishing Associate & Website Designer and Manager at Brandeis University Press

2023 – present

- Acquisition in Gender Studies, Environmental and Coastal Studies, and Music
- Re-design and maintenance of the website and the title management system
- Manager for social media and marketing efforts
- Video editing and creation of book trailers
- Design of pamphlets, leaflets, table cloths, and other promotional material

Graduate Intern at Brandeis University Press

2021-23

- Social media, email marketing, and publicity content for author events and titles
- Update Press website with current content on the WordPress platform
- Input and maintain accurate metadata for backlists and forthcoming titles on internal Press databases
- Preserve and organize files for day-to-day operations, including author manuscripts, peer reviews, book reviews, promotional data, sub rights documentation, and art
- Prepare materials for and support Editorial and Advisory Board meetings
- Prepare promotional material with InDesign and Photoshop
- Event organizer collaborator
- Catering coordinator for bi-annual events

Writing Consultant at Brandeis University Writing Center

2021-22

One-on-one writing mentoring for graduate and undergraduate students

RELEVANT GRADUATE COURSES

Black Sexual Politics (Prof. Ohman)	2023
Introduction to Ethnomusicology (Prof. Garvey)	
Feminist Theory and Methodology (Prof. Luis)	
Topics in Analysis of Contemporary Music (Prof. Ackley)	2022
Political Economies of Music (Prof. Garvey)	
The Mozart-Da Ponte Operas (Prof. Fray)	
Technologies of the Folk (Prof. Ackley)	
Gender, Class, & Race (Prof. Hansen)	
Introduction to Musicology (Prof. Frey and Prof. Desmond)	2021
Music and Patronage (Prof. Garvey)	
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Research Seminar (Prof. Chaudhry)	
Cognitive and Social Psychology of User-Centered Design (Prof. Lumerman)	
Music History Pedagogy (Prof. Knyt)	
19 th &20 th Century Symphony (Prof. Ritchey)	
Post-Tonal Theory (Prof. White)	2020

Bibliography (Prof. Ricciardi)
Research in Music History (Prof. Ritchey)
The Italian Madrigal (Prof. Ricciardi)

Entrepreneurship in Music (Prof. Ritchey) 2019
The History of Styles in Western Music (Prof. Ritchey)

SELECTED PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Duo Premiere, Five College New Music Festival, UMass, Amherst 2019
NYCP Orchestra Performance at Carnegie Hall 2019
Solo Violin recital at Boston Conservatory at Berklee 2018
Concertmaster with Boston Conservatory Orchestra 2018
Quintet Performance New Music Festival, Boston 2016
Honor Chamber Concert at Boston Conservatory at Berklee 2016
Concertmaster for *La Traviata*, G. Verdi at Rockport Theater, MA 2016
Violin Solo Recital at "Rocca di Luna" festival, Montefiore Conca, Italy 2015

LANGUAGES

Italian: native
English: fluent
German: fluent reading and basic speaking skills

REFERENCES

Bradford Garvey, PhD
Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology
Department of Music, Brandeis University
Waltham, MA
bradfordgarvey@brandeis.edu

Marianna Ritchey, PhD
Associate Professor of Music History
University of Massachusetts Amherst
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