

Marie Comuzzo

ACLS/MELLON FOUNDATION FELLOW | PH.D. CANDIDATE | ECO-ACTIVIST | PERFORMER

EDUCATION

- PhD in Musicology** *Expected completion 2026*
Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
Dissertation: “A Sonically Reimagined Silence: How the Discovery of Whale Songs Inspired an Environmental Commitment to the Ocean”
- MA in Women, Gender, and Sexuality** **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*)

“From Whale Songs to Soundwalks: A Path Forward Against Music Exceptionalism,” *R&R Ecomusicology Review* (*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

- ACLS/Mandel Dissertation Innovation Fellowship Grant **2025**
- Mandel Dissertation Innovation Grant (Brandeis University) **2025**
- GSA, PhD Research Award, Brandeis University **2025**

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| GSAS Travel Grant | 2024 |
| SeaBASS 2024 Summer Institute for Marine Bioacoustics Grant | 2024 |
| GSA PhD Research Award, Brandeis University | 2024 |
| Provost Doctoral Research Award, Brandeis University | 2024 |
| Grant for Pilot Program for the Brandeis Interdisciplinary Writing Cohort (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) | 2023-2024 |
| 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 |

INVITED TALKS

"Listening to Whales: Exploring Ecocentric Activism and Reciprocity through Song," at the BIOME TRUST in Wellington, Aotearoa (New Zealand), January 2025

“A Sonically Reimagined Silence: How the Discovery of Whale Songs Inspired an Environmental Commitment to the Ocean,” for the ELEMENTS project at the Kinney Center for Interdisciplinary Renaissance Studies, September 2024

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

“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.

CONFERENCE TALKS

“Listening to Whales: Exploring Ecocentric Activism through Sonic Entanglements,” 48th World Conference of the International Council for Traditional Music and Dance, Wellington, New Zealand, January 2025

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

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Brandeis University

2022 - present

- Exploring Music (Prof. Ackley)
- 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

Student Board Member of the *Journal of Musicology Pedagogy* **2024**

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

Women’s Studies Research Center’s Scholar in Music, Brandeis University **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 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
- Creation of book trailers that have been featured on *Shelf Awareness*.
- Design of pamphlets, leaflets, tablecloths, and other promotional material
- Organizing events and book talks
- Working on the production side of things and offering editing

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

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| 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

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| 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 <i>La Traviata</i> , 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

Department of Music, University of Massachusetts

Amherst, MA

mritchey@umass.edu