

Braxton D. Shelley

bdshelley@uchicago.edu

919-291-1489

Education

- 2017 Ph.D. The University of Chicago, History and Theory of Music
Dissertation: “Sermons in Song: Richard Smallwood, the Vamp, and the Gospel Imagination”
Advisor: Steven M. Rings, Ph.D.
- 2017 M.Div. The University of Chicago
- 2012 B.A. Duke University, Music and History, with highest distinction

Awards

- 2017 Frederick Buechner Writing Prize, Divinity School, The University of Chicago
- 2016 Paul A. Pisk Prize, American Musicological Society
- 2016 Cathy Heifetz Memorial Award, Department of Music, The University of Chicago
- 2016 Graduate Student Prize, Society for Christian Scholarship in Music
- 2015–17 Schloerb Entering Ministry Fellowship, The University of Chicago Divinity School
- 2013–16 Social Science Research Council Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant
- 2012–17 Graduate Aid Initiative Fellowship, The University of Chicago
- 2010–12 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Duke University
- 2008–12 Reginaldo Howard Memorial Scholarship, Duke University
- 2008–12 National Achievement Scholarship

Publications

“Sounding Belief: ‘Tuning Up’ and ‘the Gospel Imagination,’” in *Exploring Christian Song*, edited by M. Jennifer Bloxam and Andrew D. Shelton. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2017

“‘This Must Be The Single’: Valuing The Live Recording in Contemporary Gospel Performance,” in *Living the Life I Sing*, edited by Alphonso Simpson, Jr. and Thomas A. Dorsey, III. San Diego, CA: Cognella Academic Publishing, 2016.

“Gospel Goes to Church (Again): Richard Smallwood’s Hybridity As Liturgical Compromise,” in *Readings in African American Church Music and Worship* Vol. 2, edited by James Abbingon. Chicago: GIA Publications, 2014

Book Reviews

Review of Jason C. Bivins, *Spirits Rejoicing: Jazz and American Religion* in *The Journal of Jazz Studies*

Review of Robert Marovich, *A City Called Heaven: Chicago and the Birth of Gospel Music* in *The Journal of Folklore Research*

Selected Research Presentations

2017 “The Presence of the Lord Is Here”: The Gospel Vamp as Sonic Sacrament, Amherst College

2017 “Can I Be a Preacher for A Minute?”: Sounding Transcendence in Public Protest, Harvard University Graduate Music Forum

2016 “‘Tuning Up’ in Contemporary Gospel Performance” at the American Musicological Society

2016 “A Sacred Symbol: The Gospel Vamp’s Divine Choreography” at Ethnoise! The Ethnomusicology Workshop, the University of Chicago

2016 “‘Tuning Up’: Towards A Gospel Aesthetic” at the Society for Christian Scholarship in Music, Boston University

2015 “A Sacred Symbol: The Gospel Vamp’s Divine Choreography” at Duke University’s Entertainment, Media & Arts Network Weekend

2015 “‘We’ve Come to Have Church in Jesus’ Name’: Towards a Theory of The Vamp in Contemporary Gospel Performance” at Music Theory Midwest

2015 “Sermons in Song: Richard Smallwood’s Gospel Music,” lecture/discussion as a part of The Richard Smallwood Experience in Memphis, TN

2015 “‘We’ve Come to Have Church in Jesus’ Name’: Towards a Theory of The Vamp in Contemporary Gospel Performance” at Northwestern University Music Theory and Cognition Workshop

- 2015 “‘This Must Be the Single’: Valuing the Live Recording in Contemporary Gospel Performance” at Harvard University Department of Music Graduate Music Forum
- 2014 “Lift Him Up: Process(ing) Contemporary Gospel Music at the University of Chicago, Symposium: *Far Calls. Coming, Far: Ritual, Sound, Music*

Service

2016 Abstract Reviewer, Midwest Graduate Music Consortium
2015–16 Co-coordinator, Music History/Theory Workshop at the University of Chicago

Teaching Experience

Instructor

Fall 2017 Music 218rs: Groove, Harvard University
Fall 2015 Music 32-1621: Introduction to Black Music (online offering), Columbia College Chicago

Course Assistant

Winter 2017 Music 104: Introduction to Music Analysis and Criticism, the University of Chicago
Fall 2015 Music 104: Introduction to Music Analysis and Criticism, the University of Chicago
Spring 2015 Music 153: Harmony and Voice Leading, the University of Chicago
Winter 2015 Music 152: Harmony and Voice Leading, the University of Chicago
Autumn 2014 Music 151: Harmony and Voice Leading, the University of Chicago

Affiliations/Memberships

American Musicological Society
Society for Music Theory