

# Alyssa Barna

## Curriculum Vitae

Eastman School of Music  
27 Gibbs St.  
Rochester, NY 14604

930 South Ave., Up  
Rochester, NY 14620  
(203) 577-7369  
alyssa.barna@gmail.com  
www.alyssabarna.com

---

### EDUCATION

- 2019            Ph.D. in Music Theory  
                  Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY  
                  Dissertation: "Examining Contrast in Rock and Popular Music"  
                  Advisor: John Covach
- 2014            M.M. in Music Theory  
                  Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- 2012            B.M. in Music Theory, Clarinet Performance, and Music Education  
                  Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY  
                  Graduated *Magna Cum Laude*

---

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Peer-Reviewed

- 2018            "The Dance Chorus in Recent Top-40 Music." (Under review)

#### Popular Press

- 2019            "Bach-lash! Music theorists are furious about a Google Doodle celebrating the famous composer."  
                  *Slate*, March 22, 2019.
- 2019            "How great singers elevate 'The Star Spangled Banner' — and bad ones ruin it."  
                  *The Washington Post*, February 1, 2019.
- 2018            "No, iPhone ringtones aren't bad. They're musically sophisticated."  
                  *The Washington Post*, June 7, 2018.

#### Book Review

- 2015            Review of Victor Svorinich, *Listen to This: Miles Davis and Bitches Brew* (University of Press of Mississippi, 2015). *Association for Recorded Sound Collections Journal* 46 no. 2: 325-327.
-

## PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 (*upcoming*) "Graduate Instructor Peer Observation in Music Theory Pedagogy." Pedagogy into Practice Conference, Santa Barbara, CA (co-authored with Sam Reenan)
- 2018 "Music Theory's Role in Mainstream Digital Journalism." Joint meeting of SMT/AMS, San Antonio, TX.
- 2018 "The Dance Chorus in Recent Top-40 Music." Music Theory Midwest Annual Conference, Western University, London, Ontario.
- 2018 Invited Participant: "Panel Discussion: Music Theory and Online Discourse." Public Music Discourse Conference, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.
- 2018 "The Dance Chorus in Recent Top-40 Music." Music Theory Southeast Annual Conference, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. *Winner, Irna Priore Prize for Graduate Student Research*
- 2018 "Music Theory's Role in Mainstream Digital Journalism." Public Music Discourse Conference, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.
- 2017 "Modular Form in Popular Music." The Ninth European Music Analysis Conference (EuroMac 9), University of Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France.
- 2016 "The Engaged and the Absurd: Narrative Clarity and Listener Engagement in the Music of System of a Down." Music Society of New York State Annual Conference, Mannes School of Music, New York, NY.
- 2015 "Structural and Surface Analytical Techniques in Two Late Songs of Milton Babbitt." Symposium of Research in Music Theory, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
- 2014 "Associative Polyphony and the All-Partition Array in the Unaccompanied Music of Milton Babbitt." Approaches to Analysis and Interpretation, Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Music Theory and Musicology Society, Cincinnati, OH.

---

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2018 – present Instructor, University of Rochester Department of Music  
Music Theory 1 (non-majors)  
Music Theory 2 (non-majors)

- 2018 Visiting Assistant Instructor of Music Theory,  
Appalachian State University  
Music Theory II  
Aural Skills I
- 2014 – present Eastman School of Music  
Instructor of Record:  
Model Composition and Tonal Analysis I, Intensive  
Model Composition and Tonal Analysis II, Intensive
- Teaching Assistant:  
Model Composition and Tonal Analysis III  
Aural Skills III  
Aural Skills IV  
Model Composition and Non-Tonal Analysis  
Analysis of Rock and Popular Music
- 2012 – 2014 Associate Instructor, Indiana University  
Music Theory I  
Music Theory II  
Aural Skills II  
Aural Skills III
- 

## **AWARDS**

- 2019 Nominee, Teaching Assistant Prize (for Aural Skills Instruction),  
Eastman School of Music
- 2018 Irna Priore Prize for Graduate Student Research, Music Theory  
Southeast
- 2015 Nominee, Teaching Assistant Prize (for Aural Skills Instruction),  
Eastman School of Music
- 2012 – 2014 Supplemental Academic Scholarship for Merit, Jacobs School of  
Music, Indiana University
- 2012 Inductee, Kappa Kappa Lambda Music Honors Society
- 2008 – 2012 Patrick Conway Award for Academic Merit, Ithaca College
- 

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- 2018 – 2019 Program Committee, Music Theory Southeast
- 2017 – present Webmaster, Popular Music Interest Group of the Society for Music  
Theory
- 2014 – present Editorial Staff, *Intégral*

2014	Secretary, <i>Intégral</i>
2014	Graduate Student Search Committee, Tenure-Track Theory Position, Eastman School of Music
2013 – 2016	Volunteer, Society for Music Theory Annual Conference
2013 – 2014	Circulations Manager, <i>Indiana Theory Review</i>
2013 – 2014	Editorial Assistant, <i>Indiana Theory Review</i>
2013 – 2014	Session Chair, Indiana University Symposium of Research in Music Theory
2012 – 2013	Program Committee, Indiana University Symposium of Research in Music Theory

---

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2014 – present	Reference Librarian, Sibley Music Library, Eastman School of Music  Aid patrons in finding items in the collections; supervision and execution of lending for Interlibrary Loan; digitization of scores and materials for online publication, provide research assistance
2010-2012	Library of Ensemble Music & Music Education Collection, Ithaca College  Maintained and organized a large collection of instrumental and choral music as well as materials for music educators

---

## **PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE**

2018	Music Theory Southeast Recital: Performance of Germaine Tailleferre's <i>Arabesque</i> for Clarinet and Piano
2014	Kenyon College Guest Masterclass Series Clarinet Masterclasses, Wind Quintet performances and ensemble coaching
2012	Clarinet and Bass Horn <i>Die Zauberflöte</i> , Ithaca College Opera Theater, Ithaca, NY
2011	Bass Clarinet and Contrabass Clarinet, American Bandmasters Association National Conference, Ithaca College Wind Ensemble, Norfolk, VA

---

## **LANGUAGES**

Spanish: Reading, writing, and speaking proficiency

French: Reading and writing proficiency

German: Reading proficiency

---

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Society for Music Theory

Music Theory Society of New York State

Pi Kappa Lambda

International Clarinet Association

---

## **REFERENCES**

John Covach  
Professor of Music Theory, Eastman School of Music  
Professor of Music, College Music Department, University of Rochester  
Director, Institute for Popular Music, University of Rochester  
Director, Institute for the Performing Arts, University of Rochester  
john.covach@rochester.edu  
(919) 672-3943

Jennifer Snodgrass  
Professor and Coordinator of Music Theory, Appalachian State University  
snodgrassjs@appstate.edu  
(828) 262-7231

Elizabeth West Marvin  
Professor of Music Theory, Department Chair, Eastman School of Music  
bmarvin@esm.rochester.edu  
(585) 274-1076

Dave Headlam  
Professor of Music Theory, Eastman School of Music  
dheadlam@esm.rochester.edu  
(585) 274-1568