

Principal Investigator

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PI Position Title

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Co-PI 3 Department

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Additional Co-PIs

N/A

Proposal Title

Expanding our Knowledge of the Forbidden and Forgotten Composers from the Holocaust

Proposal Description

Since arriving at WSU in 2014, my primary avenue of research has been the music and musicians of the Holocaust. My first research trip was to the Netherlands Music Institute in The Hague to search through archives to find unpublished manuscripts by composers killed in the Holocaust. This music is often referred to as "Forbidden" or "Forgotten Music" by scholars and institutions in the field. After that initial trip I have worked several times with Carine Alders (authority on Dutch Holocaust-era composers), Donemus Publishing (Dutch music publisher), and loosely with the Leo Smit Foundation (leading organization concerning music of the Holocaust) to identify important composers and research archives in Poland and the Czech Republic, finding unpublished manuscripts and preparing them for publication and performance, among other scholarly outcomes. These efforts have resulted in several music publications as well as lectures in Italy, Austria, Germany, and multiple US states, and also concerts of recently-uncovered as well as previously known works by "forgotten" composers.

My most recent project, supported by a WSU Center for the Arts and Humanities Fellowship, partnered with Ms. Alders in researching the life and music of Julius Hijman, a composer that fled a successful composing career in Europe to come to the US to escape Nazi persecution. His story is typical of composers that survived the Holocaust. Their styles did not fit with American musical sensibilities of that time and, far removed from home, did not have a wide audience. Although they may have had some success in the US at the time, much of their music was forgotten after they died as the world sought to move past the horrors of that era. As part of the fellowship, I have edited several works for publication with Donemus, have recorded four pieces, and will present a lecture in Canada in March.

Having previously worked loosely with the Leo Smit Foundation, I now have an opportunity to work with them directly and help curate their collection of composers and works, impacting the study of the Holocaust across the world. This month I received an invitation from Dr. Philomeen Lelieveldt, curator of the Netherlands Music Institute and board member of the Foundation, to visit the Institute to organize and catalog new material, as well as identify and publish manuscripts and promote these composers. Dr. Lelieveldt asked me to "make sense of a newly arrived collection of autographs and compositions by Jef Penders, a band composer you might know. . . . We need you to look through the scores and identify hidden treasures, and make an inventory list (and pull out forgotten treasures). . . . Another new arrival is the music collection of the persecuted composer Joan Fresco. We need you to make sense of his collection of scores, some autographs, and documentation, also approx. 5 moving boxes. . . . A part of his life was spent in New York and Canada, and we could use someone to help find more info about his whereabouts in those stages of his career.

If able to fund this trip, I am tentatively scheduling an April visit to the Hague to work with Dr. Lelieveldt and her staff to inspect these new arrivals, catalogue the important materials, and get scans of useable manuscripts to edit for future publication. I am also working with Donemus Publishing (located in The Hague) on the possibility of attending a special event on location to celebrate the release of the recordings I have made with WSU faculty of works by Julius Hijman. I will be on sabbatical next semester so my timing is flexib

Budget

Round trip Flight Spokane/Amsterdam - Currently \$1571 for most weeks in April

Rountrip train Amsterdam/The Hague - \$40

Hotel - \$175 (State Dept Max Rate is \$320)

State Department Per Diem Rate for The Hague - \$127 (M-F planned)

GSA lists 75% of per diem for travel days. - \$95.25 (Sunday departure, Saturday return planned)

Proposed budget for 5 night stay - \$3,311.50

Other funding sources will be explored to make up overage, or will pay out-of-pocket. If funding of \$1000 can be secured, I will extend the trip to spend more time in archives researching composers already on my list to study.

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