

# ETHAN LUSTIG, Ph.D.

(+1) 585-210-0688

Ethan@EthanLustig.com

EthanLustig.com



## Education

---

- 2016-21 Ph.D., Music Theory, Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester (Advisor: David Temperley)
- Dissertation on a new cognitive model and algorithm for predicting music taste.
- 2014-16 M.A., Music Theory, Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester
- Schenkerian analysis, music perception & cognition, post-tonal music, history of theory, pedagogy, keyboard skills, counterpoint, statistics, and experimental design.
- 2014 Study abroad, Université de Mons, Belgium
- Created new performance environments by integrating motion capture, dance, and new musical interfaces. Collaboration with engineering students.
- 2010-14 B.A., Music Theory (Honors), University of British Columbia (Advisor: John Roeder)
- Pop analysis, composition, film scoring, rhythm & meter, world music, and acoustics.

## Publications

---

- 2023 "Comparing Christmas Carols: IP Issues In Mariah Carey Case." In *Law360: Expert Analysis*.
- 2023 "The FAV Corpus: An audio dataset of favorite pieces and excerpts, with formal analyses and music theory descriptors." With David Temperley. *Proceedings of the 24<sup>th</sup> International Society for Music Information Retrieval (ISMIR)*, Milan.
- 2023 "Copyright Cheat Sheet: Finding Substantially Similar Songs." In *Law360: Expert Analysis*.
- 2021 "The effect of perceived complexity and formal location on musical preference." Ph.D. Dissertation, Eastman School of Music. Advisor: David Temperley.
- 2020 "All about that bass: Audio filters on basslines determine groove and liking in electronic dance music." With Ivan Tan. *Psychology of Music* 48/6, 861-875.
- 2019 "Anticipatory syncopation in rock: A corpus study." With David Temperley and Ivan Tan. *Music Perception* 36/4, 353-370.

- 2018 “Part-invariant model for music generation and harmonization.” With Yujia Yan, Joseph VanderStel, and Zhiyao Duan. *Proceedings of the 19<sup>th</sup> International Society for Music Information Retrieval (ISMIR)*, Paris.

## Presentations

---

- 2025 “La inteligencia artificial como espejo del ser humano: Observaciones de un entrenador de chatbots.” [Artificial intelligence as a mirror of the human being: Observations from a chatbot trainer] *XX Coloquio Internacional del Doctorado en Investigación de la Comunicación: Inteligencia Artificial en la Educación Superior* [20<sup>th</sup> International Colloquium of the Doctorate in Investigation of Communication: Artificial Intelligence in Post-Secondary Education], Universidad Anáhuac Norte, Mexico City.
- 2024 Invited presentation on forensic musicology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), class on computational models of music, via Zoom.
- 2024 “AI and the future of music and audio.” *AI CDMX*, Art/Works Creative Co-Working, Mexico City.
- 2023 “The FAV Corpus: An audio dataset of favorite pieces and excerpts, with formal analyses and music theory descriptors.” With David Temperley. *24<sup>th</sup> International Society for Music Information Retrieval (ISMIR)*, Milan.
- 2023 Invited presentation on forensic musicology for Oppenheim + Zebrak Law firm, via Zoom.
- 2018 “Part-invariant model for music generation and harmonization.” With Yujia Yan, Joseph VanderStel, and Zhiyao Duan. *19<sup>th</sup> International Society for Music Information Retrieval (ISMIR)*, Paris.
- 2017 “Anticipatory syncopation in rock.” With Ivan Tan and David Temperley. *Society for Music Perception and Cognition (SMPC)*, San Diego.
- 2016 “All about that bass: Timbre and groove perception in synthesized bass lines.” With Ivan Tan. *International Conference for Music Perception and Cognition (ICMPC)*, San Francisco.
- 2016 “Groove perception in music.” Research presentation, Eastman School of Music.
- 2014 “Toward a naive analysis: Transcribing Western art music.” *Joint Meeting of Analytical Approaches to World Music (AAWM) and the British Forum for Ethnomusicology (BFE)*, London.

## Grants, scholarships, & fellowships

---

- 2015-19 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Doctoral Fellowship (\$80,000)
- 2014-19 Robert L. and Mary L. Sproull Fellowship, Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester (\$90,000)
- 2011 Student Scholarships in Arts, University of British Columbia
- 2010 President's Entrance Scholarship, University of British Columbia

## Disciplinary and university service

---

- 2020- Music Theory Tutor, *JMTP (Journal of Music Theory Pedagogy) Tutoring Program*
- 2019 Reviewer, *Psychology of Music*
- 2016 Volunteer, *Society for Music Theory/American Musicological Society*
- 2015-18 Publicity Manager, *Intégral*
- *Intégral* is a music theory journal run by Eastman graduate students. I designed and distributed flyers, e-announcements, calls for papers, and ad exchanges with other journals.

## Work experience

---

- 2020- Forensic musicologist
- Some cases/clients include (for more details, see [EthanLustig.com/Forensic-Musicology](http://EthanLustig.com/Forensic-Musicology)):
- *Johnson and Johnson, LLP Law Firm* (Beverly Hills, CA): In 2020, I was the musicology expert in the Bad Bunny "Safaera" case, which settled out of court (AOM Music, Inc. v. Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio et al., 2:21-cv-07691, US District Court, Central District of California). (Client: Neville L. Johnson)
  - *Parness Law Firm, PLLC* (NYC): In 2024, I consulted on a lawsuit involving Mary J. Blige among others (TufAmerica, Inc. v. Universal Music Publishing, Inc., 1:24-cv-02585, US District Court, Southern District of New York). (Client: Hillel Parness)
  - *Caldwell Law Firm* (Los Angeles, CA): In 2024, consulting on a lawsuit involving the band YES (Rudolph Zahler v. Stephen Howe et al, 2:24-cv-09818, US District Court, Central District of California). My work was mentioned in *Rolling Stone*, *Stereogum*, *mxdwn*. (Client: Larry Caldwell)
  - *Werge & Corbin Law Group* (Denver, CO): In 2026, I testified as an expert witness for Plaintiff in the jury trial over Billboard #1 hit song, "Savage Love" (Matthew Spatola v. Jason Desrouleaux et al., 2:23-cv-06191, US District Court, Central District of California). (Client: Tom Werge)
  - *WilmerHale* (Boston, MA): In 2026, I was deposed for Defendant in the ongoing lawsuit, Concord Music Group, Inc., et al. v. Anthropic PBC, 5:24-cv-03811, US District Court, Northern District of California. (Client: Louis Tompros)

- 2019- Music and audio professional (Online)
  - Music consulting, sonic branding/jingle creation, audio engineering (mixing & mastering), custom production, songwriting, and composition for music libraries (incl. ScoreKeepers, Triple Scoop Music) for film & TV. Music featured by companies including Adobe.
  
- 2018- Music educator (Online students)
  - Lessons and tutoring in production, composition, mixing & mastering, music theory, ear training, sight-singing, piano. Creating custom lesson plans and homework assignments for my students. Ranging from kids to advanced doctoral students.
  
- 2022-23 Artificial intelligence "data trainer" (Online)
  - Optimizing artificial intelligence chatbots through iterative conversations, correcting its music theory reasoning, etc. Clients include Anthropic, Meta, Google.
  
- 2019-23 Director, Talent Speaks Voice-Over Agency (Online)
  - TV spots, radio spots, audio books, explainer videos, dubbing, phone trees. Client communication, audio editing, and post-production. Recruiting, training, and managing voice artists in four languages (English, Spanish, Italian, German).
  
- 2021-22 Music licensing, EtherWorks Media (Palm Springs, CA)
  - Synch licenses, cue sheets, liaison for cable TV music-documentary series.
  
- 2019-21 Artist management & audio engineer, MXU Beats (Los Angeles)
  - Production, mixing & mastering, promotion (blogs, radio, playlists).
  
- 2019-20 Consultant, Avec Audio (Los Angeles)
  - Avec Audio is a startup bridging the production music library and custom music request spaces. I developed a criteria/quality-rating system for uploads, as well as consulting on the UX and building the FAQ and explainer video.
  
- 2019 Recording studio manager (Los Angeles)
  - Assisted with recording sessions. Managed scheduling. Oversaw a media campaign (content, ads, outreach, discount codes) to promote the studio and gain clients. Kept studio clean, handled food & gear orders. Recruited, trained, and managed interns.
  
- 2019 Private English tutor (Guadalajara, Mexico)
  - Taught lessons in grammar, business English, conversational English.
  
- 2018 Composer & arranger (Rochester, New York)
  - Edited and arranged a high school musical, prepared scores and parts.
  
- 2018 Church pianist (Rochester, New York)
  - Played hymns, classical, and pop music in Episcopal, Baptist, and progressive churches. Sunday services, weddings, and funerals.

- 2018 Editor & proofreader for *The Architecture of Music* by Greg Aranda (Online)
  - Edited the prose for clarity; proofread the figures; penned the foreword.
- 2017-18 Music Cognition Lab Assistant (Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester)
  - Marketing and facilitating symposia and meals; office maintenance.
- 2016-17 Coder, Natural History of Song Discography team (Online)
  - Analyzed transcriptions of field recordings from around the world; made decisions about musical features (key, meter, form, etc.).
- 2015-18 DJ & promoter (Rochester, New York)
  - DJ'ed in bars, clubs, raves, fundraisers, private parties. Marketed and organized events. DJ crew featured on front cover of newspaper with over 200,000 weekly readers.
- 2013 Research Assistant, German Department (University of British Columbia)
  - Edited and formatted the bibliography of German Professor Kyle Frackman.
- 2006-14 Rock and jazz musician (Victoria & Vancouver, Canada)
  - Played drums and keyboards in five rock and jazz groups, completed three albums, and played live shows.

### **Media appearances**

---

- 2024 YES lawsuit featured in Rolling Stone, mxdwn, Stereogum.
- 2021 "PlaneTones" (ABC, CBS)
  - TV series about electronic music. I provided musicological commentary.

### **Teaching experience**

---

- 2025- Instructor, Faculty of Music, Universidad Anáhuac Norte (Greater Mexico City)
  - Lyrics for Musical Composition (1 semester, MUS2420)
  - Techniques of Popular Music Composition II (2 semesters, MUS3402)
  - Music Composition for Audiovisual Media (1 semester, MUS4401)
  - Music Composition for Marketing and Publicity (1 semester, MUS3426)
  - Digital Production Techniques (1 semester, MUS1412)
- 2025 Instructor, Faculty of Music (Continuing Education), UNAM (Mexico City)
  - Seminar: Tonal Theory and Analysis (1 semester)
- 2024- Instructor, Faculty of Music, UNAM (Mexico City)
  - English for Musicians (5 semesters)
- 2024-25 Instructor, Faculty of Communication, Universidad Anáhuac Sur (Mexico City)

- Laboratory in Sound Design (3 semesters, COMM4401) (awarded the Excellence in Teaching Prize)

2023-24 Instructor, CENTRO (Mexico City)

- Comprehension and Creation of Texts 1: Introduction to Sonic Discourses and Narratives (3 semesters)

2014-18 Teaching Assistant (independently leading classes), Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester (Rochester, NY)

- Model Composition & Tonal Analysis I (1 semester, TH101)
- Model Composition and & Tonal Analysis II (1 semester, TH102)
- Model Composition and & Tonal Analysis III (1 semester, TH201)
- Model Composition and & Tonal Analysis IV (1 semester, TH202)
- Aural Musicianship I (1 semester, TH161)
- Aural Musicianship II (1 semester, TH162)
- Aural Musicianship III (1 semester, TH261)
- Aural Musicianship IV (1 semester, TH262)

2014- Private tutor

- Years of experience with one-on-one tutoring of dozens of different students, ranging from kids to advanced doctoral students.

### **Additional experience**

---

Won multiple tournaments and championships as a debater, attending the Nationals, Provincials, & the World championship qualifier.

### **Technological skills**

---

Ableton Live, AI Prompting, Audacity, Adobe Illustrator, ChatGPT, iZotope Ozone, iZotope RX, Logic Pro X, Max/Msp, Music21, Photoshop, Praat, Python, Sonic Visualizer, SPSS, SubmitHub, Traktor, Zotero.