

# ETHAN LUSTIG, Ph.D.

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 "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*. [www.law360.com/articles/1712559](http://www.law360.com/articles/1712559)
- 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**

---

- 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.
- 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**

---

- 2022- Artificial intelligence trainer (Online)
- Optimizing artificial intelligence chatbots through iterative conversations, correcting its music theory reasoning, etc. Clients include Anthropic, Meta, Google.
- 2020- Forensic musicologist
- *Johnson and Johnson, LLP Law Firm* (Beverly Hills, CA): In 2020, I was the musicology expert for plaintiffs 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)
  - *Billionaire Burke* (NYC): In 2021, I assessed the similarity of two hip-hop songs. (Client: Billionaire Burke)
  - *Heninger Garrison Davis, LLC Law Firm* (Birmingham, AL): In 2022, I provided my in-depth expert opinion on music used in a Fortune Top 5 corporation's TV commercial. (Client: W. Lewis Garrison, Jr.)
  - *McLaughlin & Stern, LLP Law Firm* (NYC): In 2023, I was retained to produce an opinion letter on alleged infringement in rap music. (Client: Chester R. Ostrowski)
  - *Landry Legal, PLLC* (NYC): In 2023, I opined on the similarity of two R&B songs. Client: James Landry.
- 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.
- 2019- Director, Talent Speaks Voice-Over Agency (Online)
- TV spots, radio spots, audio books, explainer videos, phone trees. Client communication, audio editing, and post-production. Recruiting, training, and managing voice artists in four languages (English, Spanish, Italian, German).
- 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.
- 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'd 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

---

- 2021 "PlaneTones" (ABC, CBS)
- TV series about electronic music. I provided musicological commentary.

### **Teaching experience**

---

- 2023- Professor of Audio, CENTRO (Mexico City)
- CENTRO is an elite private arts university in Mexico City. I teach audio post-production (in Spanish) to undergraduates.

As a teaching assistant at the Eastman School of Music, I taught:

- 2017-18 Model Composition & Tonal Analysis III/IV
- Sophomore written theory. Chromatic harmony; composition of fugue, sonata expositions, art song; popular music harmony and form.
- 2016-17 Aural Musicianship III/IV
- Sophomore aural skills. Chromatic dictation and sight-singing; keyboard skills; tenor and soprano clef; performing complex rhythms; hearing sonata form.
- 2015-16 Model Composition & Tonal Analysis I/II
- Freshman written theory. Harmonic counterpoint; keyboard skills; diatonic harmony; sequences; binary and ternary form; composition of minuets.
- 2014-15 Aural Musicianship I/II
- Freshman aural skills. Dictation of diatonic melody and harmony; scale-degree skills; sight-singing; alto clef.
- 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.