MUSIC 662 – Fall 2018
Assignment #6 – Empirical Music Article Critiques (8 points, due October 18)

Read any two of the five articles listed below, and write a critique (3-4 pages total) that first summarizes each article (concisely, in ca. 150-300 words each), and then proceeds—in the larger portion of your essay—to compare and evaluate the pair as more-or-less effective presentations of research. Use at least six proper, Turabian/Chicago-style footnotes in your essay, including at least two which refer to each article, and at least two which refer to some other source—i.e., dig deeper to provide broader context or an alternate point of view. Be prepared to discuss the articles in class.

Know something about your authors. Keep the following in mind as you discuss and compare your selected authors’ treatments of their subjects:

**Type of research materials used**: to what extent do the authors use primary sources and secondary sources; what seems to be the general ratio, and is this mix appropriate for the topic?

**Purpose for which research materials are used**: do the authors present a previously unknown or little-known data-set or collection of facts, interpreted to clarify and enrich our understanding; or, do they provide evidence to dispute someone’s previous claim; or, do they re-interpret received knowledge in a novel way? In any case, is the supporting material used effectively? If illustrations (graphs, diagrams), information tables, or musical examples are used, are they essential, or if not used, is their absence detrimental? Is the amount of research cited appropriate, or should there be more or less?

**Presentation of ideas**: does each author clearly define or identify the article’s hypothesis near the beginning and then proceed logically to establish it? Does he or she helpfully “forecast” the article’s structure or argumentation in the opening section, and is the structure clear and easy to outline? Do the paragraphs and sections flow well from point to point, or does the narrative seem disjointed? How difficult is the material to understand—how much specialized knowledge (especially familiarity with statistics) is presumed in the reader?


