MUSIC 662 – Fall 2017

Assignment 1 – due Sept 7
Personal Music Bio and Proposed Research Topic (5 points)

**Part A.** Write a brief summary of your own musical history. The format, style, and tone of this paper are flexible: you may write informally and in the first person, and adopt a light tone if you wish, although a **narrative** consisting of complete sentences and coherent paragraphs is expected. In other words, this should **not** be merely a résumé, and definitely should **not** consist solely of “bullet points.”

Length should be approximately 1-2 pages. Review your academic, professional, and avocational musical activities, education, and interests. Perhaps include remarks about a significant term paper or project, special performance, influential mentor, or important achievement. **Tell which program of study you are undertaking at Mason.** If you wish, you reveal a little about your short- and long-term goals. This essay will be evaluated for clarity, organization, grammar, spelling, and punctuation, alerting me to any troublesome areas. It will also help me to get to know you better.

**Part B.** Provide a description of the musical investigation you wish to pursue in this seminar. We agree that this descriptive statement is a preliminary one, subject to later revision or narrowing if it proves to be either too broad or unfeasible with available library resources. Expected length is 1-2 pages. This description or proposal, in essay form, should include—

- A paragraph or two of general background on your chosen subject, by way of introduction, to supply context and perhaps explain your interest in it.
- The research proposition itself, which identifies the problem(s) you wish to address, or the question(s) you wish to answer, or the personal frontier you wish to explore, and perhaps even the tentative conclusion (or range of possible outcomes) you hope to demonstrate. (It is **NOT** necessary to formalize a “thesis statement” at this point.)
- Some thoughts on your probable research plan, including a preliminary reconnaissance of available library resources that might prove helpful to your investigation (i.e., get to know the library catalog in advance of the September 7 lecture).