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Schenkerian Theory in the United States
A Review of Its Establishment and a Survey of Current Research Topics

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I.

It is a notable irony that the musical ideas of the Austrian Heinrich Schenker (1868–1935) have flourished most in the United States—a country about which his opinions were so low. Schenker disliked its democratic form of government because “the principle of the electoral majority” was incompatible with his belief in “the aristocratic nature of art” and culture (Schenker 1930: 111). He even disliked its principal language, English, calling it “motley” [verlottert] and “the lowest of the languages” [die letzte der Sprachen] (Schenker 1921: 11). As Carl Schachter has put it more generally, in Schenker’s hierarchical belief system “[t]he Germans are ranked above all other nationalities. Other Europeans, inferior as they are to Germans, are nonetheless superior to … Americans” (Schachter 2001:8). And yet, the US has established itself as the principal home for Schenkerian training and research, just as English has become its lingua franca, and Americans have become (in numeric terms) Schenker’s chief advocates.

The history of how Schenkerian theory was disseminated and received in the US, during its first few decades, is still being written; aspects of that history are addressed in Berry 2002, 2003, and forthcoming -a, -b, and -c; Hinton 1998; and Rothstein 1990 and 2002. In the essay that follows, I will suggest how Schenkerian theory came to establish its strong roots in the US; how the infrastructure for its dissemination was gradually erected during the initial decades. In doing so, I will focus on four important means of transmission: the early advocates, initial institutional homes, receptive journals, and conference presentations. This, in turn, will provide a context for better understanding the
second component of the article, in which I will survey the current state of English-landscape Schenkerian scholarship.

The Transition

Although Schenker’s ideas were already circulating in the US by the early 1930s (as will be discussed below), their large-scale transplantation from Germanic lands to American shores would likely not have happened if not for the rise of Nazism, the death of Schenker, and the Austrian Anschluss. In their aftermath, many of his students—especially those who were Jewish like their teacher—fled as Schenker’s work was officially censured. His writings were placed under Nazi ban and were even confiscated by the Gestapo, which seized some of his publications from Universal Editions in 1940 (Kowalke 2001:26). He and certain students were branded in the infamous Lexikon der Juden in der Musik (Stengel and Gerigk 1940/41), where his theory was caricatured as denying the psychological content of music in favor of “tone successions” of “arbitrary combination,” and comparisons were made with the “mathematical games of the groundless musical aesthetics of the years after the [First World] War” (cols. 240–41). Moreover, in those rare cases in which a Germanic writer was indebted to Schenker’s ideas, it seemed mandatory not only to avoid giving due credit but to distance oneself further by expressly disparaging his work; such was the case with Bernhard Martin’s 1940/41 study of J.S. Bach’s Art of Fugue.

This is not to suggest that Schenker’s legacy was completely eradicated from his homeland. For example, Felix-Eberhard von Cube (1903–88), who had studied with Schenker for three years in the mid 1920s and afterward explored analytical matters with him by correspondence, participated in the Schenker-Institut in Hamburg, from 1931 to 1933; and he reopened it in 1947 as the Heinrich-Schenker-Akademie. Schenker’s pupil Oswald Jonas also taught two who would become active in writing and teach-

4 The Lexikon included the following Schenker students: Carl [Karl] Bamberger, Paul Breisach, Oswald Jonas, Maria Komorn, Grete Kraus, Felix Salzer, Georg Schenker, and Victor Zuckermandl (in the 1941 Nachtrag); Jonas’s student Ernst Oster was also listed.

5 The full description is as follows: “Hauptvertreter der abstrakten Musiktheorie der jüdischen Philosophie, die einen seelischen Inhalt im Tonwerk ableugnet und sich darauf beschränkt, durch willkürliche Kombination aus dem Zusammenhang einzelner Sonatensätze Tonreihen zu bilden, aus denen eine ‘Urlinie’ (Substanzgemeinschaft) gelesen wird. Schenker’s Grundbegriffe waren weit verbreitet; mathematische Spielereien der voraussetzungslosen Musikästhetik der Nachkriegsjahre kamen dieser Theorie entgegen.”

6 Bernhard Martin, Untersuchungen zur Struktur der Kunst der Fuge J.S. Bachs (Regensburg, Germany: Gustav Bosse, 1941); the book originated in the author’s Ph.D. thesis (Univ. of Cologne, 1940), and also resulted in a related article, “J.S. Bachs letzte Fuge,” Die Musik 33 (1940–41): 409–12. In the 1941 book, Schenker’s writings are not cited in the bibliography, yet Martin’s analytic methodology is clearly indebted to Schenker—even certain terminology is related but concealed through alteration. In its “Einleitung,” Schenker is mentioned only to insult his work (see p. 14). See also a subsequent article by Martin, where again quasi-Schenkerian techniques are employed without due credit: “Mozart’s Fuge ‘Cum sancto spiritu’ aus der grossen c-moll-Messe,” Die Musik 34 (1941–42): 130–34.
ing about Schenker from around the middle of the century: Hellmut Federhofer (b. 1911) studied with Jonas in 1935–36 and was eventually appointed director of the musicology institute at Mainz University; and Franz Eibner (1914–86) studied with Jonas around the same time, and in the early 1950s began teaching Schenker at Vienna’s Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst, where in 1974 he established the Lehrgang für Tonsatz nach Heinrich Schenker. Karl-Otto Plum, who studied with von Cube in the 1960s, went on to complete what has been called “the first doctoral dissertation on Schenker to be received by a German university,” Untersuchungen zu Heinrich Schenkers Stimmführungsanalyse (University of Cologne, 1978). And more recent years have witnessed an escalating interest in Schenker, as evidenced by recent conferences such as the Schenker-Traditionen Symposium, held in June 2003 at Vienna’s Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst; and a series of three conferences on Schenkerian analysis held in June 2004 in Berlin, Sauen, and Mannheim.

Nonetheless, it was in the US that Schenker’s banner was lifted the highest in the decades following his death, and it is to activities in the US that I now turn.

Early Advocates

The dissemination of Schenkerian ideas in the US has a complex history, consisting not only of the recognized main lines of activity but also of various (and sometimes little-known) individuals branching off from these lines in unexpected places, and still others appearing and working without clear connections to a main line. For present purposes, however, my survey of the early individuals who promoted Schenker in the US will be divided into the principal disciple-émigrés, and a few of the Americans who independently learned of Schenker.

The first of Schenker’s students to come to the US was Hans Weisse (1892–1940), who had studied with Schenker since at least the beginning of 1912. In the fall of 1931, he began teaching in New York City at the David Mannes Music School (now Mannes College of Music). Starting the next year, he also conducted graduate seminars at Columbia University. Weisse’s endeavors continued until his premature death in 1940. Shortly before this time, due to the Austro-German upheavals mentioned above, other Schenker students came to the US, including Felix Salzer and Oswald Jonas.

Salzer (1904–86) had been Weisse’s own student until the latter departed for New York; at that time he began studying with Schenker himself. In 1940, Salzer assumed Weisse’s duties at Mannes; he became director of the school in 1948, and stayed until 1956 (returning in 1962–64). He also taught for a decade (1963–74) at Queens College of the City University of New York. His long and productive career in the US included work as author and editor. His most influential writing was Structural Hearing (1952), which


8 For more on Weisse’s career and his impact on Schenkerian dissemination in the US, see Berry 2003.
had an impact on Schenkerian pedagogy in the US that was both considerable and—due to its revisions to and extensions of Schenker’s own ideas—controversial.

Oswald Jonas (1897–1978), who began his studies with Schenker in 1915, emigrated in 1938 and taught at Roosevelt University (Chicago) from 1941 until 1964; and at the University of California, Riverside, from 1965 until his death in 1978.9 Jonas was especially interested in the field of sketch studies (as was Schenker), and several of his articles were not “Schenkerian” in an overtly analytical sense. He also edited a number of Schenker’s writings for republication in German (e.g., the three volumes of his Neue musikalische Theorien und Phantasien).10 Around the same time he was responsible for editing the first of Schenker’s books to be published in an English translation: Harmonielehre (1906), translated by Elisabeth Mann Borgese as Harmony (1954). It included an “Introduction” by Jonas in which Schenker’s later ideas, such as the Ursatz, were explained.11

Other Schenker pupils came to the US and played lesser roles in disseminating his concepts. For example, Victor Zuckerkandl (1896–1965) incorporated some of Schenker’s ideas into his class lectures at the New School of Social Research (New York City) and St. John’s College (Annapolis, Maryland).12 Much more notable, however, was Ernst Oster (1908–77). Although sometimes grouped with the “first generation” of Schenker students, Oster studied not with Schenker but with Jonas in the early 1930s, at Berlin’s Stern Conservatory. Following his emigration around 1939, he had more difficulties than the others in obtaining an institutional appointment. After teaching privately for many years, in the last decade of his life he taught at the New England Conservatory (Boston) and Mannes College of Music,13 and thus greatly increased the number of students with whom he was able to have contact. Oster published five essays in English, spanning the years 1947–66, but he is especially known for his translation and editing of Der Freie Satz as Free Composition (1979).14

These individuals taught many Americans who would go on to promulgate Schenkerian ideas in the ensuing decades. Creating a “family tree” of these studies can be complicated, as some people studied with more than one teacher; and in these cases, a person

9 In between his time at these two schools, in 1964/65, Jonas returned to his birth city to teach at the Vienna Music Academy.


11 Jonas’s Appendix II (pp. 349–52), which is an extension of the Introduction, uses J.S. Bach’s Little Prelude in F (BWV 927) to demonstrate “the effects of Ursatz and stratification on a whole piece of composition” (xxiv). It is based on Jonas’s earlier analytic essay, “Ein Bach-Präludium: Ein Weg zum organischen Hören,” Der Dreiklang 1 (1937): 13–17.


13 Oster also taught for a year at Princeton University.

14 It should be noted that a prior translation and editing had been completed by Theodore Krueger for his Ph.D. dissertation (State University of Iowa [now University of Iowa], 1960), but it was not commercially published and circulated in relatively small numbers.
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might have taken formal lessons from one, but learned more informally from another. Furthermore, even the same two (or more) teachers could influence their mutual students in different degrees (perhaps especially if the students had the teachers in a different sequence). With these disclaimers in mind, a few of the connections can be named. Among others, Weisse taught Adele T. Katz and William J. Mitchell; Salzer taught Saul Novack and Carl Schachter; and Oster taught David Beach, John Rothgeb, and William Rothstein. Jonas taught fewer Americans who would become primarily known as Schenkerian scholars, although Rothgeb studied informally with him, having been referred by Oster. The expatriate group also had indirect connections with other prominent American Schenkerians; e.g., Allen Forte first learned of Schenker from Alvin Bauman, who had studied with Weisse. Illustrating the multiple associations mentioned above, Beach and Rothgeb first studied Schenker with Forte, before being referred to Oster; Rothstein, on the other hand, did it the other way around, moving to Yale and Forte after the New England Conservatory and Oster.

Although the Austro-German expatriates were of inarguable importance in disseminating Schenker’s ideas, American musicians also came to Schenker in other ways during the early years. For example, Arthur Waldeck, a private voice and music-theory instructor in Brooklyn, New York, began corresponding with Schenker in 1929, and even proposed translating *Harmonielehre* in 1932. In 1935, with co-author Nathan Broder, Waldeck issued an early essay on Schenker’s theories. George A. Wedge, a well-known theory pedagogue and teacher at New York’s Institute of Musical Art (a precursor to the present-day Juilliard School), already knew of Schenker’s work and apparently discussed it with his students prior to Weisse’s arrival in the US. Indeed, Wedge’s interest prompted him to arrange a meeting with Weisse soon after the latter arrived in 1931.15 Especially notable was composer and teacher Roger Sessions, who first encountered Schenker’s work around 1926, while living in Europe. (His friend and neighbor in Florence, Italy, was the artist Victor Hammer, an associate and advocate of Schenker.) After returning to the US, Sessions wrote about Schenker in three articles (at times negatively); see Sessions 1935, 1938a, and 1938b. During this period he also taught Milton Babbitt, subsequently eminent as a composer and twelve-tone theorist. Schenkerian analysis was included in Babbitt’s lessons from the very first one, during which the first movement of Beethoven’s Piano Sonata in F Minor, op. 2/1, was discussed with reference to Schenker’s analysis in *Der Tonwille*.16 (More on Sessions and Babbitt will follow.)

Through the teaching and writing of the early exponents, Schenker’s ideas began to find a foothold in American music pedagogy and scholarship. However, a strengthened foundation would require the kinds of support to be surveyed in the following sections.

15 For more on Wedge and his Schenkerian influences, see Berry forthcoming-b.

16 See Schenker, “Beethoven: Sonate opus 2 Nr. 1,” *Der Tonwille* 2 (1922): 25–48. Babbitt has said that one of the many reasons he had wanted to study with Sessions was the latter’s writing about Schenker and, more generally, his demonstrated interest in analytical theory (Babbitt 1985:115).
Initial Institutional Homes

The successful promotion of a new intellectual idea requires not only qualified individual advocates but supportive institutional homes. During its foundational decades in the US, Schenkerian theory established a presence at a few key institutions, beginning, of course, with Mannes. Indeed, Schenker’s *Fünf Urlinie-Tafeln* (1932) was originally published with financial support from the Mannes School, for Weisse’s classes. The emphasis on a Schenker-infused curriculum continued after Salzer began in 1940. His teaching there prompted his book *Structural Hearing* (1952). He also began the school’s “Techniques of Music” program, which continues today with its integration of skills and Schenkerian analysis. Over the years, many other notable Schenkerians have taught at Mannes, some for longer periods (such as Carl Schachter, who joined the faculty in 1956 and became Dean of the College in 1962), and others for more brief periods (such as Mitchell, Forte, and Oster). Such involvement with the Mannes curriculum has resulted in two additional Schenker-influenced textbooks: Salzer’s and Schachter’s *Counterpoint in Composition* (1969), and Edward Aldwell’s and Schachter’s *Harmony and Voice Leading* (1979). Mannes is still an important center for Schenkerian activities in the US. It has served as the meeting place for the International Schenker Symposia convened in 1985, 1992, and 1999 (with a fourth scheduled for 2006); and an “Institute on Schenkerian Theory and Analysis” was held in 2002 as part of the Mannes Institute for Advanced Studies in Music Theory. However, other schools would eventually gain ground in areas of advanced Schenkerian research, because (in the US) such work has flourished more at the graduate—and especially Ph.D.—levels of universities than it has at conservatories. Indeed, it was the incorporation of Schenkerian theory into the curriculum of the *university* that marked a defining step in its acceptance in the US. This process proceeded slowly at first, with four schools playing early roles: Columbia, Princeton, Yale, and City University of New York.

The first university at which Schenkerian concepts had a measure of continuing support was *Columbia*, in New York City. As mentioned earlier, Weisse taught weekly graduate seminars there, from 1932 until his death in 1940. For the most part, these addressed “The Structure of Music” and apparently included Schenkerian elements. Weisse’s time there overlapped with the presence of his former student, William J. Mitchell. After receiving a BA degree from Columbia in 1930, Mitchell had studied with Weisse in
Vienna. Mitchell returned to Columbia in 1932, where he taught and earned an MA degree in 1938. The following year he published *Elementary Harmony* (1939), which was probably the first American undergraduate textbook to incorporate Schenkerian ideas (although it was not a Schenkerian text in a strict sense). Mitchell remained at Columbia until 1968, eventually becoming chair of the music department. In addition to his teaching, which incorporated Schenkerian methods, some of his articles were Schenkerian in focus, including a 1946 essay on Schenker's “approach to detail.”

Two more of Weisse's American-born students were also active at Columbia. Alvin Bauman, who received his MA from Columbia in 1938 (and probably studied with Weisse around that time), taught there from 1945 to 1952. During that period he completed *Elementary Musicianship* (1947), a “text for beginning music courses” in which a few sections were clearly influenced by Schenkerian ideas. Bauman taught mainly during Columbia’s summer sessions and in its School of General Studies (an adult- or continuing-education program); and in at least one of his summer courses—probably one in 1950 titled “Structure of Music”—he taught Schenkerian analysis. Adele T. Katz—who studied with Weisse in the early 1930s at Mannes, and whose 1935 article and 1945 book were among the early Schenkerian publications in English—taught from 1946 to 1951 at Teachers College, a graduate school of education affiliated with Columbia and adjacent to its campus. She conducted an evening course each term, titled “Analysis in Relation to Hearing and Performance.” It was expressly described as a course on “The Schenker approach to the problems of musical structure,” and likely exploited materials presented in her recently completed book.²¹

Although Columbia and Teachers College were not major centers of Schenkerian activity, in the way that the following schools would become, it is notable that a series of Schenker advocates was there over the years.²² Among the results was what is perhaps the first American doctoral dissertation to feature Schenker’s theories prominently: Silberman 1949.²³ Mitchell was a member of Silberman’s dissertation committee, and later he was the adviser for another Columbia dissertation, this one with an exclusive focus on Schenker: Slatin 1967.

Roger Sessions (1896–1985) and Milton Babbitt (b. 1916) were named earlier. Both came to have long-term associations with *Princeton University* (roughly 55 miles to the southwest of New York City, in Princeton, New Jersey). Sessions began teaching there in 1936; afterward, Babbitt enrolled for graduate studies and in 1938 also joined the music faculty. (Both were subsequently active elsewhere but returned, Babbitt in 1948 and

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²¹ For more on Katz’s activities and writings, see Berry 2002.

²² Among this group was another supporter of the Schenkerian method (though probably not a Schenkerian analyst per se): Howard A. Murphy, who taught at Teachers College from 1927 to 1961. On the other hand, it should be noted that the Columbia music faculty included at least one ardent Schenker dissident: Paul Henry Lang.

²³ Silberman’s title, *A Comparative Study of Four Theories of Chord Function*, refers to the theories of Schenker, Hugo Riemann, Paul Hindemith, Joseph Schillinger; but it should be noted that Schenker’s chapter was twice the length of those devoted to the other three.
Also influenced by Schenker were later Princeton faculty members who had initially been students there: Edward T. Cone (1917–2004), Godfrey Winham (1934–74), and Peter Westergaard (b. 1931). Cone had been a student of Sessions in the late 1930s and early 1940s, and had earned bachelors and masters degrees at Princeton; he began teaching there in 1947. His Schenkerian influences are suggested in such texts as Cone 1960, 1965, and 1968. Winham and Westergaard first studied music at Princeton in the 1950s. Winham stayed and completed his Ph.D. dissertation in 1964, and afterwards joined the faculty; Westergaard returned as a faculty member in 1968. Both were interested in Schenker: Winham published little, although he left extensive unpublished writings, including some about Schenker (for details of which see Blasius 1997); and Westergaard's tonal-music textbook (1975) was highly indebted to Schenker. With a faculty so inclined toward Schenker, the late 1960s saw the first of several Princeton doctoral dissertations to explore Schenkerian ideas, including Kassler 1967, Komar 1968, Morgan 1969, Boretz 1970, and Lester 1970. Given this context, it is no wonder that British composer Peter Maxwell Davies, who attended Princeton on a Harkness Fellowship in 1962–64, left convinced that “the Schoenberg-Schenker tradition” was one of the main influences on contemporary composers in the US (Davies 1965:3). Except at the schools cited in this section, one could hardly have arrived at such an elevated assessment of Schenker’s influence in America at the time.

As Schenker began to bloom at Princeton, Allen Forte (b. 1926) was completing his masters degree at Columbia, where he had first learned of Schenker from Bauman. Forte spent the latter half of the 1950s teaching at Columbia University Teachers College and at Mannes. During this time he authored a book that adapted Schenkerian ideas to a study of twentieth-century music (Forte 1955), as well as two articles, one adapting a Schenkerian approach to show the interrelatedness of tempo, rhythm, and melody in Brahms’s Haydn Variations (Forte 1957), the other offering an informed summary of Schenker’s concepts (Forte 1959). In the fall of 1959, he began an appointment at Yale University (roughly 75 miles to the northeast of New York City, in New Haven, Connecticut) that would last 45 years. During his first semester there, he initiated a graduate seminar on Schenker at the School of Music. In the mid 1960s he moved to Yale’s Department of Music and helped spearhead the doctoral degree program in music theory. Accordingly, the 1970s saw the first of many Yale doctoral dissertations to explore Schenkerian concepts, including Yeston 1974, Bashour 1975, and Baker 1977.

24 Sessions taught at the University of California, Berkeley, from 1945 to 1953; and Babbitt spent much of the 1940s either working in mathematics or composing.

25 By early 1959, Forte had also completed a rough-draft translation of Der freie Satz; however, he was unable to find an interested publisher. In 1962 these materials were given to Oster, so that the latter could continue the task.

26 Forte was not Bashour’s advisor, but the latter credited the former for introducing Schenker’s ideas to him and helping in the development of the dissertation’s “analytical attitudes” (pp. iv–v). It should also be mentioned that the first of Forte’s Ph.D. advisees to complete a dissertation was John Rothgeb, in 1968; however, despite the fact that Rothgeb later became an eminent Schenkerian, his dissertation involved Schenker only marginally.
Finally there is the City University of New York (CUNY), a survey of which can be complicated as it consists of a number of colleges and schools. For present purposes, I will focus on two, beginning with Queens College (named after the borough of New York City in which it is located). The presence of Schenker at Queens was felt relatively early, due to the influence of Salzer's student Saul Novack (1918–98), who joined the faculty in 1952. Later, Salzer himself was a member of the faculty, as was another of his pupils, Carl Schachter. Among the Schenker-influenced masters theses submitted to Queens were Proctor 1968 and Porter 1969. In subsequent years, the component of CUNY most significant in terms of advanced Schenkerian research was its doctorate-granting institute, the Graduate Center (located in Manhattan). Novack was one of the individuals responsible for establishing the doctoral program in music; Schachter was also active at the Graduate Center from 1976 until 1996. Among its early Schenkerian doctoral dissertations were Sabbath 1976, Hager 1978, and Porter 1979. A more steady stream of Schenkerian dissertations began flowing from CUNY in the late 1980s and afterward.

It should be acknowledged that other teachers, also interested in Schenker's work, were active in other schools during the same period outlined above. Included among them are Carl Bricken, at the University of Chicago (and later at the University of Wisconsin at Madison); Hubert Kessler, at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign); Victor Vaughn Lytle, at the Oberlin (Ohio) Conservatory; and George Wedge (mentioned briefly earlier), at the Institute of Musical Art (New York). However, none of these schools fostered Schenkerian studies to the extent of those previously discussed—especially Princeton, Yale, and CUNY. Many who graduated from these three institutions went on to become leading Schenkerians of the next generation, and helped establish Schenker programs at other schools in the 1970s and ’80s.

Dissemination through Journals

Just as institutional homes were important for nurturing the teaching and study of Schenkerian theory, so were receptive academic journals important for further circulating Schenkerian scholarship. For most of the 1930s–50s, Schenker-related articles were published wherever authors could place them. The only journal that seems to have been especially accepting of Schenkerian essays was Musicology, a short-lived publication that produced only eight issues between 1945 and 1949; but three of these included Schenkerian articles: Mitchell 1946, Oster 1947, and Oster 1949. The situation gradually changed in subsequent years, as journals expressly devoted to music-theoretic and -analytic matters began to emerge; as they did, Schenkerians found new and welcoming vessels for their research.

First among these publications was the Journal of Music Theory (JMT), founded at Yale in 1957. Its first article devoted to a Schenkerian topic was Forte 1959, which appeared

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27 For more on Bricken and Wedge, see Berry forthcoming-b; for Lytle, see Berry forthcoming-c.
28 For example, David Beach (who studied with Forte at Yale, and later with Oster) became the first to teach Schenker in a systematic way at the Eastman School of Music, beginning in 1974.
in that year’s April issue. By the subsequent November issue (vol. 3/2), Forte had joined the Yale faculty and had been named to JMT’s editorial committee. He became editor with vol. 4/2 (1960) and continued in that capacity through vol. 11/1 (1967). During his tenure, several articles of a Schenkerian nature appeared, including Travis 1959 and its polemical response, Oster 1960; Oster 1961; Mitchell 1962; an analysis symposium on Mozart’s Menuetto in D, K. 355, that included Oster 1966; and Beach 1967. In the years that immediately followed, other Schenkerian articles appeared, including in further “analysis symposia,” in which different analyses of the same piece were published together. It is difficult to calculate how many articles JMT has published, to date, that have been devoted at least in large part to Schenkerian issues, as such a tally rests on subjective assessments as to what constitutes a “Schenkerian article.” But it is probably safe to say that the journal has issued at least seventy-five such articles over the years, making it quite important to the Schenker enterprise in the US.

After JMT, the next theory-centered journal to debut was Perspectives of New Music (PNM), first published in the fall of 1962. Based at Princeton, it focused on issues germane to more recent music, and was initially sponsored by the Fromm Music Foundation, an organization dedicated to supporting contemporary music in the US. Although its focus naturally precluded articles of a traditional Schenkerian bent, the fact that Princeton was an institutional nurturer of Schenkerian theory perhaps made inevitable some degree of Schenkerian content. To cite a few examples from PNM’s early years: Schenker-influenced analyses of Schoenberg and Webern appeared in Travis 1966, mathematical models for “layered music-theoretic systems” were suggested in Regener 1967, and Schenkerian views of rhythm were considered in Westergaard 1962 and Boretz 1971.

In 1967, the first volume of Music Forum (MF) appeared. Founded and edited jointly by Felix Salzer and William J. Mitchell, MF was a book series published sporadically until its sixth volume was released in 1987, the year after Salzer’s death. As the editors proclaimed in the inaugural volume, MF was to have “a definite and unifying point of view” traceable to Schenker’s ideas (and their extensions). Although many of the articles in MF would address tonal music of the period studied by Schenker himself, the goal was also to publish the work of those “who recognize the more universal values that lie dormant in [Schenker’s] ideas and are capable of providing valuable insights into earlier and later music” (viii). Whereas Schenker-influenced studies of twentieth-century or “post-tonal”

29 Forte was succeeded as editor by David Beach, who would also become well known as a Schenkerian, having studied with both Forte and Oster.
30 See, for example, the symposia on Schubert’s Moments Musicaux, op. 94/1, with Rothgeb 1969 and Schachter 1968 and 1969; on Beethoven’s Piano Sonata in C, op. 53, with Beach 1969; on Brahms’s “Wie Melodien zieht es mir,” op. 105/1, with Clarkson 1971 and Laufer 1971; on the first movement of Webern’s Orchestral Pieces (1913), with Travis 1974; and on Debussy’s Twelve Etudes, vol. 1, no. 4, with Benjamin 1978 and Gauldin 1978.
31 Indeed, even though PNM’s first editor, Arthur Berger (1912–2003), taught not at Princeton but at Brandeis University (in the Boston area), he too had a connection with American Schenkerism: Berger had learned of Schenker from Weisse, while auditing the latter’s Columbia seminar in the early 1930s.
32 The final volume was to have been in two parts, only the first of which was published in 1987; to date, the second part has not appeared.
music had become relatively frequent following Salzer’s *Structural Hearing* (1952), similar approaches to “pre-tonal” music had been nearly non-existent since Salzer’s *Sinn und Wesen der abendländischen Mehrstimigkeit* (1935), which was not widely available in the US. One of MF’s legacies was changing that, as five such articles appeared in its initial two volumes: Bergquist 1967, Salzer 1967, Mitchell 1970, Novack 1970, and Schachter 1970.

The journal landscape was altered greatly in the 1970s, as several new theory-oriented publications debuted. These included *Theory and Practice* (1975), the journal of the Music Theory Society of New York State; the first two graduate-student produced theory journals, *In Theory Only* (1975) at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), and *Indiana Theory Review* (1977) at Indiana University (Bloomington); and *Music Theory Spectrum* (1979), the official organ of the recently founded Society for Music Theory. The last-named journal even opted for an oblong page format to better accommodate figures such as Schenkerian graphs.33 From this time onward, authors of Schenkerian articles had several viable publication venues.

**Conference Presentations**

Another important way of increasing interest in and knowledge about Schenker’s ideas was through papers presented at professional conferences. Except for a few such papers that would appear in published proceedings, these naturally lacked the permanence and capacity for wide distribution of journal articles. But they did allow the kind of interaction between authors and audiences (even, at times, masters and neophytes) important for an emerging field. Before the 1930s, papers on music-theoretic topics would have found a home at relatively few conferences, with the notable exception of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), about which more later. Fortunately, a receptive organization emerged around the same time that Schenkerian theory was being introduced to the US. In 1934, the American Musicological Society (AMS) was founded, in part as an outgrowth of the New York Musicological Society (active 1930–34). For the next few decades, the meetings of the AMS and its various regional chapters provided venues for Schenkerian papers. Schenker’s pupil Victor Zuckerkandl spoke at a New England chapter meeting of the AMS in February 1942, just over two years after arriving in the US; and Felix Salzer gave a paper at the national AMS meeting in December 1949 (abstracts were published as Zuckerkandl 1945 and Salzer 1950). These papers—like one by Weisse to be cited momentarily—each contrasted, in different ways, the conventional “vertical” approach to harmony with Schenker’s more “horizontal” approach. Other presenters had different aims. Frank Knight Dale delivered a paper in February 1941, to a Southeastern chapter meeting of the AMS, on the Schenkerian conception of form (abstract published as Dale 1943). Dale had taught at Mannes while Weisse was there, and perhaps learned of Schenker at that time. On the other hand, Schenker was only one component of Hertha Schweiger’s paper of October 1938, given at a Greater New York

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33 The precise size is 8.75 inches (22 cm) left to right, and 7.5 inches (19 cm) top to bottom.
chapter meeting of the AMS (abstract published as Schweiger 1940). Her main focus was the proper balance between theory and history that musicology needed to achieve.

Returning to the MTNA, two early presentations are notable. The earliest Schenkerian conference paper (of which I am aware) was delivered to the organization, by Hans Weisse, in December 1935; it was subsequently published as Weisse 1936. In December 1936, when the MTNA and the AMS came together for a joint meeting, a Schenker-influenced paper was given by Carl Bricken, who had studied piano with Weisse years before. Published as Bricken 1937, it never cited Schenker’s work directly; but its indebtedness was clear in both its prose and its somewhat freely styled linear reductions. After a lengthy hiatus, the 1950s saw two additional MTNA entries: a February 1955 paper by Salzer on “Some Significant Changes in the Teaching of Theory and Analysis” (unpublished); and a February 1959 paper by Roy Travis with the same title as Travis 1959, and presumably similar to the published version. Salzer also returned in April 1973, to deliver a paper on “Schenkerian Thought: Its Application and Impact Today” (unpublished).

The above citations demonstrate that Schenkerian papers certainly found a place on conference programs in the early decades; however, such papers were relatively few and far between. Speakers found venues wherever possible, but—as had been the case with early journal articles—it could be difficult at a time in which no conferences were devoted specifically to theoretic and analytic issues. This would change greatly beginning in the 1970s. The first regional theory organization, the Music Theory Society of New York State, held its initial meeting in 1971 at the Eastman School of Music. The first Michigan Conference on Music Theory was convened at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) in 1975; subsequent meetings were held in 1977 and 1981. Two National Conferences on Music Theory were convened, the first in 1976 (Boston), in association with the American Society of University Composers; and the second in 1977 (Evanston, Illinois), in association with the College Music Society. They helped precipitate the founding of the Society for Music Theory, which held its first annual conference—together with that of the AMS—in 1978 (Minneapolis). The next year (1979), the Texas Society for Music Theory held its first meeting; and in the years that followed, a number of other regional theory societies were formed and began holding conferences. The numerous theory conferences convened since the 1970s have allowed a great wealth of Schenkerian papers to be shared with interested musicians.

Summary

Thus Schenkerian theory slowly established its roots in the US, from the work of the initial advocates of the 1930s and afterwards, and at the early institutional homes of the

34 I explore Weisse’s essay in Berry 2003, pp. 124–32.
35 I explore Bricken’s essay in Berry forthcoming-b.
36 Other conference-holding organizations that would have been amenable to “theory” papers include the College Music Society (founded 1957), and the American Society of University Composers (founded 1966; later renamed Society of Composers).
1930s–70s; through articles in especially the theory journals of the late 1950s and afterwards, and papers delivered at especially the theory conferences of the 1970s and afterwards. The dawn of the 1980s may be interpreted as the beginning of a new phase of Schenkerian activity in the US, as the infrastructure for its dissemination was now fully in place. Its continued growth in the music-theory community was also furthered by key publications that occurred around this time. In 1979, Schenker's *Der Freie Satz* was published in an English translation by Ernst Oster, making it available for the first time to many anglophones. Then, in 1982, Schenkerian pedagogy benefited from the release of the popular textbook by Forte and Gilbert, as well as John Rothgeb's translation of Jonas 1934. Schenker-influenced undergraduate textbooks such as Aldwell and Schachter 1979 and Lester 1982 appeared. Even Walter Piston's enduring *Harmony*—long a target of Schenkerians opposed to its overly “verticalist” approach to its subject—admitted some limited Schenkerian influences in its 1978 revision by Mark DeVoto.

Eugene Narmour’s well-known critique and refutation of certain Schenkerian principles, in *Beyond Schenkerism* (1977), arose in part because of the perceived hegemony the theory was exerting (hence the book’s subtitle: “The Need for Alternatives in Music Analysis” [emphasis mine]). For American music analysis at large, the threat of Schenkerian dominance may have been exaggerated in 1977. But it seems clear that Schenkerian theory had reached some important milestones by the end of the 1970s, and it was to enter a full-fledged growth mode for most of the next two decades.

II.

I turn now to present-day activities in the US. Some undergraduate (i.e., bachelors degree) programs offer courses in Schenkerian analysis—by which is generally meant the concepts and graphing techniques developed during Schenker's last decade of work, culminating in *Fünf Urlinie-Tafeln* (1932) and *Der Freie Satz* (1935). However, at the undergraduate level, it is more common for Schenker’s pedagogical influences (whatever they may be) to remain implicit; and indeed, an increasing number of undergraduate textbooks have been affected by his ideas in various ways (for citations of these, see Berry 2004, section I.g). Most often, students learn about Schenker at the graduate (i.e., masters or doctoral) levels of education. For those earning graduate degrees in music theory, their basic curriculum usually compels them to study some amount of Schenkerian analysis. For those who wish to engage in further studies, some institutions—especially those that offer a Ph.D. in theory—offer appropriate courses or seminars. The culmination of advanced work may be a doctoral dissertation on a Schenkerian topic (or otherwise involving Schenkerian analysis). These are relatively common; e.g., for just the five years preceding its publication (i.e., 1999–2003), Berry 2004 cites over fifty doctoral dissertations (that are at least significantly Schenkerian) that were submitted to American schools.

37 See n.14 for reference to another, much less circulated English translation.
Scholars who pursue advanced levels of research will discover that the range of potential topics is now quite broad. Indeed, in attempting to compile a selective bibliography to exemplify this range, I found the sheer volume of writings to be daunting. In Berry 2004, the most comprehensive Schenkerian bibliography to date, I offered around 3600 entries (2200 principal, 1400 secondary) representing the work of approximately 1475 authors. It was organized topically: fifteen broad groupings encompassed seventy topical headings, many of which were divided and subdivided again, resulting in a total of 271 headings under which entries were collected. Given such an abundance of material, it was a challenging task to reduce it to the modest size desired for the present survey. I had to impose the following restrictions on the selection process. The topical headings would be limited to around two dozen, and some of these would be broader and more general than in Berry 2004. The number of citations under each heading would be limited to around ten. As the present bibliography is primarily intended to serve those outside of the US, articles in periodicals would be favored over other sources (as, in general, they are more easily obtained through interlibrary loan); academic-degree theses would be omitted altogether (as, in general, they are more difficult to obtain outside the country of origin). Further selection criteria would include more recent over older publications; limits to the numbers of entries by the same author under a specific topic; and so forth. In the interest of conciseness, other information given in Berry 2004 would also be eschewed, such as descriptive comments, cross-references, citations of translations, and so forth. Lastly, given that the present bibliography is primarily to reflect Schenkerian activities in the US, I would select only English-language entries; however, on occasion these would include sources published outside the US, by non-American scholars. In sum, what follows should not be considered an abridgment of Berry 2004, but rather a different bibliography—a “sampler” of Schenkerian scholarship. Those seeking a more detailed and comprehensive picture of Schenkerian literature should naturally consult Berry 2004 (in which roughly 14% of the citations are in languages other than English).

A Survey of Select Research Topics

In the following, I offer comments about the kinds of entries gathered under each of the present bibliography’s divisions.

Section I. Collected here are articles (as opposed to textbooks) related to Schenkerian instruction and pedagogy. Part A offers “Analysis Demonstrations and Methodologies.” Among the “demonstrations” are detailed accounts of issues that arise during the interpretation of music, as in Beach 1989. (Note that author–date references will apply only to citations in the bibliographic division under discussion.) The “methodologies” provide rules or guidelines for analysis, as per the structural “indices” of Plum 1988 and the “strict use” of analytic notation of Larson 1996. Part B, “Pedagogy,” offers more explicit discussions of an array of pedagogical matters, from incorporating Schenkerian theory into the undergraduate curriculum (Damschroder 1985, Rothgeb 1981) to providing a pedagogical view of Schenker’s theory (Beach 1983).
Section II. Collected here are texts devoted to prominent theoretic and analytic topics. Part A gathers some that address a variety of “Prolongational Issues,” from an investigation into its very nature (Larson 1997); to syntactical explications (Keiler 1977, Smith 1981); to interpretive extensions that contemplate multiple hierarchies (Pearsall 1996) and overlapping prolongations (Wagner 1995). Part B collects some sources that canvass various attributes of “The Urlinie, Ursatz, and Züge.” Among the topics are the Anstieg (Berry 1999); the often-problematic octave line (Neumeyer 1987.3, Beach 1988, et al.); and unconventional articulations of the Urlinie, as when it is in the bass (Wen 1999) or “submerged” in the middle (Schachter 1994). Also cited are “revisionist” texts that modify Schenker’s own conceptions in various ways, such as by proposing an ascending Urlinie (Neumeyer 1987.1) or different types of two-part Urlinien (Neumeyer 1987.2).

Section III. Collected here are texts that provide Schenkerian interpretations of certain kinds of melodic and harmonic entities. Part A, “Regarding Note Types and Melodic Events,” includes studies of topics such as the leading tone (Chew 1983), the consonant passing tone (Drabkin 1996), implied tones (Rothstein 1991), and cover tones [Decktöne] (Suurpää 2003). Part B is given to “Motivic Parallelisms (Hidden Repetitions)” — i.e., Schenker’s verborgene Wiederholung. From the venerable Burkhart 1978 onward, various approaches to the subject are found here, including one that addresses how motivic considerations reveal an underlying tension between Schenkerian theory and practice (Cohn 1992). The sources under Part C address a topic that affects both melodic and harmonic events: “Chromaticism and Mixture.” Although some explorations are broader, these typically focus on chromaticism in specific works or as evidenced by certain composers.


Section V. Collected here are texts that address aspects of form. Part A contains essays of a broader or more general nature, such as those that investigate Schenker’s conception of Formenlehre (Smith 1996) or compare and reconcile Schenkerian and traditional theories of form (Schmalfeldt 1991). Part B collects texts that focus on a specific and significant form type, the sonata, either by exploring its treatment by a particular composer, or by addressing certain sections or features of the form. Finally, Part C is devoted to “Multi-Component Coherence,” i.e., the larger-scale integration of the “individual” components or sections of works such as song cycles, operas, symphonies, and piano cycles and sonatas.

Section VI. Collected here are texts that extend Schenkerian theories and methodologies to compositions of periods and types beyond those that Schenker himself privileged (and for which his theories were developed). Part A consists of “Approaches to Modal/
‘Pre-Tonal’ Music.” Some of these interpret the selected music more in terms of what it has in common with tonal music (e.g., Novack 1983), while others develop more historically situated reductive techniques (e.g., Judd 1992). Part B features “Approaches to ‘Chromatic Tonality’ in the Nineteenth Century.” Several of these address compositions that transcend a monotonal conception. Here the notion of “directional” or “progressive” tonality—the achieving of closure in one key after beginning in another—receives much attention, as in Korsyn 1996, Loeb 1990, and Nelson 1992. Other ways of explaining such works include a consideration of “tonal pairing,” in which two keys simultaneously occupy the highest position in a tonal hierarchy (see Krebs 1996). A bitonal Ursatz is even considered in Krebs 1985. Part C consists of “Approaches to ‘Post-Tonal’ Music (of the Twentieth Century and Afterward).” These entries are especially preoccupied with debating various notions of “post-tonal” prolongation and voice-leading. Part D collects some “Approaches to Popular and Rock Music,” in which the repertory ranges from American Tin Pan Alley to more recent British-American pop/rock. Here one will find entries that focus on repertorial attributes such as the design of song bridges (Larson 2003), the linear progressions and linear intervallar patterns exhibited by songs (Gilbert 1997), and features of Tin Pan Alley songs in general (Forte 1995). There are also some artist-based studies, ranging from those that expressly present analytic methodologies (Burns 2000) to those that explore specific features, such as The Beatles’ use of blue notes (Wagner 2003) and Paul Simon’s chromaticism (Everett 1997). Finally, Part E assembles “Approaches to Jazz.” Some address the topic of jazz analysis more generally (e.g., Larson 1998), while others focus on such aspects as harmony (Martin 1988, Strunk 1979), linear intervallar patterns (Strunk 1996), and other melodic characteristics (e.g., Larson 2002, Strunk 1985).

Section VII. Collected here are texts that extend the usual Schenkerian boundaries, not (necessarily) by exploring new repertories (as encountered under Section VI), but rather by integrating different concepts and methodologies into the analytic venture. Some of these are synthetic or comparative studies, meaning that they either juxtapose Schenkerian and other analytic methods, so as to demonstrate what each can (and cannot) reveal about a given composition, or they employ different methods alongside Schenkerian ones, so as to achieve a more comprehensive view of a composition. Although Schenker’s ideas and methods have been combined and contrasted with those of many other individuals, the Schenker–Schoenberg coalition has proven most popular by far; accordingly, it has been selected as the representative topic of Part A. Some of these studies combine Ursatz and Grundgestalt, or other characteristic features; other studies address underlying conceptual differences between the two theorists (e.g., Borio 2001, Montgomery 1994, van den Toorn 1996). Part B features another popular approach: the integration of Schenkerian analysis and concepts drawn from literary or narrative theory, or (more generally) the combination of Schenkerian and dramatic or narrative interpretations. The ideas of Roland Barthes are considered in some; for example, one will find investigations of Barthes’s narrative codes and their implications for tonal music (McCreless 1988), and of the parallels between literary and musical closure (McCreless 1991). Other studies are influenced by dramatists, such as Mar-
tin 1987, which addresses relations between Bernard Grebanier’s theory of playwriting and Schenker’s theory of music. Instead of taking the work of a literary theorist (or other such figure) as a point of departure, some essays utilize Schenkerian analysis in order to demonstrate such features as connections between tonal structure and dramatic narratives in opera (Schachter 1991) or the plot-implicative programmatic aspects of non-texted music (Suurpää 1997).

Section VIII. Collected here are two applications of Schenkerian methodologies that are similar in that each moves beyond the printed score to engage issues germane to a work’s creation or its realization by performers. Part A assembles “Sketch and Manuscript Studies”—a topic that was of great interest to Schenker (and notably also to his student Oswald Jonas). In the selections given here, authors engage in Schenkerian speculation for a variety of reasons: to explore the genesis and evolution of a work, to consider the hypothetical rationale for changes between earlier versions and the final one, to find what the materials reveal about compositional technique, and to support analytical interpretations. Most of the entries consider the ramifications of sketches and manuscripts for particular works, but some have broader goals; e.g., Rothgeb 1990 describes, with analytical illustrations, Schenker’s and Jonas’s views of the significance of composers’ manuscripts. The focus of Part B is on issues related to “Performance Practice.” Some entries utilize Schenkerian insights to inform and enhance performance; others consider the relationship between analysis and performance more generally. Among the contributions is Cook 1995, which offers an analysis of performance timings in recordings by conductor Wilhelm Furtwängler, a Schenker protégé and advocate; the analysis then facilitates an evaluation of parallels between Schenkerian analysis and performance interpretation.

Section IX. Finally, collected here are texts that situate Schenkerian theory and analysis within broader intellectual contexts. The “Philosophical Investigations” of Part A explore some of the foundations of Schenker’s work. Some associate Schenker’s ideas with those of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, or consider the influence of Goethean archetypes and morphology on Schenker. Another topic is Schenker’s organicism—including a study of his early rejection of the concept (Pastille 1984). Yet other entries focus on Schenker’s value judgments (Pastille 1995), his theory and analytic practice in terms of ethics (Cook 1989), and so forth. Under Part B are explorations of Schenker’s writings in terms of their “Conceptual and Ideological Backgrounds.” Some entries explore contexts specific to Schenker’s life; for example, Schachter 2001 places Schenker’s political views in historical context, and Alpern 1999 considers the impact of Schenker’s law training upon his musical development. Others concentrate on aspects of Schenker’s work, such as his use of linguistic expressions keyed to the physical experience of body movement and orientation (Saslaw 1997–98), the different senses of “concealment” evoked in his essays (Snarrenberg 1992), and his “anti-historicism” (Cook 1993).

In sum, the following bibliographic sampler demonstrates that English-language Schenkerian studies are not only thriving, but are involved in a myriad of topics. For scholars entering the field today, there are innumerable subjects on which to focus their research and analyses.
NB: For conciseness, in the following bibliography, books cited more than twice are designated by title and date only; their complete publication information is as follows:


**A Bibliographic Sampler**

I.

**A. Analysis Demonstrations and Methodologies**


SCHENKERIAN THEORY IN THE UNITED STATES

B. Pedagogy


II.

A. Prolongational Issues


B. The Urlinie, Ursatz, and Züge


III.

A. Regarding Note Types and Melodic Events


ideas about the upper neighbor note; the titular impromptu is regarded as a test case for the neighbor’s varied functions.


### B. Motivic Parallelisms (Hidden Repetitions)


### C. Chromaticism and Mixture


IV.

A. Rhythmic Theory: General


B. Phrase Aspects and Hypermeter


**C. Other Rhythmic and Metric Considerations**


V.

A. Form: General


B. Form: Specific Types: Sonata


C. Form: Multi-Component Coherence


VI.

A. Approaches to Modal / “Pre-Tonal” Music


DAVID CARSON BERRY


B. Approaches to “Chromatic Tonality” in the Nineteenth Century

C. Approaches to “Post-Tonal” Music (of the Twentieth Century and Afterward)


D. Approaches to Popular and Rock Music

David Carson Berry


**E. Approaches to Jazz**


**VII.**

*A. Synthetic (and Comparative) Studies: Schenker and Schoenberg*


SCHENKERIAN THEORY IN THE UNITED STATES


B. Synthetic Studies: Schenker and Drama, Narrative, and Literary Theory


VIII.

A. Sketch and Manuscript Studies


B. Performance Practice


IX.

A. Schenker’s Writing: Philosophical Investigations


B. Schenker’s Writing: Conceptual and Ideological Backgrounds.
——, Schenker’s Interpretive Practice (New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1997).
References


SCHENKERIAN THEORY IN THE UNITED STATES


SCHENKERIAN THEORY IN THE UNITED STATES


