The USC School of Music
Theory Area

Presents

Guest composer and theorist

Dmitri Tymoczko
Professor of Music
Princeton University

Schedule
Friday, April 10, 2015

Talk 1:  BAIN MUSC 726 Music and Mathematics
12:00 - 12:50 pm, Music Building, R214

Voice Leading as Vector
In this talk Dr. Tymoczko will describe one of the most general and fundamental connections between music and mathematics, a “translation manual” that allows us to associate basic concepts in music theory with ideas from contemporary geometry. The most fundamental entries in this translation manual associate voice leadings with vectors. This opens the door to a realm of statistical, conceptual, and geometrical investigations into musical structure.

Talk 2:  Composition Seminar
2:30 - 3:45 pm, Music Building, R210

Rock Logic
In this talk Dr. Tymoczko uses simple geometry to outline an indigenous theory of Rock harmony, showing how these musicians uncovered a natural and deeply logical alternative to traditional harmonic procedures—one in which harmonies tend to go in reverse. He will show that similar procedures can be found in the music of the late 16th and early 17th century, including Morley and Schutz. From this point of view, the “functional” harmony of the baroque and classical period represents a departure from a larger norm.

Talk 3:  Composition Seminar (special session)
4:00 - 5:00 pm, Music Building, R210

Talk for USC Composers
Dr. Tymoczko will give a talk on his recent music for USC composers.

All events take place in the USC School of Music,
813 Assembly St. (next to the Koger Center).
Talks 2 & 3 are free and open to the public, but seating is limited.
Dmitri Tymoczko

Dmitri Tymoczko was born in 1969 in Northampton, Massachusetts. He studied music and philosophy at Harvard University, and was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to do graduate work in philosophy at Oxford University. He received his Ph.D in music composition from the University of California, Berkeley. He is currently a Professor of Music at Princeton, where he has taught composition and theory since 2002. He lives in Philadelphia with his wife, Elisabeth Camp, who teaches philosophy at Rutgers University, their son Lukas, who was born in 2008, and their daughter Katya, born 2012. Dmitri's music has won numerous prizes and awards, including a Guggenheim fellowship, a Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, two Hugh F. MacColl Prizes from Harvard University, and the Eisner and DeLorenzo prizes from the University of California Berkeley. He has received fellowships from Tanglewood, the Ernest Bloch festival, the Mannes Institute for Advanced Studies in Music Theory, and was the composer-in-residence at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. He was awarded a Bicentennial Preceptorship from Princeton, and has been the Block lecturer at the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics. He has published one book with Oxford University Press (A Geometry of Music), and two CDs with Bridge Records (Crackpot Hymnal, for classical instruments, and Beat Therapy for jazz/funk ensemble). He is currently working on an album of rock-inspired pieces that mix electronics with acoustic instruments. In addition to composing concert music, Dmitri enjoys playing rock and jazz and writing words. His articles have appeared in the American Mathematical Monthly, the Atlantic Monthly, Berfrois, Boston Review, Civilization, Integral, Journal of Music Theory, Lingua Franca, Music Analysis, Music Theory Online, Music Theory Spectrum, Science, Seed, and Transition. His article "The Geometry of Musical Chords" was the first music-theory article published in the 130-year history of Science magazine. He has been invited to speak to audiences of musicians, philosophers, cognitive scientists, mathematicians, physicists, and the general public; articles about his work have appeared in a variety of newspapers and magazines, including Time, Nature, and Physics Today.

Source:
http://dmitri.mycpanel.princeton.edu/bio.html