"National Conf. on MT 1976" Jan 8, 1975

Browne notes

Call to Warfield 1-212-595-4105

✓ (1) $15 conf. fee $5 students
✓ (2) cassette or tape all sessions; speaker equipment demands to Wor
   Vance
✓ (3) short papers (Bergquist?) (else?)
✓ (4) put our names (W + T for ASUC; B. program) on
   programs and further mailings
✓ (5) Organization (a) CMS Browne to Reynolds
   Hanson - Harrison?
✓ (6) Program deadline Jan 15
   Browne should write to proxy of AMS,
   MENC, NASH

✓ Browne to Reynolds
   Response to CMS (Wm. Reynolds)
   Invite CMS to Boston - explain background & intentions.
   Copies: Hanson, Warfield, Barry

5. SHORT PAPERS

   Call Morgan
   1-215- Temple 787-8301
   OK Shackford
   1-203- Simms
   1-203- 776-6157

will need overhead projector

[Extra note: [* setting up the CMS/panel w AMS]]
Professor William Reynolds  
President, College Music Society  
Department of Music  
University of California  
Riverside, California 92502

Dear Professor Reynolds,

I write as a member of CMS, of the executive committee of the American Society of University Composers (ASUC), and as one of organizers of the National Conference on Music Theory 1976—which is being held at MIT in Boston at the end of the ASUC 1976 meetings, The Theory Conference is February 29 and March 1, 1976.

I have the feeling that, as in all ventures involving people not connected by official ties, important steps may have been overlooked in the planning of this Conference. I would like to offer you some background on the process as it has taken place—and to ask you if you might have advice and comment to offer.

First, and most generally, it seems to me (and others, of course) that there are sufficient signs that a considerable body of persons thinking of themselves as distinctly "theory people" exists—moreover, that at least some of them (and their students) would like to begin thinking about some sort of professional activity on a national level. I know there are many who find this premature, perhaps divisive, somehow wrong-headed. But the impetus for a discussion meeting comes from those who, like to explore the idea.

At the February 1975 joint meeting of the CMS and the ASUC in Iowa City, a tentative step was taken. The ASUC agreed to "host" a meeting of theorists at its next National Conference in order to see if various expressions of desire for such a national would take some tangible shape at that time. Mr. John Rahn (University of Washington) was asked to be "liaison" from ASUC to the theory development. Later, Marshall Bialosky (ASUC President) asked Gerald Warfield to coordinate the ad hoc group which had begun putting together ideas for a theory meeting. I have been involved in the process since well before its crystallization in Iowa City, and am now acting as program chairman for the National Conference on Music Theory 1976.
The fact that ASUC is hosting a theory meeting in no way indicates that anyone I know of has decided that theory ought to be organized by ASUC. Indeed—and this is a point I think would be agreed to by every person I have talked to on this topic since I began to work on it in ASUC and elsewhere several years ago—I know of no one who has a closed mind about 1) the inevitability (or the impossibility) of a separate national theory organization; 2) the nature of an increased affiliational role for theorists within any particular existing national organization (i.e., it is not a foregone conclusion that theorists would or would not be better off as part of AMS, CMS, ASUC, etc.); or 3) the notion that perhaps things should or should not remain generally ad hoc—regional, local, expressed through existing national functions.

In bringing about the Boston Conference, we have tried to talk with every known regional theory organization. Two discussion sessions are slated; representatives from the New York, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Midwest (Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, etc.) societies have been invited. A set of position questions aimed at putting the central, hard questions (Is theory distinct? Is a separate national organization justified?) will be raised.

May I add one more comment? As a veteran of the ASUC effort to organize a society for composers in academia, I am pretty sanguine about the difficulties of setting a national group. CMS, as an invaluable clearing-house for all aspects of university-level music, has wisely not attempted to be the permanent locus of intra-professional activity for any of its sub-areas. CMS might, however, be in a good position to assist theorists in their effort to reach some useful kind of professional societal functioning.

After receiving, via Warfield, information that the CMS board has discussed the question of national theory organization recently, I have talked with members of the Conference planning group. I have also taken the liberty of seeking the counsel of my friend and colleague Wallace Berry, your new board member for theory. It is their (and my) feeling that it would be very helpful if a representative of CMS could join us in Boston for Sunday afternoon and Monday morning discussions.

I look forward to your comments on that proposal and on other matters I have touched upon. Despite the difficulties attendant upon decision procedures involving people of scattered persuasions and addresses (not a new problem!), I am convinced by the example of CMS, among others, that the resulting communication is essential.

Many thanks for your consideration of this long letter. Please call me if I may be of further help.

Most cordially,

Richmond Browne
Associate Professor of Music Theory, University of Michigan
January 9, 1976

Dear Professor Reynolds,

I ran out of space at the end of my letter to you of this date—but want to note that I have sent information copies of the letter to Wallace Berry (University of Michigan School of Music), John Hanson, Eastman School of Music, 26 Gibbs Street, Rochester NY 14606 and Gerald Warfield, 114 West 71st Street (2A), New York NY 10023

Richmond Browne
Mr. Bryan Simms, Editor
Journal of Music Theory
Yale School of Music
New Haven, Connecticut 06520

Dear Bryan,

The short papers session at the National Conference on Music Theory will take place at MIT, March 1, at 9:30 a.m. As I added to my previous memo to you, I am sorry that I was unable to reach you by phone over Christmas, during which time the replies to our call for topics were coming in and I had to go ahead with arrangements. But I am happy that good people volunteered themselves; I think that is preferable to asking people if they would like to give a paper.

As moderator, you will only have to introduce the speakers, and perhaps keep track of the time for them. I think it is a very good thing that you will be visible at the Conference, by the way!

The three papers to be discussed (they will be made available for reading in advance, of course) are by Robert Cogan (New England Conservatory; "Carter's Pair o' Diamonds"), Charles Shackford (Connecticut College; "Resolution and Progression in Complex and Ambiguous Harmony"), and Robert F. Morgan (Temple University; "Reduction Theory: An Historical View"). There are no firm plans for the publication (afterwards, not the reading copies) of anything being done at the Theory Conference; ASUC might be able to put some things in its Proceedings, but I haven't talked to Warner Hutchison about that; you or Ben Boretz are free, I think, to ask for anything you like; ITO (the Michigan students' theory "journal") will be at the Conference and would probably be happy to get any of the papers, but I have said nothing about any of these options to any of the participants.

Please let me hear from you! Are you interested in going from New Haven to Boston with me Saturday? I think I will drive down on Friday and up the next day.

Best,

Richmond

Richmond Browne

Browne to Simms, 3-15-76
Thanks and reg. to put something in next JMT
NC on MT

Brown to Warrenfield 1-14/76

1. ITO? OK
2. Vercoe to tape all sessions? OK
3. Reynolds letter to AMS, etc.? OK
4. Midwest Society?
5. Harrison on organization? OK

[Signature]

Browne to NASM, MENC

Short papers are coming to Browne by Feb. 15
To: Ad Hoc Committee for an American Music Theory Society (Bialosky, Brooks, Browne, Hanson, Harrison, Rahn, Simms, and Taub)

Theory Conference Participants (Boretz, Cogan, Fischer, Gauldin, Largent Lewin, Morgan, Shackford, and Vercoe)

ASUC Executive Committee, ASUC National Council, ASUC Founding Committee

Officers of the 11th National ASUC Conference (Harris, Schwartz, Stern, Van de Vate, and Vercoe)

Re: National Conference on Music Theory
ASUC National Conference

From: Gerald Warfield

Enclosed is a letter to the respondents of our announcement of the National Conference on Music Theory and a flyer announcing same. Copies of the flyer will also be mailed to many music department chairmen.

With respect to both conferences, New England Conservatory is sending their own brochure announcement to ASUC members, music department chairmen, and to individuals in the Boston area. They are also printing a conference poster (based on the Journal logo) that will be available for purchase at the registration table.

We are indebted to Donald Harris and Gunther Schuller for the facilities of the N.E.C. and particularly for the huge number of compositions they have undertaken to perform. In a recent New York meeting Donald Harris informed us that some of the N.E.C. concerts will be broadcast on WGBH and that an advance interview with Marshall Bialosky is also being planned.

Barney Childs tells us that the first recording of the ASUC recording series will probably be ready by the time of the conference. It is very gratifying that this step has finally been taken as it was one of the initial goals of the founding committee.

Please review carefully the enclosed material pertaining to the theory conference. Richmond Browne, as program chairman, has done an excellent job. If you have comments please get in touch with him right away.

Sincerely,

Gerald Warfield
January 17, 1976

Mr. Richmond Browne
School of Music
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dear Mr. Browne:

I am very pleased that you have asked me to give a paper at the National Theory Convention in Boston on March 1.

I am now even more doubtful, however, that I will be able to get the paper together in time for duplicating and mailing. Although I have of course all the material for the paper, it will take some time to organize it. Also, I promised David Hamilton some months ago that I would write a short article for the Program Book of the Fromm Contemporary Musical Festival in New York in March. Then it looked like there would be no program until two days ago, when David told me he needed the article in two weeks (1). So with that added complication, I am even more unsure about meeting your deadline.

I like your idea of sending out the papers in advance, and if you would prefer not to have my paper simply read, I will certainly understand. (In this case, perhaps I could give it at a future meeting.) But unless I hear otherwise, I will assume that it is on. You might let me know, however, how much time I would have for reading (presumably you would want to leave some time for discussion).

Again, let me say that whatever you decide about this is fine with me. In the meantime, I will go on with the paper, since it is something I want to do in any case.

Best regards,

Robert F. Morgan
January 14, 1976

Professor Robert P. Morgan
Department of Music
Temple University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122

Dear Professor Morgan,

Thank you for calling me yesterday. I am delighted that you are willing to give your paper at the National Conference on Music Theory.

Let me set down some items we have agreed to. If possible, you will provide us with copies of your paper by February 15, so that those persons pre-registered for the Conference can receive a reading copy by mail and others can pick up a copy to read at registration. Then, on Monday morning's (March 1) 9:30 session at MIT, you will not have to read the paper aloud, but will be able to discuss it, take questions, etc. If you find it better for you, you may send the paper to me and I will take care of the duplication. Right now I would plan on 150 copies, but that may have to raised. (Of course, if the paper is not ready in advance, we can always fall back on your simply delivering it). You colleagues that morning will be Robert Cogin and Charles Shackford; the moderator is JMT Editor Bryan Simms.

If you do your duplicating, the title page might carry something like the following "Reduction Theory: An Historical View" by Robert P. Morgan -- paper delivered at the National Conference on Music Theory, MIT, March 1, 1976. Not to be reproduced without the permission of the author -- or some such phrase. Please let me know if you will require any audio or visual aids during your discussion.

I look forward to receiving your paper!

Yours very cordially,

Richmond Browne

(I enclose a copy of my earlier letter, which may have gone astray.)
December 29, 1975

Robert P. Morgan  
Department of Music  
Temple University  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122

Dear Professor Morgan,

Thank you for your response to the proposed National Conference on Music Theory, to be hosted by the ASUC in Boston next February.

Gerald Warfield has sent me your proposal for a paper on the history of reduction theory. I am working with JMT editor Bryan Simms to set up a group of short papers—and I like your proposal very much! Let me describe the format we have in mind and ask you to join the group presenting papers, if you wish. We have in mind three or four short papers on various topics. The papers should be sent us in finished form by about January 30 so that they can be duplicated and sent to people who have pre-registered for the Conference and/or given out on the first day of the Conference. The idea (which I recently found successful at our Michigan Conference) is that the papers will not be read aloud—they will be made available for perusal and then discussed by the author (using further examples, questions, etc.) at the appointed meeting of the short papers group. Please let me know if you would like to take part; each author would be allotted about 30 minutes for discussion of his pre-distributed paper at the Conference on Monday morning, March 1.

I will try to call you before you get this letter, but in any case I do hope you will give us your paper! Please get in touch with me as soon as you can—we are nearing the time to print up programs, etc....

Yours very cordially,

Richard Browne

(313) 663-5192
December 8, 1975

American Society of University Composers
Theory Conference
250 west 57th St. #626-7
New York, N.Y. 10019

To those concerned:

I was very pleased to receive your communication on the National Conference on Music Theory in Boston in February and the possibility of forming a National Music Theory Society. I think this is an excellent idea, and I suspect that you will find a good bit of interest throughout the country. I have felt for some time that such a society would serve a real need. (The fact that such a significant proportion of ASUC conferences have been devoted to what are essentially theoretical --as opposed to specifically compositional-- issues lends this strong support.)

As for suggestions for the conference, I am enclosing a proposal for a paper. Also, I think a panel on rhythmic theory and/or analysis would be of particular interest and value. And the question of the role of theory in present-day college curricula is one that concerns many theorists.

I wish you well in your efforts and look forward to hearing from you again.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Morgan

PROPOSAL FOR A PAPER FOR THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MUSIC THEORY

Reduction Theory: An Historical View

Schonker's theory of pitch reduction did not suddenly appear sui generis. Nor is it simply an extension of seventeenth century concepts of diminution technique. It is rather the culmination of a long and complex evolution of theoretical ideas that go back at least as far as the Renaissance and encompass a wide range of theorists (e.g., Burmeister, Bernhard, Rameau, Vossler, Sechler and Riemann).

The paper traces this development, with particular emphasis on Schonker's unique contribution in bringing together previously unrelated ideas from these diverse sources and synthesizing them into a newly comprehensive and systematic form.

This looks good! Robert P. Morgan
NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MUSIC THEORY

FEB. 29 - MARCH 1.

NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY AND THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

In response to interest expressed by individual theorists and members of state and regional music theory societies, the American Society of University Composers has scheduled a NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MUSIC THEORY. The purpose of this conference is to facilitate an exchange of information with regard to all aspects of music theory and to consider the possibility of founding a national music theory society.

Sunday, February 29 - New England Conservatory

10:00 Registration - N.E.C. Lobby
11:00 Paper: Benjamin Boretz (Bard College)
1:00 Concert
   (All remaining meetings at M.I.T.)
3:30 Panel: Introductory Techniques and Modifications
   Robert Gauldin (Eastman School of Music) - Introduction to
   Set Theory
   Harold Lewin (Manhattan School of Music) - Permutational Aspects
   of the 12-tone System
   Barry Vercoe (M.I.T.) - Music and Technology: Breaking the
   Language Barrier
   Gerald Warfield (Index of New Musical Notation) - Introduction
   to Schenker Analysis

5:30 Organizational Discussion, Part I (session includes dinner break)
   Richmond Browne (Mich. Conference on Music Theory), moderator;
   John Hanson (Music Theory Society of N.Y. State), James Harrison
   (Music Theory Society of N.Y. State), John Rahn (ASUC representative),
   Edward J. Largent (Ohio Theory-Composition Teachers Association),
   Donald Fischer (Midwest Theory Society)

Monday, March 1

9:00 Coffee (M.I.T.)
9:30 Papers: Bryan Simms (Editor, Journal of Music Theory) - moderator
   Robert Cogan (N.E.C.) - Carter's "Pair o' Diamonds"
   Robert P. Morgan (Temple University) - Reduction Theory:
   An Historical View
   Charles Shackford (Connecticut College) - Resolution and
   Progression in Complex and Ambiguous Harmony

11:30 Organizational Discussion, Part II

The National Conference on Music Theory is scheduled to overlap the National Conference of the American Society of University Composers by one day; the last meeting of ASUC will be the first meeting of the music theory conference. If you are not a member of ASUC advance registration is requested. Please send $15 registration fee ($5 for students) to ASUC - Theory Conference, 250 W. 57 St.
Room 626-7, New York, N.Y. 10019. Include your mailing address and professional affiliation. Hotel reservations should be made by Feb. 7 at the Statler Hilton, Park Square, Boston, Mass. 02117. State you are with conference. (Rates $24 & $34.)
Dear theorist:

Thank you for your response to the announcement of the National Conference on Music Theory. One hundred and fifty theorists as of January 8 have indicated an interest in attending, and numerous papers and panels have been suggested. Because of the number of letters there has not been time, in each case, for a personal reply.

Enclosed is a flyer which contains the tentative program. We hope you will post it and make the information available to your colleagues. If you wish to attend the theory conference please act on both the following at your earliest convenience:

1. Return the enclosed postage-paid hotel reservation form to the Statler Hilton in Boston before February 7. (Theory conference dates are Feb. 29 - March 1.)

2. If you are not a member of ASUC (and not attending the earlier ASUC conference, Feb. 27 - Feb. 29) please detach the advance registration form below and return it with the registration fee of $15 ($5 for students). Receipts will be available at the registration table.

This conference has been planned by an ad hoc committee under the sponsorship of the American Society of University Composers. The names of the committee members are listed below. We would like to emphasize that it is not a foregone conclusion that a national theory society will be formed at this meeting. We do feel, however, that there are enough problems within the profession (of substantive, pedagogical, or political natures) that our time will be well spent addressing them collectively. This is in addition, of course, to the benefit of meetings and discussions with fellow professionals. Neither is it a foregone conclusion that a national theory society, should one be formed, have any formal connection with ASUC.

Advance copies of papers to be presented at Monday's session and position papers pertaining to the organization of a theory society will be mailed in advance of the conference, time permitting. Registration will be in the lobby of the New England Conservatory, 290 Huntington Avenue. We have planned a stimulating meeting and look forward to seeing you there.

Gerald Warfield, Coordinator for the Committee
Richmond Browne, Program Chairman
Marshall Bialosky
Richard Brocks
John Hanson
James Harrison
John Rahn
Bryan Simms
Bruce Taub

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MUSIC THEORY --- REGISTRATION FORM

Please return this form if you plan to attend the theory conference (Feb. 29 - March 1) but you are not a member of ASUC and not attending the ASUC conference (Feb. 27 - 29).

Name: ________________________________

Mailing Address: ________________________________

Affiliation: ________________________________

☐ I enclose $15 registration fee ($5 for students). Make checks payable to ASUC.

Return form to: AMERICAN SOCIETY OF UNIVERSITY COMPOSERS
THEORY CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
250 West 57th Street, Room 626-7
New York, N.Y. 10019
American Society of University Composers

250 West 57th Street  Room 626-7
New York, N.Y. 10019

January 1976

Dear ASUC Member:

The following is the complete program for the Boston Conference. I hope that you will all be able to attend since this promises to be one of our most important conferences.

Thursday (February 26):

3:00 p.m. Meeting of Executive Committee and National Council only (Statler-Hilton).

8:00 p.m. Concert: New England Conservatory of Music Wind Ensemble conducted by Frank Battisti. Works by Selig, Stock, Jere Hutchison, Stokes, Cyr.

Friday (February 27):

9:00 a.m. Greetings and Opening Remarks: Marshall Bialosky and Gunther Schuller.

9:15 a.m. Keynote Address by Otto Luening.


12:00 noon Lecture-Demonstration: "Research into New Areas of Multiple-Percussion Performance and Composition", Ron George.


4:00 p.m. Concert of solo, small chamber works, and choral music. Works by Harbison, Weinberg, Ussachevsky, Steinke, Stuart Smith, Kraft, Barkin, Bialosky, James Hoffman, Cogan, Martino.

8:00 p.m. Concert at MIT celebrating the opening of the MIT electronic studio. Works by Babbitt, Lansky, Vercoe, Duger, Perara. To be followed by a panel discussion. No-host mixer at the Statler Hilton.

Saturday (February 28):

9:00 a.m. Paper Session III: "The Composer As Teacher", Gordon Cyr, Chairperson. "Teaching Music to
the Amateur Through Composition", Jonathan Kramer; "Circular Diagrams for Tone Sets", Newton Hoffmann; "An Integrated Theory Approach Within a Liberal Arts Program", Harold Oliver.

11:00 a.m. Lecture-Demonstration: "Thought Processes in the Electronic Arts of Sound and Light", Ronald Pellegrino.

12:00 noon Concert. Works by Warner Hutchison and Steven Stucky (winner of the ASUC Student Composition Contest).

2:30 p.m. ASUC General Business Meeting.

4:00 p.m. Joint Recital by David and Lois Burge. Works by Chaitkin, Frank, Priscilla McLean, Stravinsky.

8:00 p.m. New England Conservatory Contemporary Music Ensemble Concert conducted by Gunther Schuller. Works by Domenica, McKinley, Luening, Pellegrini, Rovics, Stern. Reception following.

Sunday (February 29):


11:00 a.m. Joint session with those people meeting to discuss the possible formation of a national theory organization. Benjamin Boretz, title to be announced.

1:00 p.m. Concert of Solo and Small Chamber Works. Works by Oliver, Sarar, Elliott Schwartz, Taub, Diemente, Fennely.

2:30 p.m. Adjournment

THEORY MEETINGS (ASUC members invited).

Sunday (February 29):


5:30 p.m. Organizational Discussion, Part I: Richmond Browne, moderator. Participants: Edward J. Largent, Donald Fischer, John Rahn, James Harrison, and John Hanson.

Monday (March 1):


11:30 a.m. Organizational Discussion, Part II.

See you in Boston.

Sincerely,

Bruce J. Taub
Chairman, Executive Committee
Feb. 2, 1976

Rich,

All is going well. Barry is arranging for a book exhibit. Any more exhibit enquiries should go to him. If publishers do not send a representative there will be a 25.00 charge for displaying and returning materials.

The new AMS president who's name I have forgotten again (Harr, I think) said he thought it might be a good idea if we did form our own society. This seemed to take Harrison somewhat by surprise.

I wrote to Ming as well as a few of the rejectees. As of last Thursday there were five registrees including Forte. We decided not to charge registration fees to non ASUC people who were participating on the program since we are unable to help any of them with their expenses or pay honoraria. If you object we can switch it back, however.

Do let Barry know about audio-visual needs.

Can you take care of reproducing papers to be available at the registration desk? We are swamped...and do keep track of your expenses.
February 2, 1976

Professor Richmond Browne
School of Music
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor
Michigan 48105

Dear Professor Browne:

First of all I want to thank you for your thoughtful letter dealing with the planning of the National Conference on Music Theory. I do agree that a considerable body of "theory people" exists, and in many ways I like to include myself in that classification. I also agree that the impetus seems at hand for these people to come together to explore their commitments and expectations. I therefore wish you well in the important conference you are holding in Boston on February 29 and March 1.

I am pleased by the suggestion that a representative of CMS join you in Boston, and have decided to appoint a committee of Members-at-Large from the CMS Board (Theory and Composition) who hopefully will be able to attend (quite possibly are attending anyway), and who can report back to our next Board and Council meeting (March 26 and 27 in New York). It is my wish to encourage in any favorable manner the development of a thriving forum for Theorists. I also agree with your comment that CMS, as an umbrella organization, exists to serve the needs of the profession as a whole, and not to attempt to coerce or pre-empt more specialized societal functions.

If there is further benefit from further theory meetings which might take place in conjunction with the joint CMS-AMS meeting in Philadelphia next November, I would be pleased to encourage the Program Committee to comply with your needs. I did have some conversation with John Hanson along these lines.

I am asking Wallace Berry, William Bergsma, John Hanson and Leo Kraft to advise me on ways in which CMS can be helpful; and I will hope that all or nearly all can be present at your meetings in Boston. May I also ask that you keep me informed of developments as you see them. I do feel that it is high time for theorists to bring their energies together in some significant fashion.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

William H. Reynolds, President

 later:  "After MIT, a panel was proposed to CMS/AMS, and took place in Nov. 76."
Gerry,

Enclosed is a copy of my letter to Barry Vercoe about tech support. Please get in touch with him about your panel...

Let me ramble over the field as it now appears:

-- the organizational panel is OK—my position questions will be available then, but perhaps not much before then...

--the short papers **Cogan is OK and will do his own duplication; I have Shackford's paper; Morgan will probably not get his done in time to duplicate and will read it. I need to know your best guess as to the size of the Theory meetings you see coming! My current guess would be (including local students and so on) at least 100. I will "publish" 150 copies of papers and remarks unless you see it otherwise. Do reply on this!!! (OK on your decision to not charge fees of participants).

Did I tell you that Reynolds (CMS proxy) wrote me approving of everything we have done so far...

See you in Boston Thursday afternoon!

Richard Browne

P.S. Just got Bruce's note re E.C. — thanks for the compliments and the delicacy of phrasing — I am not personally interested in ASUC's mission (composing any more, but I am very interested in ASUC's continuing success. I do intend to see theory progress (with or without an organization) and will be working there. If I can help ASUC as an E.C. member — keep me — if you want to drop me in order to get more composers actively involved — do so — you have my...
February 17, 1976

Barry Vercoe
Music Department
MIT
Cambridge, Mass 02139

Dear Barry,

This letter contains the technical support requirements, as far as I can now see them, for the papers and panels to be delivered at the National Conference on Music Theory, sessions at MIT, February 29 and March 1. I very much appreciate your work in helping set up the Conference and look forward to seeing you soon.

In general: I would hope that all sessions (organizational, papers, panels) could be recorded. Cassette would be quite all right.

Boretz is our first speaker; he will be at New England Conservatory Sunday morning. I don't know if he wants this talk recorded—perhaps Gerry Warfield knows...for now leave him off my blanket request above...

Sunday afternoon at MIT: a panel headed by Warfield. I think it should be recorded. I don't know what the technical support should be—Warfield please tell Vercoe directly.

—the first organizational discussion. Should be taped; would need public address system if you think so. I don't know how big the group will be but would not be surprised by over 100.

Monday morning at MIT: three short papers by Robert Cogan, Charles Shackford, and Robert P. Morgan. So far their requests include tape playback capability at 7½ and 3 3/4 stereo (½ track), overhead transparency projector, a piano if possible, and maybe chairs and stands for a string quartet.

—second organizational discussion. Miked and taped as above.

Again many thanks...and best regards...

[Signature]

Richmond Browne

[Carbon Copy] G. Warfield
amERICAN SOCIETY OF UNIVERSITY COMPOSERS
250 WEST 57TH STREET    ROOM 626-7
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

February 11, 1976

Prof. Richmond Browne
School of Music
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Dear Rich:

I would like to thank you for all of the hard work you have done on the Theory Conference. I think that it will be a successful conference whether or not a society is actually formed. The papers all look quite interesting. The response (preregistration forms) has not been overwhelming - 24 as of today - but I am sure that many people will simply just show up. Also, many of the people who responded to our original mailing are ASUC members who don't have to preregister, so I think that it will be well attended. Things are pretty much set for the ASUC part of the conference so, thank god, I now have some time for other things.

There is something else that I would like to discuss with you. When we met in New York with Gerald on your way to Yale, you gave me the impression that although you were still interested in ASUC you were somewhat disillusioned with the composition bandwagon (as I believe you put it). I, therefore, wonder if you are still interested in serving on the Executive Committee. I believe you have been on the E.C. for at least four years (therefore, theoretically in your second term). I ask this not, of course, because I don't want you to continue on the E.C., but because we need to make room for new and more members. I hope and I know that you will continue working on this theory organization. You could, of course, continue to do that without being on the E.C. We are anyway thinking of enlarging the E.C. especially with members in N.Y. since we need help here in the office so desperately. This will be discussed at the Boston conference business meeting on Thursday afternoon.

I am sorry that I have delayed mentioning this to you until now, but I was (and still am) unsure of how you would feel about this especially since you've done all this work on the theory conference and I certainly have no desire to offend you in any way. Please let me know what you think as soon as possible. I look forward to seeing you in Boston.

Best wishes,

Bruce J. Taub, Chairman - Executive Committee
701 Del Mar Ave.
Novato, Calif. 94947
Feb. 13, 1976

Bruce J. Taub
Chairman, Executive Committee
ASUC
250 West 57th Street
Room 626-7
New York, N. Y. 10019

Dear Mr. Taub:

I have just received the flyer for the ASUC Conference in Boston and noticed, with regret, that there is no mention of the lecture-demonstrations and most of the papers. In addition to spending numerous hours preparing materials for presentation we are putting out goodly sums to pay our own travel expenses. All this is done out of a desire to share our experiences with colleagues, students and other interested parties in the immediate vicinity of Boston.

Surely this publicity oversight is not meant to be intentionally insulting. So it seems fitting and reasonable to request that those responsible for publicity make a special effort to inform the public of the lectures and papers which comprise 50% of the conference schedule.

In the past the ASUC has always given solid support to members contributing lectures and papers at conferences. In effect it has recognized and celebrated the fact that composers do more than scratch notes on paper—that they have inquiring minds, that they can formulate ideas and that they can articulate them in a uniquely musical way. Since 1969 I have been attending national and regional conferences and normally I have found the papers, lectures and demonstration sessions to be inspiring and highly edifying. Let us not undermine this important function of the Society.

Copies of this letter are being sent to other concerned parties with the hope that they will let their feelings be known regarding this matter and that the necessary steps be taken to give adequate weight and visibility to the paper and lecture sessions.

Sincerely,

Ron Pellegrino

Ron Pellegrino
February 18, 1976

Ron Pellegrino
701 Del Mar Ave.
Novato, Calif. 94947

Dear Ron,

Thanks for sending me a copy of your letter to Bruce Taub about the ASUC Conference and the flyer recently sent out. I share your concerns that the "verbal" portions of our meetings not be overlooked. And I am sure that the lack of mention of papers and panels was not meant to be intentionally "insulting".

The way the whole weekend developed would make a semi-fascinating book...the New England Conservatory has from the first been extremely forthcoming in its support of a strong program of performances by ASUC composers—one of the best efforts by any "host" I can remember. The flyer you received was (I understand) produced by NEC as an additional contribution to the Conference. It is understandable that it would stress the performance effort being put out by the NEC. The papers and panels being presented by ASUC were described in ASUC's own publicity (Newsletter, etc.). In addition to the ASUC meeting, the Theory Conference to follow has been publicized by ASUC. The NEC (because of ASUC internal complications) learned about the theory conference at a rather late date—but has cooperated in a very helpful way in that endeavor.

So it seems to me that your point is well taken—the activities of ASUC composers in ways other than performing their own music need to be understood—but that perhaps no one is particularly to be faulted for the content of the flyer.

Thanks again for your comment—will you be in Boston? I hope to see you...

Best regards,

Rich

Richmond Browne
To Bruce Taub and Donald Harris

Bruce, I know you got Ron Pellegrino's letter; Don, perhaps he sent it to you also. Here is my reply to him, aimed at cooling down a slightly "hot" but very good guy. (Don, if you didn't get his letter, his complaint was that the flyer NEC sent out didn't mention the papers and panels of the ASUC Conference.)

See you both soon,

Richmond Browne

2/18/76
American Society of University Composers

250 West 57th Street  Room 626-7
New York, N.Y. 10019

Feb. 20, 1976

Dear Rich,

Hope this reaches you before you leave. Mail has been incredibly slow.

We have had 34 registrants in the theory conference. It's my guess that with the ASUC people staying, and a few more registrations at the conference, that we'll have over a hundred on Sunday but that the number will taper off to less than a hundred on Monday. So your suggestion of 150 position papers seems about right to me.

I got a disappointing letter from Ming who is in charge of the CMS theory presentations at the CMS conference. According to him, the program is already set. He did say that if substantial progress were made toward the establishing of a national theory conference it would be nice to have a report at the CMS conference. I didn't have the strength to write him back.

I'm not sure what to say about Bruce's letter. (I haven't seen it.) I think the main thing is that you gave the impression when you were here of being pretty disgusted with ASUC, and that your future activities would be confined to theory. However, with ASUC's increasing involvement with theory this would not seem to make you out of place on the E.C.

On the other hand, if the work is worth doing, there should be others willing to do their share. This, of course, goes for me, too. I have been trying to gracefully disengage myself from all the work I have been doing for ASUC, but I would also like to see things just a bit more stable before I drop out. The problem(s) you mentioned about the N.C. are, of course, very real.

You and I both have only a year left. Why don't you stay on and we can eclipse in unison?

I may not be able to get a report out to the theory committee before I leave. Bruce and I will be meeting with Marshall on Wednesday. Perhaps I can get Richard Brooks to send out a "final" report.

See you in Boston!!!!

Sincerely,

[Signature]
To: Ad Hoc Committee for an American Music Theory Society

From: Gerald Warfield

I am sending this final report out a bit early since I must be in Boston by Wednesday for ASUC meetings.

We have received only 35 non-ASUC registrations as of today, the 20th. We also have only 5 publishers signed up for the book exhibit. These figures are a little disappointing but they certainly don't portend disaster. I expect a large percentage of ASUC members to be staying on for at least part of the theory conference, and, of course, we will pick up a few more attendees at registration. It is my guess that there will be over 100 for the Sunday meetings but that it will drop to under that figure on Monday.

I think all the details have been taken care of. Rich and I have sent Barry Vercoe, our host at MIT, all our equipment and conference needs. We are greatly indebted to Barry for taking on the local arrangements for the conference. Originally he was only to have arranged for a concert or two at MIT as part of the ASUC conference.

I would also like to include a thank-you to Bruce Taub for the many hours he has spent in behalf of the theory conference. He has coordinated the mass mailings, taken care of registration and handled a great deal of the correspondence.

I'm looking forward to seeing each of you in Boston, and I guess we are all equally curious to see how things will turn out.

Sincerely,

Gerald Warfield
Dear Rich,

I hope this reaches you before you leave for the conference. At the eleventh hour it has occurred to me that members of the E.C. should be apprised of one of the proposals I am making at our meeting. The proposal is that we expand the E.C. to include a representative of associate members and a representative of student members. (In each case, of course, the representative should be a member within that category.)

Should we decide to do this we can implement it immediately providing we have people who can fill the positions. So do be thinking of people you might want to nominate (from the Michigan group?). Should they not be attending the conference you should speak to them about it before you leave.

See you Thursday.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Feb 29-Mar 1

1976

Natl Conference on Music Theory was held at NEC & MIT.

Boston 100 attended the

NC on MT.
January 14, 1976

Professor Charles Shackford
Department of Music
Connecticut College
New London, Connecticut 06320

Dear Charles,

I am delighted that you are willing to give your paper "Resolution and Progression in Complex and Ambiguous Harmony" at the National Conference on Music Theory. If you can send me your paper by January 30, or perhaps a few days later, it will be duplicated and made available to those who pre-register for the Conference and at the registration desk. Then, on Monday, March 1, at the 9:30 session at MIT, you will not have to read your paper aloud, but will be able to discuss it, take questions, etc. Your colleagues that morning will be Robert Cogan and Robert Morgan; the moderator will be JMT Editor Bryan Simms. Please let me know what kinds of audio or visual aids you would like to use.

I am looking forward to receiving the paper, and to seeing you in Boston.

Most cordially,

Richmond Browne

Richmond Browne
December 28, 1975

Professor Charles Shackford  
Department of Music  
Connecticut College  
New London, Connecticut 06320

Dear Professor Shackford,

I am working with Journal of Music Theory editor Bryan Simms on the arranging of short papers for the National Conference on Music Theory, to be hosted by the ASUC in Boston February 29 and March 1, 1976. Gerald Warfield has sent me your note stating that you would like to present a paper on harmony. The title sounds intriguing—and the excellence of your work known to me leads me to ask you if you would be willing to present the paper at the Conference? I will describe the format we have in mind.

If possible, papers should be sent to us in finished form by about January 30. They will be duplicated and made available to pre-registered participants before the Conference (or at least at registration). The idea is to avoid having the papers read aloud—the papers will have been perused beforehand, and the authors will each have about 30 minutes Monday March 1 (morning session) to answer questions, present more examples, etc. We tried this format at our recent Michigan Conference and liked very much. Single-spaced papers of up to about 12 pages seem appropriate.

I do hope you will consider being part of the Conference. I will try to call you before you receive this letter, but in any case would you call me if I have not succeeded? Printing deadlines are beginning to loom in front of us...

Yours most cordially,

Richmond Browne

(313) 663-5192
I would like to present a paper at the National Conference on Music Theory, Feb 29 - March 1. My title would be "Resolution and Progression in Complex and Ambiguous Harmony."

12/5/75

Charles Shackford

Conn. College
3 March 1976

Professor Richmond Browne
The University of Michigan
School of Music
Earl V. Moore Building
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105

Dear Richmond:

Congratulations on having brought off the National Conference on Music Theory and best wishes for the future.

I was delighted to have been a part of it and sorry not to have been able to take in more than the final session.

Thanks so much for your help in getting my paper run off and in providing the equipment for its presentation.

With all good wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

Charles R. Shackford
Professor of Music
February 13, 1976

Professor Richmond Browne  
The University of Michigan School of Music  
Earl V. Moore Building  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105

Dear Richmond:

Enclosed herewith is my paper for the Theory Conference. Though it has been deposited for copyright, as a routine matter, it may be reproduced for the purposes of the conference.

I look forward to seeing you in Boston.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Charles R. Shackford  
Professor of Music

CRS: js  
Enclosure
February 9, 1976

Professor Richmond Browne
The University of Michigan School of Music
Earl V. Moore Building
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105

Dear Richmond:

This is to keep you up on the progress of my paper and to let you know what I would like to have in the way audio-visual equipment.

The paper at the moment is in its final stages; I expect to mail it to you tomorrow or the next day.

For the discussion on March 1, I would like to be able to use some 8½ x 11 transparencies which will require an overhead projector. My taped musical examples will be on a reel at 7½" per second. Actually, it would be very good if a piano were handy.

With all good wishes to you and for the success of the conference, I am

Yours sincerely,

Charles R. Shackford
Professor of Music

CRS:js
2 February 1976

Professor Richmond Browne  
The University Of Michigan School of Music  
Earl V. Moore Building  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105

Dear Richmond:

Thank you very much for your letters of 28 December and 14 January. I am delighted to be asked to present a paper at the forthcoming meeting National Conference on Music Theory. I accept your invitation with pleasure.

I am glad you do not actually have to have the paper the end of January, and that some time in the first week of February will do. I expect to be able to mail it to you by the end of this week.

It will be good to see you in Boston.

All good wishes,

[Signature]

Charles R. Shackford  
Professor of Music
Prof. Richmond Browne  
School of Music  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Mich. 48105

Dear Richmond:

Progress report. "Carter's Pair o' Diamonds" is finished, ready for typist. An NEC typist will do it; this will give a better finished product to reproduce, but may lead to some current delay. When ready, shall I send it to you or keep it here? The draft is 20 pages, double spaced. Will boil down some in single-spaced typing, but not by half--due to space taken by musical examples, graphs, etc. Probably will be 15-16 pages.

Many thanks for the recent information. Best regards,

Robert Cogan, Chairman of  
Graduate Theoretical Studies

PS. For the discussion I will require a quarter-track stereo, 7 1/2 and 3 3/4, tape recording (reel-to-reel) playback capability, one with sufficient volume and fidelity to make the psychoacoustical phenomena audible. If luck is with us I will also have a live woodwind quartet to demonstrate; they will need music stands, chairs, etc.
January 14, 1976

Professor Robert Cogan
New England Conservatory of Music
290 Huntington Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02115

Dear Bob,

The session at which you are to discuss your paper "Carter's Pair o' Diamonds" will be at 9:30, March 1, at MIT. Your colleagues that morning will be Charles Shackford and Robert Morgan; the moderator is JMT Editor Bryan Simms.

If you can send me your paper by January 30, or perhaps a few days thereafter, it will be duplicated and sent to those pre-registering for the Conference or distributed at the registration desk. You will then not read it aloud, but discuss it, take questions, etc. Please let me know if you require any audio or visual aids.

I am looking forward to receiving the paper, and to seeing you at the National Conference on Music Theory!

Most cordially,

Richmond Browne
Mr. Richmond Browne  
School of Music  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  

Dear Richmond:

This is to confirm our recent phone conversation about my making a presentation at the National Conference on Music Theory. My proposed subject will be tone-color analysis, specifically of Etudes III and VII of Elliott Carter's Eight Etudes and a Fantasy; my working title is "Carter's Pair o' Diamonds". From our conversation I assume I should regard all as "go" unless I hear from you to the contrary. I would appreciate all information about format as early as possible; right now I assume that your description, a written paper serving as basis for on-the-spot discussion, also holds.

I look forward to seeing you in Boston.

Sincerely,

Robert Cogan, Chairman of Graduate Theoretical Studies

Answered by RB - (1-3/76)
Theory On's. Panel

Bruno
Langen
Fisher
Herman
Harrison
R. L.

CMS