

# Research Productivity in Music: A Personal Perspective

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Recent trends in higher education have changed many aspects affecting the role of the individual professor. Technological advancements, the increasing knowledge base, changes within our society, and the changing demographics of our constituents combined with changes concerning our fiscal support have had direct influences on the way that we go about our teaching, research and service. However, I suggest that each of us can continue through all of these ongoing transitions without compromising our personal integrity if we attend to time and personal time management.

It is apparent that heightened temporality awareness has come of age and that all aspects of our existence are now considered more in temporal terms whether they are scientific, religious, political, academic or philosophical. As we determine that the nature of time itself is not absolute but relative and that the very frontiers of time are being extended in creative ways, this knowledge should not provide a rationalization to justify lack of structure concerning that "real" time which measures our own existence. That is, we should not deal with epistemological boundaries in any manner that precludes an existential view of taking complete responsibility (at all times) for our actions. While time may indeed be relative and time itself may even be thought of as either past or future, it seems that both scientific and/or phenomenological investigation into the many aspects of time should not be used as rationalization to escape our responsibility or to deny our ability to structure ongoing processes through time.

Temporal aspects of life are indeed real. We do live on certain circadian schedules and rhythms. Many of our biological rhythms are extremely subtle, yet provide important influences on almost all aspects of behavior. Measured time proceeds from minute to minute, hour to hour, day to day, week, month, year, and so on. Our temporal life is relatively short and while some people conceptualize the shortness of this existence, it is often done in retrospect, that is, by taking two points outside of time while not really being aware of the distance between these two points in time. Such is the case when we meet one of our former students and realize that they are many years older now than they were then, and we think to ourselves, "Doesn't time fly?" Time, of course, does not fly. Time is thought to progress quickly only if we are not aware of ongoing time.

A history concerning the transitions of time provides some interesting aspects concerning technological skill in measuring time. Historically it could be conjectured that people were happier when they were not aware of the subtleties of hours and minutes but only aware of days. However, it is a rather curious argument which maintains that the daily temporal span of the past somehow provided more happiness than does today's when the only difference is our greatly increased ability to measure and thus be aware of smaller segments of time. An extended history of technology and time measurement is provided in the

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Received November 24, 2015; Accepted November 26, 2015; Published November 30, 2015

Citation: Madsen CK (2015) Research Productivity in Music: A Personal Perspective. *J Biomusic Eng* 3: 112. doi:[10.4172/2090-2719.1000112](https://doi.org/10.4172/2090-2719.1000112)

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