NCCO Webinars

Part 1

Series 1, Webinar 6 - 10 Mar 2020: Writing and Publishing

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**Our goal today is to offer ideas for our colleagues who need to finish a writing or composition project for tenure or promotion. **

Dale, c**an you describe your pre-covid-19 work rituals as a composer? And then briefly describe how that has changed under these new circumstances, and how you have managed to continue to be productive as a result?**

Dale Trumbore: The best time for me is the afternoon. I keep 2:00-4:00 p.m. sacred for composing. I schedule everything having to do with the business of composing, skype rehearsals, sending emails, in the morning. My next deadline for a commission is June 15. Deadlines work like magic for me -- when I have a deadline I get things done, because that's how I earn my living.

What's been working for me is thinking about what is relevant and meaningful right now; and going back and looking at other things like updating my website, editing a past piece of music, editing articles in progress, or working on my second book. Those adjustments to existing work have felt like things that I can do no matter how anxious or stressed out about what's been going on -- I can always get editing work done. So that's been working well for me right now.

Brooks, how has the rhythm of your research and writing changed since your campus closed?

Brooks: I'm homeschooling three children now, so all of my university work has moved into the evenings, which is when I used to do everything else. My musicological work has been the hardest to keep in the schedule, due to my online teaching and continuing administrative work. I'm teaching my classes asynchronously because I can't depend on my students ability to meet at regular times, so the space between an assignment being uploaded and when they turn in their work is when I am able to pursue my musicological work, mostly late at night.

Dale, **you interact with the musicians for whom you are writing pieces. Has that interaction been disrupted? **

Dale: Absolutely. Lots of premieres moved to next year, travelling to work with choirs, all of that has been completely disrupted. But a lot of conductors are inviting people in as guest speakers over Zoom. I love doing question-and-answer sessions, and most composers do. Conductors, reach out to composers and have them come talk to your class.

Brooks**, could you talk to us about the value of blogging, and why you've made time to continue it considering all of the other demands made upon your time?**

http://www.settlingscoresblog.net/p/table-of-contents.html

Brooks: I came to blogging late, but it came about because I had ideas that would never become a book or a journal article. I started with 15-20 topics on my list, but that rapidly grew. I still make time for it because it

is the most satisfying thing I have done professionally, and I miss the twice-per-month schedule. One reason I enjoy it is how many people across the profession (not just musicologists) have contacted me -- I've met so many interesting people. More people read the blog then would ever read my peer-review articles. That connection with the readership is very fulfilling. And I have total control of it -- an editor doesn't effect my style. I send each post out to a few people to read in advance of posting.

What resources are available for research with all the libraries closed?

https://archive.org/, https://www.jstor.org/, https://nkoda.com/, don't ignore books on your shelves