VvM Newsletter, April 2018

Dearest members,

The 2017-18 season has already seen a number of stimulating events for our society. In addition to two guests as "Music Theorist in Residence" (Zsolt Gárdonyi, November 2017; Nicholas Baragwanath, March 2018), the society has now organized its first major event in four years, "Music Theory and Integration," held at the Conservatorium Maastricht (9-11 March 2018). Intended to engage the members of the society as directly as possible, this conference was conceived with the interests of music theory teachers and students in mind, and as such allowed contributors and participants to become more acquainted with one another's pedagogical practices across the lowlands. In addition to contributions from teachers at various institutions (eleven extended sessions), the conference also offered its very first "youth symposium," which saw presentations from five students at various stages of their studies (Luciano Meloni and Giannis Montesantos, Conservatorium Maastricht; Alberto Martín Entrialgo, Aljoscha Ristow, and Inés Costales Álverez, Conservatorium van Amsterdam). The conference began with a lecture-demonstration by the Scroll Ensemble, and it concluded with a panel discussion on the state of music theory education in lowlands today. On Saturday afternoon the business meeting of the VvM took place. We are extremely grateful for the logistical and financial support of the Conservatorium Maastricht—by all accounts, the event was a great success!

The program of the symposium, which includes all conference abstracts and bios, will be made available in the archives of the new website (see below).

William Caplin visit: 7-9 May 2018

On the heels of the Maastricht conference, the Royal Conservatory of The Hague (co-sponsored by the VvM) will host Professor William Caplin for three days in Scheveningen, at the "Nieuwe Badkapel" (Nieuwe Parklaan 90 / 2587 BV / Den Haag). During his visit Prof. Caplin will deal with issues of cadence in both Romantic music and in the fugues of J.S. Bach. The full program is provided at the end of this newsletter. VvM members are welcome at all general sessions and as observers at the student workshop on Tuesday afternoon. If you intend on coming to any part of Caplin's visit, please contact John Koslovsky: jkoslovsky@gmail.com. The VvM will provide lunch on Tuesday afternoon for all participants, and will organize a dinner on Tuesday evening (at each individual's own expense). In addition, the VvM will reimburse travel costs for any student participant who is a member of the VvM, as part of the Martin Lürsenprijs.

New website

As announced at the business meeting in Maastricht, the VvM is soon to launch its new website, which has been designed by Giannis Montesantos. The new website is intended to keep members up to date on all recent and upcoming events of the VvM; to act as a database and archive for the society's activities past and present; to give the VvM better visibility to the world of music theory at large; and to stimulate discussion amongst its members through an interactive "Colloquy." We sincerely hope that our members will make full use of the new website, and in this way connect to one another in a more direct and productive fashion.

The address of the new website is: dfsmt.net. We welcome any comments or suggestions for improvement, as we will be regularly updating the website. Society announcements will continue to be made via the Google Group, but will now also be posted on the website. The official launch of the website is 1 May 2018.

New member of the board

We are delighted to announce that the VvM has a new board member, Giannis Montesantos. Giannis is the first official student member of the board, and as such will play an important role as a liaison between the society and its growing student membership. Giannis was officially voted onto the board at the business meeting in Maastricht, and new statutes (also approved at the meeting) are currently being processed to allow for an official student member (for a term of two years, once renewable). Giannis is a third-year bachelor's student in music theory and composition at the Conservatorium Maastricht. Giannis will also be in charge of the new website.

Call for proposals: Music Theorist in Residence; other guests; events

As part of its efforts to increase the relevance and reach of the VvM in the lowlands, we welcome any new ideas and proposals for guests and events that would bring our members together. While we will continue to work with our structural partners at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, the University of Amsterdam, and KU Leuven, the Music Theorist in Residence in program is now open to any Dutch or Flemish music institution of higher learning (conservatory or university). The VvM will consider any proposal for a theorist of high international standing, whose work as a scholar and/or teacher has relevance to music theory teachers and students. Within the allowed budget, the VvM will look on a case-by-case basis at every proposal. We hope in this way to activate members from as many institutions as possible. On top of this, the VvM invites proposals from institutions in the lowlands who are interested in organizing an event within field of music theory, broadly construed. Please contact the chair of the board, John Koslovsky, with any new proposals (jkoslovsky@gmail).

Workshops on Tonal Cadence and Closure

William Caplin
Schulich School of Music, McGill University
Montreal, Canada

Program

Monday, 7 May
10.30 - 12.45, Workshop 1: "Cadence in the Romantic Era"

The workshop begins with a one-hour formal lecture, "Beyond the Classical Cadence: Thematic Closure in Early Romantic Music," that lays out the central issues associated with cadence and closure in selected excerpts by Schubert, Schumann, and Chopin. The remainder of the workshop consists of an informal group discussion of additional excerpts by these same composers.

14.15 - 17.00, individual appointments

Tuesday, 8 May
10.30 - 12.45, Workshop 2: "Cadence in the Mid- to Late-Nineteenth Century"

The morning session begins with an informal presentation of techniques of cadence and closure in selected works written in the second half of the nineteenth century (Liszt, Wagner, Brahms, R. Straus). The remainder of the session consists of a group discussion of these techniques in passages from Bruckner's symphonies. The afternoon session considers additional excerpts by Brahms, Mahler, Dvorak, and Sibelius.

14.15 - 16.30, Student Workshop on the Nineteenth-Century Cadence (VvM members may attend as listeners)

Wednesday, 9 May
10.30 - 12.45, "Cadence in the Fugues of Bach's *Well-tempered Clavier*"
The workshop begins with a review of fugal theory and terminology, followed by a general presentation of the tonal and formal functions of cadence in fugue using a variety of excerpts from the *Well-tempered Clavier*. The workshop concludes with a group discussion of cadence in one or two complete fugues.

14.15 - 17.00, individual appointments