



Cross-Disciplinary Interplay  
between the Humanities,  
Technology and Musical Practice

**Thursday,  
May 3, 2012,  
2:15-4 p.m. in U73.**

Guest lecture in the seminar  
series

**Topics in the Aesthetics  
of Music and Sound,**

<http://soundmusicresearch.org/seminarsspring2012.html>.

## Rhetorical and Musical Structures

**Daniel Bonevac** (via Skype)

Professor of Philosophy, University of Texas at Austin.



**Abstract:** Several scholars of the Baroque era have suggested that the structure of some musical compositions is modeled on traditional rhetorical structures. I explore that hypothesis with respect to Couperin's "Leçons de ténèbres." It works well for the first two, solo, lessons, but fails as an approach to the third, which is a duet. I review the early modern theory of disputation, and argue that it provides a better model, not only for the third lesson, but for many Baroque pieces, including most paradigmatically fugues, in which different themes compete for the listeners' attention.

This paper is a joint effort with Melanie Bonevac of Southwestern University (Georgetown, Texas) whose work provided much of the musical research on which this presentation draws.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

This seminar with Daniel Bonevac concludes the series *Topics in the Aesthetics of Music and Sound* for the spring term 2012. Plans are already underway for the series during the fall semester 2012. If you are interested in giving a presentation as part of this series sometime during the period September - December 2012, either in person or via Skype, please contact Cynthia M. Grund, [cmgrund@ifpr.sdu.dk](mailto:cmgrund@ifpr.sdu.dk). Please remember that in addition to coming to the venue at SDU, participation in the audience via Skype is possible, and allows you to participate in discussion with the speaker as well as with the other audience members in Odense and on Skype - wherever you may be!