

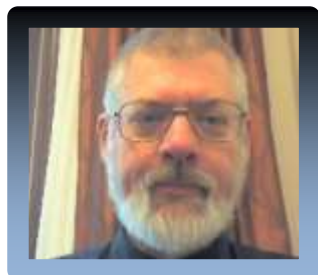
Seminar Series

Topics in the Aesthetics of Music and Sound

Thursday, February 5, 2015

3:15-5 p.m. in Meeting Room Comenius

The Taste of Metal



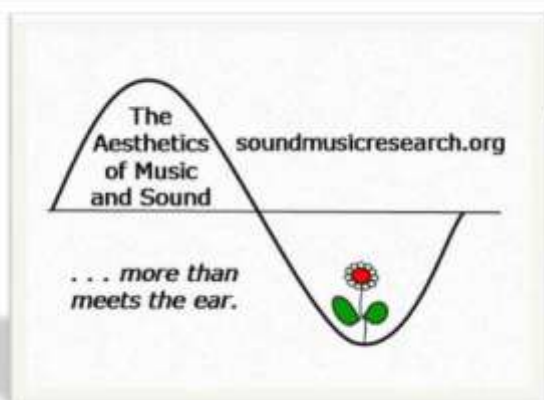
Theodore Gracyk, Professor of Philosophy, Minnesota State University Moorhead. Co-Editor, *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*. Author of *Rhythm and Noise: An Aesthetics of Rock* (Duke 1996) and *On Music* (Routledge, 2013). Co-editor of *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy and Music* (2011). Current research projects include papers on the nature of virtual performance and on the role of rhythm in musical expressiveness, and a planned book on the nature of musical taste. <http://web.mnstate.edu/gracyk/>.

Via Skype.

Abstract: As a philosopher of music, I am intrigued by the concept of musical taste – also as it applies to metal music, much of which I happen to appreciate and actually enjoy. It is indisputable, however, that regarded as a broad musical genre, metal consistently ranks as among the very few types of music that most people, well, hate. A taste for metal is frequently treated as inexplicable. From a sociological perspective, these facts have been explained as a response to the music that arises from a judgment about its (perceived) audience. However, it is equally likely that metal fans endorse the music because they desire social distinction. It is also significant that metal fans recognize distinctions within metal, and these operate to signal taste alignments that function much like the social process that holds more generally between metal fans and non-metal fans. As such, it appears that metal fans (as opposed to casual listeners) are required to develop specific, distinctive, and highly refined musical tastes. The goal of this talk is to distinguish between distinctive tastes and aberrant taste, supporting the position that a taste for metal is not inexplicable as a development of musical taste.



All are welcome - also via Skype



- Cross-Disciplinary Interplay between the Humanities, Technology and Musical Practice
- Backdrop for the SDU-IKV Research Program

