

## MUS-M 602: SEMINAR IN MUSICOLOGY

# MUSICAL BORROWING

**J. Peter Burkholder**

2:30-5:30 PM Tuesdays  
Music Library M271

Composers from the Middle Ages to the present have used existing music in their compositions, in ways that extend from sly allusion to direct quotation, from hidden reworking to wholesale incorporation. While musicologists have long been interested in the ways composers of the Renaissance and Baroque have reworked existing compositions, in recent decades this interest has widened to encompass composers before 1420 and since 1760 and to include popular music, jazz, and film music. There is a vast and growing literature on this subject, and musical borrowing is beginning to be recognized as a field of study. Moreover, strong parallels have begun to emerge between this practice in music and similar practices of borrowing, allusion, quotation, emulation, and intertextuality in literature.

In this seminar, we will examine issues related to borrowing and discuss examples from a wide range of periods and repertoires. Our goal will be to discover commonalities and differences between various forms of borrowing in music and across eras, styles, and traditions. Coursework will include readings, listening assignments, and class discussion that focuses on particular topics; independent work on a research paper and presentation on borrowing in any period and repertoire; and joint work on an annotated bibliography in progress of existing literature on musical borrowing.