

This is Our Time: A Bibliographic Essay on the Rhythmic and Metric Analysis of Modern Metal Music

Poster Abstract

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Popular music, specifically rock and its subgenres, has been a serious topic of scholarly study in the realm of music theory in recent years. However, most scholarly writing, including articles, theses, dissertations and books, address its tonal and formal aspects. Very few discuss, much less analyze, its rhythmic and metric aspects. In addition, a very small amount of the literature, whether or not it discusses rhythm or meter, deals with the genre of metal music, especially music released in the 1990s and beyond. This is problematic, because many such songs contain complex rhythmic and metric material, and at the very least one can gain an appreciation for metal and its subgenres through in-depth rhythmic and metric analyses. I searched for relevant literature from print sources and online sources, including databases such as periodical indexes and indexes to dissertations and theses. Upon studying the literature, I created an annotated bibliography and bibliographic essay discussing the most important scholarly research and its relevance to the rhythmic and metric analysis of metal music. I organized the literature into categories for the researcher's convenience. This bibliography, which compiles the existing materials related to rhythmic and metric analysis and metal music for the first time, provides a "go-to" resource for researchers interested not only in that field, but also for researchers whose projects are at least partially relevant.