

Popular Music and Society
Guidelines for Contributors
by Gary Burns and Thomas M. Kitts, Editors
February 2009

Popular Music and Society is a quarterly academic journal published by Routledge, a division of Taylor & Francis. The journal was founded in 1971 by R. Serge Denisoff, who edited it until his death in 1994. Gary Burns became Editor in 1994. Thomas M. Kitts became Editor in 2008 (with Gary Burns also retaining the title of Editor).

We publish articles on popular music of any genre, time period, or geographic location. Studies may use any methodology or approach (historical, critical, theoretical, descriptive, etc.). We define "popular" very broadly, but generally manuscripts about classical music would be outside our scope unless they focus somehow on the popularity of classical music. Similarly, because the journal is called Popular Music and Society, manuscripts should say something about society. Again, we define "society" very broadly, so most manuscripts will almost automatically meet our criteria. However, a purely musicological analysis might fall outside our scope.

We are not based in any one traditional academic discipline. Our readership is quite diverse. Please write accordingly. For example, if you are a sociologist, please write so that a musicologist or English professor can understand what you are saying. Please try to avoid the specialized jargon of your own field as much as possible, and provide sufficient explanation of any jargon you do use.

Article manuscripts must be word-processed, in English. Please double-space the entire manuscript, including abstract, end matter, references, and any set-off song lyrics or other quotations. Number your pages. The first page of text counts as page 1. Put the title of the paper at the top of page 1. Also include a detachable title page that includes the title of your paper and your name and address. The title page is the only place where your name should appear, because we follow a policy of blind review. Please include an abstract on page 1 before the beginning of the text of the paper. The abstract should be a 50- to 100-word summary of the paper, including a description of what you did and what conclusions you reached. Put notes at the end of the paper, not at the bottom of pages. Notes should begin on a new page, after the last page of text. The list of Works Cited should begin on a new page, after the last page of Notes. Spell-check your manuscript before you submit it. Please use 12-point font for the entire paper, including notes.

Please include a word count on your title page. The word count should include your abstract and end matter. We prefer articles of 4,000-10,000 words, although we may occasionally publish longer or shorter works. In Microsoft Word, you can get a word count by clicking on "Tools" and then "Word Count." Be sure to include end matter (click on the box that says "Include footnotes and endnotes").

We give every manuscript an initial screening. If your paper passes this screening, we send it to one or more (usually two) reviewers, with your title page (and therefore your name) removed. The reviewers we most often use are the members of the journal's Editorial Board, a distinguished group of popular-music scholars listed at the front of the journal. We also use other reviewers besides the Editorial Board. We always try to pick reviewers who have expertise in the subject matter of the paper. We ask reviewers to disqualify themselves if they have previously reviewed the paper for another journal, or if they lack sufficient expertise in the subject matter, or if they know who you are and feel that that would prevent a fair review.

Usually the review process takes a month or two, but it can take as long as nine months. When we receive the reviews, we read them and your paper and decide whether to accept the paper,

reject it, or return it for revision. If we suggest revisions, we strongly recommend that you follow up. It is quite common for us to accept revised drafts. In the event that we do not accept a paper you have submitted, we nonetheless encourage you to submit other work in the future. Even if we turn down your present paper, we may like a future manuscript better.

We will review manuscripts in any standard format (i.e., MLA, Chicago/Turabian, or APA), but for publication we require MLA format with in-text citations and list of Works Cited. If your paper is in another format, you will have to convert it to MLA for publication. The rules to follow are published in the MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing, 3rd ed. (New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2008), pages 163-260. For an example, consult the following: Joe Gow, "Political Themes in Popular Music Videos: MTV's 'Top 200, Ever,'" Popular Music and Society 18.4 (1994): 77-89. Note that the list of Works Cited must include authors' first names. Every written source you cite must be included in the list of Works Cited. This includes newspaper and magazine articles, and for these you must include authors and page numbers. For anonymous works and government publications, follow MLA's instructions on pages 183, 195-96, and 205-08. For matters not covered in the MLA book, please refer to the latest edition of The Chicago Manual of Style.

For nonprint sources such as films, sound recordings, and music videos, use common sense. Most such works can be sufficiently cited in the text and should not require end matter. Include the date. For films, include country and director if they are important. For sound recordings, include the recording artist and (unless you think they are unnecessary) the format, label, and catalog number. You may, if you wish, include end matter if you think it would be helpful (discography, filmography, songography, videography, etc.).

For websites, cite by author if possible and include a bibliography entry with the complete URL and the date you used the site. Please be sure that the reader can tell, somehow, what the site is (or whose). In some cases it may be more elegant to provide the URL in the text and not include a bibliography entry. Include a webography as end matter if you think it is appropriate.

Use quotation marks for the titles of articles and songs. Use underlining or italics for the titles of books, plays, journals, newspapers, magazines, TV series, videotapes, music videos, films, and record albums (including CDs). Use lower case for articles (a, an, the) and for short prepositions within and before band names and song and album titles, for example:

Mott the Hoople (not Mott The Hoople)
 the Rolling Stones (not The Rolling Stones)
Between the Buttons (not Between The Buttons)
 "Eight Days a Week" (not "Eight Days A Week")

Use:

rock and roll (not rock 'n' roll, rock'n'roll, or rock & roll)

Use United States spelling and punctuation. These differ in some respects from those used in the UK, Ireland, Canada, Australia, South Africa, and elsewhere. For example:

color (not colour)

neighbor (not neighbour)
 center (not centre)
 defense (not defence)
 program (not programme)
 connection (not connexion)
 recognize (not recognise)
 "California Girls" (not 'California Girls')

Note that we use double quotation marks for titles and quotations, rather than the single mark (apostrophe). In addition, in United States style, commas and periods go inside quotation marks, for example:

"Drive," he said. (Not 'Drive', he said.)

Do not set off quotations unless they are four lines or longer. Do use a comma before the last item in a series. Use disc, not disk. On matters of spelling and hyphenation, please refer to Webster's Third New International Dictionary (or to the abridged version, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary).

Quotation of copyrighted song lyrics is often a problem. Here is our rule. You may quote up to four lines per song without permission from the copyright holder. (If you are transcribing lyrics from a sound recording, you may have some flexibility in determining where one line ends and the next begins.) If you wish to quote more than four lines, we need written permission from the copyright holder. Usually the copyright holder will want to know about the journal, so don't talk to the copyright holder until after we have accepted your paper. (The main thing the copyright holder will want to know is our circulation. Check with Routledge for the latest information on that.)

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it for publication. The normal delay before an article is published is several months to two years from the date we send your manuscript and electronic file to the publisher.

To submit an article, send a cover letter and three hard copies to: Gary Burns, Department of Communication, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb IL 60115, USA. Queries are welcome. You can reach Gary Burns at the preceding DeKalb address, or by telephone (815-753-7108), fax (815-753-7109 or 815-753-5930), or e-mail <gburns@niu.edu>. If the work you are submitting has been published elsewhere or is in press or under review elsewhere, you must so state in your cover letter. In most cases we will not be interested in reviewing or publishing such work. In addition, it is our policy that while we are reviewing your work, you may not submit it elsewhere. After we publish the work, you may not have it reprinted elsewhere without permission from Routledge. Such permission is routinely granted in most cases. Like most academic journals, we do not pay authors.

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In addition to articles, we publish reviews and discographies. If you would like to submit work of that sort, please contact the appropriate department editor. The Book Review Editor is: Nick Baxter-Moore; Communications, Popular Culture & Film; Brock University; St. Catharines, Ontario L2S 3A1; Canada; telephone 905-688-5550-ext. 4145; e-mail <nick.baxter-moore@brocku.ca>. The Audio Review Editor is: George H. Lewis, Sociology and Anthropology, University of the Pacific, Stockton CA 95211, USA, telephone 209-946-2925, fax 209-946-2318, e-mail <glewis@uop.edu>. The Film, Video, and Software Review Editor is: Nick Baxter-Moore; Communications, Popular Culture & Film; Brock University; St. Catharines, Ontario L2S 3A1; Canada; telephone 905-688-5550-ext. 4145; e-mail <nick.baxter-moore@brocku.ca>. The Discography Editor is: George M. Plasketes, Communication, Auburn University, Auburn University AL 36849-5211, USA, telephone 334-844-2727, fax 334-844-4665, e-mail <plaskgm@mail.auburn.edu>.

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We maintain a journal website at <<http://popms.org>>. The Routledge/ Taylor & Francis website is <<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/03007766.html>>.

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