

# Music, Pandemics, and History

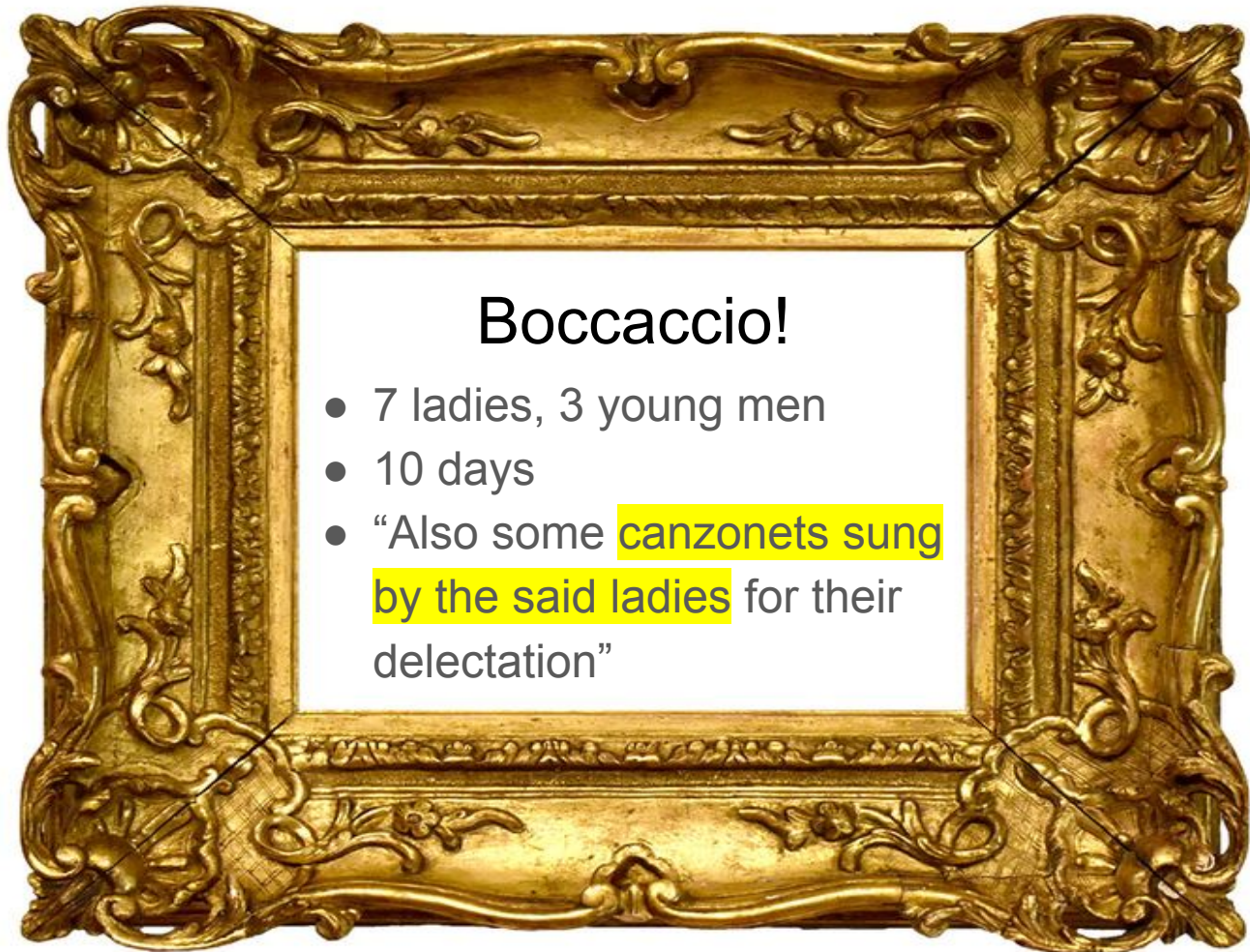
February 21st: THE MUSIC OF DISTRACTION  
(Our final day)

Taught by Cynthia Cyrus, [musicandpandemics@gmail.com](mailto:musicandpandemics@gmail.com)  
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)

Winter Term, 2022  
Mondays, 10:00-11:15



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## Boccaccio!

- 7 ladies, 3 young men
- 10 days
- “Also some canzonets sung by the said ladies for their delectation”



## Garden, medieval style...



*Livre du roi  
Modus et de  
la reine  
Ratio, 14th  
century  
(Bibliothèque  
nationale)*



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Fontecchio: Fountain



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From a Flemish  
*Roman de la  
Rose* (c. 1485)



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# David Munrow, Saltarello (14th c)



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# If dancing is your thing... Istampitta/Estampie

Anonymous: La Quinte estampie real  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjyZJnJ4VHE>

Estampie - Anonymous (Martin Best Medieval Ensemble)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DJJQBk1wP8>

Estampie - Royal Estampie No. 4  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EZB\\_buv4jg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EZB_buv4jg)

King's Noyse  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwCNoEL8yql>

Anonymous - Estampie 'Retrove' - Robertsbridge Codex = "the oldest keyboard music" ca 1360  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c05RQnncS6s>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSF6YsreExE> (on clavichord)

Istampita Palemento  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vwvgv5\\_m0M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vwvgv5_m0M)

Istampitta Saltarello (Voices of Music)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=al96AThyIY4>

Istampitta Tre Fontane: Peter Maund & Hanneke van Proosdij  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rX\\_uB1EBy\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rX_uB1EBy_A)

Another David Munrow 14th century Italian Saltarello (Istampitta Tre Fontane) (recorder)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXP8kfhZE5g>







## ... says the best of medical advice

Tommaso del Garbo, a 14th-century professor of medicine in Perugia and Bologna, advised his patients in his treatise *Contra alla peste* to:

not occupy your mind with death, passion, or anything likely to sadden or grieve you, but **give your thoughts over to delightful and pleasing things**. Associate with happy and carefree people and avoid all melancholy. Spend your time in your house, but not with too many people, and at your leisure in gardens with fragrant plants, vines, and willows, when they are flowering... And **make use of songs and minstrelsy and other pleasurable tales without tiring yourselves out**, and all the delightful things that bring anyone comfort.



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## Life of the Nobility: the bath

Musée de Cluny,  
15th c France



- Lute
- Shawm
- Bread
- Grapes (and figs?)
- A treasure chest with jewelry



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# Landini, Non avr  ma' piet  (ballata: AbbaA)



- A She will never have mercy, this lady of mine,  
if you do not see to it, Love,  
that she is certain of my great ardor.
- b If she knew how much pain I bear—  
for honesty's sake concealed in my mind—
- b only for her beauty, other than which  
nothing gives comfort to a grieving soul,
- a perhaps by her would be extinguished in me  
the flames which seem to arouse in  
me from day to day more pain.
- A She will never have mercy, this lady of mine,  
if you do not see to it, Love,  
that she is certain of my great ardor.



# Falsobordone



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## Schäfflertanz: enacted historical myths



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<http://www.lisabelawa.net/broadcast-from-home>

**A new work in response to the coronavirus crisis  
featuring contributions from the public**

## Your Testimony

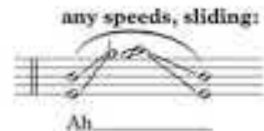
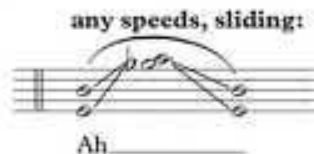
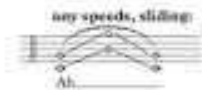
How is our world changing? What happens next? What does your heart say?  
How do you mark time? Your testimony will become the libretto for *Broadcast from Home*.

[SUBMIT YOUR TESTIMONY](#)



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# Bielawa, Ch 15: "After-lives" (July 16, 2020)



“Isolation’s tedious,  
My vacation’s ambiguous,  
Vitaly vicarious,  
Cinema carrying us,  
Corona cases various,  
And I’m trying to stay precarious.”  
— ETHAN COTLER, NORTH CAROLINA  
MAY 6, 2020

“I hope to soon be in my loved ones company.  
I hope we all soon come together and realize  
that this is a group effort. I hope that soon ev-  
eryone plays their part in fighting for those  
who can't fight for themselves. I hope we all  
stay sane in self isolation, not eating away at  
ourselves from within.

I hope, and I can only hope.”  
— ANONYMOUS, FLORIDA, APR 21, 2020

“Somehow, it feels like the world has simulta-  
neously paused and begun to go twice as fast.

Classes and work have become more stressful  
despite having more free time.

This is a true test of patience.

Please, press mute.”  
— CALEB THORN, FLAT ROCK, NC, APR  
22, 2020

“Coming off a plane from Morocco, my life  
completely changed: no job to return to, no  
friends to speak with in person, no next trip.  
My greatest fear is not dying, It is not getting  
my life back. I search for ways to pitch in and  
help, but how can I? I can't go anywhere. I  
miss my life. I miss the world as it used to be.”  
— SARAH DANA, CINCINNATI, OH, APR  
30, 2020



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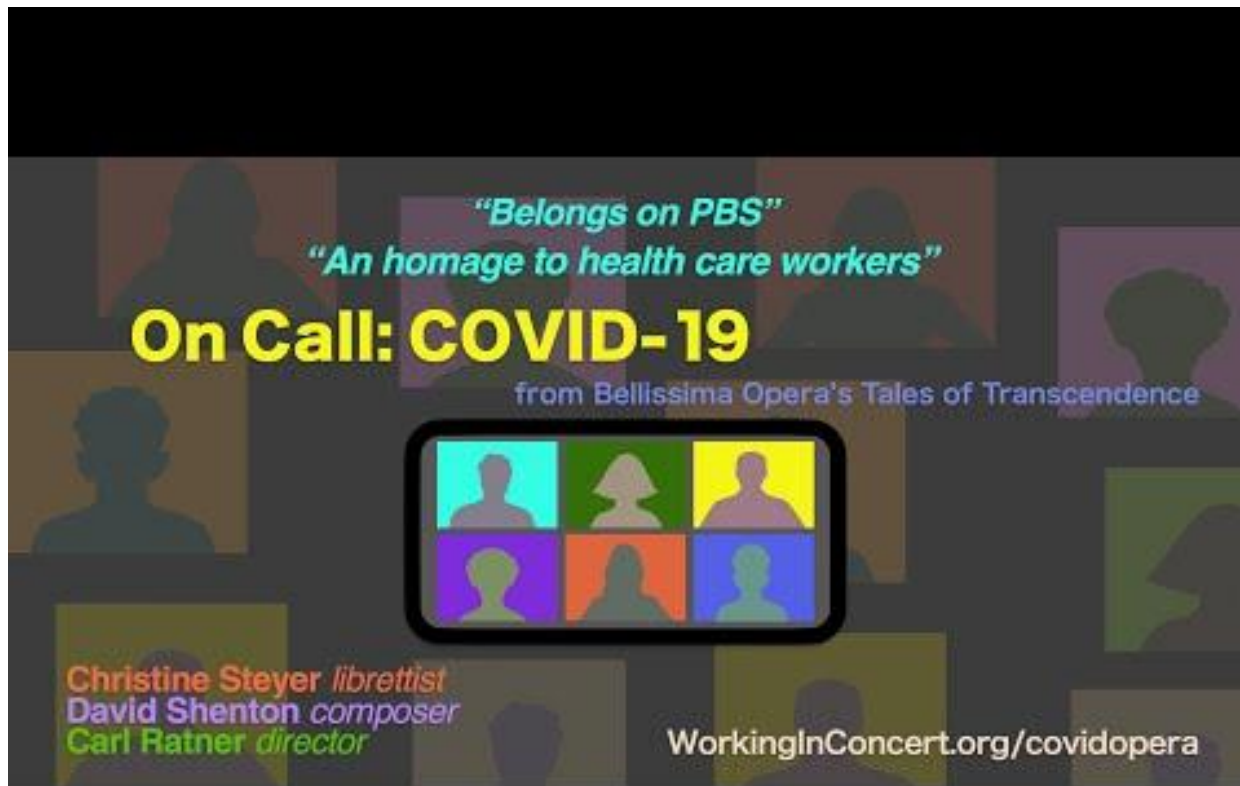
Jenny Odell, *How To Do Nothing* (2019)

“patterns of attention—what we choose to notice and what we do not—are how we render reality for ourselves, and thus have a direct bearing on what we feel is possible at any given time.”



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# On Call: COVID-19, David Shenton & Christine Steyer



*"Belongs on PBS"*  
*"An homage to health care workers"*

## On Call: COVID-19

from Bellissima Opera's Tales of Transcendence



**Christine Steyer** *librettist*  
**David Shenton** *composer*  
**Carl Ratner** *director*

[WorkingInConcert.org/covidopera](http://WorkingInConcert.org/covidopera)



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Et la fille qui n'était  
pas bête

*And the girl, who wasn't stupid*  
*Y la chica que no era tonta*



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# **SIX FEET APART**

**LUKE COMBS**



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# TikTok dance craze(s)



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# Sea Shanty Tok...



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# THE WELLERMAN



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# COVID Cello Project 10: Barber Adagio for Strings



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# From Our Homes to Yours: Milwaukee Symphony (Virtual) performs Elgar Nimrod



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# Quarantine (A "Dancing Queen" Parody)



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# Yo-Yo Ma

## #SongsOfComfort



Dvořák's "Goin' Home" (the start)



vevo

Teaming up with Kathryn Stott

And exploring the repertoire...



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Tom Maloy, Fluffy Ruffles #SongsOfComfort  
“A happy piece for sad times.”



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Say Hello! The Taylor's (Sweet Caroline parody) [#songsofcomfort](#)



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# Songs of Comfort: Global, especially the Silk Road Ensemble (collaborators with Yo Yo Ma)



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# Glacial Erratic Band - The COVID Song



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# Do Re Mi

Covid-19 Version



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Narrative

Intercession  
(an answer to  
God's wrath)

Expression of  
rage and/or  
sorrow

Education

Remembrance

Advocacy

Distraction

Celebration



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# COVID-19 SALE

## ALL SOCIAL DISTANCING INSTRUMENTS 40% OFF

*(limit two of each per household)*



**Musicville**  
SUPER STORE

*sale ends without April 30  
free delivery on orders over \$200*



VANDERBILT®

Narrative

Intercession  
(an answer to  
God's wrath)

Expression of  
rage and/or  
sorrow

Education

**COMMUNITY**

Remembrance

Advocacy

Distraction

Celebration



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# Six Feet Apart

Stories of Resilience and Transformation

Music composed by  
Ethan Gans-Morse

Poetry written, collected,  
and curated by  
Tiziana DellaRovere



ANIMA MUNDI  
PRODUCTIONS

541-833-3066

HumanityTickets.com

Paintings by Betty LaDuke



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# Anima Mundi Productions' mission

Anima Mundi Productions' mission is to create, present, and produce new musical works that harness the power of the arts to stir the soul, foster community, and address urgent social and environmental problems.

Our events support the personal and collective healing of at-risk segments of society who have experienced trauma, discrimination, and other forms of injustice.



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“This is the opposite of a documentary.

Documentaries seek to faithfully record exactly what happened.

This is art, which seeks to faithfully record the impressions and the experiences and the emotions and the feelings of what happened....”

– Ethan Gans-Morse



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## ARTISTIC GOAL:

*Six Feet Apart* is an innovative multimedia work of choral music

based on real-life pandemic experiences

that harnesses the power of music, poetry, and art

to amplify diverse voices and

foster collective healing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

How would  
you meet  
those goals?



# Six Feet Apart: Stories of Resilience and Transformation

## Poetry written and curated by Tiziana DellaRovere

I. Six Feet Apart, poetry by Tiziana DellaRovere

II. Introvertigo, poetry by Kim Stafford

III. Picking Grapes: Anahí, poetry by Tiziana DellaRovere

IV. The Other Side of the Street: Kayla, poetry by Tiziana DellaRovere

V. How Many of Us... poetry by Anis Mojgani

VI. Unhoused: Tink poetry by Tiziana DellaRovere

VII. Ashes: Shawna & Matthew poetry by Tiziana DellaRovere

VIII. The Half Stuck Inside poetry by H.B. Lee Middle School students; edited and curated by Tiziana DellaRovere

IX. Epilogue poetry by Tiziana DellaRovere





# References

- Tamara Hauser, "Dancing out of the pest: afterlives of medieval dance plague narratives in nineteenth century: *Münchner Schäfflertanz* discourse," in *The Cursed Carolers in Context*, edited by Bradley Phillips, 2021.
- <https://www.thedrum.com/news/2020/08/04/baking-playlists-are-clear-favourites-spotify-how-consumers-have-changed-during>
- <https://themusicnetwork.com/sea-shanties-tiktok/>
- <https://bellissimaopera.com/covidopera/> [On Call: Covid-19: Shenton/Steyer]
- <https://animamundiproductions.com/sixfeetapart/> [Oratorio, Gans-Morse/DellaRovere]
  - <https://animamundiproductions.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Six-Foot-Apart-Concert-Program.pdf>
  - "Meet the Composer and Librettist": Tuesday 2/22/22 at 11a CST: <https://vanderbilt.zoom.us/j/91804866800>
    - the role of the arts in response to Covid-19 in general, and specifically the kinds of philosophical questions and challenges we confronted when creating this piece and the specific solutions we ultimately came up with to create a project that would be of the greatest service to our community.
    - what it's like to collect stories from marginalized communities and turn them into music and poetry



Questions,  
Observations,  
Discussion?



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