

Braxton D. Shelley Appointed to Harvard's Music Department Faculty



April 5, 2017: We are pleased to report that Braxton Shelley will join the faculty of the Harvard University Department of Music in July, 2017. Shelley is completing his PhD in the History and Theory of Music at the University of Chicago; he is also finishing a Master of Divinity in the University of Chicago's Divinity School. He earned a BA in Music and History from Duke University. His dissertation, "Sermons in Song: Richard Smallwood, the Vamp, and the Gospel Imagination," develops an analytical paradigm for gospel music that braids together resources from cognitive theory, ritual theory, and homiletics with studies of repetition, form, rhythm and meter.

Recipient of the 2016 Paul A. Pisk Prize from the American Musicological Society, Braxton's work has also won a Cathy Heifetz Memorial Award from the University of Chicago Department of Music and the 2016 Graduate Student Prize from the Society for Christian Scholarship in Music. His most recent articles, "'Tuning Up': Towards a Gospel Aesthetic," in *Exploring Christian Song*, and "'This Must Be The Single': Valuing The Live Recording in Contemporary Gospel Performance," in *Living the Life I Sing*, are forthcoming in 2017. He has presented his research at Northwestern University's Music Theory and Cognition Workshop, Harvard University's Graduate Music Forum, Music Theory Midwest and the Society for Christian Scholarship in Music.