The Cambridge Companion to the Singer-Songwriter

Most often associated with modern artists such as Bob Dylan, Elton John, Don McLean, Neil Diamond, and Carole King, the singer-songwriter tradition in fact has a long and complex history dating back to the Medieval troubadour and earlier. This Companion explains the historical contexts, musical analyses, and theoretical frameworks of what it means to be a singer-songwriter. Divided into five parts, the book explores the singer-songwriter tradition in the context of issues including authenticity, gender, queer studies, musical analysis, and performance. The contributors reveal how the tradition has been expressed around the world and throughout its history to the present day. Essential reading for enthusiasts, practitioners, students, and scholars, this book features case studies of a wide range of both well and lesser-known singer-songwriters, from Thomas d’Urfey through to Carole King and Kanye West.

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THE SINGER-SONGWRITER

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Dedicated to our parents: Michael and Valerie Lewis, Vicki Corda and Richard Williams.
Contents

List of figures  [ix]
List of music examples  [x]
Notes on contributors  [xi]
Acknowledgements  [xv]

Introduction  Katherine Williams and Justin A. Williams  [1]

Part I  Establishing a tradition
1. The emergence of the singer-songwriter  David R. Shumway  [11]
2. Singer-songwriters of the German Lied and Katy Hamilton  Natasha Loges  [21]
3. Bill Monroe, bluegrass music, and the politics of authorship  Mark Finch  [43]
4. Singer-songwriters and the English folk tradition  Allan F. Moore  [55]
5. The Brill Building and the creative labour of the professional songwriter  Simon Barber  [67]
6. Forging the singer-songwriter at the Los Angeles Troubadour  Christa Anne Bentley  [78]
7. The ‘professional’ singer-songwriter in the 1970s  Michael Borshuk  [89]

Part II  Individuals
8. Thomas D’Urfey and Tōru Mitsui  [103]
9. Leadbelly  Josep Pedro  [111]
10. Region and identity in Dolly Parton’s songwriting  Jada Watson  [120]
11. Authorship and performance in the music of Elton John  Phil Alcock  [131]
12. Depicting the working class in the music of Billy Joel  Joshua S. Duchan  [137]
13. Musical gesture in the songs of Nick Drake  Timothy Koozin  [144]
14. Sampling and storytelling: Kanye West’s vocal and sonic narratives  Lori Burns, Alyssa Woods, and Marc Lafrance  [159]
15. James Blake, digital lion  madison moore  [171]
16. Outside voices and the construction of Adele's singer-songwriter persona  
Sarah Suhadolnik  [179]

17. Joanna Newsom’s ‘Only Skin’: authenticity, ‘becoming-other’, and the relationship between ‘New’ and ‘Old Weird America’  
Jo Collinson Scott  [187]

Part III  •  Men and women

18. Gender, race, and the ma(s)king of ‘Joni Mitchell’  
Kevin Fellezs  [201]

19. Gender, genre, and diversity at Lilith Fair  
Jennifer Taylor  [215]

20. Changing openness and tolerance towards LGBTQ singer-songwriters  
Katherine Williams  [226]

21. Tori Amos as shaman  
Chris McDonald  [238]

22. Gender Identity, the queer gaze, and female singer-songwriters  
Megan Berry  [246]

23. The female singer-songwriter in the 1990s  
Sarah Boak  [257]

Part IV  •  Frameworks and methods

24. Reconciling theory with practice in the teaching of songwriting  
Mark Marrington  [267]

25. Singer-songwriters and open mics  
Marcus Aldredge  [278]

26. Singer-songwriter authenticity, the unconscious and emotions (feat. Adele's ‘Someone Like You’)  
Rupert Till  [291]

Part V  •  Global perspectives

27. Don McGlashan and local authenticity  
Nick Braae  [307]

28. Italian canzone d’autore and Greek entechno tragoudi: a comparative overview  
Franco Fabbri and Ioannis Tsioulakis  [317]

29. Singer-songwriters and fandom in the digital age  
Lucy Bennett  [329]

Select bibliography  [341]

Index  [361]
Figures


10.1 Final Track Listing of *My Tennessee Mountain Home* [124]

16.1 A sampling of Adele fan commentary: a word cloud based on iTunes reviews of 19 and 21 submitted by iTunes users. [180]


18.2 ‘Hollywood’s Hot 100’ *Rolling Stone* 3 February, 1972. [206]

18.3 *The Hissing of Summer Lawns* (Elektra-Asylum, 1975). [208]

18.4 *Don Juan’s Reckless Daughter* (Elektra-Asylum, 1977) [210]

18.5 *Shadows and Light* (Elektra-Asylum, 1980) [212]

26.1 Nattiez’s semiotic levels, applied to the singer-songwriter. [294]

29.1 James Blunt tweet, 9:08am, 20 October 2013. [336]

29.2 James Blunt tweet, 12:35pm, 19 February 2012. [336]
Music examples

2.1 Graun, *Auserlesene Oden zum Singen beym Clavier* (1764), vol. 1, no. 7, ‘Ode’, bars 1–6 [22]
2.2 Schröter, ‘Amor und Bacchus’ (published 1786), bars 1–12 [25]
2.3 Luise Reichardt, ‘Hoffnung’, bars 1–18 [26]
2.4 Vogl, ‘Die Erd’ ist, ach! so gross und hehr’ (published 1798), bars 1–20 [29]
2.5 Vesque, ‘Der Seejungfern Gesang’ Op. 11 no. 2, bars 1–6 [30]
2.6 Vesque, ‘Der deutsche Professor’ Op. 81 no. 58, bars 1–15 [31]
2.7 Loewe, ‘Erlkönig’ Op. 1 no. 3, bars 1–14 [34]
2.9 Henschel, ‘Jung Dietrich’ Op. 45, bars 1–16 [38]


8.2 D’Urfey, ‘Sawney was tall and of Noble Race’. [108]
13.2 Nick Drake, ‘One of These Things First’, *Bryter Layter* (1970) [149]
13.3 Nick Drake, ‘Rider on the Wheel’ (c. 1968). [151]
13.4 Nick Drake, ‘Clothes of Sand’ (c. 1968) [153]
13.5 Nick Drake, ‘Day is Done’, *Five Leaves Left* (1969) [155]
13.6 Nick Drake, ‘Fruit Tree’, *Five Leaves Left* (1969) [156]


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xiii Contributors

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xiv Contributors


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