

Notes on Contributors

Alina BOTTEZ has BA and MA degrees from the University of Bucharest, Foreign Languages Department, and the National University of Music in Bucharest, Singing Section. She teaches at both universities – British literature and singing respectively –, has a radio programme on opera from a cultural perspective and is also following a performing career, in Romania and abroad. She is currently pursuing an interdisciplinary doctorate (in philology and musicology), working on a thesis entitled *A Confluence between Musical and Literary Masterpieces: Opera Jewels Inspired from Shakespeare's Plays*. She has taken part in a number of international conferences and published numerous papers in various publications.

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James MACHIN is an English and Humanities Postgraduate Researcher at Birkbeck College, University of London. He has previously studied for a BA in Philosophy at the London School of Economics, and an MA in Victorian Studies at Birkbeck. His current research is in weird fiction, 1850 to 1937, where he is looking at notions of the weird as a critical term and a mode, and also as a literary effect with distinct philosophical implications. Before resuming academic study at postgraduate level, he worked for several years for London Government. He has written screenplays for two short films, many reviews and articles for various print magazines and websites, and maintained a semi-professional career as a guitarist in a rock band, performing regularly around the UK and in Germany.

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Valentina SANDU-DEDIU graduated in musicology from the National Music University of Bucharest in 1990. She has been teaching at the same institution since 1993 (professor of musicology and stylistics). She wrote over 30 studies, 300 articles, and 7 books (see *Rumänische Musik nach 1944*, Pfau Verlag, Saarbrücken, 2006; *Alegeri, atitudini, afecte. Despre stil și retorică în muzică*, Ed. Didactică și Pedagogică, București 2010). She has authored series of programmes for Radio Romania. She also plays the piano in chamber music (CDs released in Romania with Aurelian Octav Popa, in Germany/ Neos with Dan Dediu, and in Boston / Albany with Ray Jackendoff).

Valentina Sandu-Dediu was a fellow of *Wissenschafts-kolleg zu Berlin*, she is a permanent fellow of *New Europe College*, Bucharest, and received the *Peregrinus-Stiftung Prize* of Berlin-Brandenburg Akademie der Wissenschaften in 2008.

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Helen TAYLOR is currently working on her doctoral thesis, entitled "Adrian Henri and the Merseybeat movement: performance, poetry, and public in the 1960s", with Professor Robert Hampson at Royal Holloway, University of London, where she is also the Chief Sub Editor of *Exegesis*, the English Department's e-journal. Her work uses much archival research and oral memory, particularly in relation to the live event and oral poetry in Liverpool at the time. She approaches Merseybeat from an interdisciplinary perspective, looking at the movement as "total art", and utilising inter-, multi-, and cross-media theories.

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