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The Dent Medal

The Dent Medal, struck in memory of the distinguished scholar and musician Edward J. Dent (1876–1957), has been awarded by the Royal Musical Association annually since 1961 to recipients selected for their outstanding contribution to musicology. A list of candidates is drawn up by the Council of the Association and the Directorium of the International Musicological Society.

The Dent Medal for 2020 is awarded to ERIC DROTT.

Eric Drott graduated with a Ph.D. from Yale University in 2001 and is currently Associate Professor of Music Theory at the University of Texas at Austin. He has produced an impressive body of scholarship that spans from post-war modernism to present-day streaming cultures and deftly traverses music theory, musicology and music sociology. Uniting this work with the sociopolitical frameworks in which music – understood in the broadest sense – is produced, used and acquires meaning is a pervading concern.

Drott's initial work was in music theory. He wrote his doctoral thesis on the music of Ligeti and has established himself as an authoritative voice on experimentalism and the avant-garde. His article 'The End(s) of Genre' (*Journal of Music Theory*, 2013) has been particularly influential in this respect. Here Drott challenges the commonly held perception that genre declined in importance with the onset of modernism, and draws on actor-network theory to produce a revised theory of genre that maps onto the contours of experimental music. Questions of genre also feature in Drott's 2011 monograph *Music and the Elusive Revolution: Cultural Politics and Political Culture in France, 1968–1981* (University of California Press). An illuminating study of the place of music in the history and legacies of France's 1968 revolution, this book develops a highly innovative framework for thinking about how musical genres and political cultures interact. Rather than examining any one type of music or music culture, Drott casts his net wide, with chapters on chanson, free jazz, avant-garde music and French rock. This diverse span allows for a richly multifaceted history to emerge and, crucially, serves as the basis for the formulation of a broader theory of how genre mediates political expression.

Over the past decade, Drott has emerged as one of the most insightful and challenging thinkers on the political economies of music in contemporary society. He has written perceptively on the 'gift economy' of music (*Journal of Music Theory*, 2010); has offered a piercing critique of Jacques Attali's *Noise* (*Critical Inquiry*, 2015); has explored music's roles in social movements including the Occupy Wall Street Protests (*Contemporary Music Review*, 2018; *Twentieth-Century Music*, 2019); and most recently has produced a comprehensive and thought-provoking suite of articles on the political, economic and social implications of contemporary streaming cultures (*Sound Studies*, 2017; *Journal of the Society for American Music*, 2018; *Twentieth-Century Music*, 2018; and *Cultural Politics*, 2019).

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Previous winners of the Dent Medal have been:

1961	Gilbert Reaney	Great Britain
1962	Solange Corbin	France
1963	Dénes Bartha	Hungary
1964	Pierre Pidoux	Switzerland
1965	Barry S. Brook	USA
1966	F. Alberto Gallo	Italy
1967	William W. Austin	USA
1968	Heinrich Hüschen	West Germany
1969	Willem Elders	Holland
1970	Daniel Heartz	USA
1971	Klaus Wolfgang Niemöller	West Germany
1972	Jozef Robijns	Belgium
1973	Max Lütolf	Switzerland
1974	Andrew McCredie	Australia
1975	Martin Staehelin	West Germany
1976	—	
1977	Reinhard Strohm	Great Britain
1978	Christoph Wolff	USA
1979	Margaret Bent	Great Britain
1980	Craig Wright	USA
1981	Anthony Newcomb	USA
1982	David Fallows	Great Britain
1983	Lorenzo Bianconi	Italy
1984	Iain Fenlon	Great Britain
1985	Curtis A. Price	USA
1986	Silke Leopold	West Germany
1987	Richard F. Taruskin	USA
1988	Jean-Jacques Nattiez	Canada
1989	Paolo Fabbri	Italy
1990	Christopher Page	Great Britain
1991	Roger Parker	Great Britain
1992	Kofi Agawu	Ghana
1993	Carolyn Abbate	USA
1994	Lorenz Welker	Germany
1995	Susan Rankin	Great Britain
1996	Ulrich Konrad	Germany
1997	Philip V. Bohlman	USA
1998	Rob C. Wegman	USA
1999	Gianmario Borio	Italy
2000	Philippe Vendrix	Belgium
2001	Martha Feldman	USA
2002	Laurenz Lütteken	Switzerland
2003	John Butt	Great Britain
2004	Daniel Chua	Great Britain
2005	Julian Johnson	Great Britain
2006	Mary Ann Smart	USA
2007	Georgina Born	Great Britain
2008	Anselm Gerhard	Switzerland
2009	W. Dean Sutcliffe	New Zealand
2010	Martin Stokes	Great Britain
2011	Annegret Fauser	USA
2012	Michel Duchesneau	Canada
2013	Elizabeth Eva Leach	Great Britain

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2014	Alexander Rehding	USA
2015	Marina Frolova-Walker	Great Britain
2016	Mark Katz	USA
2017	Alejandro L. Madrid	USA
2018	Inga Mai Groote	Switzerland
2019	Gundula Kreuzer	USA

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