

From the Editor

On behalf of the Editorial Board, it is my pleasure to present Volume Fifteen of *Musicological Explorations*, an academic journal published by the graduate students of the School of Music at the University of Victoria. Originally published as *Fermata* in 1995, 1996, 2001, and 2002, the journal was re-launched in 2004 under the new title, with the mandate of enriching musicological discourse and research by providing a platform for scholarly work by graduate students and faculty. Under this mandate, the journal has grown from a largely localized publication to a forum which includes the work of a large number of emerging (and several established) scholars from British Columbian, Canadian, and international universities.

The four articles presented in this volume combine to create a thematic issue devoted to the composers and creators of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. As Dr. Michelle Fillion explains in her Foreword, the Cunningham Company and its music was the subject of a graduate seminar she co-taught with Gordon Mumma in Spring 2015—a seminar which formed the genesis of the work presented in this volume. The four articles, though diverse in the components and protagonists of the Company that they discuss, share a common theme in their focus on the Company's aesthetic practice of collaboration and community. They are also connected through Gordon Mumma's influence and the interviews, anecdotes, and insights he generously shared with the four authors. It is thus with distinct pleasure that we, the contributors and Editorial Board, dedicate this volume of *Musicological Explorations* to him.

I take this opportunity to thank the members of the Editorial Board and the journal's contributors for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank our Faculty Advisors, Dr. Michelle Fillion and Dr. Elissa Poole, for their generous guidance in producing this year's journal, and, in Dr. Fillion's case, for first suggesting the idea of a thematic volume devoted to the Cunningham Company. The University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society as well as the School of Music at the University of Victoria are gratefully acknowledged for their generous funding contributions, as is Bill Blair, the Music Librarian at the McPherson Library, University of Victoria, for the generous donation of books to our annual book sale. Finally I thank you, our readers, for your continued support, and hope that this volume will inspire further submissions and subscriptions to *Musicological Explorations* in the years to come.

Rena Roussin
Managing Editor