

UF Musicology Colloquium  
Friday, October 22nd  
1:55 pm

Zoom Meeting  
<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/94728545132>

## Mediated Afterlives

Dr. Maria Cizmic  
University of South Florida



Since the 1990s, the music of late socialist East European composers has found its way onto the soundtracks of hundreds of international films. This presentation offers an initial look at this phenomenon by focusing primarily on the use of Alfred Schnittke's and Arvo Pärt's music in compilation soundtracks. Music by both Pärt and Schnittke, among others, has become a convention that signals a filmmaker's attempt to take a serious look at the consequences of turbulent and traumatic events in both documentary and narrative fiction films. By focusing on documentary films by such directors as Chris Marker, Michael Moore, Ken Burns, among possible others, this presentation considers the role of Schnittke's and Pärt's music in relationship to the documentary aesthetic. How do filmmakers use their music to convey a director's point of view and shape an audience's empathy in a medium that traffics in realism and authenticity?

Since completing her PhD in Musicology at UCLA, Maria Cizmic has been teaching in the Humanities and Cultural Studies Department at the University of South Florida where she is currently an Associate Professor. Maria is the author of *Performing Pain: Music and Trauma in Eastern Europe* (Oxford University Press). In this work, Cizmic looks to trauma studies in order to analyze the ways in which music composition, embodied performance, and music in film can be understood to represent trauma. By focusing on late-20<sup>th</sup> century composers in Eastern Europe, Cizmic argues that this generation of composers participated in a late socialist culture focused on historical and cultural memory. Her areas of research and teaching include 20<sup>th</sup>-century East European and American experimental music; film music; trauma & disability studies; embodied performance, technology, and mediation. She has published in *Twentieth-Century Music*, *American Music*, *Music and the Moving Image*, and numerous edited collections.