Zoellers Hagan

***Discipline and Punish: Foucault and the Paris Conservatoire***

Few musical institutions can claim such a storied history and accomplished alumni as the Paris Conservatoire. Founded in 1795, its cultural influence in Europe and beyond is practically unrivaled. While some organizational features of the Conservatoire, such as the classe, the jury, and the senior recital would seem familiar to the modern music student, many would not: in particular, the direct influence of and funding by the French monarchy as well as routine exposure to the social and political élites of Paris. Through the lens of institutional critiques offered in the work of French philosopher Michel Foucault, I will examine the organizational structure of the Conservatoire in the 19th century. In so doing I will offer a new perspective on the daily lives of the students of this period, with specific regard to the way the social gaze of the Paris élite affected the experience and teaching of music in the Conservatoire. By drawing parallels to the foremost musical institutions of today, I will demonstrate the global influence of the Paris Conservatoire in the history of the institutionalization music.

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Hagan Zoellers is pursuing a Master of Music in Music Theory at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. His research interests include the philosophy of music, music and sociology, disability in music, and queer approaches to music theory.