

**Bold Expectations in Mathematical Music Theory Panel at the Occasion of  
Guerino Mazzola's 75th Birthday**

**Participants:**

Guerino Mazzola (via Zoom)  
Octavio A. Agustín Aquino  
Emmanuel Amiot  
David Clampitt  
Tom Fiore  
Mariana Montiel  
Jason Yust

**Moderator:** Thomas Noll

In celebration of Guerino's landmark birthday we have convened a panel to examine the wider horizon of our subject, Mathematical Music Theory, and of its culture in terms of community, publications, and instruments.

In scientific meetings it is tacit agreement to eschew all too speculative reasoning from the official communications and to leave the activity of free brainstorming to coffee breaks and to the late-night aftermath sessions. Yet we may distinguish between cursory ad-hoc speculations about possible implications of certain findings from long-term expectations which are possibly nurtured by purely inner-mathematical ideas. Some of these expectations are attracted by the central concept of *transformation* and its productive role in mathematics and its applications.

We should realize that the dynamics of theoretical reasoning involve the inseparable interaction of shared knowledge on the one hand and research interest on the other. One and the same undeniable fact may cause a shrug in someone or may arouse curiosity in someone else, depending on theoretical expectations. Bold ideas and expectations are driving impulses behind our research work.

This puts the creative attitude of the researcher at a focal point. In a recent article Guerino argues that creativity corresponds to the act of extending a sign system by a suitable representation of a problem. This is motivated by Hilbert's Nullstellensatz and is an elegant interpretation of that driving idea in Algebraic Geometry. In some way this perspective offers a personal and consistent justification of his own way of developing novel concepts in our field.

The panel seeks to revisit or formulate various bold ideas in our field, which are not yet settled as baseline knowledge, and which possibly are still flying in a thin air of abstractions, but which may have the potential to direct our research interest towards productive questions and valuable answers.

The panel also intends to reflect on expectations and hopes for the structures that support progress and collaboration in our field.