

Curriculum Vitae

Martha E. Thomae Elías

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San Vicente del Raspeig, Alicante, Spain

EDUCATION

2017–2022: McGill University, Montréal, Canada.

PhD in Music Technology. Dissertation: [“Guatemalan Cathedral Choirbooks: From Manuscript to Digital Images to Edited Symbolic Scores”](#) supervised by Prof. Ichiro Fujinaga and Prof. Julie E. Cumming. Research grant by *Fonds de Recherche du Québec – Société et Culture (FRQSC)*.

2015–2017: McGill University, Montréal, Canada.

M.A. in Music Technology. Thesis: [“Automatic Scoring Up of Mensural Music Using Perfect Mensurations, 1300–1550”](#) supervised by Prof. Ichiro Fujinaga and Prof. Julie E. Cumming. Nomination by McGill for *Northeastern Association for Graduate Schools (NAGS)* award.

2013: Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

B.S. in Mathematics. Undergraduate thesis: [“Desarrollo de un modelo algorítmico para la transformación de partituras musicales escritas en notación mensural blanca a notación contemporánea”](#) supervised by Lic. Luis Francisco Soto and Juan Pablo Pira.

2012: Universidad Francisco Marroquín, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Diploma in Art History: Medieval and Islamic Art.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

A. ROLES

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| Nov 2023–Feb 2026 | Postdoctoral research fellow for “Echoes from the Past: Unveiling a Lost Soundscape with Digital Analysis,” Research Project funded by the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT) of Portugal and led by Elsa De Luca, Centro de Estudos de Sociologia e Estética Musical (CESEM) and Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas at Universidade NOVA de Lisboa (NOVA FCSH). I am leading the development of a prototype tool for the analysis of chant melodies. |
| Feb–Nov 2023 | Postdoctoral research fellow for the “LinkedMusic,” Research Project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada and led by Professor Ichiro Fujinaga, Distributed Digital Music Archives and Libraries (DDMAL) Lab, Department of Music Research, Schulich School of Music, McGill University. |
| 2015–2022 | Research assistant for the “Single Interface for Music Score Searching and Analysis” (SIMSSA) Research Project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada and led by Professors Ichiro Fujinaga, DDMAL Lab, and Julie Cumming, Musicology, Schulich School of Music, McGill University. Lab Manager September 2020 to December 2021. I supervised students, trained new lab members, directed lab meetings, tested |

software for optical music recognition (OMR), prepared machine learning models for their use in OMR, tested data labelling strategies, prepared and reviewed documentation about the OMR process (see the [e2e-omr-documentation](#) GitHub repository), guided the OMR processing of medieval manuscripts (see the [e2e-omr-resources](#) GitHub repository), and worked on the development of a scoring-up algorithm for mensural notation (see the [scoring-up](#) GitHub repository).

2016, 2020–2022 **Consultant and developer** for “Measuring Polyphony,” a Research Project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and led by Professor Karen Desmond, Brandeis University (now at Maynooth University). Developed the [Common Music Notation to Mensural MEI Translator](#) (2016) and the [automatic scoring-up functionality](#) of the [Measuring Polyphony Editor](#) (2020–21). Led the work on interoperability of the Measuring Polyphony Editor with the optical music recognition system *MuRET* (2021–2022), and the music analysis *humlib* library (2021–2022). Wrote the section of the [mens2kern](#) tool for translating mensural note durations, encoded in Humdrum `**mens`, to Common Music Notation note values, encoded in Humdrum `**kern` (2021).

B. PUBLICATIONS (refereed)

- Paper** Thomae, Martha E., Julie E. Cumming, and Ichiro Fujinaga. “Counterpoint Error-Detection Tools for Optical Music Recognition of Renaissance Polyphonic Music.” In *Proceedings of the 23rd International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference*. Bengaluru, India, 2022. <https://archives.ismir.net/ismir2022/paper/000060.pdf>.
- Paper** Thomae, Martha E., Julie E. Cumming, and Ichiro Fujinaga. “Digitization of Choirbooks in Guatemala.” In *Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Digital Libraries for Musicologists*, 19–26. Prague, Czech Republic: ACM, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3543882.3543885>.
- Paper** Desmond, Karen, Laurent Pugin, Juliette Regimbal, David Rizo, Craig Sapp, and Martha E. Thomae. “Encoding Polyphony from Medieval Manuscripts Notated in Mensural Notation.” In *Proceedings of the Music Encoding Conference*, edited by Stefan Münnich and David Rizo, 197–219. Alicante, Spain (online): Humanities Commons, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.17613/tf2j-x697>.
- Chapter** Thomae, Martha E. “The Guatemalan Choirbooks: Facilitating Preservation, Performance, and Study of the Colonial Repertoire.” In *Christian Sacred Music in the Americas*, edited by Andrew Shenton and Joanna Smolko. New York, NY: Rowman & Littlefield, 2021.
- Poster** Desmond, Karen, Andrew Hankinson, Laurent Pugin, Juliette Regimbal, Craig Sapp, and Martha E. Thomae. “Next Steps for Measuring Polyphony: A Prototype Editor for Encoding Mensural Music.” In *Proceedings of the Music Encoding Conference*, 121–24. Tufts University, Boston, MA: Humanities Commons, 2020. <http://dx.doi.org/10.17613/5k88-9z02>.
- Paper** Thomae, Martha E., Antonio Ríos-Vila, Jorge Calvo-Zaragoza, David Rizo, and José M. Iñesta. “Retrieving Music Semantics from Optical Music Recognition by Machine Translation.” In *Proceedings of the Music Encoding Conference*, 19–24. Tufts University, Boston, MA: Humanities Commons, 2020. <http://dx.doi.org/10.17613/605z-nt78>.

- Paper** Thomae, Martha E., Julie E. Cumming, and Ichiro Fujinaga. "The Mensural Scoring-Up Tool." In *Proceedings of the 6th International Workshop on Digital Libraries for Musicology*, 9–19. National Library of the Netherlands, The Hague, NL: ACM, 2019.
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3358664.3358668>.

C. CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 "Updates and Outcomes from the Guatemalan Digitization and Encoding Project." Presented at the Music Encoding and Text Encoding Initiative Joint Conference, Paderborn, Germany, 8 September. (*Refereed*)
- 2022 "Counterpoint Error-Detection Tools for Optical Music Recognition of Renaissance Polyphonic Music." Presented at the International Society of Music Information Retrieval, Bengaluru, India, 6 December. (*Refereed*)
- "AMS-IAMSG Lightning Lounge – Cantorales: Spanish Chant Books in the Americas and Beyond." Presented at the American Musicological Society / Society for Ethnomusicology / Society for Music Theory Joint Meeting, New Orleans, LA, 11 November. (*Refereed*)
- "Music Encoding for Research, Pedagogy, and Discovery – Guatemalan Cathedral Choirbooks: From Manuscripts to Digital Images to Symbolic Editorial Scores." Presented at the American Musicological Society / Society for Ethnomusicology / Society for Music Theory Joint Meeting, New Orleans, LA, 11 November. (*Refereed*)
- "Guatemalan Cathedral Choirbooks: Automatic Transcription of Mensural Sources for Their Preservation, Access, and Study." Presented at the International Musicological Society Congress, Athens, Greece, 24 August. (*Refereed*)
- "Digitization of Choirbooks in Guatemala." Presented at the Digital Libraries for Musicology, Prague, Czech Republic, 27 July. (*Refereed*)
- "Accidental Discoveries." Presented at the Digital Analysis of Chant Transmission (DACT) Workshop 7: Cantorales in the Americas and Beyond, Online, 11 March.
- 2021 "Encoding Polyphony from Medieval Manuscripts Notated in Mensural Notation." Presented with Karen Desmond, Laurent Pugin, Juliette Regimbal, David Rizo, and Craig Sapp at the Music Encoding Conference, Alicante, Spain (online), 21 July. (*Refereed*)
- "Guatemalan Cathedral Choirbook 1: From Manuscript to Digital Images to Digital Scores." Presented at the Medieval and Renaissance Music Conference, Lisbon, Portugal (online), 6 July. (*Refereed*)
- 2020 "Retrieving Music Semantics from Optical Music Recognition by Machine Translation." Presented at the Music Encoding Conference, Tufts University, Boston, MA (online), 27 May. (*Refereed*)
- 2019 "The Mensural Scoring-up Tool." Presented at the Digital Libraries for Musicology, National Library of The Netherlands, The Hague, The Netherlands, 9 November. (*Refereed*)
- "OMR for Mensural Notation: Looking at a Guatemalan Music Manuscript." Presented at the SIMSSA Workshop XIX, CIRMMT, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada, 21 September.

- “Taking Digital Humanities to Guatemala, a Case Study in the Preservation of Colonial Musical Heritage.” Presented at the Digital Humanities Conference, Tivoli Vredenburg, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 10 July. (*Refereed*)
- “Guatemalan Manuscripts: Digitization Issues and Future Challenges in the Adaption of the OMR Workflow for Mensural Music.” Presented at the SIMSSA Workshop XVIII, Department of Musicology, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria, 2 June.
- “Application of Music-Encoding Technologies to Guatemalan Choirbooks, Facilitating Preservation and Musicological Studies of the Colonial Repertoire.” Presented at the Music Encoding Conference, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria, 31 May. (*Refereed*)
- “Preservation of the Colonial Musical Heritage of Guatemala through Digitization and Music Encoding Technologies.” Presented at the Association of Canadian Archivists McGill Student Chapter’s annual colloquium: Archival Outreach & Hidden Collections, McLennan-Redpath Library Complex, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada, 18 March. (*Refereed*)
- 2018 “Guatemalan Manuscript Digitization Project.” Presented at the SIMSSA Workshop XVII: Infrastructure for Music Discovery, CIRMMT, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada, 1 December.
- “Automatic Scoring up of Parts in Mensural Notation.” Presented at the Medieval and Renaissance Music Conference, Maynooth University, Maynooth, Ireland, 6 July. (*Refereed*)
- “Automatic Scoring up of Music in Mensural Notation.” Presented at the Music Encoding Conference, Maryland University, College Park, Maryland, USA, 23 May. (*Refereed*)
- “Automatic Scoring up of Mensural Parts.” Presented at the Digital Musicology Workshop, CIRMMT, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada, 27 April.
- 2017 “Automatic Scoring-up Tool for Mensural Music.” Presented at the SIMSSA Workshop XII, CIRMMT, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada, 7 August.
- “A Methodology for Encoding Mensural Music: Introducing the Mensural MEI Translator.” Invited talk at the Music Technology Group, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain, 22 May.
- “A Methodology for Encoding Mensural Music: Introducing the Mensural MEI Translator.” Presented at the Music Encoding Conference, Université de Tours, Tours, France, 17 May. (*Refereed*)
- 2016 “Digital Encoding of Mensural Music.” Presented at the SIMSSA Workshop X, CIRMMT, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada, 24 September.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

A. COURSES

Fall 2020	Co-lecturer, “MUMT 301: Music & the Internet.” McGill University.
Fall 2018	Teaching Assistant, “MUMT 306: Music & Audio Computing I.” McGill University.
Winter 2018	Teaching Assistant, “MUAR 211: The Art of Listening.” McGill University.
Fall 2017	Teaching Assistant, “MUMT 202: Fundamentals of New Media.” McGill University.
First term, 2014	Teaching Assistant, “Mathematical Models 1.” Universidad del Valle de Guatemala.
First term, 2011	Grader, “Complementary Subjects in Mathematics” (basic contents: partial differential equations and complex functions). Universidad del Valle de Guatemala.
First term, 2009	Grader, “Linear Algebra 1” and “Physics 2.” Universidad del Valle de Guatemala. Teaching Assistant, “Physics 2 – Laboratory.” Universidad del Valle de Guatemala.
Second term, 2008	Grader, “Physics 1.” Universidad del Valle de Guatemala.

B. WORKSHOPS AND LECTURES

- 2023 “MIR for Early Music Documents: Technologies behind the Semi-Automatic Encoding of Mensural Sources into Symbolic Scores.” Invited lecture presented at the Computational and Digital Approaches to Music Scholarship, University of Würzburg, 13 December.
- “MEI-Workshop: Mensural Music.” Workshop presented with Anna Plaksin at the Medieval and Renaissance Music Conference, Munich, Germany, 25 July. (*Refereed*)
- “Codificación y publicación de música: Un taller sobre Music Encoding Initiative (MEI).” Workshop presented at the Semana de Humanidades Digitales, Online, 12 May. (*Refereed*)
- 2022 “Interactive OMR-Assisted Transcription of Mensural Sources Using MuRET.” Workshop presented with David Rizo, Jorge Calvo-Zaragoza, and Juan C. Martínez-Sevilla at the Music Encoding Conference, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, 19 May. (*Refereed*)
- 2021 “OMR and Digital Technologies Applied to Music.” Invited lecture for Paleography course, Centro de Estudos de Sociologia e Estética Musical (CESEM), NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal (online), 2 December.
- “Workshop I: Making Rodan Work for You.” Invited lecture for the Digital Humanities in Early Music Research 2021 – Session I: OMR-Capable Chant Editors, Prague (online), 18 March.
- “Digital Infrastructures for Mensural Music Using MEI.” Invited lecture for the Kolloquium Musikwissenschaft, Freiburger Forschungs- und Lehrzentrum Musik (FZM), Freiburg, Germany, 26 January.
- “Encoding Mensural Notation with MEI.” Invited lecture for Paleography course, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany, 25 January.

- 2020 “Workshop II: Hands-on MEI Encoding.” Invited shared lecture and hackathon for the Digital Humanities in Early Music Research I Series – Session II: Early Music Databases and Encoding, Prague (online), 30 June.
- “Workshop I: Introduction to MEI.” Invited shared lecture for the Digital Humanities in Early Music Research I Series – Session II: Early Music Databases and Encoding, Prague (online), 24 June.
- “MEI for Encoding Mensural Music – A Survey.” Invited lecture for the Digital Humanities in Early Music Research I Series – Session II: Early Music Databases and Encoding, Prague (online), 22 June.
- 2019 “Digitization and Encoding of the Musical Contents of a Set of Guatemalan Choirbooks.” Invited lecture for Multimedia Systems (GLIS 633) course, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada, 27 November.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- May 2018–April 2022 FRQSC Grant (\$21,000 CAD/year for four years).
Fonds de Recherche Société et Culture du Québec, Canada.
- 2019–2020 McGill nominee for the Northeastern Association for Graduate Schools (NAGS) Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award.
Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, McGill University, Canada.
- 2019 CIRMMT Inter-Centre Research Exchange Funding (\$2,500 CAD).
Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology, Canada.
- 2019 Best Paper Award: “Application of Music-Encoding Technologies to Guatemalan Choirbooks, Facilitating Preservation and Musicological Studies of the Colonial Repertoire.” Music Encoding Conference, Vienna.
- 2018, 2019 CIRMMT Travel Award (\$1,000 CAD) for conference presentation.
Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology, Canada.
- 2013 Honors mention for undergraduate thesis.
Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, Guatemala.
- 2007, 2010 Academic distinction.
Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, Guatemala.
- 2007–2009 Blackburn Scholarship.
Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, Guatemala.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Conference Organization

- General chair, Digital Libraries for Musicology (DLfM 2024)
- Program chair, Digital Libraries for Musicology (DLfM 2023)
- Session chair, Digital Libraries for Musicology (DLfM 2022)
- Program committee member & session co-chair, Music Encoding Conference (MEC 2021)
- Program committee member, Digital Libraries for Musicology (DLfM 2021)

Music Encoding Initiative (MEI).

- Board Member (2020–2022)
- Mensural Interest Group Co-Chair (2020–2021)
- Reviewer of Spanish translation of MEI tutorials (2023)
- Editor of the Guidelines (2020–present)
- Member and collaborator in the Mensural Interest Group (2016–present)

Digital Analysis of Chant Transmission (DACT), Canada.

Partnership grant funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada, PI Jennifer Bain.

- Member of the DACT Cantorales Working Group, chaired by Virginia Blanton, which focuses on Spanish chant books (cantorales) in the Americas and beyond (2022–present)

Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology (CIRMMT), Canada.

- Student coordinator of Research Axis 2: Music information research (2017–2019)
- Student member (2016–2022)

International Society for Music Information Retrieval (ISMIR).

- Member (2017–present)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

2011	Choir member in Gluck's <i>Orfeo ed Euridice</i> , directed by Massimo Pezzutti. Universidad Internaciones, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
2010–2012	Opera singing training with soprano Karin Rademann. Guatemala City, Guatemala.
2009	Workshop in Music Reading. Universidad Internaciones, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
2010, 2012	Basic training in violin and piano.
2007–2014	Personal tutor for Mathematics, Statistics, and Physics.

COMPUTER EXPERIENCE

- Programming languages: Knowledge of *Python*, *JavaScript*, *Max/MSP*, *MATLAB*, and *C++*.
- Music encoding formats: Intermediate knowledge of *MEI*, *LilyPond*, and *Humdrum*.
- Document markup language: Intermediate knowledge of *LaTeX*.

LANGUAGES

- Spanish: native language
- English: proficient